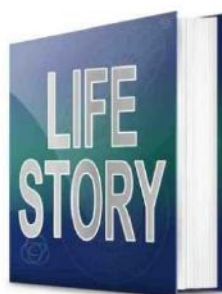
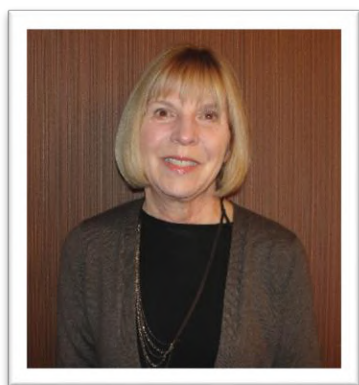




“Meet A Member” – Stories from AAUW – Saint Cloud Area Branch

We like to feature one of our accomplished members each month by asking them to tell us their stories.

Our March, 2022 Member of the Month is: Suzanne Rodell



My Brief History by the Numbers

In retrospect, I think it is fitting that I was born on Pi day. “Extending the known sequence of pi is difficult because the number follows no set pattern”. So, I think pi may serve as a metaphor for my life. Growing up in a small town 184 miles south along the Mississippi River, I was fortunate to live in a neighborhood with my parents, 2 sisters, 2 sets of aunts and uncles, 5 cousins, and a childhood friend, who remains a friend, 70 years later. My grandparents lived within bicycling distance. Exploring the countryside with friends and reading were my favorite pastimes. My husband and I met while attending the UW in La Crosse. When we announced our plan to be married, it was a surprise to learn that our grandfathers grew up on adjacent farms in Ohio before moving to Wisconsin! My husband received a PhD degree from the U of MN and did his post-doctoral work in genetics in Colorado and South Dakota, with a first teaching position at Vanderbilt U. in Tennessee. During our early years of marriage we lived in 5 different states, and I attended an additional 6 universities due a variety of circumstances including changing majors from Pre Pharmacy to Anthropology/Humanities to a B.S. degree in Microbiology/Chemistry (U of TN) and a degree in Dietetics from the College of St. Benedict. My employment history is mostly as a research lab assistant/tech first at Honeywell in a microelectronics lab, genetics lab at the U of M, biochemistry labs at Vanderbilt U. where the lab I worked in was associated with a

lab headed by Dr. Stanley Cohen. He won a Nobel Prize for his discovery and work on epidermal growth factor.(My one claim to fame?) I now am retired from the St. Cloud Hospital where I worked as a registered dietitian specialist in nutrition support. I have always admired people who have clear goals that are attained by moving easily from A to B. Thinking back on my seemingly random walk-through life, I very much appreciate the friends I have known along the way in this country and others. My husband and I were fortunate to accompany SJU/CSB students in semester study abroad programs in 5 countries. The difficult part of these experiences is leaving friends behind. Maybe my life isn't as randomly arranged as I imagined. We, for the past 40 years, have lived in the same neighborhood inhabited by wonderful friends. A dinner group consisting of 5 couples from this neighborhood have been in a dinner group for 30+ years. I still love reading and belong to 2 book groups including the AAUW Thursday book group. Our son, a land surveyor, and granddaughter live in Colorado, and our daughter who is employed by the Department of Employment and Economic Development, son-in-law, and grandson live in St.Paul. They've come full circle as living in the same locations as we have.