



NEWSLETTER

April 2016

Milwaukee, Inc. (WI) Branch
Making a Difference since 1891

Mrs. Charles Dickens - "The Women of Dickens"

As performed by Jessica Michna

*Saturday,
April 2*

At the Astor Hotel

Social 11:15 a.m.

Suite #202

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Lunch 12 noon
Bach Room

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Program approx.
12:30 p.m.

On the Menu:

COST: \$20

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Reservation Deadline

Tuesday, March 29

The Tuesday after Easter

414-276-6820

aauw.milwaukee@gmail.com

Please notify the office of any special dietary needs.

You may always come for just the program at no charge.

To guarantee enough seating, PLEASE make a reservation even if you are coming for just the program.

Charles Dickens, author, playwright, actor and social activist, was indeed a master of characters. Many of his characters were drawn from his surroundings and life experiences.

Meet Catherine Dickens, as recreated by **Jessica Michna**, his long suffering wife and mother of ten children. In this first person monologue, Mrs. Dickens will give the audience an unflinching look into the lives of this couple and introduce the audience to such women as: Nancy from "Oliver Twist", Miss Havisham from "Great Expectations", Betsey Trotwood from "David Copperfield" and others. Jessica appears in costume, and will take questions after the program.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Jessica developed a love of American history at an early age, visiting the many Revolutionary and Civil War sites in the area. Her love of both history and the theater was encouraged by an older brother. During her high school years she appeared in many theatrical productions, and designed and constructed costumes. She was offered a scholarship to the Goodman School of Theater in Chicago.

Eventually, Jessica earned a degree in psychology from the UW and worked as a research and teaching assistant. After several years in the

healthcare field, Jessica decided to return to her two great loves, history and the theater.

The result was the birth of her business, "First Impressions." After two years of research, script writing, costume construction and rehearsals, Mary Todd Lincoln was ready for her public.

Jessica has become widely known for her riveting portrayals of First Ladies and other historic women as well as her fictitious characters. She has entertained groups throughout America including guests from as far away as New Zealand, Japan and Brazil.



Currently Jessica portrays five Presidential First Ladies and eight other notable women. Her latest character, Laura Ingalls Wilder, will debut this June. She is currently working on a new commissioned character for debut in the summer of 2017, Golda Meir.

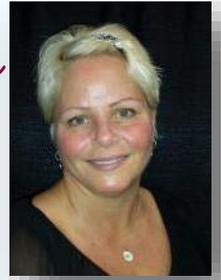
Jessica makes her home with her husband, Michael in Racine, Wisconsin. Michael assists Jessica with scheduling and stage management.

Jessica previously was our branch guest as Mary Todd Lincoln, Abigail Adams, and Eleanor Roosevelt as well as Margaret Cummins in "Christmas at Balmoral." We welcome her once more to the Milwaukee Branch

Charity Blount, Branch Program Chair

President's UPDATE

Michelle Prosek



Dear AAUW-Milwaukee Branch Members,

Hello everyone! And, officially, Happy Spring! As I write this, it is 60 degrees outside and while I know it may not stay this way just yet, it has been really nice to have the windows open!

Planetarium Visit

Due to an improperly scheduled vacation, I had to miss our March expedition to the UWM Planetarium. Kathe worked very hard to create a variety of notifications about the change of venue – including information in the March Newsletter, multiple emails and a post card also with details. I am hoping you all found your way there easily, based on the many different ways that we reached out to let everyone know of the change of venue. However, as is always the case, we very much appreciate your feedback. If you felt like having that off-site was a good experience (or a bad one), please let us know!!

As a reminder, the AAUW State Convention is scheduled in Madison for Friday April 22nd and Saturday, April 23rd. The theme is *Women Take the*

Lead, and there was a lot of information published in the spring issue of Badger Briefs, including information on the hotel to call for reservations. You can access this issue online as well at <http://aauw-wi.aauw.net/files/2013/06/WI-AAUW-newsletter-Jan-2016.pdf>.

At the February Board meeting, the board approved a motion to make a major donation of \$2000 to the **Catherine Teska Fund**. This fund's intended use is to support **key research** around women's issues and must be fully funded by the end of 2016 in order for the money to be allocated as intended. Our presentation of this donation coincides very nicely with one of the key note speakers, Patricia Fae Ho, the AAUW-National President, who will be talking about some of the research that is being done around the issue of women lagging behind men in leadership positions. I hope to publicly present this donation during the Friday night meeting, where each branch speaks briefly about its successes during the year.

The board has also designated a certain amount of funds to pay the registration fees for any member interested in attending. Please let the office know if you have interest in coming! I encourage you to join us at convention, especially if you are interested in pursuing leadership opportunities within the Branch. Please contact the office for more information, or feel free to contact me directly. We can also talk about car-pooling based on who is coming so please let us know.

April Program

Once again, Jessica Michna is joining us with another historical performance. Please see the first page of the newsletter for more details. Also just a quick reminder that our May Scholarship program is coming up quickly, too, one of the many highlights of our year. We will be awarding more than \$40,000 this year! Hope you can make it!

Thank you, and please be kind to one another.

AAUW Tours New Sojourner Family Peace Center

Milwaukee Branch members were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the newly-opened Sojourner Family Peace Center on February 10th. After a briefing about the mission and history of the facility, Benita Clark and Shirley Metcalf presented a check in the amount of \$400.00 to Carmen Pitre, the Center's Executive Director. The donation was the result of the silent auction the Membership Committee held at the holiday celebration in December.

Debra Fields, Public Relations Director for the Center, conducted the tour of the facility, which consists of three sections—the expanded shelter for women and children, the education center for teaching youths about healthy relations, and the partner center for providing health, legal and social services. It is the largest center in the country to have all the needed resources for dealing with family violence in the same place.

At the end of the tour, it was clear that the Center continues to need volunteers, monetary donations and women's personal care items and toiletries. Debra thanked the Milwaukee Branch for establishing a donation basket for these items, adding that other needs include baby powder, lotion, and shampoo and stuffed animals for the children to take home with them.



Submitted by Mary Fiedler, Heritage Committee



Membership Matters



Benita Clark & Graciela Dequeno



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

POSTPONEMENT OF OUR NEW MEMBERS WELCOME CELEBRATION ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR APRIL 2 CHANGED TO AUGUST 6

Due to unforeseen circumstances regarding the lack of a large enough venue, membership information, and the amount of time needed to enjoy the planned celebration of April 2, 2016, your Membership Committee has decided to postpone this sisterly welcome event to combine it with our BIG event of this coming summer. In this way we will be able to welcome not only our “newest members” but to include all members of our AAUW Branch. This August celebration, as mentioned previously, titled: **NOT OUR FOUNDING MOTHER’S CUP OF TEA** will be held as a “new fashioned” version of a tea party at Estabrook Park this coming August 6, 2016.

Our past history tells about “fancy summer teas on the patio” of our old Milwaukee Marshall Street Clubhouse back in the 1960’s and 70’s. Recent memory indicates that when we made the “big move” in the early 2000’s several “old fashioned teas” were hosted at some of our own present member’s homes to welcome new members. These generous ladies shared their fancy teapots, polished silver, bone china and sparkling crystal along with fresh flowers. But who today has time, energy and space to host this type of private event anymore?

Today AAUW is reaching out with a whole new outlook involving our new and “old” members with an emphasis on **diversity**. Therefore, in keeping with modern times and with our **surging membership**, our upcoming tea party will indeed be an unprecedented event. This will be the first time that we will use one of our beautiful county parks to feature special recognition of members, light tea snacks, happy Salsa music, and (of course!) a “fusion of different teas and potables”. Mark August 6 on your summer calendars.

Hospitality Corner

Sue Abler, House/
Hospitality Chair



Jean Kreul and Rosemarie Shimeall will host the April 2 social beginning at 11:15 a.m. in Suite 202

This will be the last social of the program year. Beginning with the September 2016 Annual Meeting, we will once again be looking for hostess partners to contribute their time and unique talents to welcome members and guests to the AAUW Milwaukee Branch gathering. Contact the office for more information.



Dr. Jean Creighton, Director of the UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium, treated her fellow Milwaukee Branch members to a “star-studded” personalized presentation for the Branch’s road trip to the UWM campus. Jean spoke of her selection as one of the team members aboard the *Sophia*, an airplane equipped with a telescope that can cruise for 10 hours of incredible study; she shared the most recent discoveries in our own solar system, and gave us a mesmerizing glimpse at the star constellations we can expect to see in the spring sky. All of the members and guests attending gave the event a thumbs up.

Photo by Marcia Zientek

Equal Pay Day will be observed on Tuesday, April 12

Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women's earnings "catch up" to men's earnings from the previous year. It's also a powerful occasion to raise awareness about and organize action around the gender pay gap in our community.

The gender pay gap is a primary issue for AAUW, and one that it have been working on for years. Despite the Equal Pay Act, the wage gap persists; women are typically paid just 79 cents on average for every dollar paid to men — and that number has barely budged in a decade. Although enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and other civil rights laws has helped to narrow



the wage gap, significant disparities still must be addressed.

Our Milwaukee Branch is planning to have information tables at Alverno, Marquette, MSOE, UWM and possibly Mount Mary. If you are able to help at any of these sites, please notify Tully by phone: 414-688-0242 or email: ctully@habush.com. We will be there from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Here's a chance to participate in a Branch activity in support of AAUW's effort to shine a light on

It's time to get ready for the . . . Annual AAUW Wisconsin State Convention! April 22-23 Crowne Plaza Hotel in Madison



Notify the office if you would like to attend. The Branch will register you and pay your registration fees. The deadline is fast approaching.

Call the office at 414-276-6820 or email aauw.milwaukee@gmail.com

DATES to remember

TUESDAY, March 22

1 p.m. Book Club
Astor Suite #202

SATURDAY, April 2

Board of Directors Meeting 9:30
Social 11:15 ~ Suite #202
Lunch 12 p.m. Bach Room
Program 12:30

Jessica Michna

"The Women of Charles Dickens"

TUESDAY, April 26

1 p.m. Book Club
Astor Suite #202

SATURDAY, May 7

Board of Directors Meeting 9:00
SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH
10:30 a.m.

Italian Conference Center
Officer Installation 10:30 am

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PARKING INSTRUCTIONS For the Astor Hotel Lot

When approaching the hotel lot gate from Astor Street, call: 414-271-4220 (number is on the gate) for admittance, space permitting. Identify yourself as coming for AAUW event or business.

Book Club



Tuesday,
April 26
1 p.m.
In suite 202

The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East

by Sandy Tolan

Discussion Leader: Sharon Munson

What began with a simple act of faith between two young people grew into a dialogue of four decades that represents the region's hope for peace and self-determination. Swept up in the fates of their people, they form —through their lives— a personal microcosm of more than half a century of Israeli-Palestinian history.

The Lemon Tree is a reminder of all that is at stake, and of all that is still possible.

