*FALLS NOTES *

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**Branch Newsletter** **November 2018**

**Next regular meeting and HOLIDAY AUCTION will be December 11 at Suzanne Hagen’s house, 2464 Golf View Dr. (Drive up the hill almost to the water tower; look for two-story house on your left with red door, window boxes and a lighted red dining room!).**

**Bring an appetizer or cookies to share. Also, bring an item to auction for the holidays. Starts at 6:30.**

**Invite your friends.**

**PRESIDENT’ S COLUMN**

Lorraine Davis, Branch President

This is from last month:

**AN INVITATION FROM NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:**

Poster sessions:

At their September presentation about their experiences at NCCWSL ,scholarship recipients Jillisa Solberg and Temitope Abiodun said they would be presenting their research projects  at UWRF at the end of first semester .

The URSCA conference is on **Tuesday, December 11th, 4:30-7PM**.  It is located in the Riverview Ballroom, UC; UWRF.

Many of you indicated great interested and although the program is the same day as our holiday party, you might be able to make a quick trip over to support them.

**Caveat:** In the newsletter Cheryl Maplethorpe, our esteemed newsletter editor, has put together a current schedule of events for the year. Please note that times and places are different from other years and these may not be final since as a group, we are nothing if not flexible. Thus, I encourage you to look at future communications carefully.

Kendra Morgan will be the new administrator for our  AAUW branch Facebook Page.  We had some difficulties with our old page so the best solution was to create a new page with

the  URL:<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.RiverFalls> .  Please "like it."  Also, if you have any events or information which are relevant please send your postings to moke1202@outlook.com.

 Thank you, Kendra, for assuming this responsibility.

**Also**, we continue to work on making our Facebook page effective and for that we need everyone’s support. If you have things to share, contact Kendra Morgan moke1202@outlook.com

We have a **new Facebook page**.  <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.RiverFalls>

If you have not done so already, please **"LIKE" the page** by clicking at the top left side under the title.

**BRANCH MEETING MINUTES**

Maureen Olle-LaJoie and Magdalena Pala, Co-Secretaries

**AAUW River Falls Branch Meeting - River Falls Public Library**

November 13, 2018

Lorraine Davis called meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

JoAnn Prout introduced her mother-in-law, Charlotte Snow.

Judy Freund introduced speaker, Madeline Uraneck, who in turn introduced Tenzin Tamdin, member of her Tibetan family.

**Secretary’s Report**

The minutes from October 2018 meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer Report**

The financial report was approved as printed in the most recent newsletter.

**President’s Report**

Lorraine passed around (again) a hand out “Let’s work together” with list of committees to sign up.

Lorraine encouraged everybody to look at the WORK SMART program on line and popularize it at RFHS and UWRF.

According to Suzanne, the new directory will be sent out at the end of November. The copy for corrections was made available during the meeting.

Kendra put up Facebook page for our branch, <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.RiverFalls> . Maureen added link to the old Facebook page. So far, our page had 51 visitors.

**Committee Reports**

Membership – Suzanne reported 78% renewal rate to this point. The branch has 46 members, three new ones included.

Program – Suzie announced that auction items are needed for our December meeting.

Public Policy – Barb Peterson encouraged everybody to get word out about redistricting to end gerrymandering in WI.

Essay contest – materials were received by Meyer Middle School and St. Bridget school. The due date for submissions is in December 2018.

Other – Elise Noonan reported that meeting at the Bethel Lutheran Church on November 7th went well without any disturbance.

**Old Business**

Moose Brunch was pretty successful. According to Suzanne we made about $400-500.

Due date for applications for NCCWSL Scholarship was moved to November 29, 2018 since receipient has to be selected by December 1.

Larraine and Suzanne will meet with Rellen Hardtke regarding STEM event next year.

**New Business**

June 9, 2019 is the 100th anniversary of ratification by Wisconsin of Suffrage Amendment. Ideas how to celebrate women who gave us the power of voting were solicited.

Elaine passed the nomination forms for Outstanding Woman of Western Wisconsin. They are also available on line. The nominations are due by January 25, 2019 to Elaine (elaine.baumann1@gmail.com).

Notes with message “Thank you for all you do for the students of River Falls” and with candy attached were distributed into mailboxes of teachers in public schools during the Teacher Recognition Week.

**Announcements**

Two past recipients of NCCWSL scholarship will present posters on December 11.

Actions in memory of Ether Johnson and her reading career are planned. They will involve books.

Sporting World store needs promoting and volunteers. It generates funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

During the program that followed Madeline Uraneck talked about her experience with Tibetan refugee family. Her book “How to Make Life. A Tibetan refugee family and the midwestern woman they adopted” was available for purchase. Member of said family, Tenzin Tamdin, was present and addressed several questions from the audience.

Respectfully submitted by Magdalena Pala, co-secretary.

 **Minutes of the RF AAUW Affiliate Executive Board meeting - November 26, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 1pm by Lorraine Davis at her home.

Present: Lorraine Davis, Suzie Danielson, Suzanne Hagen, Jean Johnson, Tina Kelly, Maureen Olle-LaJoie, Magdalena Pala, Yolanda Dewar.

**Discussion involved:**

1. Recommend the following motion for the December meeting: “That the branch donate $1000 to National AAUW Funds to be used as determined by the national organization.” We will assess funds in May to determine if the branch should give an additional contribution at the end of the fiscal year.
2. The Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund is currently at $735. The group talked about how to sustain the fund and identified the following strategies:
	1. At next branch meeting have a motion that the branch annually donate $200 to the Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund. The money can come from general operating costs.
	2. Solicit money from the larger community, including former students of Ethel.
	3. Add a note about the fund on agendas, minutes, and meeting notices. We could also place reminders about the Helen Wyman notecards on these materials.
	4. Create a press release about the funds establishment to be published near the anniversary of Ethel’s death in April.
	5. Any extra money from RBG movie in March (see below) will go to the Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund.
3. March Meeting could be held at Falls Theater with a $5 showing of RBG. Since some of the membership would qualify for a discounted ticket rate, the difference would go to the Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund as a fundraiser. Suzie is following up with Michelle Maher.
4. The group suggested Michelle Maher as a nominee for Outstanding Woman in River Falls. The branch is looking for nominations from any and all members still.
5. Ratification Event, June 10, 2019, could be a luncheon at Junior’s. Maureen will see what Wisconsin Historical Society is doing about the ratification anniversary and follow up with the university archivist about local resources on that event.
6. The following people signed up to help with Pay Equity Day: Ruth Lee, Barb Peterson, Gretchen Toman, Diane Crist, Kendra Morgan, Jane Matthews, and Elizabeth Williams.
7. Jo Ann Prout is heading up the Work Smart Initiative. The group suggested that we prioritize the Renaissance Academy and River Falls High School. Another potential partnership is with Career Services at UWRF. Diane Crist may be a good resource as she was the Director of Career Services at St. Thomas University. There is an online salary negotiation course at <https://salary.aauw.org/>
8. Lorraine and Suzanne have met with Rellen Hardtke about the STEM Event at UWRF on April 13th. AAUW can help by garnering donations for swag bags and providing a potluck lunch for helpers.
9. The State Convention is in Lake Geneva on April 26-27, 2019. Suzanne, Lorraine, and Suzie may go. The branch will need to create a board for the convention.
10. We need an election committee to create a slate of candidates. This year we need to fill secretary and VP of Membership. Ann Gustafson, Kay Montgomery, and Elaine Baumann were suggested as possible committee chairs. Lorraine will reach out to see who is interested in serving.
11. The NCCWSL scholarship has 3-4 applications so far. Applications are due November 28th.
12. The Middle School Essay collection date is 12/5. The winners will be announced at the January 26th meeting in the River Falls Public Library. We talked about how to increase attendance at this meeting so more people can have the opportunity to hear from the inspirational speakers we line up for the middle school students. Placing flyers in schools and submitting information in RF Journal before the event were mentioned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by Magdalena Pala and Maureen Olle-LaJoie, co-secretaries

**FINANCE REPORT**

Tina Kelly, Finance Chair

**AAUW-River Falls Finance Report - November 30, 2018**

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| **Checking balance 10/30/2018**  | **$ 6510.11** |
| DuesMoose BrunchNote CardsContributions |   $389 615 40 75 |
| *Total receipts (10/30/2018 – 11/30/2018)* |  $1119 |
| **Disbursements:**AAUW Nat’lAAUW WIPrintingTeacher PacketCorrection to Brunch deposit |    $337.50 84.50 70.40 42 40 |
| *Total disbursements (10/30/2018-11/30/2018)* |  $574.40 |

**Balances 11/30/2018**

Checking: 7054.71

Savings: 2394.10

Total 9448.81

Notes:

Savings total includes $735 for Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund

Scholarship Fund Balance of $533.77 add Book Sales proceeds of $2545.50 for total of $3079.27.

Moose Brunch figure is $575 rather than $615 after $40 correction to deposit. Previous month had $45 in brunch sales ($575+$45 = $620)

Tina Kelly

Treasurer

**STEM UP DATE**

Plans for Girls in SCIENCE are being made for Saturday, April 13, 2019 at UWRF.  It will focus on hands-on STEM activities in sessions designed for 80 elementary students in the morning and 80 middle school students in the afternoon. These students will participate and meet scientists/professors and university students in sessions throughout the day. Information is already available in the River Falls Community Education Fall Bulletin,

AAUW has cosponsored this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program  with related departments at UWRF for the past four years. Professor Rellen Hardtke is again heading the program.    Presenters will be asked to provide exciting activities for attendees with new activities being developed this year.   In the past, the larger community has provided additional support to offset the costs with offering funds for scholarships and materials for participants. For its part, AAUW has accessed community support and provided volunteers and "nourishment" for the day of the event. We will be asked to fulfill similar roles this year as well as promoting STEM and the program in the community throughout the year.  More information will be forthcoming.

This event is one that the community looks forward to and it is wonderful that our organization can play a vital part.

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), our secretary, know and she will send a letter of congratulations on behalf of AAUW.  Let's celebrate one another.

**CARDS FOR SALE**

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!!!!

**ETHEL JOHNSON MEMORIAL**

Submitted by Jean Johnson, Committee Chair of The Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund

The Ethel Johnson Memorial honors a woman dedicated to learning.  AAUW wishes to remember Ethel for her many roles of service to our organization and the community.  Her life is an example of what education and a spirit of giving can inspire in all of us.  The fund will be used for grants that promote literacy, such as books for the food shelf or the public school  back pack program.  By sustaining this memorial, AAUW continues the values by which Ethel lived as a teacher, mentor, traveler, and friend.

Please send your monetary support to Tina Kelly, W9908 State Rd 35. Hager City WI  54014 or donate at our monthly AAUW meetings.

**POLITICAL POLICY**

Barb Peterson, Chair Public Policy

Right now, some Wisconsin legislators are working to make it harder for us to vote and harder for us to pick our own representatives. Here’s how:

Governor-elect Evers does not officially take office until January of 2019. Lawmakers are planning to call a special session to pass a series of harmful bills before Planned Parenthood Advocates-endorsed candidate Tony Evers becomes governor.

The worst bill under discussion is one that would move the date of our 2020 presidential primary election from April to March, all for partisan political reasons.

**Here’s why moving the election is a problem:**we already have two elections at the start of 2020, our spring primary election in February and our spring general election in April. By scheduling the third election in March, lawmakers are trying to cause confusion, reduce voter turnout, and make it harder for us to pick our representatives.

Over half of Wisconsin’s county clerks, who are responsible for running elections, oppose this plan. They signed an open letter saying that moving the election is a “waste taxpayer money” that will “create logistical nightmares for clerks and greatly confuse voters.”

**They are exactly right – making it harder to vote is bad for Wisconsin.**

Everyone who is eligible to vote should be able to vote. Period. Selecting our own leaders helps us create a government that speaks for us, represents us, and works to do right by us. The fact that our government is working to make it harder and more confusing for us to vote is wrong.

We expect conservative lawmakers to call for a special legislative session tomorrow and try to pass this bill and several others early next week. We’ll learn more about this tomorrow.

In the meantime, here are a few places you can go to read up on the proposed changes:

* [Experts Discuss Moving Election Day](https://click.everyaction.com/k/3430249/24383128/-841050470?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9QUEZBLzEvMTk5NzUiLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiODU4NTAyOGYtMjJmNC1lODExLTg2MDctMjgxODc4MzkxZWZiIiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJsYnBldGVyc0BkaXNodXAudXMiDQp9&hmac=hO7zyup6bxicHtA7uCXB3R01u0PL8IbEqldocZZ4tZ8=)
* [Senate Majority Leader Discusses Special Session](https://click.everyaction.com/k/3430250/24383129/-694379843?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9QUEZBLzEvMTk5NzUiLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiODU4NTAyOGYtMjJmNC1lODExLTg2MDctMjgxODc4MzkxZWZiIiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJsYnBldGVyc0BkaXNodXAudXMiDQp9&hmac=hO7zyup6bxicHtA7uCXB3R01u0PL8IbEqldocZZ4tZ8=)

To find your legislators phone numbers and voice your concerns, [click here](https://click.everyaction.com/k/3430251/24383130/-176622214?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9QUEZBLzEvMTk5NzUiLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiODU4NTAyOGYtMjJmNC1lODExLTg2MDctMjgxODc4MzkxZWZiIiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJsYnBldGVyc0BkaXNodXAudXMiDQp9&hmac=hO7zyup6bxicHtA7uCXB3R01u0PL8IbEqldocZZ4tZ8=&single=y) and enter your address.

**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**

[jsonline.com](http://jsonline.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.**

This link below is to a fine discussion by Matt Rothschild, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign in Madison.  It's a fast read and very informative.

<http://www.wisdc.org/op091817.php>

**INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

**November 2018 International News,**

Alice Guy-Blaché (born in Paris, July 1, 1873 – died on March 24, 1968) was a pioneer filmmaker, active from the late 19th century, and one of the first to make a narrative fiction film.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Guy-Blach%C3%A9#cite_note-2) From 1896 to 1906 she was probably the only female filmmaker in the world. She experimented with Gaumont's [Chronophone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronophone) sound syncing system, color tinting, interracial casting, and special effects. She was a founder and artistic director of the [Solax Studios](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solax_Studios) in Flushing, New York, in 1908. In 1912 Solax invested $100,000 for a new studio in Fort Lee, New Jersey, the center of American filmmaking prior to the establishment of Hollywood. That same year she made the film A Fool and his Money, with a cast comprised only [African-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American) actors. The film is now at the National Center for Film and Video Preservation at the [American Film Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Film_Institute).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Guy-Blach%C3%A9#cite_note-4)

Alice Guy-Blaché directed her last film in 1919. In 1921, she was forced to auction her film studio and other possessions in bankruptcy. Alice and Herbert were officially divorced in 1922. She returned to France in 1922 and never made a film again.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Guy-Blach%C3%A9#cite_note-AGB-24)

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| **Rwanda Association of University Women’s Project Convener appointed to Ministerial position** Recently, Ambassador Soline Nyirahabimana, NFA Member and Project Convener of the Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW), was appointed to the Cabinet of Rwanda as Minister of Gender and Family Promotion. The cabinet of Rwanda in 2018 is 50% women making Rwanda, with Ethiopia, the only two African countries with gender equality in their governments.  Ms. Nyirahabimana previously served as Rwanda's Ambassador to Switzerland and Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva before she was recalled in 2013. She also sits on the GWI Projects Committee. “This is very good news for Rwanda as well as for GWI as we need women like Soline to advance gender equality”, says Geeta Desai, GWI President. |

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https://gallery.mailchimp.com/4f440ac475f57015275a1f6eb/images/61b37c43-f2ef-4231-9af4-82b348f47750.jpg Ms. Soline Nyirahabimana, Rwandan Minister of Gender and Family Promotion. |

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| **Judge’s Decision Dismissing Female Genital Mutilation Charges Sparks Concern By** [**Carol Kuruvilla**](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/carol-kuruvilla)[*WOMEN*](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/section/women) 11/21/2018Activists are worried that a federal judge’s decision to dismiss mutilation charges against Michigan doctor Juman Nagarwala will send the wrong message.A federal judge has dismissed key charges against a Michigan doctor accused by prosecutors of performing female genital mutilation (FGM) on young girls― a decision that has prompted some concern among activists against the practice.U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman dismissed conspiracy and mutilation charges against [Dr. Jumana Nagarwala](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/detroit-doctor-charged-with-female-genital-mutilation_us_58efbdeae4b0da2ff85f1292), a Detroit physician accused of performing the surgery on nine minor girls, and Dr. Fakhruddin Attar, who reportedly allowed the procedures to take place in his Livonia clinic.The same charges were also dismissed against two women who reportedly acted as assistants during the procedure and the four mothers who prosecutors say brought their daughters to Nagarwala.Other charges levied against some of the defendants remain standing, including one accusing Nagarwala of “conspiracy to travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.”For Friedman, the dismissals on the charges of FGM came down to the issue of federalism. In his opinion, Friedman wrote that “as despicable as this practice may be,” FGM is a crime that should fall under the jurisdiction of states ― not the federal government. He found that Congress acted unconstitutionally when it passed a [federal law criminalizing FGM in 1996.](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/116)But some activists are worried about the message that the ruling will send to members of Nagarwala’s religious community, [Dawoodi Bohras,](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/dawoodi-bohra-female-genital-mutilation-case_us_5900c914e4b0026db1dd72a0) for whom genital cutting is still a deeply engrained tradition.Mariya Tehrer is the co-founder of [Sahiyo](https://sahiyo.com/), a group that seeks to end FGM in the Bohra community. Tehrer told HuffPost that many in the Sahiyo community ― particularly survivors of the practice ― feel the judge’s decision is “a punch in the gut.”**WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH**A report from *Human Rights Watch* describes how [women’s rights have not been observed in some countries as much as expected](http://www.hrw.org/worldreport99/women/index.html); in some places claims are made that women’s rights will be respected more, yet policies are sometimes not changed enough—or at all—thus still undermining the rights of women.In some patriarchal societies, religion or tradition can be used as a barrier for equal rights. For example, as *Inter Press Service* reported, [the Bangladesh government tried to hide behind laws to deny women equal rights](http://web.archive.org/web/20040214020116/http%3A/www.oneworld.org/ips2/june99/15_20_055.html). In Pakistan for example, [honor killings](http://mondediplo.com/2001/05/13pakistan) directed at women have been carried for even the slightest reasons.As *Amnesty International* also points out, [Governments are not living up to their promises](http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engior510061999) under the Women’s Convention to protect women from discrimination and violence such as rape and female genital mutilation. There are many governments who have also not ratified the Convention, **including the U.S.** Many countries that have ratified it do so with many reservations.Despite the almost universal ratification of the Convention (second only to the Convention on the Rights of the Child), a number of countries have still not signed or ratified it. The handful of remaining countries are: **USA (signed, but not ratified),** Iran, Qatar, Cook Islands (a Non-member state of the United Nations), Nauru, Palau, Tonga, Somalia, and Sudan.To see the US on this list may seem surprising to most, and *Human Rights Watch* is critical of the delay in getting a ratification, noting that this [treaty has been in limbo in the U.S. Senate for](http://hrw.org/campaigns/cedaw/%22%20%5Co%20%22External%20Link%3A%20%27CEDAW%3A%20The%20Women%E2%80%99s%20Treaty%27%2C%20Human%20Rights%20Watch%2C%20October%2026%2C%202005) *[decades](http://hrw.org/campaigns/cedaw/%22%20%5Co%20%22External%20Link%3A%20%27CEDAW%3A%20The%20Women%E2%80%99s%20Treaty%27%2C%20Human%20Rights%20Watch%2C%20October%2026%2C%202005)*. It was sent it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for a vote in 1980. The first hearing on it was 10 years later. After a vote mostly in favor for it by the Foreign Relations Committee in 1994, some conservative senators blocked a US Senate vote on it. In 2002 the Foreign Relations Committee again voted that the treaty should be ratified, but the 107th Congress ended, so it requires a vote again in favor of sending the treaty to the full Senate for ratification!Some opponents of the treaty have raised fears that it would undermine US law, but *Amnesty International USA* shows that [such fears of the treaty are based on myths](http://www.amnestyusa.org/women/cedaw/factvsfiction.html%22%20%5Co%20%22External%20Link%3A%20%27Fact%20versus%20Fiction%27%2C%20Amnesty%20International%20USA%2C%20March%202006).The US of course has a decent record when it comes to women’s rights, so this may not seem a concern immediately. However, as *Amnesty International USA* further argues not only would ratification for the US be straight forward (for US laws in this area are already consistent with the CEDAW treaty), but it would also [help to increase their credibility when raising these issues worldwide](http://www.amnestyusa.org/women/cedaw/%22%20%5Co%20%22External%20Link%3A%20%27Ratify%20the%20Treaty%20for%20the%20Rights%20of%20Women%20%28CEDAW%29%27%2C%20Amnesty%20International%20USA%2C%20accessed%20February%2015%2C%202007).

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| Together We Can Eliminate Gender-Based Violence!From Geeta Desai, Graduate Women International, President. |

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| On 25 November the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) will begin and run through 10 December, Human Rights Day.  Graduate Women International (GWI) has created an impactful and easy-to-use advocacy campaign toolkit.  The toolkit includes compelling and valuable information about the 16 Days of Activism, facts about GBV, relevant connections between the Sustainable Development Goals and GBV, simple advocacy ideas, press releases, comprehensive social media campaign covering the 16 days complete with Facebook posts, cover photos, infographics, Tweets, Days to Observe and more.  The toolkit can be downloaded from the GWI website [**HERE**](https://graduatewomen.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4f440ac475f57015275a1f6eb&id=d63e312edb&e=977d96fdb6)**.** The goal of this GWI 16 Days of Activism toolkit is, alongside our National Federations and Associations, to increase awareness about and advocate for the elimination of all forms of GBV in the world of work and beyond, through a united, worldwide voice. The primary action towards eliminating GBV is to draw attention to the frequency of GBV incidents and spread awareness about the issue; to see yourself and your NFA as agents of change towards the elimination of GBV, locally and globally. Underscoring that GBV destabilizes the safety, dignity, overall health condition, and human rights of the millions of women and girls who experience it. Advocacy campaigns such as this aim to build on previous year’s successes while highlighting the work that still needs to be done. GWI correspondingly celebrates this progress and the extraordinary women and girls around the world who have fought back against GBV. Included in this toolkit are many powerful, easy-to-use resources to assist you with an advocacy campaign of your own.  The resources can be widely shared as support vehicles to spread the word about the need to address GBV. Together we can end GBV! No action is too small!  “GWI believes that as a civilization, we are at a critical moment in time when we must acknowledge, once and for all, that the safety of women girls is a cornerstone of a sustainable society. We call on all men and women to strenuously reject all notions that tend to justify Gender-Based Violence, punish its perpetrators to the full extent of the law and advocate for strict laws where there are none”  |

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**— Did you know? —**

Did you know? Between 1940-1945, during World War II, the occupying powers over Belgium, France Luxembourg, Norway, Poland banned the meeting of any organizations with international connections. However, the local committees and groups of the IFUW continued meeting in secret and gave what mutual aid they could to those in need. Even a world war did not stop these women from seeing the importance of education for women.

**River Falls Branch: 2018-19 CALENDAR OF EVENTS – SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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 5 –** City Sampler at UWRF, 11-1 pm

**September 11** - Regular Meeting: COMMUNITY ROOM at the First National Bank, 104 E Locust Street, **6:00** Pot Luck Dinner, our business meeting at **6:30 PM**, program presentation at **7:00** by our NCCWSL delegates, Jillisa Solberg and Temitope Abiodun

**Early September** – Book donation barrels placed in Family Fresh, Dick’s Grocery store and County Market in Hudson.

**October 6 -** Sorting of book donations, 9-noon - place TBD

**October 29 (Monday)** – Regular Meeting: 6:00 promptly at the River Falls Library. 6:30– Presentation by Craig Dudnick about Alice Tregay, unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement. Film and Discussion.

**October 11 -** BOOK SALE - October 11, 12, 13 and October 17, 18, 19, **109 North Main Street, River Falls**

**November 6** – Election Day

**November 11** – Sunday Moose Lodge Breakfast Fund raiser

**November 13 -** Regular Meeting: Speaker, Madeline Uraneck, Wisconsin Educator and author of How to Make a Life about her friendship with a Tibetan family.

**December 7** – Deadline for Middle School Science Essay contest

**December 11**  - Regular Meeting and Holiday Auction at Suzanne Hagen’s House, 2464 Golf View Dr. Bring a meatless appetizer or cookies to share. Starts at 6:30.

**January 26, 2018** (Saturday 1 p.m.) – Regular meeting and STEM presentation with Science and Math Essay Awards at the River Falls Library. Katharine Hagen will be speaking about her career in biochemistry.

**February 12** - Regular Meeting at 5:01 at Junior’s (to take advantage of HAPPY HOUR). Grace Coggio and Krista Cleary will help us learn about Radical Civility.

**March 12** - Regular Meeting and Women’s History Month presentation in conjunction with the River Falls Public Library. There will also be a presentation of the Role Equity Award. Ruth Bader Ginsberg film to be shown and discussed

**April 9** – Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Program is a presentation by Agnes Ring, Executive Director of the Family Resource Center of St. Croix Valley.

**April 13**– 2019 STEM Girls in SCIENCE

**April 14** – Equal Pay Day

**April 26-27 - State AAUW Convention in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**

**May 14** – Installation and Celebration 5:00 Wine Tasting Fund Raiser, 6:30 Pot Luck Dinner at Suzanne Hagen’s House, 2464 Golf View Dr. with a 5 - 6:30 wine tasting for those who would like to participant.

**June 10** – 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by Wisconsin



**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.