

January/
February
2009

Presidents' Message

Happy New Year. We hope you had a wonderful holiday season.

We started out the season with our LAF luncheon and a celebration of our 50th year as an AAUW Branch in early December. Three charter members attended – **Harriet Christy**, the first president of the Eau Claire Branch, who shared some stories about the first years of the organization; **L. Ann Rood**, who also spoke about some of the early activities; and **Roma Hoff**.

Our historian, Cleo Powers, spent many hours going through the branch's archives. Cleo brought three tri-fold poster boards to the luncheon with copies of minutes, membership lists, pictures, and articles about the activities of the branch. She will bring them to future meetings so everyone can have a chance to see them.

The silent auction raised over **\$1,100**. Thanks to all who donated items and to those who bid on them.

All agreed Fanny Hill with its holiday decorations and scenic views was a perfect setting for our 50th celebration. A special thanks goes to **Pam Hicks** and **Barb Radke** for making all the arrangements.

AAUW also celebrated many achievements during 2008. **Check inside the newsletter for a partial list of some of the highlights.**

We hope you'll learn more about these and other efforts by going to www.aauw.org. Under Advocacy, click on Public Policy and then Two-Minute Activist under Related Links of Interest. You'll find details in the box entitled "Celebrate Action Network Successes in 2008"!

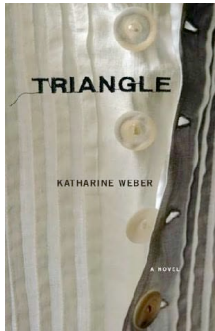
We have a variety of exciting programs scheduled for the rest of the year and look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming meetings.

Cleo Powers (powers@uwed.edu) 834-0794

Dawn Bosold (dbosold@hotmail.com) 835-4055



Book Group: *Triangle*



The AAUW Evening Book Group will meet Tuesday Feb. 3 at Lois Helland's at 7:30 to discuss *Triangle* by Katherine Weber. It is from the AAUW Adelante reading list for Women's History month.

In March, we will meet Tuesday, March 3 at Dawn Bosold's to discuss *Enemy Women* by Paulette Jiles.

Other books for the year are: *Born on a Blue Day* by Daniel Tammet; *March* by Geraldine Brooks, *Blood of Flowers* by Anita Amirrezvani and for the summer *Ahab's Wife* by Sena Jeter Naslund.

If you are new to the group, contact Chris or the hostess.

Chris Kondrasuk 835-1683
(chris@chrisray.org)

We are accepting nominations for the following positions:

- President(s)
- 2 Membership Co-chairs
- 1 Program Co-chair

Movie & Soup

Jan. 24 | 11:30 am | Lois Helland's

Our annual "Movie & Soup" is coming right up. Brave the arctic temperatures and nestle in with a bowl of homemade soup at Lois's Picture Palace.

This year, our feature movie is *The Iron Jawed Angels*. Here's a synopsis:

Iron Jawed Angels recounts for a contemporary audience a key chapter in U.S. history: in this case, the struggle of suffragists who fought for the passage of the 19th Amendment. Focusing on the two defiant women, Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), the film shows how these activists broke from the mainstream women's-rights movement and created a more radical wing, daring to push the boundaries of political protest to secure women's voting rights in 1920.



Celebrate Success!

AAUW Achievements in 2008

- Successfully advocated for the enactment of the **Higher Education Opportunity Act**, the first reauthorization of the act in 10 years.
- Convinced the House to take the first critical step towards strengthening and updating the Equal Pay Act with the successful passage of the **Paycheck Fairness Act**.
- Increased Senate support for the **Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**, which will counter the Supreme Court's wrongheaded decision in the *Ledbetttter v. Goodyear* case.
- Increased awareness of the pay gap between men and women through programming based on **AAUW's Pay Equity Resource Kit**.
- Ensured women's voices were heard on Election Day by encouraging friends and family to register and vote, hosting issue and candidate forums, and ensuring voters' rights were protected.
- Held members of Congress accountable for their votes using the AAUW Congressional Voting Record.
- Fought against anti-affirmative action ballot initiatives in several states and supported reproductive rights and paid sick days measures in other states and cities.
- Convinced the House to support work-life balance policies with the passage of the **Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act**.
- Increased awareness of public policy issues and advancements through a 30 percent increase in subscribers to **Washington Update**.
- Shared our vision for the country with President-elect Obama, letting the incoming president and his team know that breaking through educational and economic barriers for all women should be on top of his agenda.

From the Membership Desk: Call

Yes, call me. Call me with the names of people you think might be interested in becoming a member of our organization and I will be happy to follow through with invitations and information. My number is 832-9848 (Margot).

Or maybe you would rather ask them to our next meeting yourself!

Another idea - use the "Give a Grad a Gift Program" for someone who just got their tech school or college degree. There is no cost to you or the recent grad. For all the details on this great gift idea and program just visit our national website.

Change and Equity

You know how some words and phrases just make you grind your teeth? Have you heard “Have a nice day!” way too often? If it makes you feel better, you can nominate those words and phrases for banishment. Take a look at the Lake Superior State University 2009 List of Banished Words: <http://www.lssu.edu/banished/current.php>

The University’s word banishment list is an annual compilation of words and phrases that are so often heard on the media that people are driven to nominate them because of misuse, overuse, and general uselessness. The most nominated this year include green, carbon footprint, bailout, maverick, and icon.

I must admit that I expected to see the word “change” on the list released on New Year’s Day. I wonder if people are so invested in their personal meaning of the word that they cannot “banish” it. Some fear change, some hope for change, others work for change. There is even a new government website, change.gov, where you can see what’s happening with the next Administration, and make your own suggestions for change.

AAUW’s latest pay equity public awareness slogan is “Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change.” We closed the pay gap by one cent this year—chump change. Make sure to check on the results of the recent legislation concerning pay equity on the AAUW website.

Here are items from the aauw.org site on topics that affect women and girls:

- **AAUW Submits Recommendations to Presidential Transition Team**
- **White House Task Force on Working Families Created**
- **New Study Finds Virginity Pledges Ineffective**

Public Policy Co-chairs,
Mary Hayden, haydenm@prodigy.net
Mary Beth Lowe (new email address)

Legal Advocacy Fund Silent Auction

Thanks to enthusiastic bidders and great items and services, the auction was quite a success. Thank you to everyone who helped us collect **over \$1100!**

Note: changes in the Legal Advocacy Fund are summarized from the aauw.org website as follows:

“The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund was conceived and implemented to aggregate member contributions to invest in activities that prevent and combat sex discrimination and promote gender equity through support of litigation and educational programs. Beginning January 1, 2009, LAF case support will expand to address discrimination cases that protect women in all workplaces, as well as those that arise in the academic context. Specifically, LAF will seek to support plaintiffs with significant cases that have the potential to set precedent and protect others against discrimination in the future.”

“Your continued help and funding support for LAF is essential if we are to leverage our strength, reputation, credibility, and resources for litigation that will truly help us galvanize our commitment to gender equity and fulfill our promise **to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.**”



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The 2008 Book Sale was another huge success in net income for our chapter. Our total income was **\$11,344.21**, expenses were **\$2,397.87**, and net income was **\$8,946.34**. Our total income was up **\$19.66**, but expenses increased **\$226.13**; thus the 2007 Book Sale net income of **\$9,172.47** was still our largest to date.

Our Educational Foundation contribution for 2008 was **\$2,644**, and that amount was evenly divided between the funds set up to honor our local members: Katherine Teska and Judi Kneece. Roma Hoff, L. Ann Rood, Harriet Christy, and Margot Bouchard were the named honorees for this year. The monies for this contribution were the result of our excess 2006 and 2007 book sale money of **\$1,290**, normal donation of **\$1,000**, Pay Equity Bake Sale Profit of **\$214**, and the spring Younker's Community Days Profits of **\$140**.

The Holiday Luncheon Silent Auction was again a great success with **\$1,055** net profit. With the **\$130** from the fall Younker's Community Days Profit, a total of **\$1,185** was submitted to our Legal Advocacy fund.

Thank you to everyone who assisted and contributed to our chapter's fund raising efforts.

Donna M. Weidman, Treasurer

Onward, February!

Join us **Wednesday, February 11, 7:00pm**, at the UWEC McPhee Physical Education Center on the UWEC upper campus. Vicki Funne Reed, Interim Director of University Recreation and Sports Facilities, will provide us with some practical tips and exercises for **stress reduction**. She will also give us a short tour of the facility and acquaint us with the many exercise opportunities available to us .

Wear comfortable clothes and bring tennis shoes. We will meet in McPhee room 110 at 7:00 p.m.

Enter McPhee from the North side of the building (just off the small parking lot), go down the stairs or take the elevator (to your immediate left as you enter the building) to the lower level.

Car pooling might be a good idea! You can park in the small parking lot on the north side of McPhee, or the Murray parking lot (just down the street and around the corner from McPhee) or in the CVTC parking lot just across the street from McPhee).



Coming March 24th ...

Kate Bowman of the UWEC Women's Studies program will speak at the RCU Community Room at CVTC. Stay tuned!

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, 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



**January 24, Saturday - 11:30 a.m.
Soup & Movie
Hellands'**

**February 11, Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Health and Wellness Meeting
McPhee Phys. Ed. Center, rm 110**

220 Roosevelt Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701