

Volume 28 No 4

January 2014

## Artistry in Portrait Photography, Presented by Carolyn Tretina of Carolyn's Portrait Studio



January 18, 2014 AAUW Open Brunch Meeting at the Woman's Club Building:

10:30 A.M. Brunch and Program: \$12, 11:45 A.M.

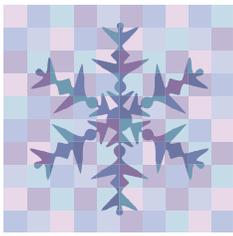
Program only: \$5

Reservations due to Lynn McVicar [608-754-5092](tel:608-754-5092) by Jan 11 for the 1/18 meal.

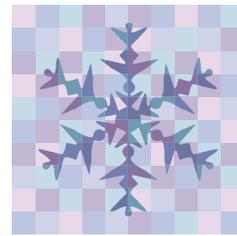
Please gather your friends and reserve a spot early for our January brunch program sponsored by AAUW, Janesville Art League, and the Janesville Camera Club. We have a double header of artistry: Professional personal chef, Meredyth Pfeifer of "Pfeifer's Pfabulous Pfixins," has composed a delicious fresh brunch delight\* to be served at the Woman's Club Building followed by our "Artistry in Portrait Photography" program upstairs in the historic and beautifully refreshed art gallery. Carolyn comes to us by popular demand having received rave reviews for her talk at the Janesville Camera Club. She is a professional portrait photographer specializing in black and white portrait photography. Her mission statement is: "A picture is what you look like; a portrait is who you are."

Come and be inspired in your own portrait photography and appreciate the passionate philosophy behind Carolyn's stunning portraits. *\*Plated brunch is stuffed French Toast, hearty Egg Strata, Fresh Fruit, assorted muffins, coffee, tea and juice sparkle.*

<p>IMPACT is published monthly September through May (except Dec.) by AAUW, Janesville Branch, Wisconsin.</p> <p>Editors –</p> <p><b>Janet Dow</b> 756-1370 <a href="mailto:mikejanetdow@gmail.com">mikejanetdow@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership</b></p> <p>Co-Presidents – Wendy Facinger 757-0603 Emily Scheuneman (608) 473-2998</p> <p>VP Program - Deb Cross (608) 758-1659</p> <p>VP Membership – Janet Dow /Karen Winn 756-1370</p> <p>Secretary – Jane McBride 563-4710</p> <p>Finance VP Lynn McVicar 754 5092</p>
<p><b>Diane Adams</b> 815-624-7773 <a href="mailto:rjadams65@frontier.com">rjadams65@frontier.com</a></p> <p><b>Articles for the next issue are due:</b></p> <p>To Diane by January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014</p>	<p><b>AAUW's Mission:</b> Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.</p>



## Presidents' Message



### Greetings!

As we pass the Winter Solstice and enjoy lengthening day light hours, we realize why winter can be a difficult season for people in Wisconsin. We certainly leaped into winter this year. Our branch program presented by Sharon Kennedy in November opened our eyes to a new look at how the General Motors plant's closing affected residents of Janesville that worked the assembly line, making a good living and then finding themselves unemployed and needing to go back to school. Kennedy worked at Blackhawk Technical College and interviewed many of these students, documenting their struggle to get a new start. Some of the students were older than the typical students and not prepared for college level courses. Some had already been taking classes. It's quite a story that most of us had no idea was taking place. Blackhawk had so many new students with so many diverse needs, not enough faculty to teach them and not even enough room in the parking lots for the added vehicles.

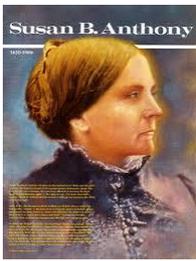
Especially because of our personal knowledge of General Motors in Janesville, learning about Kennedy's stories through her interviews is quite interesting. Many of us bought the book, [Classroom at the End of the 'Line](#), so there are copies to be borrowed if you are interested. It is a fast, interesting read.

Our next branch meeting is our Brunch on January 18<sup>th</sup> with the Janesville Art League and the Janesville Camera Club adding their support. Carolyn Tretina, the speaker, is a professional portrait photographer, who lives and works in Madison. She is also a charismatic, enthusiastic young woman. From reading her posts on Facebook, one knows she is somewhat of a philosopher, making observations about life. By studying the art of the great masters, Carolyn will show what makes a picture exceptional. You will love Carolyn and you will learn something about recognizing quality art.

From the Outlook magazine and AAUW Briefs, we understand how active AAUW is in our state, country and the world. Our dues go toward those causes for women and girls. It demonstrates the power we have as members of an organization. Did you read about the Super Bowl in 2014 and why AAUW has a concern what goes on there?

Wendy and Emily





## Susan B. Anthony Dinner Scheduled

The 2014 Susan B Anthony Birthday celebration will be Sunday February 16, 12:00 noon at the Pontiac Convention Center. This year's event will look at Women's Voting Rights - Past and Future.

Susan B. Anthony was a dynamic and eloquent leader of the women's rights movement. Though she did not live to see the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, it was largely through her unflagging efforts that women gained the right to vote. Rose Stephenson, portraying Anthony in authentic period costume, brings to life this great leader through her speeches, journal entries, and letters. Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director of the Wisconsin League of Women Voters will talk about redistricting and why it is such an important voting rights issue for today.

Tickets are \$32 (\$20 for students with valid student ID) and will include a brunch catered by Best Events. Order your tickets by sending a check to Deb Fisher, 4304 N. River Road Janesville 53545

Call 608-743-0937 with questions. Please RSVP by February 5.

## NEW MEMBER PROFILES

**Christine Flottum:** I have a BSE and MSE in Special Education. I retired in January after 28 years as the Disability Coordinator at Blackhawk Technical College. I am married to Mark, with 3 sons and 1 granddaughter. I enjoy traveling, knitting, weaving, sewing, reading, and walking.

**Deb Fanning:** I grew up in Fox Point. I graduated from UW Whitewater with BS in Education. I have a major in Math and minor in English. I am certified to teach grades 7-12. I started teaching at Clinton Jr. High. I taught 7th and 8th grade Math for 8 years before I retired to raise my family. My husband, Terry, and I have 3 children and one grandchild. For the next 17 years, while raising my family, I had various jobs. I sold some of my own crafts, sold educational toys, worked for Blackhawk Tech. teaching at GM, and knitted for an artist here in Janesville. When my youngest was in 8th grade, I went back to teaching full time at Marshall Middle School. After 14 yrs. I retired in June 2013.

**Wendy Tupper:** I received my undergraduate degree in Social Work from UW Madison in 1969, then my Master's in Social Work from UW Milwaukee in 1971. I worked for the WI Division of Corrections as a Parole Agent in Milwaukee from 1970 until 1975, when my husband, Steve, and I moved to Milton. Steve and I have two sons who have each blessed us with a grandson. We are waiting for the birth of a granddaughter this January. I began work as a kitchen & bath designer after the birth of our first son, and after 35 years in the field, started my own business in 2012. Steve and I enjoy travel, UW football and basketball, theater, exercise, family and friends.

More new member profiles next month! Introduce yourself to the new members!

**Submitted by Dawn Olson,**

# **'Do-nothing' Congress on track for one of the least productive years ever**

By Carrie Dann, Political Reporter, NBC News

It's not quite a "do nothing" Congress – but it's not far off.

With only a handful of remaining legislative days on their calendar, this current Congress is on track to go down as one of the most unproductive in modern history.

The paltry number of bills Congress has passed into law this year paints a vivid picture of just how bad the gridlock has been for lawmakers, whose single-digit approval rating illustrates that the public is hardly satisfied with their trickle of legislative activity.

According to [THOMAS](#), the legislative tracking service, this Congress has passed just 52 public laws since it gaveled into session in January. If that sounds like a small number, it is.

Politico's Mike Allen explains how Democrats and Republicans will handle the problems associated with Obamacare in the New Year.

At this point in George W. Bush's second term as president, for example, 113 bills had been enacted into law, according to numbers crunched by Pew Research Center's Drew DeSilver. In the same amount of time during the 110th Congress – from January until before the Thanksgiving recess of 2007 – that number was 120.

The numbers are a little bit different – but no less grim – after you break out bills that are merely ceremonial.

Of course, some of the legislation that has reached the president's desk this year has involved some hard-fought and highly publicized issues like reverse mortgage rules, high interest rates for students and reopening the government after the lengthy shutdown.

Even the Helium Stewardship Act – despite the fun it provided for headline writers making "deflated hopes" jokes – addressed a worldwide shortage that was hitting America's high-tech industries hard.

But the list of Washington's accomplishments gets plenty of padding every year from bridge namings, post office honors and various awards.

So far this year, the president has signed legislation to specify the size of commemorative coins for the Baseball Hall of Fame, to name a subsection of IRS code after former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and to honor baseball great Stan Musial with a namesake Midwestern bridge.

With the ceremonial measures excluded, according to DeSilver's calculations, Congress has enacted just 44 "substantive" laws so far this year.

That's well below the average of about 70 substantive bills passed in the equivalent time period between 1999 and 2012.

"The major urgent areas of concern in the country just have not been addressed," says Norm Ornstein, a congressional expert at the American Enterprise Institute. "It's pretty pathetic."

A major reason for the lack of legislating, of course, rests in the divided government re-elected in 2012. That left Democrats in control of the Senate and White House, with Republicans in charge of the House.

Sarah Binder, an expert on legislative politics at the Brookings Institute, says that other factors are to blame as well, like policy disputes between members of the same party and the dwindling number of moderates willing to mediate tiffs between warring factions.

"Consensus is simply much harder to build if there's nobody coming to the table," she said.

The gridlock has meant that major issues – some with likely benefits for members of both parties – have been left on the table.

President Barack Obama talks in San Francisco, Calif., about immigration reform and whether he thinks House Speaker John Boehner is open to working on the issue.

The Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform legislation earlier this year but prospects for a vote in the House are slim. House Republicans have voted some 47 times to either repeal or somehow change the newly enacted health-care law, efforts that have been shelved in the upper chamber.

That sets the backdrop for an election year in 2014. With all 435 House seats up for re-election and 33 Senate seats at stake next November, the balance of power in Congress is very much in play.

Could there be another reason for the lack of substantive laws? Perhaps the seeming eagerness of lawmakers to hightail it out of Washington for recess?

So far, the Senate has been in session 144 days this Congress, while the House has been in for 147 legislative days. They're still scheduled to vote on at least eight more days before the end of the year.

That's actually a little bit *better* than the average over the last decade, according to records kept by the House Clerks' office.

From 2001-2012, the Senate was in session an average of about 149 days, while the House was around for an average of 138. The good news?

This Congress is at least on track to beat its predecessor, the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, which has been derided as the least productive Congress since 1948, when scholars started keeping official tabs.

That group had passed just 41 substantive laws by this point in 2011.

But after the Senate's unprecedented move last week to eliminate filibusters for most presidential nominees, both parties are heading into the holiday break with heightened animosity toward each other.

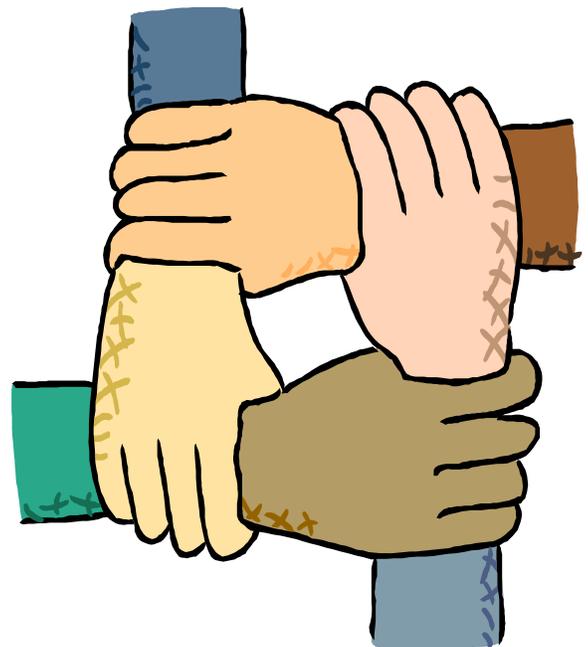
And that doesn't bode well for a productive second half of the 113<sup>th</sup> session.

## DIVERSITY OUTREACH

AAUW Janesville is a sponsor of the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration which will be held in the Commons at Blackhawk Technical College on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 3-6 PM. The theme is "Youth Making the World a Better Place." Students from Beloit and Janesville area schools will give a "Reader's Theater" performance from the book, *Freedom's Children*. This book is a compilation of stories written by youth (8-23) during the civil rights era. The Craig High School Women's Chorus will provide musical entertainment. Students from around Rock County will be displaying their artwork and writings on the topic "How I Am Making the World a Better Place."

Our tradition has been to have an Ethnic Food Fest following the event. This is an opportunity to share your heritage through food and conversation. It's a great educational experience. **If you have a recipe you would like to share, please call Barb at 608-752-7982.** Mark your calendar to attend the event this year. You'll be glad you did.

Another educational opportunity is the DAT program on February 6, 2014 at 7PM. The Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families Collaborative was formed in 2010 in response to the statewide public health issue of African American infant mortality and birth disparities. A representative of Beloit LIHF will present the key findings and a plan on how to proceed to solve the problems. Venue to be determined.



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## AD HOC COMMITTEE FORMING

Woman's Club dues are on the rise and we are forming an ad hoc committee of interested branch members to analyze the situation and explore available options. Facts and costs will be gathered and presented to the board, which will then develop recommendations for the membership to vote on. If you are interested in serving on this important committee, please contact Emily at [schmann65@gmail.com](mailto:schmann65@gmail.com) or Wendy at [wfacinger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wfacinger@sbcglobal.net).

## How Can We Change the World?

Recently a friend gave me a Tool Kit titled “Hours Against Hate” and said, “What do you think you can do with this?” She knew that our AAUW Adelante initiative in 1995 helped to form the Diversity Action Team of Rock County where the mission statement is *“To eliminate racism and all forms of discrimination in Rock County by embracing diversity and multiculturalism, fostering justice, dignity and respect for everyone.*

I think this program can be effective in giving each of us new ways to move forward.

Hours Against Hate is a US Department of State campaign to stop bigotry and promote respect across lines of culture, religion, race, tradition, class, sexual orientation and gender. It started as a Facebook page with a simple goal: to urge young people from around the globe to pledge a total of 2011 hours of their time to help end hate.

The initiative was launched by Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith and former Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna, Austria on February 17, 2011.

I plan to investigate more about this and hope to provide a program in the 2014-2015 year joint with DAT and open to the community. If you want to get started ahead of everyone else, go to [HoursAgainstHate.com/Pledge](http://HoursAgainstHate.com/Pledge). Commit to dedicating one hour of your time to helping end hate. Pledge in support of those who don’t look like you, pray like you, love like you or live like you.

In the tool kit is a list of 100 ways to end hate. I’ll give you 10 in every *Impact* so you can get started.

1. Give books about tolerance as gifts.
2. Shop at stores in neighborhoods that don’t look like your own.
3. Help your community get rid of graffiti.
4. Make sure your school, workplace or place of worship is physically accessible to all individuals.
5. Mow the lawn or shovel snow for neighbors who aren’t capable of doing it themselves.
6. Start an annual culture fair to celebrate your community’s diversity and harmony.
7. Volunteer in a shelter or soup kitchen.
8. Don’t buy t-shirts with mean slogans on them..
9. Become an after-school tutor.
10. Talk to your child about what happens on the bus or playground.

If you would like all 100 at once, let me know and I will get you a copy.



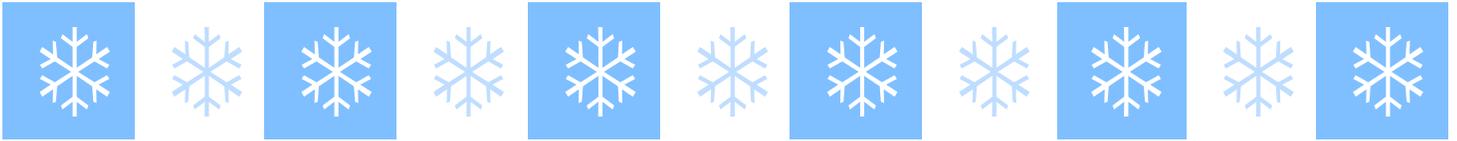
## **Book Club Has Interesting January Choice**

To start the calendar year, the AAUW Book Club has chosen Barbara Dougal's book, The Aviator's Wife. It is the fictionalized account of Charles Lindbergh and his wife Anne Morrow Lindbergh. This historically accurate account of the famous couple's marriage opens the door for us to glimpse just how brilliant and dysfunctional Charles Lindbergh was and how Anne suffered for years under his tyrannical hand in their marriage and lives. We all might be familiar with the accusations that Charles was a Nazi sympathizer and the strange way the kidnapping of their first child was handled. Here we get a rich account of the marriage and see Anne overcome her role as simply the aviator's wife. She parts from Charles and finds her own path. He emerges as a strange and brilliant driven man. Please join us, whether you have read this book or not! The discussion is sure to be stimulating. Janet Dow hosts at her house on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Her address is 402 Stafford Rd., Janesville.

For our February 26th meeting, we will be sorting books for the Book Sale at The Olde Towne Mall. We'll meet for refreshments at 6:30 and then sort books. All hands are needed!!!

### **BOOK SALE COMMITTEE TO TRY NEW APPROACH**

ALL AAUW MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED TO A PRESALE FOR OUR LARGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER. TO GET IN ON THE PRESALE, YOU ARE INVITED TO COME TO THE OLDE TOWNE MALL ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, BEFORE THE SALE BEGINS ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup>. YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS WILL GET FIRST CHANCE TO CHOOSE FROM OUR GREAT VARIETY OF BOOKS! MARK YOUR CALENDAR! WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK TO SIGN UP TO SORT BOOKS SO WATCH FOR YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP FOR SORTING.



## CALENDAR

### January

- 11**      **MLK Jr. Commemoration and Reservations due for Brunch**
- 18**      **Artist in Portrait Photography: Open Brunch Mtg**
- 20**      **Articles due to Diane for Impact**
- 21**      **Book Club**

### February

- 6**      **Diversity Action Team (DAT)**
- 16**      **Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration**
- 18**      **Book Club meets to sort**
- 25**      **Branch members and families invited to a Book presale at Olde Towne Mall**
- 27-March 2<sup>nd</sup>**      **Annual Book Sale at Olde Towne Mall**

