



## Upcoming Events

Tues **October 26**, 5:30 pm  
**Meet 'N' Greet II: What Motivates You?**  
Unitarian Church Social Hall ([map](#))

Sat **November 20**, 11:30 am  
Action Fund Lunch/Auction [Jewel of India](#)

AAUW - Eau Claire

Oct 2010

### President's Message

Last Saturday, my twins had “earned “ the opportunity to pick out a small toy at Target. My daughter, Sally, being a very social creature, has long exhibited a considerable interest in cars, trucks, and trains for the sake of being able to play with her obsessive brother. They both made a beeline for the aisle where Lightning McQueen and the other characters from the movie *Cars* were sold.

But Sally was not satisfied with the selection. She asked if we could look down the “other” aisles. I was glad she was considering branching out – getting something that she was interested for its own sake. But then I remembered what lay ahead of us. Rows of Barbie, Tinkerbell, with their waspy waists, and Bratz dolls, with their trampy, “screw you” attitude. The baby and cooking related toys are all wrapped up in pink packaging, as if a perfect counterpoint to the Science Kit three aisles over with a cover depicting a boy with his mind exploding.

I knew it would be a mistake to try to push her past those aisles – the forbidden can be so alluring. I bit my tongue and I tried not to act revolted when I saw the new Barbie Basics” plunging neckline.

Sally put her hand on the cellophane window of a Bratz Doll box and my heart sank. The doll appeared to be snarling at us. “I don’t really like this,” Sally said. She moved on to Barbie section, paused, and rounded the corner.

We went through three aisles this way before she spotted Handy Manny’s Repair Workshop Playset. She ran toward it, “Look! It has a little hammer and a screw driver!”

I’ll admit to feeling a little surge of pride at that moment. It’s not that I don’t want her playing with dolls. She and her brother have eight between the two of them, and putting them to sleep is a favorite activity. And I get Sally and Leo cooking in the kitchen with me as often as I can muster the patience.

But when I look down the toy aisles, what I see are options foreclosed upon and choices not available, for both girls and boys. Don’t get me wrong: it’s better than when I was a kid.

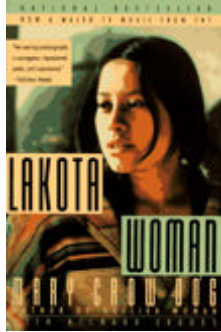
AAUW’s [Why So Few?](#) report focuses on social barriers at the college level to women’s achievement and participation in science, technology, engineering, and math, but the foundations of many of the stereotypes and biases described in the report get laid as early as preschool. In the toy aisles.

-Kate Hinnant



## Book Group

**Note: November's book group date has changed because of the election.**



Tuesday November 9  
*Lakota Woman*  
by Mary Crow Dog at  
Marge Quaid's home.

Tuesday December 7  
*The Master*  
by Colin Toibin at  
Ginny Wright's

Tuesday January 4  
*The Girl in the Blue Dress*  
by Gaynor Arnold at Karen Haugen's

Tuesday February 1  
*Half Broke Horses*  
by Jeannette Walls at JJ Henricksen's

Tuesday March 1  
*The Help*  
by Kathryn Sockett

Tuesday April 5  
*Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*  
by Rebecca Skloot

Tuesday May 3  
*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*  
by Stieg Larsson at Lois Helland's

We meet at 7:30 usually the first Tuesday at members' homes. Please contact Marge if you plan to be at November's meeting.

## AAUW-Eau Claire Board 2010-2011

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Communications:	Chris Kondrasuk
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Bylaws:	Lois Helland
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<http://aauweauclaire.org/>  
email: [aauweauclaire@gmail.com](mailto:aauweauclaire@gmail.com)

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To cut down on spam, we will avoid including individuals' email addresses in *Foliage*. Please check your membership booklet for contact information.

## Correction:

The membership directory incorrectly gives the names of last year's board members, instead of the 2010-2011 board, listed above.



# Women In The Middle:

Hazards of the Sandwich Generation

As the November 2 election closes in, women have perhaps the biggest stake in its outcome. That's the reason AAUW puts so high a stake in our Get Out the Vote campaign. Despite gains in the past three decades, by every economic measure women in the workforce and homemakers still lag behind. The most basic action we can all take as AAUW members is to be sure that we and all the women we care about get to the polls with the knowledge of the difference our votes can make.

Check out AAUW's [Congressional Voting Record](#) to see our WI representatives stand on AAUW's top equity issues. And check out the [Wisconsin Vote](#) website supported by WI Public Radio to see how candidates for all state offices stand on key issues facing us in the next years. Please do your part to assure that well-informed women cast their votes on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All of us fall into what has been called "The Sandwich Generation", facing the implications of societal and economic changes in what lies ahead for ourselves and our families. I'm now in the top slice of that family sandwich, but I remember writing an article for AAUW's *Graduate Woman* in 1986, when I was very much a "Woman in the Middle." I wrote: "If you are a woman like me, with a mother in a nursing home, a job, and 4 children not quite on their own, you know the pressures of The Middle." Elections make a difference. AAUW helped pass Family and Medical Leave through 2 sessions of Congress only to have it vetoed until finally signed as one of President Clinton's first acts. Now AAUW is taking a lead on the Paycheck Equity Act and PAID Family Medical leave--both issues that disproportionately affect women, whether or not they have children. We know that women, by choice or by default, make up the majority of caregivers, whether for the young, the old or the infirm.

Whatever our age or family status, we need to think NOW, about the public policy issues that will affect us, our parents or our children AND to make the personal decisions that can affect our capacities to fulfill responsibilities for ourselves or our families that lie ahead.

One of the topical conversations for our October 26 Branch meeting will be on the equity and economic security issues facing us, whether we are "in the middle" or in the upper slice of The Sandwich Generation. Often these cause difficult choices and economic pressures we cannot avoid, but CAN try to anticipate and offset. An emerging issue in which Wisconsin has taken a lead is called "[The Elder Economic Security Initiative.](#)" One of the October 26 discussions will include WI actions to address serious economic consequences for elders and their adult children because of inequities for older WI women. Right now the median retirement income of older women in Eau Claire County fails meet costs of basic living expenses. That's something that should concern us all.

Sarah Harder, Public Policy Co-chair

# Adventures in Book Selling

The 2010 book sale was an adventure with a bit of a rocky start, a few hills to climb, and circling vultures overhead. However, with the skill and unwavering tenacity of branch members we pulled it off to the tune of just over **\$7,000**. The amount raised is much lower than in recent years – but we were probably due for a blip some time, especially since we were competing with Mother Nature who blessed us with unseasonably warm and sunny weather.



We should be proud of our efforts knowing our event is a **community wide endeavor**. We provide reasonably priced books to people in our community, offer a way for folks to clean out their bookshelves and basements with a book donation; area grocers serve as donation sites; we involve university students in a volunteer opportunity, and provide scholarships to students at UWEC and CVTC. Now that's impressive!

As usual, there was a line of customers an hour before the sale opened on Friday and this year there was a line of customer before we opened for the bag special on Sunday.

There are many, many people to thank and we apologize if we unintentionally leave out a name. It took dedication by many branch members to pull this off and we are **thankful for everyone's help**.

## **Special thanks to:**

**Lois and Mark Helland** – angels, who allow us to take over their garage, provide warm chocolate chip cookies that melt in our mouth, are dedicated sorters, and were awake during the 5 a.m. hour to greet the hockey team who came to move the books.

**Mark Patterson of Crossroad Books** - he graciously takes time out of his busy schedule to share his expertise in sorting and pricing books that might be special or rare.

## **Committee Members –**

Publicity – Connie Russell, Kate Hinnant, Jeanne Claridge

Book Barrels – Pam Hicks, Connie and Chuck Russell, Kim Wellnitz, and the many volunteers who emptied the barrels on a regular basis

Sorting – Cleo Powers, JJ Henrickson, Margot Bouchard

Volunteer Recruitment – Kim Wellnitz

Set-Up – Mary Hayden

Treasurer – Linda Spaeth

**Chuck Russell** - fabulous spousal support and expert driver who drove and parked the enormous u-haul truck in the Helland's driveway.



**UWEC's Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society – Kristin Chang and Andrew Storsveen** who got their organization's members involved. Thanks go to STD volunteers who worked so hard setting up tables, signs, and putting the books out.

**UWEC's Coach Matt Loen and the Men's Ice Hockey team** – nobody else is as efficient, awake, courteous, and funny at 6 a.m. in the morning.



**UWEC Coaches Leslie Huntington and Robin Baker and five, hard workin' ladies from the Softball team.** Thanks for helping us clean-up in record time.



**Rolf Utegaard at the Eau Claire County Expo Center** – thanks for finding help to break down the tables – you saved our backs and we are VERY APPRECIATIVE!

Area grocers who graciously allowed us to have donation barrels in their stores and who donated paper bags. Please support these businesses:

- Mega Foods**, east and west
- Gordy's County Market** on Birch St. and Hamilton Ave.
- Festival Foods**
- Ron's Castle Foods**

**Branch President, Kate Hinnant** and member **Connie Russell** who went over and beyond the call of duty on countless occasions! **Cleo Powers** who was relentless about sorting and who organized the volunteer refreshments by coming in each day to put on the coffee and ready the snacks. **Mary Hayden**, consultant extraordinaire who also has a talent for putting up outdoor signs. **Karen Pope** for storing the barrels and sign standards these many years, and decorating the children's area in a fun and inviting way. **JJ Henricksen** who got the sorting categories and boxes organized and is a private detective who was on to the person who tried to hide books under the tables.

**Ed. note:** A glaring omission in this list of thanks: **Kim Wellnitz**, who stepped up to the plate far more than her role as volunteer organizer required.



# Meet 'n' Greet part II - Dinner meeting

You know how it's really hard for Kate to get us all to stop talking so we can get started with the meeting program? Well! This is your chance to have your say and to continue conversational threads with those people who you don't get time enough to *really* talk to and connect with. How much do you know about the motivations and enthusiasms of other branch members? How do we connect on a deeper and more meaningful level if we don't know each other's histories, passions, community and civic involvements? Let's find out.

What is YOUR motivation? Come to the Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to CONNECT and to LEARN how your ideas and experiences can promote our shared AAUW values and priorities. Come to listen to other branch members share their motivations at this more in-depth meeting. After sharing sub sandwiches, we will break into four topical focus & discussion groups about passions, priorities and involvement in AAUW issues: equity / education / advocacy / economic justice. What's better than sharing food and conversation? Bring a friend or colleague. See you there.

DATE: **Tuesday October 26**

TIME: 5:30 pm

PLACE: Unitarian Universalist (UU) Social Hall (lower level)

DINNER: Sub sandwiches/chips/local apples/coffee or tea provided

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## The Silent Auction—and You!

The annual branch silent auction is coming right up. Our holiday lunch will be on November 20, and promises (again) to be the most popular branch event of the year. The silent auction is a relatively painless way to raise money for the Legal Advocacy and other AAUW funds.

How does it work? You email or call me with the service(s) or item(s) you wish to offer. **Do it today**, or by November 10th. Members, friends, and family can bid online in the weeks before the lunch. When the big day arrives on November 20, the pencil and paper bidding becomes fast and furious until the final whistle sounds.

What are you planning to offer as a service, event, or item?

- Possibilities include: babysitting, hiking, cooking, organizing
- You could teach a skill, guide a garden tour, lead a bike or ski trek
- Pair up with a friend to offer a mystery dinner, a game night, or fun event
- Support a local business - offer a gift certificate
- Share your talents (crafts, home cooking), your knowledge and interests



Mary's coveted Dilly Beans

I cannot wait to hear from you,

Mary Hayden

[haydenm@prodigy.net](mailto:haydenm@prodigy.net), 715-832-0445

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**AAUW VISION STATEMENT** - AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls..

**AAUW MISSION** - AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

**FOLIAGE** - Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Eau Claire Branch

Send or call items of interest to Kate Hinnant, [kate.hinnant@gmail.com](mailto:kate.hinnant@gmail.com), 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



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