



AAUW - Eau Claire

## Upcoming Events

Thursday, **April 28**, 5:30 pm – Dr. Nicole Schultz on *The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation...*  
The Nucleus Annex (details inside)

Saturday, **May 14**, 9 am coffee at Racy's,  
10 am Putnam Park wildflower walk

April 2011

### President's Message

#### 7 Ways of Worry

I was a little nervous at Convention this year. We were bringing our document "7 Ways the Proposed Wisconsin Budget is Wrong for Women and Families" to share with the other branches. After I put out the call mid-March for help outlining the ways in which the WI budget proposals went against AAUW priorities, many members responded and six were able to meet: Ginny Jordan, Kim Wellnitz, Lois Helland, Sarah Harder, Mary Hayden, and Margot Bouchard. We worked together to plan, research, and wordsmith the resulting "7 Ways" (in this newsletter & available at <http://www.wrongforwisconsinwomen.org/>).

I was prepared to be questioned: "Why seven? Why not eight?" Or "what about cuts to STEM funding." Or "you left out X & Y." I was worried the nonpartisanship of the document would be questioned.

Instead we were called "brave". Our branch was thanked for taking this on, our efforts were praised, and the only strong critique that I heard was that we hadn't brought enough copies. (We put up a link to a printable pdf on the website.)

#### Bad News, Slightly Higher Dues

We thought we had an extra year before state increased dues by \$3, but the state is going to need to raise them now in order to support the Wisconsin 2-Minute Activist. So the total dues for next year will be \$73. Linda Spaeth would love to receive your dues at either of the last two meetings; it cuts down our postage spent on sending out invoices.

#### Don't throw out that ballot!

Our first experience with AAUW's new **One Member, One Vote** policy takes place this summer. There are [details online](#) about the issues and positions (requires login).

You should be receiving a paper ballot, with a pin number – you can vote by mail or online.

- **April 15, 2011** - Paper ballots personalized with member number and a pin number mailed to all members.
- **May 1, 2011** - Electronic voting period begins. Online voting is encouraged. It is fast, easy, and secure.
- **May 31, 2011** - Mailed paper ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. EST.
- **June 17, 2011** - Electronic voting period ends at 9 p.m. EST online or onsite at the convention.



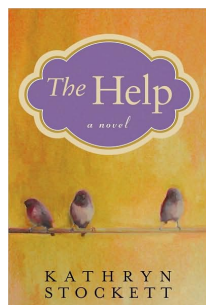
## Book Group

There are only two meetings remaining for the year! Where did the time go?

Tuesday, May 3, 7:30 at Lois Helland's home to discuss ***Thinking in Pictures*** by Temple Grandin and watch the film ***Temple Grandin*** done by HBO.



Tuesday, June 7, 7:30 at Ginny Jordan's to discuss ***The Help*** by Kathryn Stockett. Jenn Von Klein will do the review.



Please call the hostess if attending.

## We have a winner!



Congratulations to **Kristine Rivall**, one of our branch's **NCCWSL Scholarship awardees**, for being chosen as one of two AAUW-Wisconsin NCCWSL Scholarship winners. The \$500 scholarship will help to defray travel expenses to attend the NCCWSL conference. Kristine and **Amy Friedman**, our other NCCWSL Scholarship winner, will be attending the NCCWSL on June 2-4, 2011 at the University of Maryland in College Park. Kristine and Amy are in the process of registering and making travel plans.

They are both planning on attending our next branch event, The Shriver Report.

## AAUW-Eau Claire Board 2010-2011

President:	Kate Hinnant
Membership Chair:	Margot Bouchard
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<http://aauweauclaire.org/>  
email: [aauweauclaire@gmail.com](mailto:aauweauclaire@gmail.com)

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

## Save us postage: ☺

## Pay your dues (\$73) at one of the next 2 meetings

**Thursday April 28, 2011 *The Shriver Report: A Women's Nation Changes Everything***

The Nucleus Annex: enter at Racy's 404 Riverside Ave Eau Claire [ [map](#) ]

**5:30 pm: Share a sandwich together from Racy's**

**6-7 pm:** Presentation and discussion with **Dr. Nicole Schultz**, UW-Eau Claire Communications & Journalism/Women's Studies Assistant Professor. "Envisioning a woman's nation . . . women, work and family issues:" ***The Shriver Report*** (full or Executive Summary [here](#)).



**Nicole Schultz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor**

I grew up in central Minnesota and I am excited to back in the upper Midwest after having earned my B.A. from Winona State University (2002), my M.A. from Minnesota State University, Mankato (2004), and my Ph.D. in Communication Studies and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate from Bowling Green State University (2007).

I teach primarily in the Organizational Communication Emphasis in the Department of Communication and Journalism (CJ) and am affiliate-faculty in the Women's Studies Program (WMNS). Courses I have taught at UW-Eau Claire include CJ/WMNS 111 (Gender, Race, & Class-The Social Construction of Identity (First-Year Experience Course)), CJ 202 (Fundamentals of Speech (Online & Face-to-Face)), CJ 300 (Research Methods), CJ 307/507 (Small Group Communication), CJ/WMNS 317 (Women in the Mass Media), CJ 350/550 (Training and Human Resource Development), CJ 387/497 (Academic/Advanced Academic Apprenticeship)...

I have presented several conference papers at national and regional conferences, which have focused on work-life balance, gender in higher education, training and development, pedagogy, Generation NeXt, civic engagement, and technology in the classroom.

## Note: Date Change!

**Saturday May 14, 2011**

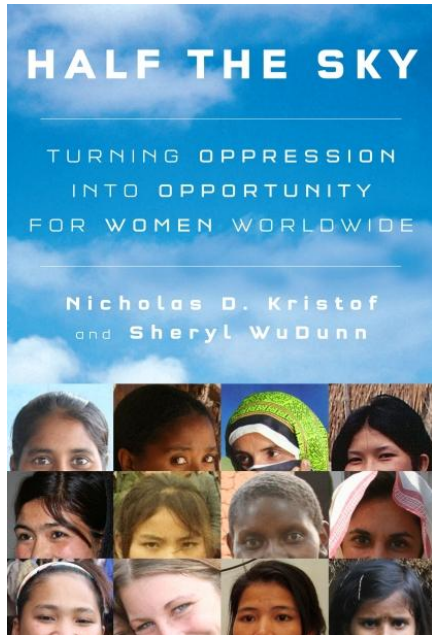
### ***Eleanor Roosevelt Fundraising Walk***

**9 am:** Meet at Racy's for coffee and a treat: 404 Riverside Ave. [ [map](#) ]

**9:45:** New officer installation/recognition.

**10 am:** Putnam Park wildflower walk led by Lois Helland [Walk across the campus footbridge or park in the [Putnam lot](#) adjacent the park (Garfield and Putnam)]

# Women hold up *Half the Sky*



If you missed out on our March meeting discussion, please consider putting this book on your *to read* list. Action is the whole point of this amazing book. I was deeply moved by the individual narratives Kristof and WuDunn combined with research data which reveal gross gender inequality in their four focus areas: maternal mortality, human trafficking, sexual violence and routine daily gender discrimination. They suggest such pervasive indifference to women's human rights is "the paramount moral challenge" of the new millennium.

I did feel empowered by undertaking the few easy steps suggested in the "What you can do" conclusion. Please consider doing one or more yourself:

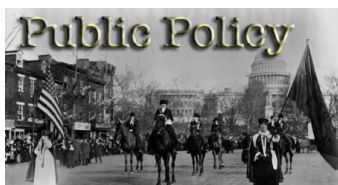
- **Read** the book, **lend** it to others and **spread** the word. Make sure the issues raised in *Half the Sky* are not minimized or relegated to "women's issues" in discussions with friends, family members and colleagues.
  - **Sponsor a woman** or create a micro-financing relationship with an individual. Go to [kiva.org](http://kiva.org), [globalgiving.org](http://globalgiving.org) or support organizations such as Woman to Woman International.
- 
- **Sign up** for some real news about women and women's issues at [www.womensenews.org](http://www.womensenews.org)
  - **Join** the CARE Action Network at [www.care.org](http://www.care.org) - highly recommended by Kristof and WuDunn
  - **Speak out** in support of women's microfinance programs. Write your members of Congress and ask them to support the Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive (GROWTH) Act, (S.1425) which would enable women living in poverty around the world to start and develop businesses through enhanced microfinance services, including loans and related financial tools. It also supports efforts to help women realize their full economic potential, such as ensuring land and property rights, supporting economic education, skills training and advocacy programs.

The authors comment: "We wrote a book devoted to women in the developing world because if you want to fight poverty and extremism, you need to educate and empower women and bring them into the economy. A country can't grow and be stable if half the population is marginalized. Please join the conversation, because we all have a role to play." "Thank you," conclude Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

## UWEC Nontraditional Student Scholarship Update

The scholarship deadline is the beginning of each April; this year we received 23 applications. The scholarship committee, Kim Wellnitz, Robin Miller, and Pam Hicks (substituting for Bette Wahl) are busy reading and rating. By the time you have this newsletter in your hot little hands, we should have selected the recipients. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of you, our wonderful members, we're able to award of \$4,000 to deserving female students. Stay tuned for updates and profiles of this year's winners.





There is no lack of material for this column, which makes it rather overwhelming to think about what to write. I fear that we will all get burned out when faced with attacks on so many sides. In order to maintain the level of political involvement that we have seen recently in Wisconsin, I believe it is necessary for us to focus on one level of government at a time.

Our "7 Ways" document gives us a great basis for state action on several fronts, so read it and check out the links to more information. National policy issues can be found at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and through other organizations that support the well-being of women and girls. The city of Eau Claire government is holding hearings May 5, 12, and 26, that will include a brief PowerPoint presentation about: city government operations, 2011 community projects and activities, 2011 district projects, an overview of the adopted 2011 city budget, and potential 2012 fiscal and public service challenges. More information is available at <http://www.ci.eau-claire.wi.us/> Click on Community Forums.

Here is your assignment for the month of May: take action at least once a week on the local, state, or national level. Write a letter to the editor, contribute to a blog, call or write a legislator who supports the policies you favor, as well as one that you wish would support them. Or perhaps you would rather attend a rally or a meeting. Just do something!

Stay part of the informed and active electorate, and you WILL make a difference. Take a friend along, and your efforts will be doubled.

Mary Hayden  
Sarah Harder  
Public Policy Chairs

## Book Sale Planning to Begin in May



Just a short note to let you know that Mary Hayden and I will be having a planning meeting for our October book sale sometime in May. Please think about what committee you might be interested in serving on (publicity, barrels, sorting, etc). We'll get a date out soon.

- Margot Bouchard

## Great Graduation Gift Idea



AAUW members can give a one year AAUW membership **without cost** by simply going to our national website and filling out the form. Your grad gets a one-year national membership completely free. And you can give this gift anytime within two full years of when they graduated.

If you know your grad will be in the Eau Claire area, for just \$24 you can make them a local and state member as well. The \$24 would be sent to AAUW Eau Claire via our treasurer Linda Spaeth along with the information provided on the national Give A Grad A Gift form. Any questions?? Please feel free to call Margot at [715 832-9848](tel:7158329848).

## It's in the Numbers.....

After **200+** miles and **4** hours, each of us arrived in Neenah, WI. **Five** of your officers represented the Eau Claire Branch at the **91<sup>st</sup>** AAUW-WI State Convention, held April **8 – 10<sup>th</sup>**. The conference was filled with many wonderful speakers and ideas. It started out with a warm and humorous welcome from Neenah Mayor, George Scherck, followed by an inspiring keynote address from Dr. Susan May, the first woman president of Fox Valley Technical College. Morning and afternoon workshops on public policy, technology, women in society – Israel, street harassment, and diversity were book ends around a simple, yet scrumptious lunch.

Meanwhile, throughout the day on Saturday, the basket auction was going on; **88** convention goers had a chance to bid on **99** auction items! Our very own Mary Hayden did a fine job increasing those bids and came away with a few treasures herself. This year's convention raised just over **\$2,000** and will be contributed to the Public Policy Fund. What foresight the state board had back in fall **2010** when they decided to contribute the money to public policy this year, who would have guessed?



Although our branch representation was a bit smaller than in recent years, we still made a positive impression. Thanks to your branch president, Kate Hinnant, who got the ball rolling on our **7 Ways** document. We made **50** copies, shared them at convention, and received many positive comments

and gestures of appreciation. They wanted more, more, more, but we ran out of copies. Eau Claire definitely made a positive impression – way to go and much thanks to Kate!



Pencil the **92<sup>nd</sup>** state convention in your **2012** calendars –to be held in Janesville **27 – 29** of April at the Holiday Inn Express.

-Kim Wellnitz

## **Best of Convention** from Mary Hayden

### **Silent Auction Goes Green**

Thanks to everyone in our branch who donated the basket (Lois Helland), money, and items for the AAUW State Convention silent auction. Bidding was competitive for our “earth-friendly” items, and we helped raise \$85 for the public policy fund. As usual, Eau Claire branch members at the convention managed to bid high enough to bring a few auction items home for themselves.

[See basket jpegs]



### **“7 Ways the Proposed Wisconsin Budget is Wrong for Women and Their Families”**

AAUW-Eau Claire branch representatives at the convention were very proud of the work done by the ad hoc committee on AAUW policy/Wisconsin budget. Our branch leader and writer extraordinaire, Kate Hinnant, crafted an impressive document out of the many resources contributed by the committee members. Other branches and state and national AAUW leaders applauded the creation of the paper and pledged to circulate it to other members and organizations.

### **Representative Penny Bernard Schaber, 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

There is nothing like sitting six feet from a woman from Appleton who is serving her second term in the Wisconsin Assembly. We listened to her discuss what that experience has been like since January, 2011, and how she feels we have seen a “breakdown of Wisconsin government,” and a move “away from government for the collective good.” Representative Schaber said her greatest concern is the shift of power and the oversight over state agencies, which has moved from the legislature to the executive branch. On a positive note, Representative Schaber rejoiced in the “engaged, involved electorate” and encouraged us to continue writing short, handwritten notes to our legislators, and to keep letters to the editors flooding our local newspapers.

### **Kathy Flores, Diversity Coordinator for the City of Appleton**

Ms. Flores’ topic was “Moving Beyond Tolerance to Embracing Diversity.” I was so captivated by her presentation and message that I find that I have no notes on this session. If you ever get a chance to attend one of her workshops or presentations, by all means do so.



### **AAUW State Branch Exchange**

It is always fun to see what creative programs branches have been working on, and get new fundraising ideas. Most impressive was a Milwaukee branch with a preponderance of older members who brought three enthusiastic younger members to the convention.

# 7 ways the proposed Wisconsin Budget is **wrong** for women *and their families*

- 1. Low-income families face cuts to child-care support**, making it harder for them to achieve economic security. Parents participating in WI Shares, whether through W-2 programs or unsubsidized work, face co-pays, waiting lists, and reduced reimbursement. AAUW supports quality affordable dependent care especially for women in poverty. [\[1\]](#)
- 2. Increased tuition will be a barrier to access at Wisconsin's public colleges and universities.** Higher education, now "more a necessity and less a luxury," is a key to this state's economic development. The 2011-2013 budget ends the Wisconsin Covenant, a program implemented to make college affordable for Wisconsin families. [\[2\]](#)
- 3. The expansion of voucher programs in K-12 will divert public funds to private and religious schools.** AAUW believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society. Voucher programs have a poor track record of providing educational outcomes, and siphon money to schools not required to meet public school standards of accountability and access. [\[3\]](#)
- 4. Deep cuts in funding for Wisconsin's technical colleges will reduce access to vocational training** as more adults retool for jobs. Because of existing tuition formulas, these cuts mean cutbacks in staff, classes, and programs. AAUW supports greater access to technical colleges. [\[4\]](#)
- 5. Cuts to BadgerCare, the Title V Family Planning Program, sexual assault victim services, and the repeal of the Wisconsin Contraceptive Equity law will put the health of Wisconsin women at risk.** Preventative care costs, including cervical and breast cancer screening, will be prohibitive for low-income women and families depending on these services. [\[5\]](#)
- 6. The well being of the most economically disadvantaged is threatened.** Low-income working women face decreases in their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and cuts in Wisconsin Works' (W-2) income support. Low-income senior citizens must move from SeniorCare's prescription plan to more costly Medicare D. And enrollment in the Family Care program has been frozen. AAUW believes in strengthening programs that allow women to achieve economic self-sufficiency and security. [\[6\]](#)
- 7. Women will be disproportionately affected by the termination of collective bargaining rights for public workers.** Public sector unions have majority female memberships. Collective bargaining gives women and minorities a voice in workplace and leave benefits, crucial for women who shoulder the majority of childcare and eldercare responsibilities. [\[7\]](#)

(sources on reverse side)

[wrongforwisconsinwomen.org/](http://wrongforwisconsinwomen.org/)

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



# Sources for

## 7 ways the proposed Wisconsin Budget is **wrong** for women *and their families*

1. [Effects of the Biennial Budget and Budget Repair Bills for Working Families](#) (Wisconsin Council on Families & Children)
2. [An Update on State Budget Cuts](#) (Center on Budget & Policy Priorities)
3. [GOP seeks to expand school voucher program](#) (Wisconsin State Journal)  
[People For the American Way Opposes DC Vouchers, H.R. 471](#) (People for the American Way)
4. [Technical schools say they're in a vise grip](#) (Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel)
5. [Governor's Budget Undermines Wisconsin Women's Health, Wellbeing & Economic Security](#) (Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health)
6. [Walker Proposes Cuts to the Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\)](#) (Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health)  
[Budget includes Tax Increase for the Working Poor and Tax Cut for Wealthiest](#) (Wisconsin Budget Project/Wisconsin Council on Families & Children)  
[Cuts for Wisconsin Works \(W-2\)](#) (Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health)  
[Low-income elderly could lose drug plan](#) (Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel)  
[Budget would make benefits cuts to Medicaid, W-2, Wisconsin Shares](#) (Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel)
7. [WSC Statement on the Budget Repair Bill](#) (Women's Studies Consortium)  
[Women of Wisconsin ... and the United States](#) (AAUW)  
[What's at Stake for Women Workers in Wisconsin and Beyond](#) (Institute for Women's Policy Research)

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