

## 2017-18 Branch Officers

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# FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

## Branch Newsletter

May 2018

**The first meeting of 2018 – 19 will be September 11, 2018.**

We will gather for our meeting at **6:30 PM** for our AAUW business meeting at the home of **Barbara and Larry Peterson home – 548 Omaha Road, Hudson**. Pot luck hospitality. We will begin with our business meeting and then follow with the installation of new officers and the year-end wrap-up at 7:00.

## PRESIDENT' S COLUMN

From Lorraine Davis

President's Column,

As the year comes to the end, we can recount many good things that our branch accomplished: outstanding speakers, a successful book sale, brunch fundraiser, scholarship awards, a fun holiday party, selection of a NCWSSL participants, a science essay contest, pay equity activities, a first Outstanding Role Equity Award, a Facebook page(!!!), Girls in SCIENCE Stem Program and several candidates forums. The state even recognized our branch for the many new members that Ann Gustafson and her committee recruited.. All this plus meaningful conversation and new friends!!.

The members of the executive committee will need assistance in sustaining these and perhaps implementing new activities next year. Are you interested in working with us in any of the activities described above? Do you have experience with communication and fundraising? Do you have an expertise to share? Do you have ideas for speakers? Let's work together to build on what we do because little by little, we do make a difference. Contact any of the board members to help make the branch even stronger.

Finally, at our last meeting, the membership approved a motion to establish an Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund to recognize and remember a person who meant a great deal to many of us. . She was a friend, a leader, mentor and a beautiful person. If you are willing to help us develop a mission and process for the implementation of this fund, let me know.

Enjoy a wonderful, interesting and healthy summer!

## NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

## Scholarship

On May 3 Jeanne Zirbel and Lorraine Davis attended the CVTC Foundation 2018 Scholarship Recognition at the Eau Claire campus. The recipient of the branch's \$500 CVTC scholarship is second year Nursing -Associate student, Cheyanna McCabe of Ellsworth, Wisconsin.



Nursing has been Cheyanna's passion since she was young girl. She says "Nursing is one of those areas of work where it's not only going to work and getting a pay check. Its about going to work and being able to touch someone's life in a positive way.

Pictured here are Jillisia Sojberg from Clear Lake, Wisconsin and Temitope Abiodun from Champlin, Minnesota. They will be representing our branch at National Conference for College Student Leaders at the University of Maryland in early June.

## Slate of new officers installed at the May meeting

**Thanks to the nominating committee:** Karen Brohaugh, Gwen Paulson, Maureen Olle-LaJoie and Ruth Lee present

President elect: Suzanne Hagen  
VP Program development: Suzie Danielson  
VP Membership: Gretchen Toman  
Treasurer: Tina Kelly

Their willingness to serve is greatly appreciated and they have been guaranteed that AAUW members will be willing to come forward and work with them.

## Picture Karen Montgomery

The officers who were installed last evening are: Lorriane Davis - Pres., Magdalena Pala - Co-Secretary, Susie Danielson - Program VP, and Suzanne Hagen - Pres. elect.

Not there were Maureen Olle-LaJoie - Co-Secretary, Tina Kelly - Treasurer, and Gretchen Toman - Membership VP.

## POLITICAL POLICY

Barb Peterson, Chair

### LET CONGRESS KNOW

If you listen to the news regularly you know that political actions can change quite rapidly. Some think legislators pass bills quickly before the public gets wind of their actions. It's hard to know how to be heard in Washington and Madison. Let's try to make it easier for you to express your opinion prior to their voting on bills. AAUW has the perfect solution for you:

On your computer or cell phone, go on the internet to the website <[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)>

On that website Home page you will find "Issues" at the top of the page. Click on it.

On my cell phone I needed to click on "Menu", then on "Issues". Each cell phone displays the pages a bit different so you may need to scan the page to advance to the Issues page.

On the Issues page you will see a list on the left side. Click on "Take Action".

The Take Action page rotates on five current actions that you can take. But first, let's get you signed up for notices. Scroll down to "Become a Two-Minute Activist". Enter your email address so AAUW can send you urgent notices of actions needed on legislation. Click on "Sign Up" following your email address entry.

Now you are on the **Two-Minute Activist** page and can fill in your information. I suggest you put a check next to "Washington Update Newsletter". It is a concise newsletter telling you federal policy news. Click on "Submit".

Now back up < one page to "Take Action". You can chose from the five actions currently. Health care is the urgent issue. You should "Take Action" and CALL SENATORS TOO!!

You may have noticed that AAUW is dealing with federal policies. There are often local policies that you may want to voice an opinion on. I suggest that you use the following websites to stay current on WI politics.

[madison.com](http://madison.com) - articles from **The Cap Times** and **Wisconsin State Journal**

[jonline.com](http://jonline.com) - articles from the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**

[wiseye.org](http://wiseye.org) - watch or listen to hearings, speeches, or news in review from around the state

I will also try to keep you informed. Please remember that timing is important so take action quickly so you are heard. Your involvement in political action is important!

**Thank you for TAKING ACTION.**      <http://www.wisdc.org/op091817.php>



We have reissued notecards recreating the pen and ink drawings of past member, Helen B. Walker.

The new cards are of two of Helen Wyman's flower prints and are packaged in groups of eight.

They are available from Suzanne Hagen for \$10.00.

A great gift!!!! A great support for AAUW efforts!!!!

Many of our Branch members contribute a great deal to our community. If you know of any members who have been recognized for their achievements, let Magdalena Pala ([magdalena.e.pala@uwrf.edu](mailto:magdalena.e.pala@uwrf.edu)), our secretary, know and she will send a letter of congratulations on behalf of AAUW. Let's celebrate one another.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Ann Gustafson, Membership VP

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES - Yolanda Dewar, Chair

### MAY 2018 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Saudi Arabia Hosted Its First-Ever Fashion Week

Amidst Sweeping Social Changes and Women's Rights Reforms, Saudi Arabia Hosted Its First-Ever Fashion Week on April 10 at the Ritz Carlton in Riyadh.

The four-day event featured local Arab designers as well as European brand names. "Since the initial announcement made in February, Arab Fashion Week Riyadh has garnered significant interest from international guests wanting to attend," said Layla Issa Abuzaid, the country director for Saudi Arabia at the Arab Fashion Council, the Dubai nonprofit responsible for the event.

The high-profile, high-stakes plan for a first fashion week in Saudi Arabia, unthinkable even two years ago, comes at a time of groundbreaking reform in the country, led by Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman.

Saudi officials have gone to great lengths of late to spotlight promises by the crown prince to let women drive and play a greater role in the country's work force, to expand entertainment opportunities; and to encourage foreign investment. Change, they say, is in the air.

Shows were held in the evening for women-only audiences, and came at a time when women have more access than ever to public arts and entertainment: In January, female fans were welcomed into soccer stadiums for the first time, and a decades-long ban on cinemas was lifted in December. Now the Arab Fashion Council, which opened its regional office in Riyadh in December, plans to position Saudi Arabia as a hub for an emerging regional fashion industry, appointing Princess Noura Bint Faisal al-Saud as its honorary president. Recently it also forged an alliance with the British Fashion Council to provide support in establishing a sustainable infrastructure for the fashion industry in the Middle East and the 22 countries of the Arab League. Fashion shows in Riyadh come at a time when Saudi Arabia's rules constraining the attire of women outside their homes are showing signs of relaxing.

## University Women of Europe to hold its 2018 General Meeting in Rome

University Women of Europe (UWE) has released the programme of its upcoming UWE Conference to be held in Rome, Italy from 21 June to 24 June 2018. This conference will bring together University Women from all over Europe in an inspiring environment to discuss the following theme, *Women in STEM professions, Challenges – Support – Education*. The aim of this event is to focus on how to create opportunities and support systems for women in STEM professions.

## Graduate Women International news

### GWI Centenary Logo Contest winner!

GWI is delighted to present the winning logo of its Centenary Logo Contest, designed by Maria Ronna Luna Patorizo-Sekiguchi, Vice President Membership, Graduate Women (Fiji). This logo will be used for the centenary celebration to be held in Geneva from 25 to 28 July 2018. This logo perfectly aligns with the GWI mission to promote and advocate for the right to quality and safe lifelong education for girls and women at all levels and for the advancement of the status of girls and women. "The logomark as shown here retains GWI's iconic lamp that has been redrawn with silhouettes of women's faces to signify the 100 years of women working together to empower women and girls through education", explains Mrs. Patorizo-Sekiguchi. "The fire that burns from the lamp represents the passion, life, energy and vitality of all the women standing by our cause from 1919 until now. Furthermore, this fire also denotes the potential and the inspiration that flares within women and girls when they are in the flow of discovery exploration and learning". As a perfect symbol of GWI century long contribution to peacebuilding through education, this fire "looks like it is splitting in two", notes Mrs. Patorizo-Sekiguchi. "This is because it symbolises book pages as well as bird wings to meaningfully capture the idea of the centenary theme "Peace through Education" in one fell swoop". GWI congratulates Mrs. Patorizo-Sekiguchi on her outstanding work and would like to warmly thank all the other contestants for their submissions honouring the 100-year GWI history of peacebuilding through education



## Britain unveils 1st statue of a woman in Parliament Square

By Karla Adam Washington Post



LONDON – A statue of suffragist leader Millicent Fawcett was unveiled in London's Parliament Square — the first statue of a woman to reside in the famous square opposite Westminster Palace.

The Fawcett statue joins 11 of men in the square, including Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi.

British Prime Minister Theresa May — Britain's second female leader of Parliament — was at the unveiling and said that she wouldn't be where she was today had it not been for Fawcett, who campaigned for women's right to vote.

"I would not be standing here today as prime minister, no female MPs would have taken their seats in Parliament, none of us would have had the rights and protections we now enjoy, were it not for one truly great woman," she said.

Britain is marking the centennial of (some) women getting the right to vote — in 1918, women older than 30 who owned property in Britain achieved the right to vote. It was also the year that women were allowed to stand for election as a Member of Parliament for the first time. (The first woman to take a seat in Parliament was Nancy Astor, an American who moved to the U.K. when she was 26, in 1919.)

Fawcett was a leading figure in the campaign in the long fight for women's right to vote. Born in 1847 in the coastal town of Aldeburgh, Fawcett was interested in women's suffrage, even as a teenager. When she was 19, she organized signatures for a petition calling for votes for women (she was too young to sign it herself). She became well-known as an advocate for peaceful protests and in 1897 became president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. She also campaigned for equal access for higher education.

She died in 1929, a year after voting rights were extended to all women older than 21.

The new 8-foot-4-inch statue by Gillian Wearing is the first statue in the square to be designed by a woman.

## **U.S. efforts are flailing on girls' equality in Afghanistan**

Despite the U.S. spending nearly a billion dollars to better education in Afghanistan, girls are still falling behind.

**The big picture:** The newly released quarterly report from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) reports that the USAID had "disbursed approximately \$979 million for education programs in Afghanistan" as of April 18. But per SIGAR, the World Bank said "progress towards increasing equitable access to education, particularly for girls, was only 'moderately satisfactory.'"

### **How girls are faring**

The Human Rights Watch reported in October that "the proportion of Afghan girls who are in school has never gone much above" 50%, despite the 2001 invasion being "partly framed" around helping Afghan women.

- **Per HRW:** Only 37% of female youths are literate compared to 66% of their male counterparts, and 19% of adult women are literate compared to 49% of adult men.
- **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** reported a significant gap in 2017 between girls and boys in primary and secondary education.
- **Heather Barr, senior researcher at Human Rights Watch told Axios** that when you look at the Afghan government, you see that the commitment to educating girls "has never been that deep."
- **U.S. Spending**
- **There are 12 active education programs** being paid for by the U.S. Agency for International Development, including some targeted specifically for girls, as well as workforce development programs and more. The cost of these programs total nearly \$500 million.
- **A USAID official told Axios:** "USAID's education budget in Afghanistan was roughly \$100 million in FY16 and also roughly \$100 million in FY17."

#### **The bottom line:**

*"Make no mistake: Education in Afghanistan is much more equitable today than it was during the Taliban era, when girls were barred from going to school... Unfortunately, you still have a number of societal constraints, rooted more in the dominance of patriarchal views than in the decisions of the Taliban that keep a number of girls from having access to education."*

#### **The University Women's Association Singapore (UWAS) meets with Singapore's first woman President**

GWJ is honoured to share pictures of UWAS President, Irene Boey, and UWAS Membership Chair, Casey Tan, with Singapore President Halimah Yacob, the current and first woman president of Singapore. The meeting, which took place at the end of 2017, provided a unique opportunity for discussion on women's issues with Singapore's newly elected President. This gathering also provided an opportunity for UWAS to interact with board members of other women's associations affiliated to the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO), the national women's council of Singapore. SCWO is the main coordinating body with a total membership of approximately 94,000, drawn from all walks of life. Members range from homeworkers to businesswomen and professionals. Those present benefitted from the rare chance to forge deeper bonds and explore the possibilities of working together on various UWAS programmes. GWJ congratulates UWAS for its continuous contribution to the promotion of lifelong education and to the improvement of the status of women and girls.

#### **Fortune's Most Powerful Women to Mentor 16 Women From Around the World, Office of the Spokesperson, Washington, D.C., April 24, 2018**

Global women leaders from 13 countries arrived in the United States this week for the Fortune-U.S. Department of State Global Women's Mentoring Partnership. The 16 participants will spend a month engaging in skills trainings, panel discussions, networking events, and mentorships with executives from the Fortune Most

Powerful Women community. This partnership leverages the expertise of American leaders in the public and private sectors to support women's economic empowerment.

The United States is a leader in championing gender equality. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, this program includes over 300 alumnae who have worked with mentors from America's most prestigious companies, such as Goldman Sachs, Johnson & Johnson, IBM, and Accenture. This year's class of emerging-leader mentees includes women from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Palestinian Territories, Kenya, Macedonia, Mongolia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, and Vietnam.

The program is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of State, Fortune Most Powerful Women, and Vital Voices Global Partnership.

## FINANCE REPORT

Suzanne Hagen, Finance Chair

**AAUW-River Falls Finance Report**

**May 15, 2018**

<b>Checking balance 4/17/2018</b>	<b>\$ 4306.91</b>
<b>Receipts: --</b>	
AAUW natl/state dues	902
T. Abiodun gift	40
T. Abiodun gifts	105
T. Abiodun gifts	245
	1292
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
T. Abiodun gift	359
L. Davis-state travel/convention supplies	244.80
L. Davis-STEM supplies	37.70
A. Gustafson-state travel	125.35
L. Davis-annual mtg. gifts/supplies	63.46
K. Montgomery-postage	5.29
AAUW-WI dues (gift memberships)	39.00
AAUW natl/state dues	831
<i>Total disbursements (4/17/18-5/15/18)</i>	<i>1705.60</i>

### **Balances 5/15/2018**

Checking: 3893.31  
 Savings: 1658.62  
 \$ 5551.93



**Encumbered funds:**

Scholarship fund balance = \$533.77 (reflects 2016-17 balance of \$981.77 + 2017 book sale profit of \$2082 less \$1000 to AAUW Funds, \$525 to CVTC, and \$985 NCCWSL payment

LAF = 12.00

Travel

State = \$980.85 (State balance added to national travel fund at end of fiscal year)

National = \$500.38

STEM grant = \$462.30

Abiodun gifts = \$390 – gift sent of \$359. Balance remaining = \$31

Total encumbered funds: \$1974.53

General operating funds: \$1918.78

*Suzanne Hagen, Treasurer*

**BRANCH MEETING MINUTES**

Maureen Olle-LaJoie and Magdalena Pala, Co-Secretaries

AAUW River Falls Branch Meeting

At the home of Barbara and Larry Peterson

May 8, 2018

Lorraine Davis called meeting to order at 7:35 pm and thanked Barbara and Larry for their hospitality.

Barb Peterson introduced Kathleen, her neighbor.

**President's Report**

Lorraine thanked those who contributed to the gift for NCCWSL participant. As an outgoing Branch President, she also thanked all members for help she received during her tenure.

Lorraine passed hand out "Let's work together" with list of committees to sign up.

She reminded us about a vote on three bylaws amendments that started on April 25.

She also informed us about AAUW scholarship recipient, Cheyanna McCabe, a native of Ellsworth, WI, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, 2<sup>nd</sup> year student in the Nursing Associate Degree program at the CVTC.

The board will meet in June 2018 (details TBD) to prepare Annual Report.

**Secretary's Report**

The minutes from April 2018 meeting were accepted without corrections.

**Treasurer Report**

The financial report was approved as printed in the newsletter.

Suzanne reported that there is about \$1300 in our general fund.

**Committee Reports**

Membership - Ann Gustafson – we have six "shape the future" members which entitles us to three free memberships. We're tied for the first place in the state in membership increase. The free memberships for 2018-2019 are going to: Cheryl Maplethorpe, Desiree Weisen-Martin, and Gretchen Toman.

Program – Suzie Danielson looks for partners to plan program for next year.

Public Policy - Barb Peterson announced that she is collecting signatures to put Mike McCabe on list of candidates for governor. The primary election is on August 14, 2018.

Lorraine voiced concerns about losing cable channel 16, which would affect our candidate forums. City Council needs to hear about our concerns and council members should hear from us that we want this service.

### **Old Business**

Jane Matthews reported on Girls in SCIENCE event – participating kids were very happy with the event, their parents, too. Recurring theme in the evaluations was that it was too short.

### **New Business**

We're still hoping to get the College AAUW Group off the ground.

Suzanne Hagen proposed establishing Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund to memorialize long time member of our Branch. The Board would decide how to use the funds for larger membership. The donations to the Fund would be ongoing. The motion (Barb Peterson/Suzie Danielson) that AAUW Branch of River Falls establishes the Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund passed.

Suzanne reported that we have about \$500 encumbered for scholarship and suggested that we donate \$200 to National AAUW. The motion was made. The discussion included propositions to increase local scholarship or keep money till the next year. The motion did not pass.

### **Good "Stuff" Announcements**

Barb Peterson thanked Lorraine for leading River Falls AAUW Branch for last two years.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Meeting was followed by installation of new officers. Kay Montgomery was the Master of Ceremony.

Respectfully submitted by Magdalena Pala, co-secretary.

## 2017-18 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly meetings are usually the second Tuesday of each month September to May with business meetings at 6:30 and programs open to the public at 7:00 at the River Falls Public Library. Exceptions are noted.

**September 6** – City Sampler at UWRF, 11-1 pm

**September 9** – Coffee and Scones New Prospective Membership Event: 9:30-11, Riverwalk Deli

**September 12** - Regular Meeting: COMMUNITY ROOM at the First National Bank, 104 E Locust Street, 6:00 Pot Luck Salad Dinner, our business meeting at 6:30 PM, program presentation at 7:00 by Michelle Stage, our NCCWSL delegate.

**Early September** – Book donation barrels placed in Family Fresh and Dick's Grocery store.

**October 7** - Sorting of book donations, 9-noon, Riverwalk, Main Street level

**October 10** – Regular Meeting: Speaker, Dr. Cynthia Kernahan - Implicit Bias

**October 12** - BOOK SALE At River Walk, October 12nd through the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>

**November 12** – Moose Lodge Breakfast Fund raiser

**November 14** - Regular Meeting: Speaker, John Suzukida - American Japanese Internment during WWII.

**December 4** – Deadline for Middle School Science Essay contest

**December 12** - Regular Meeting and Holiday Gathering – Auction Fund Raiser– Suzanne Hagen's house, 2464 Golf View Dr. Bring an appetizer or cookies to share.

**January 13, 2018 (Saturday)** - STEM Award luncheon – Noon – Women in Science at Juniors. Guest speaker is Heidi Meilke Popelka, a graduate of UW Madison with degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering. He work experience has included and internship with a major petroleum company, General Mills and is currently working for EcoLabs. Heidi is married to a River Falls HS graduate, Mike Popelka and is the mother of two children, Jordy and Aubrey.

**February 13** - Regular Meeting: Speaker, Jay Mattchet - Director, Our Neighbors' Place

**March 13** - Regular Meeting: Jamie Benson – District Facility Needs

**April 10** – **ANNUAL Meeting**: Deeper in Debt – Cheryl Maplethorpe and Equal Pay Day

**April 20-21** - 2018 WI State Convention in Milwaukee

**April 21** – 2018 STEM Conference – Girls in SCIENCE event at UWRF

**May 8** – Installation Meeting - installation of new officers and year end wrap-up – Hosted at the Barbara and Larry Peterson home – 548 Omaha Road, Hudson. Pot luck hospitality.



### **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. AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.