

2012-13 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter December 2013

HOLIDAY AUCTION FOCUS OF DECEMBER BRANCH MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 6:30 pm

2464 Golf View Drive, River Falls

The December branch meeting will take the form of the annual Holiday Auction at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, December 10 at the home of Suzanne Hagen in River Falls. The program is the live auction headed by an outstanding auctioneer!

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item (or two) for the auction; it could be baked goods, a wonderful "white elephant" that someone else needs, a simple basket that you just happened to put together (could join another member to create a basket), a service such as washing windows or shoveling or a theme dinner for four or more. Share your special talent with the branch and surprise us! Let your imagination be your guide!

Especially needed are buyers with deep pockets or check books to purchase items that are donated. Funds raised provide money for expenses to the Wisconsin State AAUW Convention and the National AAUW Convention. It is valuable to have members attend these conventions. Ideas and enthusiasm are gained and brought back to our branch.

Each person attending the auction is a 'co-hostess' and is requested to bring four to six cookies, bars, or other snacks to be shared with others who attend. Beverages will be provided by the host/hostess. Prospective members are welcome to attend in order to become acquainted with members and to learn more about AAUW.

A FOLLOW-UP ABOUT GABRIELLA MILLER

From Lorraine Davis, Program Co-Chair

"At last year's Holiday Party I shared the plight of a little girl that I knew in Virginia. Gabriella Miller was almost 10 at the time she was diagnosed with brain cancer. Through Macy's she hoped to send enough Letters to Santa for the Make A Wish Foundation (Macy's pet Christmas project) so that she could get her wish to go to Paris fulfilled. Instead of the needed 10,000 letters, Macy's received almost a quarter of a million missives in her name, some written by those of you who attended last year's gathering.

Gabriella died several weeks ago and was able to fulfill her three wishes: to go to Paris, write a book--Beamer Learns about Cancer--and graduate from college.

Shenandoah University gave her a degree after doing a day on their campus in Virginia. She spoke at the graduation ceremony. I urge you to look her up on Google and read about this little who was an inspiration to many. Thank you for help in making her wishes a reality."

PRESIDENT' S COLUMN
Ruth Lee, Branch President

SHAPE THE FUTURE PROGRAMS have proven to be very valuable to the River Falls branch of AAUW. Meaningful programs, properly advertised, and sometimes co-sponsored, which are open to the public, are a genuine draw. The "*Lean In*" program was a classic example of that. Special acknowledgement to the Program Development duo for an excellent program. Membership committee, including the branch treasurer, had a busy day. Check their news articles for an update of new memberships. Once again our branch demonstrated that **all members** are part of this committee as you reached out and welcomed all people that attended. (What is a *Shape the Future* Program? Check out the AAUW website if you're not sure.)

We have another fun event in December about which I shall not speak. Check the Program Committee article! I know your life is busy, but for each person that reads this article and e-mails me prior to December 9th with some fact from this article (short please) you will be responsible for \$ 1.00 being donated to the Association travel fund by your president. No access to email? Then call and leave a message!

There has been discussion about offering **mini study groups** to learn about "basic" or not so basic computer skills. This branch has several knowledgeable members regarding the computer and a few of us that would like to become more proficient. We are never too old to learn. If you are interested in learning more about the computer, e-mail your president and she will delegate that leadership role to someone who is proficient. (Think now, respond and explore/act in 2014!)

Is there interest for an AAUW book group? Possibilities might be: "The Lowland" by Jhumpa Lahiri as reviewed in AAUW outlook; books that were listed in the November issue of Falls Notes; Malala Yousafzai's book, just a few possible thoughts.

Have a wonderful December. While you're enjoying a quiet moment take out that **AAUW Outlook, Fall 2013 issue** and read. This organization continues to "empower women" and has been in existence since 1881! Go exploring on the AAUW website to learn more or reaffirm what you already know. We're never too old to learn.



EDUCATION

PROGRAM NOTES
Lorraine Davis and Elaine Davis, Co-Chairs

PLEASE NOTE: January meeting change
In order to accommodate the schedule of our speaker, Dr. Eileen Korenic, physics professor at UWRF, please note that the January meeting has been changed to January 18, 2014 at Juniors at noon. The focus will be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). In addition, we will be hosting the winners of the Middle School *Women in Science* Essay Contest. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

AND....

We are still in need of hostesses for our February and March meetings. Please contact Lorraine Davis, ldavis4782@aol.com, or Elaine Baumann, elainebaumann1@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES
Yolanda Dewar, Chair

Women: Assistant Secretary Richard to Travel to United Kingdom and Ethiopia-Media Note, Office of the Spokesperson, Washington, DC November 12, 2013 (continued on next page)

(International Issues cont.)

Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne C. Richard traveled to London and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 12-21.

While in London, Assistant Secretary Richard attended the “Protecting Girls and Women in Emergencies” conference hosted by the UK Secretary of State for International Development, Justine Greening. The conference built on “Safe from the Start”, the U.S. Government’s initiative to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls from the very onset of a crisis.

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia provided closing remarks at the International Conference on Family Planning and visited U.S. Government-funded health clinics that provide sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning and services to survivors of gender-based violence. She also met with government officials and representatives of both international and nongovernmental organizations. Later in the week, Assistant Secretary Richard traveled to the Tigray Region in northern Ethiopia with U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, Patricia Haslach, visited Eritrean refugees living in camps and to witness refugee programs and assistance provided on the ground. Ethiopia is hosting 77,000 refugees from Eritrea, and hosts refugees from Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan, as well.

Offensive: India’s Top Cop Offends on Rape

It is never a good idea to make a rape joke. India’s top police official apologized after saying that “if you can’t prevent rape, you enjoy it,” a particularly insensitive remark in a country that is still reeling from last year’s fatal rape of a 23-year-old student. Making matters even worse, Central Bureau of Investigations Chief Ranjit Sinha’s comment came after a discussion that had nothing to do with rape in the first place. Sinha said that if the state could not stop gambling, it should at least bring in some revenue from it, using “if you can’t prevent rape, you enjoy it” as an analogy. Activists are already calling for Sinha’s resignation, especially since he is in charge of several rape investigations.

Women: Remarks at the Georgetown University Symposium “Advancing Afghan Women”

Remarks by John Kerry, Secretary of State, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, November 15, 2013

Creating opportunities for women is not just the right thing to do. It’s also a strategic necessity. Societies

where women are safe, where women are empowered to exercise their rights and to move their communities forward – these societies are more prosperous and more stable – not occasionally, but always. And nowhere is the pursuit of this vision more important and, in many ways more compelling and immediate and possible than in Afghanistan.

Investing in Afghan women is the surest way to guarantee that Afghanistan will sustain the gains of the last decade and never again become a safe haven for international terrorists.

Secretary Kerry introduced Roya Mahboob, a remarkable woman who is changing Afghanistan and who is chief executive of a software development firm called Citadel. However, the local authorities did absolutely everything they could in order to stop her dead in her tracks. They even pressured her family to close her company. But she, like so many women across Afghanistan, absolutely refused to be intimidated. So the first time that she competed for an Afghan Government project, she went up against six businesses led by men and she won. She has been so successful that she has invested almost all of her profits to provide internet access to so 35,000 girls in Herat. And Kerry said, she’s just getting started. Today, she has plans to help five times as many girls across Afghanistan.

It will be proven, that when Afghan women run their own businesses, all Afghans profit from a more diverse, dynamic, and inclusive economy. And when Afghan women hold public office at the local and national levels, all Afghans gain a stronger voice in their communities.

ADVOCACY

PUBLIC POLICY

Barbara Peterson, Chair

Coretta Scott King once said, “Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation.”

These are wise words that we need to remember when we get bogged down in the aggravation of politics. We can never give up! We must keep working at making this a better country and world for ourselves, our families and our future. We need to constantly stay vigilant for the roadblocks that set our progress back.

In recent years in Wisconsin, we have experienced many of those roadblocks. Issues that are important to AAUW members have been set back. Currently we are seeing 60,000 low-income persons being thrust off BadgerCare (Wisconsin's name for Medicaid for low-income persons) and required to get their medical coverage through the new Affordable Care Act in 2014. The ACA costs may be low but they won't recover their costs until that person files their taxes. Under intense criticism, the Governor is re-thinking his position on BadgerCare coverage and will possibly present changes to the WI legislature. Governor Walker needs to hear from you.



There have been several laws passed in recent legislative sessions placing barriers on women seeking abortions. Transvaginal ultrasounds are now required along with reading a brochure on

the gestation of the fetus. School systems are no longer required to offer medically accurate sex education. Abstinence only sex education is the only information students will get in some school districts in Wisconsin. Each legislative session offers additional proposals to place barriers on a woman's reproductive choices. Despite the fact that Planned Parenthood offers free or reduced medical services to women for mammograms, PAP tests and birth control methods, funding for these clinics has been taken out of the state budget. You need to let your legislator know how you feel about reproductive health care. I suggest you read an Op/Ed piece published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/keep-politicians-out-of-womens-health-care-b99145905z1-232591851.html>

And this info from Rep. Ron Kind:

<http://kind.house.gov/latest-news/rep-kind-moore-and-pocan-call-on-governor-walker-to-close-his-health-insurance-coverage-gap/>

Redistricting reform is sorely needed in Wisconsin where currently our legislators are elected to safe seats forever! It has become impossible to expect substantial debate on any issue when districts are so tilted to the party in power. Wisconsin needs to move to a system like the State of Iowa. In Iowa, retired justices are named to a commission that redistricts in a fair and non-gerrymandered manner. Are you aware that in Wisconsin computers generate the accurate population and ethnic districts? Then, the party in power goes behind closed doors and redraws the lines to favor their party. Both parties do

this and without citizen input. If you want an example, take a look at the 7th Congressional District in WI – gerrymandered to pick up more conservative parts of our area while giving the 3rd District more liberal areas. You will find more information at <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/michael-ellis-have-the-hearing-on-redistricting-reform-b99123001z1-228342301.html> Then, contact your state Senator and Assemblyperson.

AAUW needs you to step up to activism. Please go to <http://aauw-wi.aauw.net/> website to register as a Two-Minute Activist. It just takes a minute and you will get future notices on current issues that need your attention.

Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Jane Matthews, Chair

The River Falls Branch is happy to welcome three new members who joined at the November *Lean In*



program: Rellen Hardtke is a former branch member who renewed her membership; Jennifer Wallis-Revera and Maureen Olle-La Joie joined as new branch members. Each of these members is on staff at UW-RF. Bios of these individuals will follow in a future issue of *Falls Notes*. In addition, one of our speakers, Susan Lee, joined AAUW as a Member at Large. Other attendees expressed an interest in AAUW and it is anticipated that some of them will join. We extend a warm welcome to our new members and believe that this will be a mutually rewarding association.

Editors of the *Student Voice* at the UW-River Falls have indicated that they are happy to carry our meeting announcements if there is space available and deadlines are met. It was gratifying to see a number of students at the November event. It is assumed they got the news of the meeting through the *Voice*. It is certainly a resource that will be used in the future.

As membership chair, I have contacted all people--via email or regular mail--whose names have been forwarded to me as potential new members, and will continue to do so. Therefore, continue to forwarding names and information about prospective members to me.

PHILANTHROPY

Suzanne Hagen, Co-Chair, Finance

AAUW LEGACY CIRCLE – MAKING A LASTING IMPACT

In recent weeks it seems there has been an increase in mail requests for recipients of the letters to make a contribution to the organization or worthy cause, a contribution that would create a “legacy” for the entity that is requesting the donation.

Several years ago, AAUW established the Legacy Circle as a way to acknowledge planned gifts received from individuals. When individuals make planned gifts to AAUW, they are affirming their commitment to women and girls. These gifts expand AAUW’s programs and public policy agenda by providing for future generations.

There are many ways to make a planned gift to AAUW as part of your estate plans including naming AAUW as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy, or individual retirement account, among other options. *There is no minimum amount required.*

Individuals who notify AAUW of their estate plans become members of the AAUW Legacy Circle. In honor of their generosity and commitment to the future of women and girls, donors receive a beautiful pin designed by Swarovski and former AAUW Educational Foundation President Alice Ann Leidel that proclaims the message “A Legacy of Equity.”

If you have any questions, or would like more information, I would be happy to talk with you about the Legacy Circle.

Ann Gustafson, WI Legacy Circle Chair
agus_membership@yahoo.com

BRANCH BUSINESS

AAUW - River Falls Branch Meeting Minutes November 16, 2013, River Falls Public Library

President Ruth Lee welcomed speakers, guests and members.

The program was an excellent panel discussion of the book *Lean In*. Panel members were: Dr. Connie Foster, Susan Lee, and Betty Wetherell-Gustafson. Elaine Baumann introduced the panel and was the program moderator.

President Ruth Lee called the meeting to order.
The secretary's report was approved as printed in the November newsletter.
The treasurer's report was to be filed for audit.

Program Development: Lorraine Davis noted that our next meeting will be held at the home of Suzanne Hagen on December 10. There will be a holiday auction with Bill Montgomery as auctioneer. All members are asked to bring items for the auction and a snack to share. Proceeds will be deposited in the travel fund.

Membership: Jane Matthews reported that three new members joined our branch at today's meeting as well as one Member at Large.

Public Policy: Check e-mail November 15 and 16 for Webinar information.

International Relations: No report

Newsletter Editor: Ann Gustafson announced the November 20 newsletter deadline.

President announcements:

- NCCWSL \$500 scholarships by AAUW-WI, applications due Dec. 15, two are available.
- Resolutions for WI State Convention are due January 15.
- AAUW-WI State Convention will be held in April in Eau Claire. Sue Danielson is District Coordinator.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.

Submitted by Karen Brohaugh, Co-Secretary

FINANCE REPORT
Kay Montgomery, Co-Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report
November 21, 2013

Checking balance: 10/19/2013 \$1594.71

Receipts:

Book sale \$ 534.01
Dues 109.50
(Interest – Savings Acct. \$.24) \$ 643.51

Disbursements:

UW-RF Fast Copy – print directories \$ 34.25
Lorraine Davis – reimbursement - gifts
for *Lean In* panelists \$ 52.94
\$ 87.19

Balances: 11/21/2013

Checking: \$2151.03
Savings: 1954.37
\$4105.40

Restricted Accounts:

UW-RF Scholarship \$ 00.00
High School Scholarship \$ 00.00
AAUW Funds \$ 297.00
LAF \$ 65.00
Travel
State \$ 00.00
National \$ 00.00*

(Book Sale total income, minus expenditures = \$1410.01)

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 18, 2014	12:00 noon	Juniors Grill, STEM Luncheon <i>Women in Science</i> Essay winners
		Branch meeting 11:00 AM
February 11	6:45 PM	Branch Meeting, RF Public Library
	7:30 PM	<i>Women in the Civil War</i> , Kurt Leichtle
March 11	6:45 PM	Branch meeting, RF Public Library
	7:30 PM	<i>Effect of Vouchers on WI Public Schools</i> , Tom Westerhaus
April 8	6:30 PM	Branch meeting
	7:30 PM	<i>Impact of ACA on Women's Health</i> , Heather Logelin
April 25 – 26	TBA	AAUW-WI State Convention
		Holiday Inn South, Eau Claire
May 13	6:30 PM	Pot Luck supper with (short) meeting



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.