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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter

aauwrf@gmail.com

March 2019

Next regular meeting will be April 9 at the River Falls Public Library.

It is our Annual Meeting with the election of officers. The Program is a presentation by Agnes Ring, Executive Director of the Family Resource Center of St. Croix Valley.

This is open to the public, so invite anyone interested in hearing about this interesting presentation.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 2.
Important contest is State Supreme Court -
10 year term.**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Lorraine Davis, Branch President

AAUW has celebrated March as Women's History Month with an initiative to make salary inequity a thing of the past. Through the year I have been advocating that each of us register for [Work Smart Online](#) to learn salary negotiation skills and help meet the terms of a generous corporate grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation. AAUW would like every member to take the course and share Work Smart on line with other friends and family.

This is an action that all of us can take to provide skills for women to receive the pay they deserve. **BTW: UWRF has included the Work Smart information on its Career Website.**

As our part of Women's History Month, the branch recognized two Western Wisconsin women as **2019 Role Models for Equity**. Dr. Stacy Johnson, School Board President, and Mary Conroy-Johnson, one of the founders of the Pierce-St Croix Free Clinic were so honored. Mary was unable to attend the March meeting but will attend the April meeting. Please be there to recognize her.

The April meeting is the annual meeting at which time we elect officers. Last month nomination chairperson Magdalena Pena presented the membership with the slate of officers which includes Kendra Morgan for Membership Vice President and Gretchen Toman for Secretary. We appreciate the efforts of the election committee which included Elizabeth Williams and Ann Gustafson. Please attend so you can vote.

Branch April activities are plentiful: Equal Pay Day on April 2 (with materials at UWRF and CVTC), Falcon Women's Leadership Summit, April 6 (with support from our branch) and Girls in SCIENCE Stem Program with UWRF April 13.

The State Convention is April 25 and 27 and there are funds for additional members to attend. If you would like to find about any of these activities, let me know. The AAUW Wisconsin State Convention will be held **Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 at the Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan.** Registration begins at 2 on Friday and sessions at 3. Thus far, speaker topics will include Title IX, Non Traditional Career Education for Women, Preventing Human Trafficking and Best Branch Practices. Please consider this in your spring plans. Travel funds will be available for this purpose.

Wisconsin Was the First State to Ratify the 19th Suffrage Amendment in June, 1919

We are meeting to begin to talk about a "celebration of the 100 year anniversary Wisconsin's ratification of the 19th amendment" at the archives classroom located in the lower level of the Chalmer Davee Library at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 4th. Are you interested? Join us and please invite others who might be to come as well.

Finally, on April 13, member Faye Perkins will be honored by UWRF with the naming of the UWRF Softball Field after her. The Field Dedication will be held at 12:50 p.m., right before the UWRF - UW Whitewater softball game on Saturday, April 13 at PERKINS Field. Congratulations Faye.

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE - 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."** by clicking at the top left side under the title. 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 also must prepare for the May meeting at Suzanne Hagen's home, 2464 Golf View Drive, River Falls. That May 14 meeting has TWO Events for the Program Year Finale!



Wine Tasting – 5:00 p.m.

Pot Luck Supper – 6:30 p.m.

Our May meeting will be a **POTLUCK SUPPER** beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14 at Suzanne Hagen's. **Please bring an appetizer, salad or dessert/fruit.** A sandwich bar will be provided. As always, there is no monetary donation to this event.

Again this year there will be an informal **WINE TASTING** beginning at 5:00 p.m., also at Suzanne Hagen's. Learn a little about wine & exercise your nose, eyes & palate! Guests are welcome. (It has been a popular event and usually garners some new members for us! \$10 donation to AAUW per person. All donations go to our branch treasury.



If you plan to attend the wine tasting and do not sign up at the April 9 meeting, please RSVP to Suzanne by May 5 (715-425-1471 or suzanne.hagen.1@gmail.com)

BRANCH MEETING MINUTES – March 12, 2019

Maureen Olle-LaJoie and Magdalena Pala, Co-Secretaries

Lorraine Davis called the meeting to order at 6:47pm.

Guest and Outstanding Western Wisconsin Woman recipient Dr. Stacy Johnson Myers was welcomed.

The minutes from the January meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

The treasurer's report was approved as published in the newsletter.

President's Report (Lorraine Davis) Lorraine distributed a flyer about the AAUW Work Smart program. People are encouraged to take this online 90 minute class and forward it on to others. AAUW developed this program in partnership with Coca-Cola and needs to get 20,000 women to take the free tool by Equal Pay Day, April 2. Register for AAUW's Work Smart online at <https://salary.AAUW.org>

Pay Equity Day is on April 2nd this year. The chapter will have tables at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) and University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF). There is a sign up to staff the tables. Asian American Pay Equity Day was on March 5th and Latina Pay Equity Day is November 20th this year.

The civil conversations talk that was to be held at the February meeting will be rescheduled. That event and meeting were cancelled due to weather conditions.

Jeanne Zirbel and Jane Matthews will be organizing the annual book sale this fall.

On **June 10, 1919**, Wisconsin was the **first state to ratify** the 19th amendment recognizing women's right to vote. The University Archives, Tuesday Club, and other organizations are going to work together on a community event commemorating the 100th anniversary of this event. Please contact Lorraine if you are interested in helping out.

Girls in SCIENCE will be held on April 13th. AAUW will be providing lunch for presenters. Please sign up.

The state convention is on April 26th and 27th in Lake Geneva. So far Suzanne Hagen is going.

Nomination Committee (Magdalena Pala)

Magdalena Pala presented the following slate of candidates:

- Co-secretary: Gretchen Toman (still looking for a second person)
- VP Membership: Kendra Morgan

New Business

The board met on March 1st and passed a motion to present 1 or 2 outstanding women for the chapter's Outstanding Western Wisconsin Woman award. Elaine Baumann led the group.

Chantel Flegler is planning the Falcon Women's Leadership Summit for students on April 6, 2019, and has asked AAUW for support. Elaine Baumann proposed a motion that we contribute \$200 to this event. Suzie Danielson seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the membership.

Announcements

Suzanne Hagen reminded us that membership renewal season starts March 15th.

On April 13 the new softball field at UWRF will be dedicated to Faye Perkins.

The next meeting will be the chapter's annual meeting on April 9th. The speaker will be Agnes Ring, Executive Director of the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. and followed by the presentation of Outstanding Western Wisconsin Women awards to Dr. Stacy Johnson Myers and Mary Johnson and a viewing of the documentary *RBG*.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES - Suzanne Hagen, Vice-President Membership **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2019-20**

IT'S TIME -- to renew your membership in our River Falls' AAUW branch for 2019-20. As a member this past year, you know of our many accomplishments.

Please renew your membership at our April or May meetings to keep our branch strong and vibrant.

Membership dues are:

\$59.00 – national dues (\$56 of which are tax deductible)

\$13.00 – state dues

\$11.00 – branch dues

\$83.00 - Total

If you are a renewing Life Member and do not pay national dues, your dues total is \$24.00.

For those of you paying by check, make check payable to AAUW-RF and give or mail to:

Tina Kelly
W9908 State Road 35
Hager City, WI 54014-8343

For those of you who have paid on-line last year, you will receive an email with updated instructions for e-payment.

If you have not renewed by May 15, you will receive the email from AAUW national with updated and streamlined instructions for e-renewal. And, of course, you can renew by check to Tina through June 15.

Thank you for your commitment to our organization.

Start Smart reminder to take on-line program. Please take a look at this program **before April 2** to help support funding for this Work Smart program.



Make salary inequity a thing of the past. AAUW's Work Smart is an online program to train women in salary negotiation. This AAUW initiative is supported by a very significant grant from the Coca Cola Foundation.

We need your help to reach our first benchmark goal of registering 20,000 women to take the free tool by **Equal Pay Day, April 2.**

1. Register for the [Work Smart](http://salary.aauw.org/salary-negotiation) program on-line (salary.aauw.org/salary-negotiation). Registration is fast and easy.
2. AAUW encourages every branch member to register!!
3. Share AAUW's Work Smart online with other (salary.aauw.org/salary-negotiation/ friends and family members via email or social media. Even enlisting five women you know can make a difference.

AAUW must get these registrations to fulfill the terms of the generous grant from Coca-Cola. So, please, do your part to ensure this corporate partnership is just the beginning of a long and productive relationship devoted to achieving equity for *all*.

FINANCE REPORT

Tina Kelly, Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report - March 23, 2019

Checking balance 2/28/2019	\$ 6753.08
Receipts	
Total receipts (2/28/19 – 3/23/19)	\$ 0

Disbursements	
AAUW Dues	\$ 72
Outstanding Woman Awards (2 @ \$100 each)	200
UWRF Athletics Leadership Symposium	200
Air Fare Reimbursement to NCCWSL	215.31
Copy, Postage Reimbursement	71.45
District 4 Gift Basket	50.00
UWRF Events Table Rent for Pay Day	50.00
<i>Total disbursements (2/28/2019 – 3/23/2019)</i>	\$ 858.76

Balances 3/23/2019

Checking: 5894.32

Savings: 2519.41

Total \$ 8413.73

Notes:

Savings total includes \$860 for Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund

April 2 is Equal Pay Day which is symbolic point when average US woman's earnings reach average man's earnings from the previous year. Asian American women achieve this on March 5, and Latina women's Equal Pay Day is November 20, 2019.

Currently, Wisconsin ranks 26th in the nation at 80%, Minnesota ranks 17th at 82% and California ranks 1st at 89%.

While earning ratios are not yet available for 2018, the previous year's numbers show that nationally white women are still paid only 77 cents compared to a white, non-Hispanic men's dollar and the disparity is even worse for most women of color:

- 61 cents per dollar for Black women
- 58 cents per dollar for American Indian/Alaskan Native women
- 53 cents per dollar for Latinas and
- 85 cents per dollar for Asian American women (*While higher educational attainment leads to higher incomes for Asian American women and men, women still make less than both white men and Asian American men.*)

From 1980 - 2000 the pay gap shrunk, since then it's been stalled. Things to do: (1) urge Congress to support Pay Equity, (2) meet with elected officials, (3) letter to editor, (4) host online Salary Negotiation night in local library or Community Center. Be pro-active and informed, AAUW has information and materials for enlightenment.

River Falls AAUW will be at UWRF and CVTC on April 2, 2019 to enlighten and share with others.

Girls in SCIENCE

Encourage students you know to register for the 4th Annual Girls in SCIENCE event at UW-RF on Saturday, April 13, 2019 to meet and work with scientists, researchers, faculty, and university students from Physics, Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering, Health & Human Performance, Biology & Tissue Engineering, Chemistry & Biotechnology, Plant a& Earth Science, and Psychology & Neuroscience.

For specific information, have them register via River Falls Community Education at rlearns.org, Go to **Register Now** and then choose the morning session for grades 3-6 or the afternoon session for grades 6-9. Students will cycle through four different hands-on activities. Scholarships are available.

Please note: the deadline is March 30th, however, registration will close based on enrollment. T-shirts will be available. Our branch co-sponsors this event with various programs at UWRF. Help is always welcome.

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.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

MARCH 2019 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Women's Day: Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change

On **8 March**, many people around the world joined the global community in celebrating International Women's Day; a day for world citizens to shine a spotlight on gender equity issues, how these issues impede global development, and how they can be eliminated. The 2019 International Women's Day theme, set by the United Nations, "Think equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change", aims to inspire, encourage and empower women and men to improve education opportunity for other women and girl and advance social protection systems and sustainable infrastructure.

To Mark Germany's Equal Pay Day, Women get a Break on Transit Fares, by Christopher Schuetze, New York Times, as reported by Minneapolis Star Tribune (edited)

In Germany, women are paid an average of 21 percent less than men, one of Europe widest gender pay gaps. In Berlin for one day only, a day which campaigners in Germany have designated as "Equal Pay Day" the public transportation system will offer them, a corresponding discount, an unlimited day pass for 5.50 euros, about \$6.20, instead of the regular 7 euros. They are calling the promotion "Mind the Pay Gap". Even though Equal Pay Day has been around since 1988, Berlin, for the first time, made March 8, International Women's Day, an official holiday in the city. The BVG has had an equal-pay policy since 2003. Despite its reputation as a socially progressive country-and its long serving female leader-Germany has the third-widest pay gap in the European Union. Only the Czech Republic and Estonia, both much smaller countries did worse.

Graduate Women International (GWI) marked the first United Nation's International Day of Education

Graduate Women International joined the global community in observing the first International *Day of Education*, celebrating the role of **education for peace and development**. This new international Day of Observance, marked on January 26, provides a space for raising awareness of the indispensable role that education plays in building more open, educated and sustainable societies. To mark the inauguration of this occasion, GWI released a [press briefing](#) to raise awareness of the crucial intersection of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the right of all women and girls to lifelong learning.

GWI International Day of Women and Girls in Science

On 22 December 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) adopted a resolution to establish International Day of Women and Girls in Science. **Marked annually on 11 February**, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a conduit to recognize the important role women and girls play in science communities and their contributions towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year's theme "*Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth*" offers

a reminder that the inclusion of women in science and the furthering of their access to education is a crucial step in achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Why Iceland is the Best Place in the World to be a Woman

Give credit to a strong women's movement and laws designed to improve gender equality at work and home. **By Laura Paddison**, 03/08/2019, Huffington Post

Iceland is often celebrated for its geothermal pools, breathtaking glaciers and amazing views of the northern lights. It is also apparently the best place in the world to be a woman.

For the last decade, the nation of roughly 350,000 people has topped the World Economic Forum's annual gender gap report, which ranks countries' progress toward gender equality across areas including economic participation, political representation, education and health. For comparison, the United States came in 51st last year, sandwiched between Mexico and Peru. Iceland also consistently performs well in The Economist's "glass ceiling index," which rates the best countries for working women. It placed first in the index in 2016 and third in 2018 (the U.S. came in 19th).

It was the first country to democratically elect a female president, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir in 1980. The current prime minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, elected in 2017, is the second woman in that position in Iceland's history. Iceland has also passed a raft of legislation aimed at reducing pay inequality, ensuring women are better represented at the highest levels in business and guaranteeing shared paid parental leave.

Yet while it forges ahead of the rest of the world, some leaders in Iceland's push for gender equality point out that their country is still no paradise for women and argue that all the accolades show how low the global bar is for women's rights.

Much of the progress that Iceland has made can be credited to a strong women's movement, which has propelled the demand for gender equality into the mainstream in a nation where ideas of male dominance and set gender roles have deep roots. "Grassroots activism is absolutely key. Nothing would happen without grassroots activism," said Brynhildur Heidar- og Ómarsdóttir, managing director of the Icelandic Women's Rights Association.

Perhaps the greatest demonstration of this came in 1975, when Icelandic women took to the streets, angry at not being paid enough for their work — both in and outside the home — and frustrated at the dearth of political representation.

"We needed to do something big and we needed to do something bold because our situation was dire," said Ómarsdóttir, who credits the international women's movement, including the women who marched for equality in New York City in 1970, for inspiring Icelandic women.

A staggering 90 percent of Iceland's female population turned out for the 1975 protest. Instead of calling it a strike, which might have alienated the country's more conservative women ("because to go on a strike was a very leftie thing to do," said Ómarsdóttir), the day was called *Kvennafrídagurinn*, meaning "women's day off," a concept all women could get behind.

“That solidarity was absolutely fundamental in creating a tradition in Iceland of all women, no matter their political persuasion, coming together,” said Ómarsdóttir.

From there, Iceland has seen waves of change. A Gender Equality Act was signed in 1976 and, following Finnbogadóttir’s election as president, the Women’s Alliance was launched the aim of propelling more women into politics and won its first parliamentary seats in 1983.

Today Iceland has one of the best records in the world for female political representation. At its peak in 2016, nearly 48 percent of the elected members of Iceland’s Parliament were women. That figure now sits at around 38 percent, but it’s still far above countries like the U.S. where women make up 23.7 percent of Congress.

When it comes to equality in the workplace, Iceland has not been afraid to legislate progress — something many other countries have shied away from, preferring softer voluntary approaches to reducing gender inequality. Despite the initial pushback from business, Iceland implemented mandatory gender quotas for company boards. Women must make up at least 40 percent of board members. And that law has worked. Today women constitute 43 percent of the boards of the largest publicly listed companies (that figure is 21.7 percent in the U.S.).

“The last thing that we wanted to do was put quotas out there,” said Bergljót Thrastardóttir of the Icelandic government’s Equality Directorate, “but we had to because we had been talking to the businesses for a long time and nothing was happening.”

Though women now have seats at the corporate decision-making table, there is still some way to go. The hope that the quotas would lead to more women becoming CEOs hasn’t been realized yet, said Thrastardóttir.

Iceland is also the only country in the world to require companies to prove that they are not paying women less than men, through a landmark equal pay law that went into effect in 2018. While paying women and men differently for the same work is technically illegal in multiple countries, many companies flout those laws without consequence. Iceland has a gender pay gap of around 16 percent (it’s around 20 percent in the U.S.), according to figures from the Prime Minister’s Office.

“What has always been the problem with equal pay legislation is the fact that it put it on the employee to actually prove discrimination,” said Ómarsdóttir. That means scraping together the financial and mental resources to put up a legal fight. And even if the employee gets justice for herself, it may not help her co-workers.

A School for Small Families, The Economist, Feb 2, 2019. (Edited)

Thanks to education, global fertility could fall faster than UN expects

The UN projects that fertility rates will fall gradually and that lifespans will increase, Opinions are divided over effects of such growth. For some, a more crowded planet will be an environmental disaster. For others, those billions extra brains will help humanity devise even more cunning solutions to its problems. But

what if the projection is wrong? Some demographers argue that the UN underestimates how fast fertility will decline.

Nearly all rich countries have sub-replacement fertility rates. Only in poor countries is fertility still high enough to fuel rapid population growth.

The decline in fertility in Africa was recently smaller than expected. If this is a blip, then the world's future population will be much larger than today's.

Wolfgang Lutz, a demographer at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria, argues that it is indeed a blip. It happened because spending on education stalled during the 1990s. Many women born in 1980 received less education than the previous generation. The UN extrapolates from past trends, so the stalling in Africa makes its model predict higher fertility far into the future. However, the decline in education has reversed. The long-term trend is for more women to complete a basic education. After a lag (since schooling starts several years before puberty), this should allow fertility to resume its downward slide.

Models that take education into account produce wildly different projections. If progress in education and other social indicators stalls, the global population will definitely increase. If progress is a bit brisker, the world's population will decline by 2100. Both the medium and optimistic ones are significantly lower than the UN 95% confidence range. To assess why this is plausible, it is important to understand why some women have lots of children and others very few. A good way to start is to ask them.

Oumou Nyero, from Totori, a rustic district of Niger, has had 8 children, one of whom died. Though tragic, this is not unusual in rural Niger. Oumou is Muslim, conservative, and veiled and is intensely proud of her brood-aged between two and 21. Her husband is a small farmer. "It is very important to have children" she says. From a young age, her brood can help in the fields, gather wood, fetch water, and do all kinds of odd jobs to help the family budget. She sums it up, "a child comes with two hands and one mouth". Having a large family is an insurance policy. Some may die, others may be irresponsible. "It is better to have many children, because you cannot tell if you will need them or not", says Ms. Nyero. **In the absence of a public safety net, "children will take care of you in old age."** There are intangible benefits, too. For a woman, "it raises your value if you have more children" says Ms. Nyero. "If you have many children, even friends of your children pay you respect". By contrast, a failure to breed carries a social stigma. Alison Heller of the University of Maryland, observes that "in rural Niger, a woman is not considered an adult until she has children, and in parts of the country, women whose children all die, are called "*wabi*", meaning "a tree whose fruit falls off without ripening".

For people in rich countries, the economics of child-rearing are different. Rather than start earning at age five, the little darlings consume huge amounts of time, resources and parental attention for at least the first 18 years, and possibly far longer. Their parents try to cram them with education hoping they will get into a good university and eventually land a good job. All this is costly, so they can afford to do it once or twice. This is especially observed in countries like South Korea, and Japan. Instead of having babies shortly after puberty, as women have done throughout history, they postpone motherhood until they have spent years in

education and established themselves in a career. If they have children, they typically have only one or two, because giving them the best start in life is expensive.

Several factors correlate strongly with smaller families. One, as mentioned, is income, another is urbanization. Probably **the most important, however, is educating girls. The more years they spend in school, the fewer babies they have.** A truck load of academic studies supports this argument. Education reduces fertility by giving women other options. It increases their chances of finding paid work. It reduces their economic dependence on their husbands, making it easier to refuse to have more children even if he wants them. It equips them with mental tools and self-confidence to question traditional norms. It makes it more likely that they will understand, and use, contraception. It transforms their ambitions for their own children- and thus the number of children they choose to have.

The big question-mark hangs over women in poor, high fertility countries. Some people argue that having big families is part of the culture and is unlikely to change. Many locals would agree, and their religious leaders would add that God wants them to ‘multiply’. But a similar “cultural” preference for large families once prevailed almost everywhere and has changed.

The difference that education makes is especially notable in countries where fertility rates have only just started to fall. In Ethiopia, for example, a household survey in 2005 found that the fertility rate for women with no formal schooling was 6.1; for women with secondary education or more, it was only 2.0. Educating girls is one of the few goals that nearly every government agrees is important. The proportion worldwide of women who complete primary school has risen from 76% to 90%. The last mile may be the hardest, but there is no doubt what parents and voters want.

Apple and Google are Aiding Repression of Women, from an editorial in the Washington Post, via Minnesota Star-Tribune, Feb 17, 2019

Apple and Google are taking heat from human rights advocates for offering a service that allows men in Saudi Arabia to track and control the whereabouts of their wives and daughters.

Absher, which Saudi citizens can access on their web browsers or on their smartphones through the Apple or Google Play Store, is an e-government service at its core-and with some useful and legitimate functions. The app offers Saudis a one-stop shop for tasks such as paying parking tickets and renewing driver’s licenses. But Saudi men also use Absher to register their dependents as part of the kingdom’s repressive ‘guardianship’ system, which forces women to seek permission from male relatives before they exercise a number of what should be human freedoms, including getting married, enrolling in school and traveling outside the country. Apple and Google have both pledged to review the service. The companies cannot end Saudi Arabia’s sexist system. They cannot even end Absher; if they removed the app from their stores, it would continue to exist on its dedicated government website. But they can refuse to facilitate state-approved discrimination.

Saudi Princess Reema bint Bandar al-Saud becomes Saudi Arabia U.S. Ambassador, from Star/Tribune Feb 25, 2019

The Princess, a former executive and philanthropist who lived in the United States for more than two decades, will be the Kingdom's new ambassador to Washington. She is Saudi Arabia's first female ambassador. Her appointment was the latest sign of the kingdom's effort to rehabilitate its image after U.S. lawmakers censured the Saudi leadership for (1) the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, (2) the Saudi military intervention in Yemen, and (3) the arrests and alleged torture of Saudi women's rights activists.

PEN Freedom Award honors Saudi Activists (Star-Tribune, March 2019)

Three Saudi women's rights activists whose arrests last year have been condemned worldwide, are being honored by PEN America. Nouf Abdulaziz, Loujain al-Hathoul and Eman al-Nafjan have won the PER/Barbey **Freedom to Write Award**, the literary and human rights organization. The award was established in 1987 and is given to writers imprisoned for their work. In custody for working to "undermine the security" of the kingdom, the three women have opposed such government policies as a ban on women driving and the restriction of women's travel, education and other rights without approval from a male guardian.

Activists have alleged that the PEN winners have been subjected to torture, including flogging and sexual assault. Saudi officials have denied the allegations. PEN has long highlighted the **Freedom to Write Award** as a way of turning advocacy into action, noticing that 37 of the 43 previous winners have since been freed, at least in part because of the attention from the prize.

U.N. Says Violence and Harassment Is Keeping Women Out Of Power around the World 03/13/2019 Edith M. Lederer, Associated Press

When it comes to political power, women are totally outnumbered by men, accounting for less than 7 percent of the world's leaders and only 24 percent of lawmakers, according to the latest statistics.

According to statistics from the Inter-Parliamentary Union released last week, the percentage of female elected heads of state dropped from 7.2 percent to 6.6 percent — 10 out of 153 — from 2017 to 2018. The percentage of female heads of government dropped from 5.7 percent to 5.2 percent — 10 out of 193 — in the same period.

In parliaments, the global share of women increased by nearly one percentage point from 2017 to 2018, to 24.3 percent. But Gabriela Cuevas Barron, head of the Inter-Parliamentary Union said that it took 25 years to get to that figure, from 11 percent in 1995.

"That's why we believe we need to encourage parliaments to have affirmative action," she said.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the executive director of UN Women, called the current environment "not the most enabling for women to rise." "We also have pushback right now, which contributes to the slowing down of women wanting to contest for office, because it is brutal," she said, citing political violence, verbal abuse, and abuse on social media that female candidates and politicians face in many countries. She

said, "we must push back against the pushback — so we just have to be stronger in pushing back against the pushback ourselves."

Women must be "change-makers," she said, because national and global institutions were "made for men and by men."

— Did you know? —

Did you know that in 2018, the GWJ Advocacy Toolkit for the International Day of the Girl and the GWJ Written Statement to the Human Rights Council on Child Widowhood were featured on the Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN)? WUNRN, based on a UN Study, is considered the best, most respected, comprehensive global resources on women's and girls' issues. WUNRN provides research, documentation, programs, reports - TOOLS - to move forward advocacy and activism, local to global, on the human rights, oppression, and empowerment of women and girls all over the world. We invite you to visit the [WUNRN website](#) and subscribe to their newsletter to receive WUNRN's releases which highlight issues and actions happening to women and girls around that world.

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 Dudenick 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 Ura-neck, 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 meat-less 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 2 - Equal Pay Day

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 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.