



# Hastings Branch

January 2017



## President's Message

Lisa West

Wow, 2016 went by fast. It's such a cliché, but it really feels like the year just flew by. And now, here we are, rocket-shipping into 2017. I swear I just decorated that dang tree...

There were a lot of AAUW milestones reached and historic events that occurred in 2016. I picked some out to share with you from the monthly list AAUW Action sent awhile back, including: in January, Iowa elected the first woman Speaker of the House; in February, Arizona confirmed the first Native American woman as a U.S. District Court Judge; in May, Women Airforce Service Pilots' inurnment rights were restored at Arlington National Cemetery; in October, a historic sexual assault survivors' Bill of Rights was signed into law by President Obama; and in November, elections resulted in 21 women to serve in the U.S. Senate in 2017, the highest number in history; and 19 AAUW members were elected to state legislatures. And although these things happened in the past, I think we can agree that they will have an impact this year and hopefully well into the future.

I hope your holidays were happy, and just what you hoped they would be. I'm looking forward to a great 2017 AAUW year with all of you. See you at the end of the month for another great program!

January quote: "Don't look back – you aren't going that way." ~ Anonymous

## AAUW Hastings Branch Bylaws

Lisa West

After quite a bit of time was spent updating our bylaws last year, we were informed that AAUW National was mandating another revision due by January 31, 2017. I'm happy to report that our revised bylaws were submitted on January 3. Our bylaws are an important reference as we conduct our AAUW business. If you would like a copy of the bylaws, please let any Board member know, and a copy can be provided to you, preferably via email, or a paper copy, if necessary.

## Program

Peggy Horsch & Pam Sullivan

*January 23*

### Chili Supper/General Meeting/Program

Our January 23rd meeting will begin with a Chili Supper at 6:00 p.m.  
The AAUW Board is hosting and providing the chili and fixings for all!!  
Our business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the program at 7:30.

#### 'Seafood From Slaves' by Robin McDowell

Our speaker, Robin McDowell, is a journalist, who, as a member of an Associated Press team won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. This team investigated the international fishing industry in Southeast Asia, exposing a slave based industry supplying seafood to supermarkets and pet food providers across the United State. The reporting lead to the freeing of over 2,000 slaves, multiple arrests, seizure of property and legislative action in the U.S. to increase food suppliers transparency. Series of articles-- <https://www.ap.org/explore/seafood-from-slaves/>

Robin spent much of the last two decades in Southeast Asia focusing on human rights abuses and social injustices. She began her career in Cambodia in 1993, where she helped set up the country's first English-language daily newspaper. Soon after, she joined The Associated Press as chief correspondent in the country, covering its transition toward democracy. She helped set up the AP's regional editing desk in Thailand in 2005 and spent seven years in Indonesia, overseeing a busy bureau as it responded to everything from al-Qaida- linked terrorist attacks and jetliner crashes to earthquakes and tsunamis.

Most recently, McDowell was a correspondent in newly opened up Myanmar, where she reported on the persecution of the Muslim minority community and human trafficking in Southeast Asia's seafood industry. Still with AP as an investigative reporter, McDowell is now based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Submitted by Lisa Hedin.

## Upcoming Events

January 9.....Book Club  
January 23.....General Meeting  
..... with Chili Supper  
February 17.....Gad-Abouts

## Hastings Branch--2016-2017 PROGRAMS

September 26, 6:00 pm SALAD SUPPER  
*Broken Barriers, Income and Job Equity for Women*  
Barbara Battiste, Office on the Economic Status of Women

Pat Powers, Coordinator

October 24, 7:00 pm  
*Bringing Women Into The Building Trades*  
Vicki Sandberg and Panel, Women Building MN  
Pam Sullivan, Coordinator

November 28, 7:00 pm  
*Opportunities & Challenges Facing Our Region: from Poverty and Homelessness to Diversity and Growth*  
Craig Helmstetter, Wilder Foundation  
Cindy Toppin, Coordinator

December 19, 7:00 pm HOLIDAY SOCIAL  
*Food, Music and Celebration*  
Coordinated and Hosted by Jolly Volunteers of AAUW

January 23, 6:00 pm CHILI SUPPER  
*Seafood From Slaves*  
Pulitzer Prize Winning Author, Robin McDowell  
Lisa Hedin, Coordinator

February 27, 7:00 pm  
*Overcoming Sleeplessness*  
Sponsored by Regina Foundation/Allina Health and AAUW  
Lynn Moratzka and Gail Glashan, Coordinators

March 27, 7:00 pm  
*Changing Demographics & Consumer Protection for Seniors*  
Laurie Thrush, Hastings Sr. Center and Marit Anne Peterson, Minnesota Elder Justice Center  
Lew Linde, Coordinator

April 24, 6:00 pm SPRING SOCIAL  
*Protecting Bees in Minnesota's Prairies/Gardens*  
Dr. Daniel Cariveau, Entomologist, U of M  
Peggy Horsch, Coordinator

May 22, 7:00 pm BOOK SALE  
*Somali Women's Experience in Minnesota*  
Farhio Khalif, Voice of East African Women, Inc.  
Karen Moore, Coordinator

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

## Secretary

Pam Pontzer

### AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 28, 2016

**PRESIDENT** - Lisa West - Lisa called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Lisa asked the membership if they had received an e-mail from Patricia Fae Ho, Board Chair of AAUW National. The email expressed appreciation for the members of AAUW nationwide. Lisa read Fae Ho's emailed letter to the group. Fae Ho noted that AAUW has championed such causes as Title 9, Safe Campus, Equal Pay for Equal Work and preparing and empowering women for leadership positions. This work would not be possible without a robust membership. Lisa noted that she is also grateful for the AAUW membership

**SECRETARY** - Pam Pontzer - Pam submitted meeting minutes from the October 24, 2016 general meeting that were published in the Twig. A motion was made by Pat Powers and seconded by Shirley Tammen to approve the October 24, 2016 general meeting minutes as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER** - Nancy Techam - Nancy noted that the checking account balance is \$5259.96. The major expense in the last 30 days has been the \$1000 submitted as a donation for AAUW funds. A motion was made by Betty Hoeschen and seconded by Trudy Cragg to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was unanimously approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MEMBERSHIP**- Ruth Versaw and Camille Nelson - We are currently at 80 members. There were 4 guests at the general meeting.

**PROGRAMS**- Pam Sullivan and Peggy Horsch- Peggy noted that she discovered that it might be best to introduce our speaker, Craig Helmstetter of the Wilder Foundation, simply as Glenda's neighbor. He grew up in that neighborhood and many of the members remember Craig from that time. Peggy noted that the Holiday Social will be held at the Hastings Art Center on December 19, 2016. Members will be asked to bring an appetizer, a dessert or contribute \$10.00.

**PUBLIC POLICY** - Pat Powers - Pat said that 4 schools participated in the "Kids Vote" effort. This initiative was brought to AAUW by Amy Anderson, the Executive Director of Minnesota Civic Youth. Members from the AAUW Hastings Branch were able to volunteer to make the event successful. AAUW members have until December 15, 2016 to submit comments on or propose changes to bylaws, amendments, public policy programs etc. regarding AAUW National Positions. The final opportunity to vote will be on June 15, 2017. The AAUW National Convention will be held in Washington DC from June 14 -17, 2017.

**GAD-ABOUTS** - Cindy Toppin and Sue Cruse. Sue informed the members that on Friday, December 2, 2016, the Gad-Abouts would leave Hastings at 9:00 A.M. to attend the Annual Holiday Bazaar held at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. The sale opens at 10:00 A.M. Lunch will follow at 1:15 P.M. at the St Paul Hotel. There is room for 4 more participants.

**HOSPITALITY**- Barb Jorenby, Kathy Stockman, Patty Todnem. No news items

**BOOK CLUB** - Shirley Tammen - The book club will meet on December 12th at the home of Elaine Wilbur to discuss Kitchens of the Great Midwest by J. Ryan Stradal. Shirley noted that J. Ryan Stradal, the author of Kitchens of the Great Midwest will read from his book at the Holiday Social in December. Shirley reminded the group that the next book club will be held on January 9, 2017 at the home of Elaine Wilbur. The book being discussed is The All-Girls Filling Station's Last Reunion" by Fanny Flagg. Jamie Ford, the author of Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet will be speaking at the Hastings Reads event in February. Hastings Reads is supported by AAUW through funds raised at the AAUW Book Sale.

**TWIG NEWSLETTER** - Lois Twedt - Nothing to report.

**AAUW FUNDS** - Glenda Schnirring - Glenda informed the membership that the board had decided to donate \$500 to the Minnesota Past Presidents Fellowship Fund and \$500 to the unrestricted General AAUW Fund. Glenda noted that 230 women were able to attend higher education through AAUW funding.

**NCCWSL** - Gail Glashan, Pat Powers, Ann Skoglund, Jan Junkman - Be on the lookout for NCCWSL candidates.

**COMMUNITY** - Margaret Goderstad - Margaret reviewed events taking place at the Hastings Art Center and the Historic Le Duc Mansion during the month of December.

**HISTORIAN** - Trudy Cragg - Trudy noted that this is her 7th year as Historian. She is happy to report that Lisa Hedin will take over this position beginning in January 2017.

**GARAGE SALE** - Kathy O'Keefe and Linda Bindman - Kathy asked the group to look for bigger furniture items for the garage sale next year.

### ADJOURN

60 members were in attendance. Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Marcia Pletcher and seconded by Patty Todnem. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Cindy Toppin introduced the evening's speaker, Craig Helmstetter of the Wilder Foundation. The presentation was entitled "Opportunities & Challenges Facing Our Region: from Poverty and Homelessness to Diversity and Growth".

Minutes submitted by:

Pam Pontzer, Secretary

## NCCWSL

Gail Glashan

### January 14, 2017 Deadline! AAUW Hastings Branch National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarship (NCCWSL)

Do you know someone who would qualify for our scholarship? Encourage them to apply! Email Gail at AAUW Hastings Branch to obtain an application form: AAUWHastingsBranch@gmail.com

### More information can now be found on HastingsNow!

Peter and Ashley, from HastingsNow.com, were at our December AAUW Holiday Social at the Hastings Arts Center. It was a delightful evening with friends and our special guest J. Ryan Stradal. Peter and Ashley took pictures and visited with J. Ryan and our members. Their website focuses on what people love about Hastings, Minnesota, a site that follows local news, deals and events. We told them about our AAUW mission and scholarship opportunities. They took pictures and now our NCCWSL scholarship opportunity is posted on their website. Click on this link...

<http://www.hastingsnow.com/hastings-arts-center/850-scholarship-for-one-lucky-sophomore-or-junior-college-student>

...then click on the small arrow to the right of the picture of the NCCWSL committee. The arrow links to J. Ryan Stradal and more pictures from our evening at the Hastings Arts Center.

## Membership

Camille Nelson & Ruth Versaw

**DIRECTORY:** All should have received this year's membership directory. Please check it over and let Ruth know of any changes that should be made.

**WARM UP WITH A FRIEND AND A GOOD DEAL!** Feel free to bring a friend this month for a warm bowl of chili on a cold night. Everyone likes a good deal--membership dues are now \$40 until renewals in the spring. Bring that friend that was thinking about our organization--now they can get in on the January sales!

## Community

Margaret Goderstad

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### THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE

Even though the LeDuc Historic Estate is not open for regular tours during the winter months, groups may schedule special events by calling 654-438-8480.

- Burns Night Scotch Tasting - Friday, January 20, 7 p.m. This popular event fills quickly so make reservations early.

### BLACK DIRT THEATER

The classic, *On Golden Pond*, will be presented in the format of a dinner Theater at the Onion Grille January 13-29 with both evening & matinee performances. Call Black Dirt at [651-300-9567](tel:651-300-9567) or register online.

### ORANGE DRAGON ART GALLERY

The gallery will be closed January through March, but watch for special openings that may occur.

### HASTINGS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber's Annual Meeting & Dinner will be held on Thursday, January 19 at Treasure Island Casino & Resort, 5:30 p.m. social hour and 7 p.m. dinner. This is a special night when community award winners will be announced - Business of the Year, Educator of the Year & Volunteer of the Year. Call [651-437-6775](tel:651-437-6775).

### HASTINGS ARTS CENTER

Tyler Burkum, a renowned artist, will be featured in concert on January 21, 7 p.m. Call [651-437-4320](tel:651-437-4320) for tickets.

### BREAKAWAY ARTS

Did you know that Break Away Arts offers a Grief Support Group, Counseling for people who have experienced Strokes, an Art Therapist, & Veterans' Support? Besides the regular & exciting projects in art they also offer many ways to express creativity. For example, they offer what is called Legacy Works, which entails Group Scrapbooking & Memory Books. Please call [651-437-4320](tel:651-437-4320) to discuss these many opportunities.

## Gad-Abouts

Susan Cruse & Cindy Toppin

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

### What's new in the New Year??

Gadabouts activities are open to all members. We meet in the Sterling parking lot (NW corner) and car pool to the venue. Lunch is usually involved. You can sign up at the meeting or call Cindy or Susan.

Friday, February 17

#### Russian Museum of Art - Unknown Faberge

This exhibit presents beautifully crafted Faberge objects, many previously unknown or recently discovered from the House of Faberge, which was the leading jeweler to the Russian Imperial Court. The exhibition will include more than 80 Faberge objects including intricate jewelry, cigarette cases, timepieces, photograph frames, icons and much more.

Meet at Sterling parking lot at 9:15 for departure at 9:30.

We will tour the Museum and then go to lunch - if you have suggestions on where we could have lunch, feel free to call Cindy or Susan.

Hold these dates:

Wed, April 12 1:00 p.m.

#### "Rise up oh Men" at Plymouth Playhouse

This is the latest in the Church Basement Series - let's see what those men can do in the church kitchen!

There will be a special Church Basement Lunch before the play right at the Playhouse.

Thursday, May 18

#### History Theater - Sweet Land, the Musical

10:00 a.m. production

1920. Inge Altenberg journeys to America to marry a bachelor farmer, sight unseen. In the wake of WWI, her German heritage turns here new neighbors against the match.

Lunch after, someplace in St. Paul.

Please feel free to join us!

## Book Club

Shirley Tammen

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On Monday, January 9, we will be discussing The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion by Fanny Flagg. When Sookie learned at age 60 that she was adopted, she began to trace her roots back to Wisconsin where the Jurdabrainski girls ran an "all-girl gas station" after the men went off to war in 1941. Barb Jorenby will host this meeting.

On Monday, February 13, Under A Flaming Sky: The Great Hinckley Firestorm of 1894 by Daniel J Brown is the chosen selection. (This author also wrote The Boys in the Boat.) Pat Giddings will host this meeting.

For Monday, March 13, we have selected Kristin Hannah's The Nightingale.

### Hastings Reads—February 2017

This year's theme "The Japanese-American Experience" includes an appearance by Jamie Ford, the author of the main selection, Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet on Tuesday, Feb. 21. The kick-off Hastings Reads event is a first-hand account of a Japanese-American's experience spending 3-5 years of her childhood confined in an American prison camp during WW1. This will be held at Pleasant Hill Library on Saturday, February 4, 1-2:30.

Watch for a separate email with more **Hastings Reads** information.

## Treasurers Report

Nancy Techam

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The checking account balance as of December 31, 2016, is \$5,025.96. Expenses in December totaled \$315 (\$190 for use of Hastings Art Center for the Christmas Social and \$125 for December program). Nancy Techam, Treasurer

### [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>



**OFFICIAL Women's March Minnesota**

Join on January 21st 2017 as we march in solidarity with those marching in Washington D.C. Why are we marching? Because the rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us. We will march in numbers too great for administration to ignore on their first day in office. We march and stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families -- recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

Starting at 10am we will meet on the John Ireland Blvd Bridge in front of Minnesota History Center (near the corner John Ireland Blvd and Kellogg Blvd).

From 10-11am we plan to get pumped up, meet one another, form new friendships and likely hear from a motivational speaker (who is yet to be determined). Please plan to arrive no later than 10:30am. At 11 am we will start our march heading northeast on John Ireland Blvd toward the Capitol. We plan to arrive at the Capitol around 11:30/12pm. From 12pm until 2pm we will have a rally including entertainment, speakers, etc.

If you are unable to participate in the march itself but wish to participate in this event, please feel free to join us at the Capitol around noon.

There will be an area with seating to accommodate people with disabilities, elderly people and pregnant women. We do plan to have tents and heaters at the rally at the capitol.

The rally will end at 2pm.

If you are interested in going contact Pat Powers, 651-437-8678. Pat.pow01@gmail.com

**A Page From the Scrapbook—2015**



**#PWCAL ED STATE**

**Autism Affects us ALL**

Kathy O'Keefe-Elementary Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and does the initial ASD testing for the district.

Carlyn Cooper-Middle School Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and also does the initial testing.

Jan Hanson-High School Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and district representative to the state for ASD.

Sarah Anderson- Early Childhood Special Education and district representative to the state for ASD.

**Hastings AAUW Board Members**

- President .....Lisa West
- Past-President.....Pam Pontzer
- Co-Vice Presidents Membership.....Camille Nelson  
Ruth Versaw
- Co-Vice Presidents Programs.....Peggy Horsch  
Pam Sullivan
- Secretary ..... Pam Pontzer
- Treasurer .....Nancy Techam
- AAUW Funds.....Glenda Schnirring
- Book Club.....Shirley Tammen
- Community.....Margaret Goderstad
- Diversity .....Marlys Schmitt
- Gad-Abouts.....Susan Cruse  
Cindy Toppin
- Historian.....Trudy Cragg  
Lisa Hedin
- Hospitality.....Barb Jorenby  
Kathy Stockman  
Patty Todnem
- 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