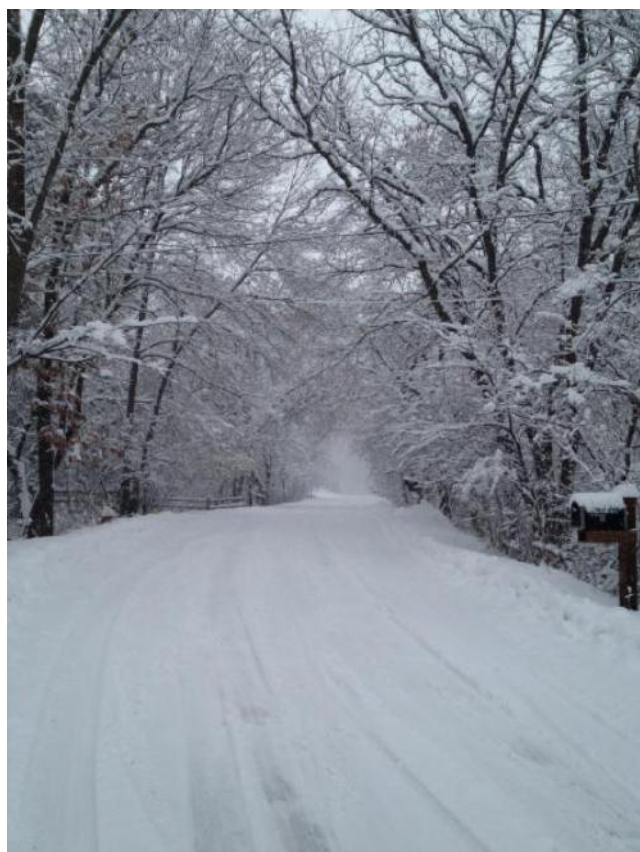


**AAUW
BRAINERD LAKES AREA BRANCH
Fall & Winter 2016**

President's Corner



On December 20th, Pat Scott and I had the opportunity to meet with newly appointed Central Lakes College President, Dr. Hara Charlier; at her request. We found her to be very personable and gracious, she had heard very positive things about our branch and wanted to know more, especially with how CLC and AAUW could partner together. We discussed a bit of our branch history, our 2016-2018 Strategic Plan and the AAUW mission programming that has been accomplished in recent years. She is impressed with the annual Brain Buster and our sponsoring of young women attending the NCWSL conference and is thankful for our branch gifting of monies to CLC for young women to further their studies. She noted that we accomplish a great deal even as a small branch. Even though our meeting with Dr. Charlier was less than an hour, both Pat and I came away with a strong feeling of her advocacy for young women and her interest in working with our Brainerd branch. I think it speaks volumes that we were noticed by the President of CLC. I'm very proud of our branch and the time and effort we all put into making us visible and relevant to the Brainerd community. Thank you.



I wish each of you a Happy New Year. Keep the January 21st BRAIN BUSTER on your calendar. See you there.

Deb

Coming UP

BRAIN BUSTERS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2017
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRAINERD, MN
AAUW 10TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

Join a Team

Wear a costume

**Let Julie Despot
know how you can
help!**

Have Fun!





International Women's Day activity March 8th Central Lakes College

International Women's Day means different things to different people. For some it's a celebration, for others it's a call to action to accelerate gender parity, and for many it's an opportunity to align and promote relevant activity. Whatever your objective, International Women's Day is the perfect moment for gender-focused action. AAUW will partner with CLC for a day of panels, presentations and events. Mark your calendars and expect Sandra to ask for your participation.

What Have We Done Lately?

Joint Meeting of AAUW Northern MN Branches

“Working to Change the Future and Celebrate the Past” was the theme of this year’s joint meeting of the northern Minnesota AAUW branches. The gathering took place on September 10th at the Grand Ely Lodge and included 56 women from Virginia, Hibbing, Grand Rapids, Brainerd, and Duluth and Ely, who hosted the meeting. Sarah Guy Levar, Executive Director of the Dorothy Molter Museum and an Ely branch member, presented an informative and entertaining slide presentation entitled “Root Beer Lady – The Story of Dorothy Molter.” After lunch, key note speaker, Dr. Sara Evans, Emeritus history professor from the University of Minnesota, gave an enlightening presentation entitled “Dorothy Molter and Changes in Women’s Lives in the 20th Century.” Dr. Evans is a renowned scholar of women’s history and the author of [Born for Liberty: A History of American Women](#).

Sept Branch Meeting

Continued Consideration of Women in Non-Traditional Careers

Sarah Fogderud, a biologist (Gustavus Adolphus College) responsible for client services and a co-owner of A & W Research Laboratories (A & W) spoke at the September 26th meeting. She worked for Alan Cibuzar, the founder of A & W until his untimely death in 2014. She and two fellow women employees, Sara Ahlers, Laboratory Director of A & W with degrees in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from UM-Duluth, and Stephanie Kuesel, Laboratory Manager, who has degrees in water resource technology and environmental resources from Vermillion Community College and the University of Minnesota acquired the business from Mr. Cibuzar's widow. They have continued the excellent work for which he was well known and have added

some new services. Sarah gave us an overview of A & W services, using a power point

and photographs. A more comprehensive presentation is available at A & W's website, <http://www.awlab.com>. Some of the more interesting science that she shared has to do with the levels of arsenic in Crow Wing county. A map showing the tests A & W has performed and the findings is at the website under the heading "The Latest News".

Sarah says that 99% of A & W's clients are men engaged in construction, well, septic and public water, and wastewater treatment work. Nonetheless, the excellent work and professionalism of the women owners has not only allowed them to keep these clients, but has allowed them to grow the business. One of Sarah's high school teachers, a woman, inspired her to pursue a career



From the left: Sarah Fogderud, Sara Ahle and Stephanie Kuesel, the new owners of A.W. Research Labs

in science, which she has combined with another non-traditional interest, playing the trombone professionally.

We also learned about CLC's voter registration efforts from Student Senate President Kristen Haugen (right) and Vice President Diana España (left).

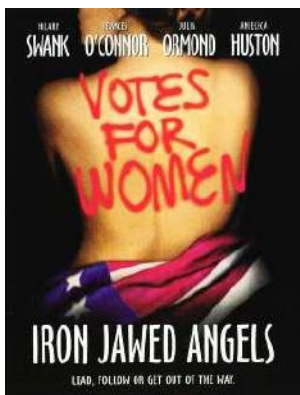


CLC Community Day



AAUW member Diane hands a student information at Central Lakes College's Community Day on October 12. Also helping are Colleen, Beatrice, and Jean.

GET OUT THE VOTE -



In partnership with CLC, the Branch sponsored two screenings of the powerful film, Iron Jawed Angels. Ninety community members and students attended. We also talked with several prospective members.

IRON JAWED ANGELS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

Holiday Party

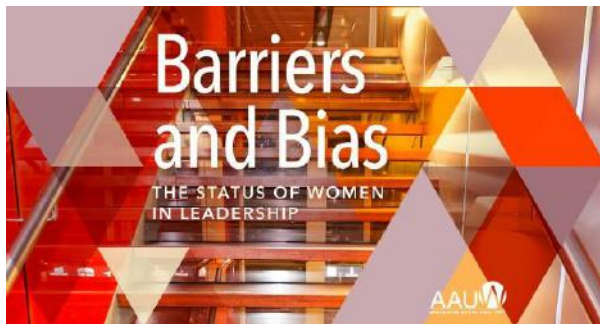


Brainerd High School A Cappella Choir entertained AAUW Brainerd Area Branch with Christmas songs at Arrowwood on Dec 3d. Brian Stubbs, Director of Choirs shared with us about the high schools amazing chorus program.

Deb shared some highlights of the AAUW Report Barriers & Bias

The report is available at www.aauw.org/research/barriers-and-bias/.

"Women leaders can benefit the bottom line; a Credit Suisse study (2012) found that companies with at least one woman on their board had a higher return on investment than companies with no women on their board. A



2007 Catalyst report on S&P 500 companies found a correlation between women's representation on boards and a significantly higher return on equity, a higher return on sales, and a higher return on invested capital." p15.

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

"At the local level, women make up more than 40 percent of school board members (Sparks, 2014) but just 26 percent of city council members (Holman, 2013). Among mayors, women of all racial groups have made inroads, although the majority of mayors of the largest 100 cities are men (Center for American Women and Politics, 2016a)."

P. 11

"Today, only six of the 50 governors in the United States are women (Center for American Women in Politics, 2016a), and only two are women of color. Gov. Susan Martinez (R-NM), who is Latina, and Gov. Nikki Haley (R-SC), who is of Indian descent, were the first two women of color to win gubernatorial elections (Center for American Women and Politics, 2016b).

"The first black woman to seek a major party's nomination for president was Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-NY), who ran in 1972. Chisholm had already made history by becoming the first black woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, a seat she held for almost 15 years (1969–83). Chisholm was on the ballot in 12 presidential primaries and received 151 delegate votes at the Democratic National Convention (Center for American Women and Politics, 2012; Mandel, 2007). Sen. Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL) campaigned for the 2004 presidential nomination, although she did not get as far as Chisholm (Mandel, 2007).

LAF

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) provides financial and organizational support for cases of discrimination that set precedents important to women. Two recent AAUW supported U S Supreme Court decisions are:

Fisher v. University of Texas, Austin and Whole Woman's Health
Hellerstedt



v.

In Fisher v. University of Texas, Austin, an opinion by Justice Kennedy on June 23, 2016, the US Supreme Court held (4-3) that the race-conscious admissions program in use by the University of Texas at Austin when Abigail Fisher applied to the school in 2008 is lawful under the Equal Protection Clause. Ms Fisher is white. She was not a good enough student to be admitted

to UT automatically. Competing for admission with members of other races who benefited from an affirmative action program, she was not admitted.

The Court found that diversity is itself a compelling interest under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Relying on studies that demonstrate that learning with and from individuals of different backgrounds and perspectives leads to improved outcomes benefiting students and the nation as a whole, the Court found that affirmative action is a critical tool for schools to meet compelling institutional needs for diversity and ensure equal opportunity in higher education.

in accordance with AAUW member adopted Public Policy Program to support affirmative action programs that establish equal opportunity for women and minorities and improve gender, racial, and ethnic diversity in educational institutions, AAUW signed an amicus brief supporting UT.

In Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt, an opinion by Justice Breyer on June 27, 2015 (5-3), the Court held unconstitutional two provisions of a Texas law that had caused 75% of abortion clinics in Texas to close. These requirements that physicians who perform abortions have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital and that abortion clinics have facilities comparable to an ambulatory surgical center, made it more difficult for women to obtain abortions while providing no benefit to abortion patients whatsoever. They constitute an undue burden on abortion access, and therefore violate the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

To learn more about LAF go to <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/> and sign up for [LAF Express](#).

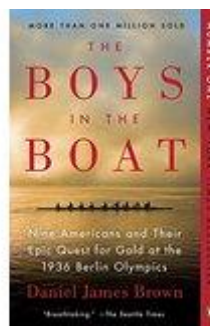
Book Discussions

Feb. 11th The Boys in the Boat

By Daniel James Brown

Discussion Leader -Luann Rice

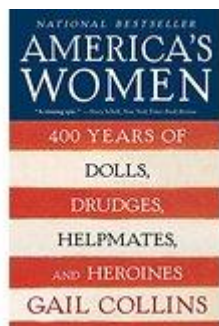
At Arbor Glen hosted by Donn Beaubien



America's Women, Four Hundred Year of

Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines

By Gail Collins

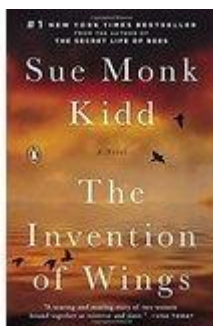


April 3rd

Discussion Leader:

Sandra Martell

At the home of Beatrice Eades



May 15th The Invention of Wings by Su Monk Kidd

Discussion Leader: Donn Beaubien at the home of Janet Bedard

July 10th

Dear Committee Members

By Julie Schumacher

Discussion Leader - Deb Griffith

At the home of Julie Despot



Public Policy



November 16, 2016

President-elect Donald Trump has said he wants to unify our nation and be the president for all Americans. We at AAUW applaud the sentiment. Yet it can't be overstated that actions speak louder than words. As

President-elect Trump assembles his cabinet and White House team, he must keep in mind that personnel decisions are policy decisions. AAUW and its

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

members and supporters are watching these nominations and appointments with keen interest. At this time, the list of recent and rumored appointees reported by the media and transition team show a vast majority of pale and male advisers. We at AAUW are not encouraged by the lack of diversity in the emerging Trump White House.

Bias and discrimination of any kind are not acceptable — not in our national dialogue or in a government that truly represents all of us. To make a sincere appeal for unification, we encourage the incoming administration to make appointments that reflect the makeup of our nation. These appointments should reflect the variety of experiences and backgrounds that make the United States the envy of the world. It also, by the way, makes for better policy that addresses the problems facing our country.

AAUW believes in speaking truth to power, and we will be a valued ally or fierce critic as the situation warrants. We can only hope that President-elect Trump stays true to his stated desire for unity and appoints advisers who aim to work for all Americans, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Throughout our more than 135-year history, AAUW has always stood for solutions that work for all women and families. We also stand united against bigotry and bias whenever and wherever they appear. Americans are watching, and our expectations are high.

Take action. Become a Two Minute Activist.

Go to <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>.

Welcome New Members

Barbara Anderson

Coralee Fox

Pat Pomeroy