

2014-15 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter October 2014

Program Notes

Lorraine Davis and Elaine Davis, Co-Chairs

The **October 14th meeting of the River Falls Branch** will be held in the upstairs meeting room of the Public Library. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 followed by a film, "Iron Jawed Angels" at 7:00.

"Iron Jawed Angels" is a film that focuses on the American Woman's Suffrage Movement. It follows the efforts of Alice Paul, Lucy Burns and others as they sought the vote for women. It was a painful experience. They picketed outside Woodrow Wilson's White House where they were labeled "Iron-Jawed Angels". Some were arrested for "obstructing traffic" and sentenced to 60 days in prison in the most deplorable conditions. There they engaged in a hunger strike and were forcibly fed. When released, they used the surrounding publicity to help in the passage of the 19th Amendment of the Constitution.

The film complements the branch's "Get Out the Vote" initiative. It is riveting, moving and highlights the fact that the vote for women was fraught with the same emotion and acrimony that occurs whenever suffrage is extended. The movie is almost two hours long but is worth the time spent.

PLEASE NOTE: The River Falls Public Library is co-sponsoring this movie with the branch. For this meeting, the business meeting will begin at 6:30 followed by program at **7:00**. The public will be invited so bring your friends.

Breakfast Brunch Fund Raiser

What is better than pancakes, French toast, eggs, bacon, sausage and more for Sunday breakfast? The same breakfast that you don't have to make!! **On the first Sunday in November (November 2)**, our branch is sponsoring the breakfast at the Moose Lodge. This is a new effort by our fund raising committee. **The cost of tickets are \$8.00** and the brunch is well worth it. Tickets that are sold ahead of time get us a bigger percentage of the take. Friends, relatives, coworkers and neighbors will be great people to talk to about buying a ticket. Thanks for your help in this effort.

Book Sale Update

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to work at the book sale. Almost all the selling slots are full. Don't forget to come to help sort books on Saturday, October 4th. The building is open at 10:00. The schedule is included below in the newsletter.

AAUW Book Sale, 2014 Workers at Book Sale

	Thursday, Oct. 9	Friday, Oct. 10	Saturday, Oct. 11
10-1	<u>Lorraine Peitso</u> <u>Yolanda Dewar</u> <u>Jane Matthews</u>	<u>Yolanda Dewar</u> <u>Lorraine Davis</u>	<u>Karen Brohaugh</u> <u>Kay Montgomery</u>
1-4	<u>Yolanda Dewar</u> <u>Cheryl Maplethorpe</u>	<u>Yolanda Dewar</u> <u>Ruth Lee</u>	<u>Ethel Johnson</u> <u>Jean Johnson</u>
4-7	<u>Suzanne Hagen</u> <u>Elaine Baumann</u>	<u>Valerie Malzacher</u> <u>Jeanne Zirbel</u>	
	Thursday, Oct. 16	Friday, Oct. 17	Saturday, Oct. 18
10-1	<u>Yolanda Dewar</u> <u>Suzanne Hagen</u>	<u>Yolanda Dewar</u> <u>Lorraine Davis</u>	<u>Jane Matthews</u> _____
1-4	<u>Yolanda Dewar</u> <u>RuthAnn Frank</u>	<u>Yolanda Dewar</u> <u>Ann Gustafson</u>	<u>Ethel Johnson</u> <u>Susan Halseth</u>
4-7	<u>Elaine Baumann</u> <u>Bob Gustafson</u>	_____ _____	

President's Column

Ruth Lee, Branch President

While enjoying the gradual change of colors this season and thinking about AAUW a color theme began to develop of the many opportunities for all women through this organization. The green reflects STEM opportunities and growth potential for younger/all women. The varying yellow colors reflect high school and college age women with the bright opportunities about to happen with another school year. NCCWSL, \$TART \$MART, Elect Her, Student Organizations, Campus Action Projects, E-Memberships, to get our juices flowing. The orange, red and deeper colors seem to show the focused determined women who continue to create change and desire to achieve the Mission Statement; *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

Alice Pemble always comes to mind with her reminder that we must never take victories for granted as they can very easily be taken away. We each have personal role models that remind us of our goals and the work that needs to be

continued. We have seen some past achievements taken away and others threatened so we must continue to be vigilant.

AAUW Empowers Women around the United States, indeed around the world to improve quality of life for all females and in so doing that quality is also improved for men. Hopefully you are thinking about many topics that fit into this scenario that AAUW promotes and has action plans available for members to use. Make a list, then go to aauw.org and compare your list with what you find there. (Plan to spend a few minutes.)

The River Falls Branch is fortunate to have great programs planned for the year that support our mission statement. Get Out the Vote, Public Policy, and Membership committees have been instrumental in making UWRF students aware of AAUW in River Falls. The upcoming Book Sale will once again give AAUW visibility throughout the community. The year is just beginning and so much is happening – hope you feel the excitement too.

Did you ever have a day, when you had so much to say, and were concerned folks would stop reading, even though you thought you were succeeding, ---- so now stop competing with their time and don't try to make a rhyme ---- (Down By the Bay)?

SURPRISE! Sometime this year you will have an opportunity to have lunch/brunch for a minimal price, limited to AAUW and FRIENDS as guests: all proceeds will support sending River Falls branch member/s to the Association Convention in San Diego June 18 – 21. Watch for your invitation where the first responders will receive first choice.

Public Policy

Barbara Peterson, AAUW-RF Public Policy Co-Chair and AAUW-WI Voter Education Coordinator

Wisconsin voter ID law is in effect for the November 4 election

We were told it wouldn't happen. We let our guard down and didn't plan for this abrupt court decision. In fact, there is still a chance that this decision could be challenged but it is unlikely. As we speak to fellow citizens we must advise them of their rights and responsibility to place an educated vote. We can do this!

On September 12 the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the federal injunction on the Wisconsin voter photo ID law, and **voters will have to show an acceptable photo ID to receive a ballot and have it counted.**

Acceptable IDs include: (from League of Women Voters website)

- Wisconsin drivers' license (current or expired since 11/6/12) (***If you have this you do NOT need any other "voter ID" card***)
- Wisconsin photo ID card (from DMV) (current or expired since 11/6/12)
- Receipt from DMV from applying for license or ID card within 60 days
- U.S. Passport (current or expired since 11/6/12)
- Military ID (current or expired since 11/6/12)
- Photo ID from federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- Naturalization certificate (from 11/6/12 to the present)
- Student ID from a Wisconsin college or university IF the ID has name, photo, signature, issuance date, & expiration date no more than 2 years from issuance date, and proof of enrollment.

Your photo ID **does NOT have to have your current address** to be valid for voting. (If you need to *register* to vote you need a document with your current address, which can be – but does not have to be – your license or ID card.)

If you do NOT have valid photo ID, you can [apply for an ID for free](#) at the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). You need to bring:

- Proof of identity (<http://dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/doc/proof-identity.htm>)
- Proof of residence (<http://dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/doc/proof-resident.htm>)
 - Birth certificate *if you have one or could get one for free* (or, one of a few less common kinds of proof of name and date of birth: <http://dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/doc/proof-dob.htm>)
 - If you would have to pay for a birth certificate, you can go to DMV and fill out the “Document Process Verification” form (MV3012) that is at this link, to try to have birth records verified for free: <http://dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/petition-process.htm>
 - If you’ve changed your name (for example, due to marriage, divorce or name change) you also need to bring proof of the name change. *If you would have to pay for documents to prove that and DMV won’t help you, contact us right away!*

If this makes your mind go blurry, keep in mind the effect it will have on persons less able to navigate the internet, drive to the courthouse or DMV office, or pay any fees associated with obtaining these documents. There is a way to get free documents but it requires much persistence and will. This is why **this is a blatant attempt to restrict voting for the elderly and low income persons**. Still, until this law is changed we will have to work with this system. AAUW hopes you will join the effort to engage all citizens in the voting process. I hope you read my article in Badger Briefs which outlines what all branches will be doing this fall to GOTV.

Membership Happenings

By Ann Gustafson

The first week of September provided an opportunity to introduce AAUW to the students and staff at UW-River Falls. The branch had a table at both the City Sampler and Just Local events that were part of Welcome Week at the university. The Membership portion of the table focused on two things: free Student Affiliate (ESAF) Membership and the September 9 branch program where the topics would be about NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) and \$tart \$mart salary negotiation workshops. Both of these topics sparked an interest from the students. As a result, students were invited and encouraged to attend the program.

While talking with the students, it became evident that they wanted more information about AAUW and especially AAUW-RF. As a result, the students were asked to provide their name and e-mail address that would be utilized by the branch to provide them with information about upcoming programs and events via a one-page electronic newsletter. Thirty-three students signed up for the branch’s student newsletter. Three students attended the September 9 branch program and expressed an interest in attending future programs.

On September 8, Elise Nooney and Ann Gustafson met with Beth Hein, the Dean at the River Falls campus of the Chippewa Valley Technical College. The goals were to introduce her to AAUW and AAUW-River Falls, to explain the benefits available to the college and their students through joining AAUW as a college/university partner, and to discuss AAUW’s Get Out the Vote activities on campuses. Follow-up contacts will be made in the coming months.

At the present time, a wine and cheese event during a Happy Hour is being explored as a membership recruitment possibility. Stay tuned for additional information.

Welcome to Six New Members

Six individuals have become members of the River Falls branch since May of this year. Please join in welcoming them:

McKenna Pfeiffer and **Caitlin Perczyk** joined the branch last spring. Their first introduction to AAUW was when they attended the training for becoming facilitators for \$tart \$mart salary negotiation workshops.



McKenna Pfeiffer is the Assistant Director of Career Services at UW-River Falls. She received a B.A. degree in Communications Studies, Organizational Communication Emphasis with a minor in Student Development from UW-Eau Claire. She has a M.A. in Leadership and Student Affairs from the University of St. Thomas.

McKenna provides students and alumni with career counseling by assisting with choosing a major, determining career options, finding jobs/internships, writing resumes and cover letters, developing portfolios, preparing for interviews, and helping students get into graduate school. She also provides classroom presentation on many of these topics. In addition, she trains and supervises Peer Advisors, coordinates office assessment initiatives and assists with office event planning. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Association of Colleges and Employers

McKenna and her husband, Steve, live in River Falls with their two children Sophia and Griffin.

Caitlin Perszyk is a Career Counselor and Recruitment/Technology Coordinator at UW-River Falls. She received her B.A. degree in Marketing Communications with a minor in International Studies at UW-River Falls. She received her M.A. in Leadership and Student Affairs from the University of St. Thomas. She currently teaches MARC Social Media and serves on the Board of Directors of the MN Association of Colleges and Employers.



Caitlin also provides UWRF students and alumni with career counseling, determining career options within a given major, finding jobs/internships, writing resumes and cover letters, developing portfolios, preparing for interviews, helping students to get into graduate school. She likewise provides classroom presentations on many of these topics. In addition she trains and supervises the Career Fair Coordinator and Runway to Success Coordinator, coordinates on campus recruitment activities and office technology initiatives.

Katherine (Katie) Schneller Morsch graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2006 with a B.A. degree in Sociology. Her love for working with people led her to a career of homeless and housing advocacy, program management and outreach in Minneapolis, MN. She has since gained experience at various homeless and housing programs across Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana working as a shelter advocate, case manager, grant writer and volunteer coordinator. Katie's passion is her career: speaking out with and on behalf of the homeless to improve policy and to educate the community; working alongside program participants to find and maintain safe and adequate housing; helping folks reach their full potential. Katie believes that homelessness is a community responsibility and is thankful to have found a home in River Falls, living and working with such a compassionate and caring group of people. She is the Director of Our Neighbor's in River Falls.



Katie is also a member of the Minnesota Air National Guard, and is working towards her Master of Social Work at the University of St. Thomas (est. grad date 2016) where she is an Area of Emphasis in Military Practice Scholar. Katie lives in River Falls with her husband, Pete, and two dogs. Prior to coming to River Falls Katie and Pete were Peace Corps volun-

teers in Jordan. Katie worked as a Youth Development volunteer working with Jordanian girls at a Youth Center in a small village near Petra. Katie enjoys running, hiking, camping and going out to eat at local restaurants.

Samantha (Sam) Duffy grew up in Hudson, fell in love with the area and the community of St. Croix County, so she never left. For her bachelor's degree in psychology, she attended UW-River Falls. She minored in Women and Gender Studies which got her involved with the St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team's (SART) event *Take Back the Night*. Upon graduating, she was offered the position of Client Services Advocate with SART and, as she says, "my passion grew from there." Within the past year Sam has been involved in developing a SART position with the university's counseling department entitled Campus Victim Advocate.



While she was an undergrad, Sam became a member of Phi Mu Fraternity and held multiple leadership roles during that time. As an alumna she still enjoys being involved with fraternity activities. She also enjoys spending time with her family by fishing, boating, camping, and watching football. Currently she is working on a crochet blanket, which consumes the rest of her free time.



Jean Loudon recently retired from teaching English at River Falls High School. She grew up in southern Indiana and completed her bachelor's degree in English, Speech and Drama at University of Evansville. Her master's degree in Secondary Education from Indiana University included an emphasis on alternative education. Reading, traveling, occasional substitute teaching, and a variety of volunteer activities keep her busy now.

Kathleen (Kathy) Dial graduated from University of Wisconsin - River Falls in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a minor in Psychology. Upon graduation, she accepted an offer for a teaching position in the Seattle, Washington Public Schools. In 1975, she received a Masters' degree in Reading Education from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. During her 45 years with Seattle Public Schools she held several positions, including classroom teacher from grades K-5, consultant for learning disabilities, and school librarian. She enjoyed her time in Seattle immensely and retired in September 2013.

Working along with her husband of 48 years, they are renovating his family farm which he inherited five years ago. This property has been in his family for over 100 years and is part of the Wisconsin Century Farm Program. Other interests and activities include gardening, needle work, walking, biking and reading.

Kathy's oldest child is living in Seattle working for Metro Transportation and her second child lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her first grandchild is on the way, due in November. Currently, she spend her time between these three places. Kathy says she is happy to return to the Midwest for retirement.

A huge welcome to each of these new members. As a branch we look forward to getting to know you and to working together advancing the AAUW mission through our programs and activities.

Recommendation from Scholarship Committee

The recommendations for our branch's philanthropic giving this year were developed by a committee of volunteers and these recommendations were approved at the branch board meeting on September 23. These recommendations will be voted on at our short business meeting October 14. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the chair of the committee, Bob Gustafson at bagustafson@sbcglobal.net or 715.425.2516

1. The **major focus** of our philanthropy efforts should remain with **the AAUW Funds program**.

2. The **University of Wisconsin-River Falls scholarship should be dropped** and replaced by a commitment to fund a UW-RF student to the **NCCWSL** conference at the University of Maryland campus from May 28 -30, 2015. The group believes that up to **\$1,000** should be awarded the participant. Both National AAUW and AAUW –WI scholarship funds should be solicited. Our branch responsibility would then be less.

Rationale: Last spring the local scholarship committee was given two names from the eight qualified students for our \$1,000 scholarship (\$500 from the last two years were combined). The committee felt that from the information received, both applicants were on-line students. If this scholarship is to be continued, we will have to reexamine our guidelines that define a non-traditional student. Our local branch is making a concerted effort to get college-age students involved in our organization. We also believe that we need to make a concerted effort to recruit younger members and NCCWSL is a good starting point. The local University will benefit more from a student trained in leadership than simply giving them a small amount for a scholarship.

If funding for NCCWSL is approved by the Board and the Branch, the scholarship committee will then develop a plan to inform UW-RF students of our commitment to this project. The students that signed up at the “City Sampler” and “Just Local” events will be a starting point. We will need to work with our University staff members to develop a final working plan. The Scholarship Committee will draft the application form and select the recipient.

3. **High School Scholarship** - In the past this scholarship is awarded at the start of the second term of the recipient’s program choice. Thus, the 2014 recipient, Megan Scoby, will receive this grant in January of 2015. However, we believe there is enough cash reserve from our fiscal year ending in June of 2014 to fund this award. If this is not correct, then we have to raise the funds this program year. Changes proposed as the result of Jeanne’s commitment are:
 - a. Jeanne Zirbel will fund the \$500 annual scholarship for the 2015, 2016, and 2017.
 - b. The scholarship will be offered to a student who has maintained at least a 3.0 GPA and is attending a community/technical/vocational school.
 - c. The scholarship will be offered to students in both River Falls and Hudson High Schools.
 - d. The application will also require a letter of recommendation that speaks to academic and/or character of the candidate.
 - e. The award is given in the name of AAUW-River Falls.
 - f. Jeanne and members of the branch scholarship committee will select the recipient.

Readers! Book List for 2014-15

-Ethel Johnson

AAUW Members of the Book Group put together the following titles for reading during the 2014-15 year. Come join us in the Board Room at the River Falls Public Library the second Wednesday of the month for the book discussion. In order to become an official AAUW Book Club, 50% of the members must be AAUW members, so please come.

Date	Book Title	Author
September 10	The Invention of Wings	Sue Monk Kidd
October 8	The Orchard	Teresa Weir
November 12	The Brain Storm	Danielle Steele
December 10	Bring Your own Favorite Poem to Read and some Christmas Cookies to Share	
January 14	The Road to Mecca	Muhammad Asad

February 11	The Last Reunion of the All Girl Filling Station	Fannie Flagg
March 11	The Honey Thief	Najaf Masari/ R. Hillman
April 8	The President's Club	Gibbs/Duffy
May 13	Sycamore Row	John Grisham
June 10	Moonstone	Collins Wilkie
July 8	To Kill a Mocking Bird	Harper Lee
	Orphan Train	Kline
August 12	Planning Meeting at West Wind 1:00 p.m.	

International Issues

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

Emma Watson gives powerful UN speech about gender equality

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/emma-watson-gives-powerful-speech-about-gender-equality-at-united-nations>

We have heard this before...

http://www.salon.com/2014/09/23/like_men_only_cheaper_tech_exec_gives_shocking_reason_for_wanting_to_hire_women/

Breaking from Newsmax.com

UAE: Woman Pilot Led Airstrike Mission

The UAE airstrike mission in the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State (ISIS) flew their planes during Monday evening's attacks under the leadership of a female pilot, UAE Ambassador to the U.S. Yousef Al Otaiba told MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

Al Otaiba said U.S. tanker pilots were surprised when they heard a female voice — that of Major Mariam Al Mansouri, the first female pilot of the UAE Air Force — during Monday's mission and "actually paused for about 20 seconds." While some countries in the region tended to be "a little more conservative," Al Otaiba said the UAE took a more "open minded, pragmatic view" to the status of women.

[Read More Here](#)

Along the Margins of the World Assembly for Women (WAW!)

METLIFE "Shine Week Event", Washington, DC, (Summary)

Catherine M. Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, attended the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) symposium in Tokyo (sept-12-14) to address the challenges faced by women around the world to discuss many common challenges and potential solutions.

The topics discussed were:

1. Recognition that women are absolutely essential to economic growth.
2. The persistent wage gap between women's and men's incomes
3. The failure to fully empower women economically and politically
4. In far too many places, the full economic potential of women remains untapped.
5. Trying to get governments to remove legal barriers that prevent women from participating in the economy, such as tax structures that fail to treat women equally.
6. The private sector must commit to ensuring that women have every opportunity to take their seats in the highest level of corporate boardrooms.

7. Improve access to credit because legal barriers and cultural norms in many countries inhibit women from accessing capital.
8. The need to change cultural attitudes and norms that make it difficult for women to participate in the workforce

See: http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000456.html for more information

U.S. Department of State and ESPN W Announce 2014 Global Sports Mentoring Program

The U.S. Department of State and RSPNW are proud to announce the mentor organizations and international emerging leaders participating in the 2014 Global Sports Mentoring Program, September 7 - October 9. Now in its third year, this program supports the Department of State's [Empowering Women and Girls Through Sports Initiative](#), advancing the rights and participation of women and girls around the world by using sports as a vehicle toward greater opportunity and inclusion.

This year, the emerging leaders hail from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, Haiti, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Singapore, Turkey, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe.

This collaboration between the U.S. Department of State and ESPNW, facilitated by the University of Tennessee's Center for Sport, Peace, and Society, aims to engage, inspire, and empower a new generation of women and girls through sports.

Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Selects 5 Women for New Cabinet. ^{AP} | By YURI KAGEYAMA Posted: 09/03/2014

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's prime minister picked five women for his Cabinet on Wednesday, matching the past record and sending the strongest message yet about his determination to change deep-seated views on gender and revive the economy by getting women on board as workers and leaders. Having five women in the Cabinet, which currently has 18 members, is extremely rare for Japan. All these women are legislators.

Women: Women Leaders Promoting Peace and Security Arrive in United States

The U.S. Department of State's "Women Leaders: Promoting Peace and Security" exchange program brought 85 participants from around the world to the United States from September 8-26. Women leaders from government ministries, security sectors, and civil society organizations will explore how women can advocate for peace, promote stability, and improve security conditions in their communities.

The initiative supports the [U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security](#) which calls for the empowerment of women as equal partners in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence, and insecurity. The participants will also explore how they can better lead conflict mediation and community transformation efforts.

Promoting Gender Equality and Advancing the Status of Women and Girls

Globally, women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty and discrimination. Women often end up in insecure, low-wage jobs, and have limited access to the educational resources and financial tools they need to succeed. Women's leadership and participation in politics, civil society, and the private sector is limited on local, national, and global levels.

Strengthening U.S. Efforts

Secretary Kerry has directed all U.S. embassies and Department bureaus to continue to prioritize these issues in all of their diplomatic, development, and operations activities, including focusing efforts to:

- Promote women's economic and political participation
- Support U.S. strategic initiatives related to gender-based violence and women, peace, and security

- Empower adolescent girls
- Prioritize gender equality in international fora
- Lead by example

Women: The International Conference on Population and Development: A 20 Year Review (Excerpt)

Anne C. Richard, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Washington, DC, September 9, 2014

Twenty years ago, the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo changed the whole conversation. Instead of just counting people, we recognized how each person counts, has rights, and should be empowered to make his or her own choices. This had profound consequences. One hundred seventy-nine governments pledged to make access to reproductive healthcare and family planning services a basic right, to fight infant, child, and maternal mortality and to do a better job of educating women and girls.

Two decades later they continue to drive progress. Civil society helps us inside the U.S. government as well. One reason the State Department's annual Human Rights Report now covers reproductive rights is because advocates and service providers convinced top officials that this was needed. The barriers are geographic, economic, practical and cultural, and we need civil society's help to overcome them.

Many NGOs (non-government organizations) figured out how to educate and communicate in ways that respect local cultures and make sense to people who cannot read and know little of the wider world. **They work with community gatekeepers – traditional and religious leaders – who can empower communities to use family planning, just by signaling their approval.**

Women: Op-Ed: ISIL's Abuse of Women and Girls Must Be Stopped

Catherine M. Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. The Huffington Post. Washington, DC, September 12, 2014

Beheadings are not the only horrors perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, known as **ISIL**. Over the past two months, there has been a tragic stream of reports about **thousands of women and girls** abducted from their families and sold in markets. These violent extremists are attacking their own women and girls.

We cannot allow these voices, these lives, to be silenced. **All of us must stand up for those who are defenseless.**

The United States continues to offer humanitarian assistance to help those displaced by ISIL advances in northern Iraq, and we will work with the new Iraqi government and the international community as we respond to the ISIL threat against the women and girls of the region.

As Secretary of State John Kerry and others have said, preventing this kind of brutalization of women and girls in conflict zones preserves our common humanity. We must come together to ensure we end it.

Who Raped and Murdered Catholic Nuns in Africa?

Elderly nuns who protect the battered wives of Burundi were brutally **raped and murdered this week**. Sister Bernadetta Boggian, 79, Sister Lucia Pulici, 82, and Sister Olga Raschiatti, 75, were the victims of a horrific crime, and their attackers are still on the loose, Barbie Latza Nadeau reports. *Read it at [The Daily Beast](#)*

Women, Business and the Law 2014: Removing Restrictions to Enhance Gender Equality. From IFUW Web Page:

First published in Great Britain 2013, Copyright © International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2013

Key Findings

In the past 50 years women's legal status has improved all over the world, but many laws still make it difficult for women to fully participate in economic life, whether by getting jobs or starting businesses. Discriminatory rules bar women from certain jobs, restrict access to capital for women-owned firms and limit women's capacity to make legal decisions. Gender differences in laws affect both developing and developed economies, and women in all regions. For the complete analysis of this, please check:

<http://wbl.worldbank.org/~media/FPDKM/WBL/Documents/Reports/2014/Women-Business-and-the-Law-2014-Key-Findings.pdf>

Women: Remarks at the Call to Action Ministerial on Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies

Remarks, John Kerry, Secretary of State, New York City, September 22, 2014 (Summary)

Gender-based violence plagues every country and it perpetuates conflict. It creates instability that can flow from generation to generation. It makes all nations that experience it less secure, less prosperous, and clearly less free.

What is far less well known but equally intolerable is the amount of atrocity committed against innocent women and girls. Barbarity is obviously not new to the world. When these appalling acts are committed, it's a stain on the conscience of the world, and it's a call to action for all of us. Gender-based violence anywhere is a threat to peace, security, and dignity everywhere.

My Vote Committee

By **Jane Matthews**

The My Vote Committee has made initial contact with student leaders of various campus organizations such as the Student Senate, the Young Americans for Liberty, College Republicans and College Democrats to offer help in any efforts they are sponsoring to get out the vote on campus. We will also be discussing what we can do independent of student co-sponsorship to get information to students regarding the registration and voting process. One such method would be to utilize those who may be willing to post information on the student life calendar.

Two committee members are now trained as Special Registration Deputies, so we can register voters on campus or in town. However, the deadline for this remote registration is October 15. After that, people must go in person to the city hall to register. They can also register at the polling place on Election Day, but they must use a photo ID for identification and also prove residence.

It is possible to register by mail or vote absentee. Informing students about these processes also seems a legitimate task for this committee. We plan to busy until Election Day.

Compassionate Committee (CCC)

By **Susan Koosmann**

The CCC is starting its 4th year this fall in River Falls. AAUW member, **Nancy Holden**, is the chair of the committee. Its mission is "to foster mutual respect and inclusion in our community. We provide educational resources, support and recognition to groups and individuals working to prevent any form of abuse, and to foster compassion and non-violence."

The first project in 2011 addressed the need to respond to bullying. We partnered with River Falls schools under their “Leader with Character” initiative. In August, AAUW presented a power point program, *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School* during the River Falls regional Character Education Conference. In 2012, the CCC turned to domestic violence in the community and partnered with Turningpoint to bring a renowned speaker, Lundy Bancroft, to River Falls in May 2013, to lead a workshop entitled: *The Batterer as Parent & Supporting Children’s Recovery from Domestic Violence*. Bancroft is the former Co-Director of Emerge, the nation’s counseling program for batterers, and is a domestic violence author and workshop leader. The event was well-attended by professionals in the field.

The next goal was a very ambitious one: The CCC would like to have a **center for free mental health care** in River Falls, much like the River Falls free medical care center founded in 2007. On January 14, 2014, there was a forum addressing this project. A panel included Catherine Olson, Youth & Family Therapy; Lucas Black, National alliance for Mental Illness; Jeff Horner, retired school psychologist; and Don Richards, secretary of the CCC. In August a name was chosen: Free Mental Center. Their mission statement: **To provide professional, free, and accessible mental health care for the people of Pierce and St. Croix Counties**. The CCC steering committee turned the reins over to Catherine Olson as Chair, and according to Nancy Holden, they are making progress.

In September 2014, the CCC decided to address women’s issues and to partner with like-minded organizations in our community. **AAUW’s public policy states: 1) To preserve a strong system of public education. 2) To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, and 3) To guarantee equity, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society.** One such local collaboration might be supporting Turningpoint’s Lighthouse Project shelter expansion. (More about this will be forthcoming as things develop). Some other area topics in our community might be: campus sexual assault, domestic violence, having access to birth control, pay equity, and strengthening retirement programs for women. There may be other needs in our community. Your ideas are welcome!

AAUW members: One way we can make changes for women is to get out the vote! Fifty per cent of voters are women. Let your voice be heard! Let our voices be heard! Let them all hear us roar! Women can make a difference!

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report

Sept. 15, 2014 Suzanne Hagen, Treasurer

Checking balance 7/30/2014	\$ 1201.52
Receipts: Dues	\$ 49.50
Disbursements: National Dues	\$ 147.00
“ State Dues	\$ 52.00

Balances 9/15/2014

Checking: \$1052.02
 Savings: 1955.60
 \$ 3007.62

Restricted Accounts Expenditures:

UWRF Scholarship = \$00.00
 High School Scholarship = \$00.00
 AAUW Funds (formerly EF) = \$472.01
 LAF = \$00.00
 Travel

State	\$00.00
National	\$61.91*

*Any funds left in State travel after the State convention are added to the National travel fund.

Branch Meeting Minutes

AAUW River Falls Branch, September 9, 2014, Ezekiel Lutheran Church - Submitted by Karen Brohaugh

We gathered for a buffet of healthy salads at 6:15 pm.

Presidents Remarks: Ruth Lee called the business meeting to order. She thanked Lorraine Davis and Elaine Baumann for making the meeting arrangements, welcomed guests and new members. Anyone wishing to attend the District Meeting in Eau Claire on September 27 should notify Ruth. She thanked those who helped with City Sampler and Just Local which were held on campus the first week of September.

Secretary Report: May minutes accepted as printed in the September newsletter.

Treasurer Report: Accepted as printed in the newsletter and filed for audit.

Program Development: Elaine Baumann and Lorraine Davis distributed programs for the year. The October 14 meeting will be a viewing of the film, "Iron Jawed Angels" about the original suffragettes.

Membership: Ann Gustafson introduced new members Sam Duffy, Katie Morsh, Jean Loudon and Kathleen Dial. Welcome!

Public Policy: Barb Peterson talked about Citizens United which AAUW says is wrong and the law needs to be changed. Getting Out the Vote information is being shared with university students.

Book Sale: Books are being collected, work opportunities are still available. Help is needed to do publicity. Anyone willing to help, please contact Sue Danielson.
Book sorting will begin Saturday, October 2 at 9:00 am.

Get Out the Vote: Jane Matthews reported on good student contact at City Sampler and Just Local. She shared information on voter registration for students. The city of River Falls will run a training for anyone wanting to work as a registrar.

Scholarship – Bob Gustafson invited anyone interested in our scholarship policy to attend a meeting September 16, 2:00 pm at Dish & Spoon.

Old Business: None

New Business: Anyone interested in helping with the 80th anniversary celebration of our branch should contact Lorraine Davis or Ann Gustafson.

A Rwandan genocide survivor will be speaking at St. Bridget Thursday, November 6 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was followed by an informative program. **Annie Stewart**, a student at St. Olaf, spoke about her experiences at NCWSL this past summer. We viewed a film on Start Smart. **McCenna Pfeiffer**, UWRF Career Services, spoke about the work the department does with students to help them prepare for entering the job market after graduation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the web site for updates

<https://riverfalls-wi.aauw.net/>

BOOK SALE set up **October 4**

The **October 14th meeting of the River Falls Branch** will be held in the upstairs meeting room of the Public Library. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 followed by a film, "Iron Jawed Angels" at **7:00**.

Book Sale: **October 9, 10, 11** and
October 16, 17, 18 at Riverwalk Square, River Falls

November 11 SART on Campus and Military and Veteran Support for Women - River Falls Public Library;
Co-hostesses; Ethel Johnson and Karen Brohaugh
Business meeting 6:30 Program: 7:30

December 9: 7:00 PM; "Holiday Gathering and Auction" - Home of Suzanne Hagen, Co-host Ann
Gustafson



AAUW's MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW's VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.