



May
2010

A Haiku

a year motors by
a Formula One pace car...
I'm still bewildered

When I decided to “run” for President last year, I had a few misgivings. For one, I have the memory of a goldfish. People’s names are strangers to me. I’m not good at getting people to do things. I can plan my own projects, but when it comes to leading, I stumble at delegation. When I thought about adding President to my AAUW roles, I was also worried about balancing commitments.

But as it turns out, the fact that AAUW-Eau Claire is *not* a top-down organization saved us all. My deficiencies notwithstanding, I can proudly note that not only were we not excommunicated by either the State or National organizations, but we also had a banner Book Sale year, a variety of compelling programs, and eight members attended the State Convention in Sheboygan.

All of our efforts succeed because they are done together in a generous spirit of voluntarism. The Book Sale involves not only the impressively coordinated actual days of the sale, but also the months of committee and subcommittee work preceding it. **Connie Russell** and **Barb Ries** did an excellent job leading the effort this year.

The conscientiousness of **The Board** is phenomenal. As an organization, we’re not predisposed to constant change, but the board does look at ways of improving how we do things. **Mary Hayden** spearheaded a dramatic change this year in how we mark Pay Equity Day, which you can read about in this issue.

I have a **membership survey** of our programming that I am plugging – I’d like everyone to take it before the Annual Planning Meeting (5/16 – 1pm Margot Bouchard’s home). It’s hard for me to pick a program I liked best – I’ve narrowed it down to four. Program ideas come from the membership (our survey last year) and the board, but it was **Barb Radke** and **Pam Hicks** who made them happen this year.

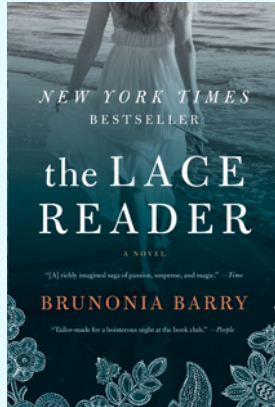
You could say it is magic – how everything comes together. Except that it involves a lot of work. This year is almost done – we have one final program and then the planning meeting for next year. In the summer we go dormant, except for the occasional dinner and music at Phoenix Park. Some of us will be working on Book Sale (if you are interested in serving on the **central Book Sale committee**, please email me). I look forward to more “magic” in the fall.

Thank you, Board. Thank you, members!

-Kate Hinnant, President,
kate.hinnant@gmail.com

Book group

We'll meet at Karen Haugen's **Tuesday May 4th at 7:30** to discuss *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. JJ Henricksen will lead the discussion. Please remember to contact Karen to let her know if you'll be there



JUNE: *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry at Pam Hicks' with Ginny Jordan doing the reviews.

This spring we will also select our summer reading book.

Chris Kondrasuk



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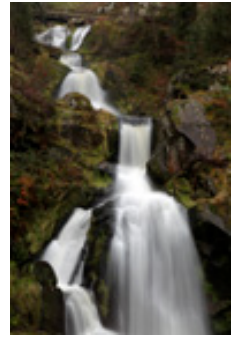
AAUW - Eau Claire, WI

Another place to connect.

Avoid The Rush

Pay 2010-11 **Dues** Now!!!

Another year of great programming and special events for the AAUW Chapter – Eau Claire has come and gone.



Thus, now is the time to pay your 2010-11 dues before the **June 20** deadline. Five people have already paid their dues, and I appreciate their promptness.

You have several options in paying me by check made out to **AAUW- Eau Claire** for **\$70**. If you attend the May meeting, just bring the check along or mail it to me at **3112 Mercury Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703**.

Donna M. Weidman

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The AAUW-Eau Claire Branch Board is pleased to announce the winners of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Scholarship for 2010. This year, **Marci Korb** and **Gretchen Bachmeier**, both students at UW-Eau Claire, will represent us at the conference. The NCCWSL—Leadership for Today and Tomorrow will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park from June 3-5. While at the conference, the students will attend workshops on advocacy, leadership, health and wellness, and the real world. In a future newsletter, Marci and Gretchen will share what they learned and will talk to other students about their experience.



Giveaway

or *Banish* the Bake Sale

What do you do when you have tired of baking and students no longer carry cash on campus? You want make students aware of paycheck disparity, but how? Hand out FREE Payday bars! And while students and staff are at the AAUW table, give them a chance to hear about the inequities between female and male wages. Equal Pay Day was marked on April 20 at Chippewa Valley Technical College and UW-Eau Claire. Thanks to Donna Weidman, Kathy Briggs, and Sandy Hume who staffed the CVTC table and Cleo Powers, Margot Bouchard, Jodi Simek, Kate Thompson, and Mary Hayden who enlightened students at UWEC.



After they received a Payday bar, we told anyone who would listen that a man and a woman with the same degree, right out of college, can expect that the woman will make \$3000 per year less than the man. We told them that on the average, women's wages are 77% of men's, and that the Wisconsin statistics are even worse. We explained that older women earn half of the wages of older men, women live longer, and therefore are more likely to end up in poverty.



Here are some of the student responses:

"We talked about this in (political science, English, women's studies) and it's just not fair."

"You are kidding, I thought that was taken care of long ago."

"Didn't Obama sign something that fixed all this?"

Young man to woman with him, "Hey, I was expecting that you would make more than me!"

"Yah, I know my (mom, grandma) are worried about this."

"I'm glad you are here to tell people about this."

We gave away about 300 Payday candy bars, and got out message out to a lot of people. It sure beats baking...

Mary Hayden, Public Policy Co-chair

State Convention Reports

Sheboygan on my mind...

From the Desk of Lois Helland

Kim's PowerPoint presentation, as our state development chair, was clear and concise, and presented with humor and enthusiasm. She also ran the LAF silent auction with precision and aplomb. I managed to get the totally revised state bylaws accepted with no questions or dissenting votes. Jodi volunteered to be the next state diversity chair, and Katie promised to be on Jodi's committee. Kim, Lois, Jodi, Katie, Mary, Donna, and Cleo also had to uphold Eau Claire's reputation as the rowdy bunch by being among the last to leave the hospitality suite Saturday night. We did AAUW-Eau Claire proud!

Laurie Bensen, keynote speaker: "Leave no space between vision and mission and activism!"

AAUW's latest research report is **Why So Few? Women in science, technology, engineering, and math**. Research shows that the dearth of women in STEM is NOT caused by a lack of innate talent, low test scores, or the wrong college. Instead the causes are environmental and social barriers: stereotypes, explicit and implicit bias, campus and workplace climate. We need to encourage a growth mindset - the understanding that intelligence can be developed. Knowing this can help to counteract the stumbling blocks caused by stereotype threat.





From the Desk of Cleo Powers

The AAUW state convention had a packed agenda. We were joined by Kathleen Cha, AAUW Director-at-Large from national headquarters who stated “one woman can be a leader, but a group of women working together can bring transformation.”

Laurie Benson’s keynote address reinforced Cha’s statement as Benson noted “we have to understand what it is we do and how it aligns with our mission and goals.” A positive vision and goal oriented action ignites personal goals. We have to understand our core values in order to keep us on common ground to guide us through challenges and opportunities. Benson provided a number of hints on how to accomplish this:

- Be open to possibilities.
- Listen to others.
- Put the needs of the organization ahead of personal needs.
- If something doesn’t work – change it.
- Establish time for others.
- Give others your full attention.
- Keep the culture and value of the organization in tact.
- It’s not how much you do, but how you do it.
- Imagine, think big, and take action.
- Think about who’s NOT at the table.
- Take a girl wherever you go and introduce her to opportunities.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, **philanthropy**, and research. (Note the formal addition of philanthropy to the mission statement.)

AAUW-Eau Claire

21% Growth

2001-2010

Breaking News! Two-Minute Activist Comes to Wisconsin

The most exciting public policy surprise at the convention was the announcement that our state will be participating in the Two Minute Activist program for our own Wisconsin legislative issues. California is currently online with their state-level program, so check out an example of what you can expect at <http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/> and choose **State Legislative**.

AAUW-Wisconsin has been awarded a grant from our national AAUW organization to help fund this program for two years. I often hear friends ask why it's hard to find out about and take action on Wisconsin issues, so this is a welcome addition to our political action program. It is up to us, as part of the 1800 AAUW members in our state to support and USE the program, and make it a success.

Stay tuned for the announcement from state public policy chair Barbara Peterson, who will let us know when the program is up and running **about July 1**. In the meantime, keep abreast of what is happening nationally and voice your opinion. [Sign up online for AAUW Action Alerts](#), choose your issue, and act. Remember: your contact counts.



From the Desk of Mary Hayden

- A record 8 members from AAUW-Eau Claire attended, including first-timers Ginny Jordan and Kate Thompson.
- Our branch received an award for 10 years of consecutive growth, which we enthusiastically 😊 accepted.
- Cindy Breunig, founder of the Groundwork Anti-Racism Collective in Madison, presented a very popular workshop. The workshop, which turned out to be way too short, examined institutional racism and white privilege as barriers to achieving successful, vibrant, and relevant social justice organizations.
- Our 3 ecologically fine baskets raised \$87 for LAF.
- Our branch has a respectable representation on the state board: Kim Wellnitz is AAUW-WI Development VP, Margot Bouchard is District 4 Coordinator, Jodi Simek is Diversity Chair with the assistance of Kate Thompson, and Lois Helland completed her term as Bylaws Chair.
- Kim was voted the best convention speaker by the Eau Claire branch for clarity, brevity, and enthusiasm.
- We all want to return to the Kohler area to check out the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, with its famous bathrooms.



Beaver Creek Reserve

Tuesday, May 11 at 6 pm

Potluck

This will be our traditional **potluck**, so please bring something to pass. Plates, silverware and glasses will be provided.

Besides having a short Eleanor Roosevelt walk, we will have a program provided by Sherry Prague, master gardener and the person in charge of the butterfly aviary at the Reserve.

- ❖ Learn about plants that act as hosts for caterpillars
- ❖ Discover which flora provide nectar for the butterflies
- ❖ Visit their awesome aviary

Please join us!

FINAL PROGRAM OF THE 2009-2010 SEASON

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.binnant@gmail.com, 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



May 11, Tuesday, 6 p.m.
Eleanor Roosevelt Walk
Beaver Creek Reserve

May 16, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Annual Planning Meeting
Margot Bouchard's House

220 Roosevelt Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701