



Hastings Branch

November 2015



President's Message

Pam Pontzer

I just returned from voting. My decision concerning whom to vote for was made vastly easier due to the 2015 AAUW School Board Candidates Forum held on Monday, October 26th. Hastings Community Television recorded the event, and I sincerely hope that those who were not in attendance were able to view the forum on cable television. Peggy Horsch did an outstanding job organizing and then orchestrating all of the moving parts. Jan Hertel, as Moderator, was masterful, making both the audience and the candidates feel at ease. Finally, Pat Powers performed perfectly pacing the participants! Pat, you knew that I had to go there!

The Wall Street Journal hasn't offered up anything really interesting lately, and Britta owes me some article fodder but it is in progress. She is working on a paper concerning government corruption and how it correlates to the number of women in positions of power. She is also involved in a study that looks at how narratives reinforce the concept that women are portrayed as the less important and weaker sex in times of tribulation. More on that later.

I did find an article in the Washington Post that deals with women speak. You know, the way we talk so as not to appear pushy and aggressive. The author, Alexandra Petri, gave the following examples:

- 1. Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death** - Woman in a Meeting: Dave, if I could, I could just - I just really feel like if we had liberty if would be terrific, and the alternative would just be awful, you know? That's how it strikes me. I don't know.
- 2. I Came, I Saw, I Conquered** - Woman in a Meeting: I don't want to toot my own horn here at all but I definitely have been to those places and was just honored to be a part of it as our team did such a wonderful job of conquering them.
- 3. We Hold These Truths To Be Self- Evident, That All Men Are Created Equal** - Woman in a Meeting: I'm sorry, it really feels to me like we're all equal, you know? I just feel really strongly on this.

See you all on November 23!

Program

Peggy Horsch & Pam Sullivan

November 23

AAUW Hastings Branch November Program

The title of our program for the November 23rd meeting is Little Falls to Uganda. Our speaker for the evening is Bonnie Bzdok representing Resilient Uganda. Bonnie grew up in Little Falls, MN, but after spending six years with the Army National Guard she has been traveling the globe experiencing new cultures. Along the way, she fell in love with Uganda and its people. She made the decision to live and volunteer in the little town of Kisoro. Bonnie spent 14 months teaching English and working at a children's home. While doing this volunteer work, she realized that more resources were needed. With the financial help of friends and family she was able to build water tanks to provide fresh water and provide local schools with much needed resources. From this overwhelming support, Resilient Uganda was born.

Come and hear about Bonnie's time in Uganda and continued work with Resilient Uganda. She has beautiful pictures and a wonderful story to share. She will also have items made by the women Uganda available for purchase.

Upcoming Events

- November 9.....Book Club
- November 23.....General Meeting
- December 7Book Club
- December 8Gad-Abouts
- December 14Holiday Social

Hastings Branch 2015-2016 PROGRAMS

September 28, 6:00 p.m. SALAD SUPPER
Hmong-American Farm Cooperative in MN
Yao Yang, Alternative Markets Organizer, HAFA
Pam Sullivan, Coordinator

October 26, 7:00 p.m.
School Board Candidates Forum
AAUW Hastings NCCWSL Scholarship Awardees
Peggy Horsch and Gail Glashan, Coordinators

November 23, 7:00 p.m.
Little Falls to Uganda
Bonnie Bzdok, *Resilient Uganda*
Nancy Techam, Coordinator

December 14, 7:00 p.m. HOLIDAY SOCIAL
Holiday Food, Music and Celebration
Evening at the Hastings Arts Center

January 25, 6:00 p.m. CHILI SUPPER
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
In the Hastings School District
J. Reichel, B. Seleski, K. Wald, E. Dietz, C. Benson
Lisa Hedin, Coordinator

February 22, 7:00 p.m.
Autism Affects Us All
Panel Discussion moderated by Kathy O'Keefe

March 22, 7:00 p.m.
Breaking Free from Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking
Joy Friedman, *Sisters Helping Sisters*
Lew Linde, Coordinator

April 25, 6:00 p.m. SPRING SOCIAL
Clutter Clearing Choices
Barbara Tako, Author and Consultant
Sue Wagner, Coordinator

May 23, 7:00 p.m. BOOK SALE
Culture of Poverty
Cathy Rucci, Executive Director, MORE
Karen Moore, Coordinator

Meetings are on Mondays at...
St. Philip's Lutheran Church
1401 15th Street West
Hastings, Minnesota 55033

Secretary

Lisa West

AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2015

PRESIDENT: Pam Pontzer. Pam called the business meeting to order at 8:33 p.m., welcoming 48 members and guests. Prior to the business meeting, Pam welcomed members and guests to the 2015 School Board Candidate Forum. Pam stated that the mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. One way in which the Hastings AAUW Branch promotes this mission is to host school board candidate forums. Our branch has hosted these events for over 30 years. We feel that there is no better way to inform our membership and the community at large about the issues facing our public schools. As Glenda Schnirring so accurately noted, “AAUW is pro public education.” This means that we have a great responsibility to encourage voter turnout. Pam later thanked the school board candidates for attending the forum and thanked KDWA for video-taping the forum to make it accessible to the greater Hastings community. Pam also thanked Peggy Horsch and Jan Hertel for their outstanding job organizing the details of the forum.

SECRETARY: Lisa West. Lisa submitted meeting minutes from the September 28, 2015, general meeting that were published in the Twig. Motion by Pat Powers, and seconded by Kathy O’Keefe to approve the general meeting minutes as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER: Nancy Techam. Pam reported that the Treasurer’s Report was published in the Twig, with a September, month-end checking account balance of \$7,307.92. Motion by Glenda Schnirring and seconded by Pat Schultz to approve the September Treasurer’s Report. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: Janet Grove and Pat Hanson. Pat and Janet introduced the one guest present.

PROGRAMS: Peggy Horsch and Pam Sullivan. Peggy informed members that her November speaker will be Bonnie Bzdok from Resilient Uganda, who will speak about “Little Falls to Uganda,” and will have items for sale, made by Ugandan women. The holiday event sign-up will be circulated at the November general meeting.

GAD-ABOUTS: Cindy Toppin and Sue Cruse. Cindy and Sue informed members of the December 8 outing to the Lowell Inn for High Tea and shopping; payment of \$17.00 is needed by December 1. A January 20 event will be a tour of the Union Depot, in downtown St. Paul, with lunch at Christos. The tour is free.

HOSPITALITY: Betty Hoeschen and Sara Strom. Betty circulated a sign-up sheet for meeting refreshments again and asked members to please commit to bringing refreshments to an upcoming meeting.

BOOK CLUB: Shirley Tammen. Barb Moen reminded members that the November 9, Book Club discussion will be of Harper Lee’s controversial, earlier novel, “Go Set a Watchman.” Ramona McCullough (1495 Pringle Ct.) will host the November meeting. All members are invited to join the book group – once, twice, or regularly.

PUBLIC POLICY: Pat Powers. Pat discussed the AAUW emails she’s been receiving, noting the AAUW Action Fund Lobby. The core group meets every Thursday near congressional meetings to discuss issues. AAUW National wants AAUW branches across the nation to: Host Candidate Forums, which we just did; help draft Pay Equity legislation; and take online action when it’s most needed (e.g., Two-minute Activists), because these things work. This group has been working with Congress since 1975. Also, AAUW is urging President Obama to act on campaign reform, relative to “secret money,” to reveal who is influencing candidates. And finally, Cindy Toppin and Joe Balsanek are circulating a petition against the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s consideration of raising the speed limit on Highway 55, to 55 miles per hour all the way east to Highway 61.

NCCWSL: Gail Glashan. Gail mentioned beyond NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders), members should be thinking about applying for another Branch Project Grant from AAUW Minnesota.

GARAGE SALE: Kathy O’Keefe and Linda Bindman. Kathy informed members that she and Linda are exploring a new venue for the 2016 Grand Garage Sale, mainly because: space is limited and we need more room to display donated items; parking is limited and difficult; and it has become difficult to work with the church. Kathy mentioned some possible new locations for the sale and asked members to forward ideas to her so she and Linda can check them out. Kathy mentioned the use of a school, noting that more members would need to commit extra time to help set up the sale on Friday night only.

ADJOURN

Motion by Marcia Pletcher, and seconded by Peggy Horsch to adjourn the business meeting. The business meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:55 p.m.

Previous to the business meeting, Gail Glashan introduced Jolena Zabel, who spoke about her experience attending NCCWSL over the summer, as well as her summer internship with the State Department in Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa West, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

Nancy Techam

The checking account balance as of October 31, 2015 was \$7,178.92. October did not have a lot of activity. Deposit for two memberships and payment to AAUW National and AAUW MN for our most recent memberships.

Nancy Techam, Treasurer

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

Go Set a Watchman, the recently published novel by Harper Lee is the Monday, November 9 election. The group will tie it together with the October book, **To Kill a Mockingbird**. Join us for this discussion at the home of Ramona McCullough, 1495 Pringle Ct.

The Linde Sampler, a collection of essays and short stories by AAUW member Lew Linde is the focus on the Monday, December 7 meeting (notice the date change). Lew has given our book group members a copy of the sampler which I will distribute to book group members at the Nov. book club meeting on November 9. Elaine Wilbur will host this December 7 gathering.

SAVE THE DATE!

AAUW Holiday Social

December 14, 7:00 p.m.
Hastings Art Center
216 E. 4th Street

Join us for food, music and celebration! Members are asked to bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at our November 23rd meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there!

AAUW Funds

Jan Junkman

Annual Contribution to AAUW National Funds

Every November we traditionally make our annual contribution of \$1000 to AAUW National, to continue with the programs, activities, and events to promote equity for women and girls. At the November 2nd board meeting, the \$1000 contribution was approved for 2015. National AAUW recently sent a mailing requesting that branches consider contributions to the non-restricted fund rather than designating specific funds to receive the contribution. This would then permit National to direct the funds to those areas of greatest opportunity and greatest need. However, in an email to our state VP of AAUW Funds, Jan Paulsen, we were encouraged to also consider contributions to Minnesota. Two state funds still need contributions to become stipend producing: MN Past Presidents Fund, and Dr. Jane Skinner Fund. Therefore, a motion was made and approved for \$500 of our contribution to be sent to National AAUW Funds (unrestricted), \$250 to MN Past Presidents Fund, and \$250 to Dr. Jane Skinner Fund. Further discussion took place that it may be appropriate to consider increasing our annual contribution next year. It was suggested that our contribution amount should be discussed prior to approval for next year's budget.

Fundraising Policy 501

Last month National AAUW sent a mailing to all branch Presidents and AAUW Funds Chairs. This mailing pertained to the Fundraising Policy revised in 2014, and some confusion of branches regarding the use of in-kind donations of small items to other charities. According to these policies, it is appropriate that members could individually purchase books for educational programs, clothes and toiletries for displaced women and children, etc. if the community service program is consistent with AAUW's mission. However, monetary contributions of branch funds to another charity/organization are considered inappropriate per the policy. The guiding principle is the "intent of the donor". Therefore, any funds from donations and dues collected using the AAUW name must go to support and advance the AAUW mission. This new policy 501 was also discussed one year ago at board, and we did receive some answers to our questions from national at that time. However, the board has more questions as to how this pertains to us, and we will be working on obtaining answers to these questions as soon as possible.

Community

Margaret Goderstad

The LeDuc Historic Estate

Hastings Artists' Show

Shop for the perfect holiday gifts at the LeDuc Historic Estate during the 2015 Hastings Artists Show. November 7-15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. There is no admission fee and the public is invited to see and purchase the work of more than a dozen talented painters, potters, photographers, carvers, and more who are all gathered in one place.

Victorian Holidays

During the weekends of November 28 & 29, December 5 & 6, and 19 & 20 the LeDuc Historic Estate will be open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. for guided tours at 10 & 11:30 a.m., 1, 2:30, & 4 p.m. at regular rates. This is a perfect opportunity to enjoy the beauty of this Gothic Revival home which has been elegantly decorated for the holidays. The Museum Shop will also be available for holiday shopping.

There will be high teas on Saturday, November 28 and December 5 at 3:30 p.m. The traditional Victorian Holiday Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 12. These events are by reservation only and calls should be made to [651-438-8489](tel:651-438-8489).

GOBBLE GAIT

Be a participant, a spectator, or a contributor for Gobble Gait which is traditionally held on Thanksgiving morning, this year on November 26. Consider the joy this event's proceeds bring to many people through Hastings Family Service.

Gad-Abouts

Susan Cruse & Cindy Toppin

Susan Cruse (651-437-1767) & Cindy Toppin (651-437-7753)

Tuesday, December 8th

A Lowell Inn tea with 4 courses is the highlight of our December event.

Meet at Sterling at **10:30 for a 10:45 departure to Stillwater.**

Tea includes scones, soup, tea sandwiches, and 3 mini desserts per person, and tea (of course).

Christmas shopping for an hour or more is planned after the tea to walk off those desserts.

Price is \$17 per person for the tea. **Please pay Cindy Toppin by December 1st.** We already have 27 people registered for this event!!

UPCOMING in the new year:

A tour of the newly renovated Union Depot in St. Paul followed by lunch at Christos, in the Depot building. The Union Depot was originally constructed in the early 1920's but was renovated in 2012. It has interesting history as well as fascinating artwork.

Date: Wednesday, January 20

Meet at Sterling (Farmer's Market area) at 10:15, with 10:30 departure for St. Paul. The tour will begin at 11, followed by lunch. No charge for the lunch. Questions? Call Cindy or Susan.

Diversity

Margaret Cox

Reunite Uganda

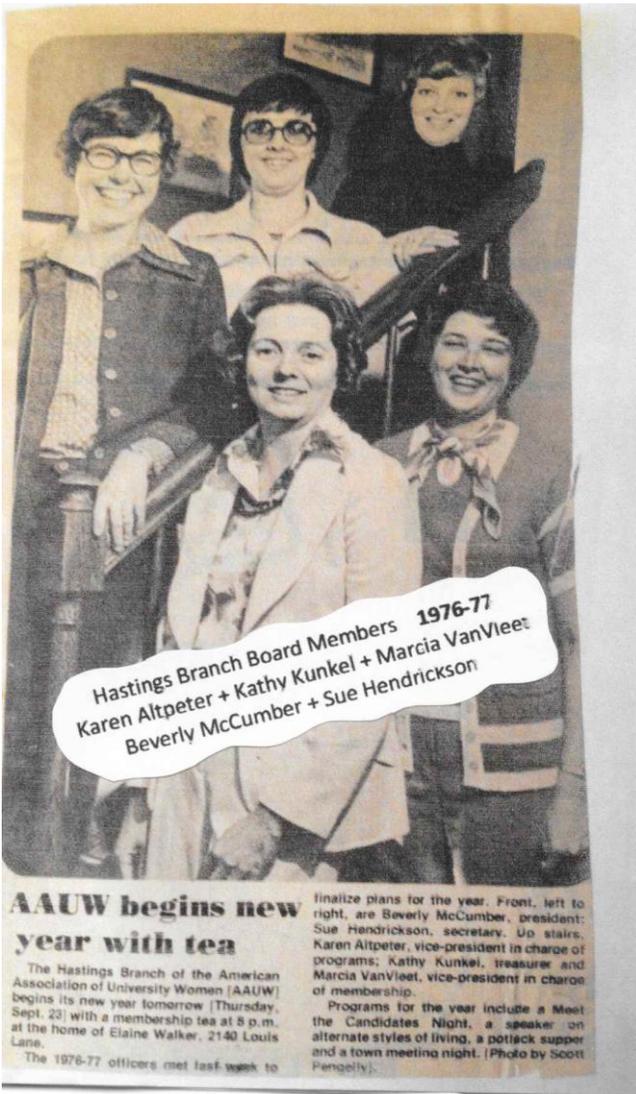
This month's AAUW meeting is about Uganda. My niece has been living in Uganda for the last 2-3 years working with a program called Resurrection Life. Through her I learned about Reunite Uganda, a program whose goal is to keep children with their own families, rather than in orphanages or international adoptions. Reunite is a direct intervention to reunite families where children have been separated from their parents, children who were lost in the orphanage system, trafficked for international adoption or kidnapped.

Reunite also works with families to make sure that the resettlement is sustainable and has every chance of being successful by providing social work services, economic advice, and emergency support (food, medical services). Reunite uses qualified Ugandan investigators, social workers, family support workers and economic empowerment officers.

If you go to their website, you can see a video of how Reunite Uganda was started and a sweet story of a little boy named Davin.

<http://rileysinuganda.blogspot.com/p/great-resource.html>

A Page From The Scrapbook



Hastings AAUW Board Members

President	Pam Pontzer
Past-President.....	Glenda Schnirring
Co-Vice Presidents Membership.....	Janet Grove Pat Hanson
Co-Vice Presidents Programs.....	Peggy Horsch Pam Sullivan
Secretary	Lisa West
Treasurer	Nancy Techam
AAUW Funds.....	Jan Junkman
Book Club.....	Shirley Tammen
Community.....	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity	Margaret Cox
Gad-Abouts.....	Susan Cruse Cindy Toppin
Historian.....	Trudy Cragg
Hospitality.....	Betty Hoeschen Sara Strom
NCCWSL.....	Gail Glashan
Newsletter.....	Lois Twedt
Public Policy.....	Pat Powers
Garage Sale	Linda Bindman Kathy O'Keefe
School Supply Drive	Mary Ellen Olson Cathy Sery

AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

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.

Minnesota State Website

<http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>