



# Hastings Branch

April 2016



## President's Message

Pam Pontzer

I want to thank Lew Linde for bringing the organization "Breaking Free - Sisters helping Sister Break Free" to our attention, and then to our March meeting. The program was superb, - heart wrenching, uplifting and informative. The speaker, eloquent. Lew also underwrote the programming fees. Kudos to you Lew!

I mentioned at the February meeting that my daughter Britta was going to attend the AAUW sponsored "Elect Her" workshop held at Rockford University. I myself was curious as to what her reaction would be. I am pleased to say that she loved it and thought the content was extremely useful. In addition to AAUW members, there were Illinois State Legislators, the Illinois State Attorney, and various women officeholders. The attendees worked on an "Elevator Speech" and received useful tips on how to build a support network and effective ways to campaign. Britta also met two AAUW members who are willing to assist her in starting an AAUW Branch at Beloit. This Hastings AAUW Branch is playing an integral part in the Pontzer/Johnson household these days!

I recently stumbled upon an Exchange Traded Fund called the SPDR Gender Diversity Index Fund. The fund has the call letters "SHE". State Street Global Advisors launched the fund in March 2016 so it is quite new. The fund's goal is to achieve market-rate returns by investing in United States companies that are leaders in advancing women through gender diversity on their boards of directors and in management. "SHE" is built on research from the McKinsey Global Institute, a nonprofit group focused on women's inclusion; as well as other studies that have shown the positive impact women have, or could have, on companies when they are in senior leadership. Companies will be included if they have the highest level of women in senior leadership in their sector. This means that the ETF will also seek out the best companies in male-dominated industries like oil gas to avoid a bias toward one sector. A company included in the index that the ETF tracks must have either a female chief executive or at least one female board member to prevent a company from appointing just a few senior women. The fund holds 141 companies with the top 10 holdings being Home Depot, Berkshire Hathaway, Oracle Corp, CVS Health Corp, Amgen Inc., AbbVie Inc., United Parcel Services Inc., Union Pacific Corp., U.S. Bankcorp and Texas Instruments Inc.

I will be looking into some of the above mentioned companies regarding the percentage of women in senior leadership. I like the concept. I question the impact.

Now that I've made your eyes roll back in your head, I will sign off. See you at the Spring Social on April 25.

## Program

Peggy Horsch & Pam Sullivan

### April 25—Spring Social

About "Clutter Clearing Choices" Author/Speaker Barbara Tako

The Spring Social will be held at The Onion Grille, with social hour starting at 6 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. After a brief business meeting, our guest speaker will present at about 7:30 pm.

The guest speaker is Barbara Tako, author of the book, "Clutter Clearing Choices: Clear Clutter, Organize Your Home, and Reclaim Your Life" (O Books, Jan. 2010). Copies of Barbara's book will be available for sale that night.

See Page 3 for more information regarding the evening.

## Upcoming Events

- April 11.....Book Club
- April 25.....Spring Social
- May 10.....Gad-Abouts

## 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 28, 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

March 28, 2016

**PRESIDENT: Pam Pontzer.** Pam called the business meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., welcoming 44 members and guests. Pam noted that March 8 marked the 107th anniversary of International Women’s Day, which is meant to commemorate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The United Nations chose the theme of gender parity, with a slogan of “Planet 50-50 by 2030.” And, of 145 nations, Iceland has come the closest in the realms of economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. The United States came in at number 28, falling eight places since 2014 and dropping out of the top 20 countries. The decrease was mostly due to a decrease in the political empowerment score, with fewer women in governing positions, dropping from 32 to 26 percent. The U.S. dropped out of the top five for economic participation and opportunity, with less wage equality for similar work. The U.S. came in at 64 for health and survival, and sits at number 40 for educational attainment. Pam came across a website that listed the 15 most powerful women in the world in 2015. In order, they were: Angela Merkel-German Chancellor; Hilary Clinton-U.S. Presidential Candidate; Melinda Gates-Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Janet Yellin-Chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board; Mary Barra-CEO of General Motors; Christina Lagarde-Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and the woman who said that had Lehman Brothers been Lehman Sisters, the economic crisis would clearly have looked quite different; Dilma Rouseff-President of Brazil, who is now facing corruption charges along with the former president Lula De Silva; Sherry Sandberg-COO of Facebook and author of “Lean In;” Susan Wojcicki-CEO of You Tube; Michelle Obama-current First Lady; Park Geun-hye-President of South Korea; Oprah Winfrey-who has done everything except be President; Ginni Rometty-CEO of IBM; Meg Whitman-CEO of Hewlett Packard; and Indra Nooyi-CEO of Pepsico. Pam reminded attendees that tonight we will recognize Equal Pay Day, coming up on April 12, 2016, the symbolic day when women’s earnings catch-up to men’s from the previous year.

Pam also read an excerpt from a 2016 Forbes magazine article that quoted Tim Worstall as stating, “The U.S. doesn’t actually have a gender pay gap. Instead, like most industrial countries, we have a motherhood pay gap. Women, who still take on the bulk of the child rearing, as well as all of the bearing, are often the ones doing the discriminating – that is, when it comes to the jobs they choose. Often those choices aren’t based on salary and title, but on factors, such as flexibility, or the chance to telecommute or work fewer hours than well-paid executives or managers. When you control for those variables, the pay gap mostly disappears.” AAUW responded in the February 21, 2016 issue of The Week by stating, “A study by the American Association of University Women found that even if you allow for choice and other factors, there remains a seven percent disparity between male and female salaries that likely has something to do with bias and discrimination. It’s wildly unfair to blame mothers for ‘choosing’ more flexible, less lucrative jobs. The reality is that gender norms saddle women with most of the child-rearing responsibility, whether they like it or not. And when they do want to work outside the home, they get little or no paid maternity leave and often do not have access to affordable child care – some choice. So the conclusion is, if women stop having children, they can make up to 93 percent of men. It’s something to ponder.” Pam invited members to a Hastings High School Feminism Club event. On Friday, April 1, in the High School Auditorium, there will be a screening of the film, “He Named Me Malala.” The event is free and runs from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Donations of gently used women’s and children’s clothes will be accepted, with proceeds going to the Malala Fund.

Lastly, Pam mentioned that two of five spots are still available for members to attend the AAUW State Convention in Duluth, April 29 through May 1. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Pam know.

**SECRETARY: Lisa West.** Lisa submitted meeting minutes from the February 22, 2016, general meeting that were published in the Twig. Motion by Trudy Cragg, and seconded by Sallee Jepsen to approve the general meeting minutes as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER: Nancy Techam.** Nancy summarized the March Treasurer’s Report, noting that there was no activity in March, so the checkbook balance is the same as reporting in the Twig. Next year’s budget will be presented at the April Spring Social meeting, which is also a good time to renew membership. Motion by Betty Hoeschen, and seconded by Lisa Hedin to approve the Treasurer’s Report as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MEMBERSHIP: Pat Hanson and Janet Grove.** One guest was introduced.

**PROGRAMS: Peggy Horsch and Pam Sullivan.** Peggy reminded members that checks for the April Spring Social were collected before the meeting and will be collected immediately after tonight’s meeting. Social hour for the Spring Social will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Onion Grille. The cost of the Spring Social dinner is \$26.00.

### **GAD-ABOUTS: Cindy Toppin and Sue Cruse.**

Sue reminded members of the May 10 event, a tour of the Basilica, with lunch at The Third Bird near Loring Park. A \$2.00 donation is requested for the tour, or whatever members would like to donate. There will be a “Plan B;” in case there is an unforeseen event at the Basilica (e.g., funeral).

**HOSPITALITY: Betty Hoeschen.** Betty thanked members who brought the evening’s refreshments and mentioned that volunteers are needed to bring refreshments for the May meeting. Please sign up if you are willing to bring something on May 23.

**BOOK CLUB: Shirley Tammen.** Shirley reminded members of the April 11 book discussion of “All The Light We Cannot See,” by Anthony Doerr. This Pulitzer Prize winning novel has been on the New York Times best seller list for two and a half years. This sensitive, beautifully written novel follows a young German mechanical genius and a blind French girl living in occupied Paris during WWII. The hostess will be Lisa Hedin. Members will carpool from the Green Mill at about 6:40 p.m. The May 9, book discussion will be of “A Man Called Ove;” by Frederick Backman. This book is a New York Times bestseller. There will be more information in the Twig, and about the May book sale as well.

**TWIG: Lois Twedt.** Lois reminded members that the Board meets on the first Monday of the month, and shetypically distributes the Twig the following weekend. If you’re not receiving the Twig within that timeframe, please let her know.

**COMMUNITY: Margaret Goderstad.** Margaret noted the following, upcoming events at the LeDuc Historic Estate: April 10 – artist, Dave Youngren will conduct a painting class at 2:00 p.m.; and on April 22 will be an Irish Whiskey Tasting at 7:00 p.m. The Orange Dragon Art Gallery in Prescott will host art by the late Cliff Moen and son, Aaron Moen from April 1 to May 22. On April 8, Arron and Barb Moen will be at the gallery. The gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**HISTORIAN: Trudy Cragg.** Trudy reported that she’s been encouraged to bring AAUW Hastings scrap books to meetings to provide members with opportunities to take a look at them. She brought two albums tonight from the early 1990s and early 2000s. Trudy is looking for a replacement to assume the role of Historian. Please let her know if you are interested in taking over her Historian role.

**GARAGE SALE: Kathy O’Keefe and Linda Bindman.** Pam announced that Kathy and Linda are close to securing a new venue for the garage sale and that it will likely be the River of Life Church on 9th and Vermillion Streets. With this new venue, set-up and scheduling is anticipated to be unchanged from previous years.

### NEW BUSINESS

Glenda Schnirring announced that the Nominating Committee was formed during the winter to seek candidates for the upcoming terms for Branch President, Secretary and Membership Co-Chairs. The Committee, of two board members (Glenda and Pam Pontzer) and three branch members (Camille Nelson, Chris Erickson, and Kathy Kies) secured the following, accepted nominations: for President, Lisa West; for Secretary, Pam Pontzer,

and for Membership Co-Chairs, Camille Nelson and Ruth Versaw.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Shirley Tammen, and seconded by Cindy Toppin to adjourn the business meeting. The business meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:30 p.m.

Lew Linde introduced the evening’s speaker on Breaking Free from Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking, Jennifer Gaines. Jennifer spoke about her 28-year story of survival and resiliency and the mission of Breaking Free, including her current position with the organization.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa West, Secretary

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**MORE ON THE SPRING SOCIAL**

**Dinner options are:**

- Pork Tenderloin: Topped with caramelized apples and apple cider and brandy reduction
- Herb Roasted Chicken: White quarter with herbs, pan roasted
- Parmesan Crusted Walleye: Sautéed walleye, topped with Parmesan cheese

The price is \$26, which includes dinner, coffee, carrot cake (from Emily’s bakery), tax and tip. Other beverages are available for purchase.

\*\*Please mail your check, made payable to Hastings AAUW, **with your meal choice**, to Peggy Horsch, 1490 Tierney Court, Hastings MN 55033 by **April 10th**. The Onion is not able to accommodate walk-ins.

**About “Clutter Clearing Choices” Author/Speaker Barbara Tako**

Barbara Tako is an expert speaker and published author in the field of clearing clutter. Her book, “Clutter Clearing Choices: Clear Clutter, Organize Your Home, & Reclaim Your Life” (O Books, Jan., 2010) is available wherever books are sold. It is the only clutter-clearing book organized by season, because people think about different kinds of clutter at different times of the year. Barbara’s book offers a variety of solutions to each issue rather than one rigid take-it-or-leave-it approach, because we all have different preferences for handling clutter. She believes that when we each have a solution that truly fits us, we stick with it as a lifestyle change.

Since 1998, Barbara has shared her techniques with business wellness seminars, parenting organizations, church groups, and other venues throughout the Midwest. She has been published numerous times in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, and featured in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, White Bear Lake Press, and St. Croix Valley Press. She has been interviewed on television, as well as radio talk shows. Major corporate business clients have included: 3M, Medtronic, Target, Securian, and Supervalu.

During seven years in the business world, Barbara handled billing, payroll, and inventory. She has also been an underwriter, supervisor, instructor and internal publications writer in the insurance industry. Barbara has a B.A. in English and psychology from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with graduate coursework in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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**AAUW Funds**

*Jan Junkman*

I recently received an email from Jan Paulsen, our State AAUW Funds Chairperson. She provided a report of the funds given by our branch for the calendar year 2015. **Our total contributions were \$1755.15**. As you may recall, every November our branch donates \$1000 to state and national to help carry out functions of our organization. The additional \$755 was donated by you, our members. Wow, that is fabulous! Thank you to all of you who have contributed individually. We are pleased and proud to help AAUW advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy with our continued donations.

**Treasurer**

*Nancy Techam*

The checking account balance as of March 31, 2016 was \$2,752.62. At the AAUW Board Meeting on Monday, April 4, 2016 a final proposed budget for 2016-17 was presented to the board. The board recommended the proposed budget for membership approval at the April general meeting. Nancy Techam, Treasurer

**Membership**

*Janet Grove & Pat Hanson*

Members may pay dues of \$80 for next year's AAUW membership at the April and May meetings. Make your checks out to AAUW Hastings. Thank you for helping us get a head start on our membership for 2015-2016. It would also be a good time to invite a guest to our last meetings of this year. That way, they can check us out and see what a great organization we have right here in our town!

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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

The Board is grateful to member Lew Linde for his generous donation of paying for the March speaker, Jennifer Gaines, from Breaking Free. **THANK YOU, LEW!**

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**Gad-Abouts**

*Susan Cruse & Cindy Toppin*

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

**Date: Tuesday, May 10th**

**Tour of the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis** followed by lunch at The Third Bird, about 3 blocks away in Loring Park

Meet at Sterling at 9:15, with 9:30 departure to Minneapolis.

Tour will start at 10:30 - \$2 donation or whatever you wish to give. Lunch will be off the menu - [www.thethirdbirdmpls.com](http://www.thethirdbirdmpls.com)

Call Susan at 651-437-1767 for more info. There are only 4 spots remaining.

## Book Club

*Shirley Tammen*

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr will be discussed on Monday, April 11, at 7 p.m. at the home of Lisa Hedin. Those wishing to car pool should meet in the Green Mill parking lot at 6:40.

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman is the chosen selection for Monday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at the home of Barb Jorenby. This best-selling Swedish author features Ove (OF), a solitary, grumpy, middle-aged man whose orderly life is disrupted when a chatty couple and their boisterous daughter and unkempt cats move in next door.

Our group does not meet during the summer months, but will resume on Monday, September 12. I will send our summer reading list in early May.

Book Stube at the Bierstube continues on Thursday, April 21, 7-9 p.m. with historical fiction author Mary Sharratt presenting. On Thursday, May 19, authors Joe Kimball and Julie Kramer will discuss their novels.

Remember—our “in house” book sale before and after the May 23 AAUW meeting. Begin collecting the current novels and non-fiction selections you are ready to share. One hundred dollars of the profits will be given to Hastings Reads for the following year.

## Community

*Margaret Goderstad*

### THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE

People of all ages invited to Dave Youngren's painting class on Sunday, April 17, 2-4 p.m. Registration required. Call [651-438-8480](tel:651-438-8480).

Irish Whiskey Tasting on Friday, April 22, 7 p.m. \$40 per person and reservations required.

### MODERN INTERPRETATIONS OF HISTORIC DESIGN IV

Be a part of the Needleworking Competition at the LeDuc Historic Estate. Keep in mind that the entries can be done in any art media i.e. embroidery, needlepoint, photography, wood carving, beading, oil painting, watercolor etc. Go to [www.dakotahistory.org](http://www.dakotahistory.org) for instructions for entering. Selected patterns are to be used in the competition. Deadline for entry is April 30, 2016. A Needleworking Day will be held on June 25 where winning entries will be displayed. There will be lectures and demonstrations of various types of needlework on that day.

## Garage Sale

*Linda Bindman & Kathy O'Keefe*

**Linda Bindman and Kathy O'Keefe are happy to announce the following information regarding the GARAGE SALE:**

### Garage Sale dates will be:

Set up Thursday, September 15.

Set up Friday, September 16.

Garage sale Saturday, September 17, from 8:00-2:00.

Our new location is **River of Life Church** between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> on Vermillion.

## 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>

Research states that a woman needs to work until April 9<sup>th</sup> in order to earn as much as a man would earn by the end of the previous calendar year. On a national scale women earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by men.

### AAUW supports equal pay



The Hastings Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) supports Equal Pay Day and showed it at its recent meeting with the PayDay candy bar. The national observance of Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 8. The Hastings Branch of AAUW chooses to bring awareness to the day which symbolizes the wage disparity between men and women across the country doing full time comparable work with a candy bar. The disparity of 77 cents to the dollar has been the range of difference between the genders since 2002. A federal legislative change that would narrow the gap would be passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act. It has AAUW support. SUBMITTED PHOTO

AAUW invites all voting constituents to join with them in favoring passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 84/H.R. 377) which would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Hastings members have John Kline representing them in the House of Representatives and Senators Klobuchar and Franken in the U.S. Senate.  
*Glenda Schnirring serves as President of Hastings' AAUW and Kay Leadholm is its Public Policy Officer.*  
April 2014

