



# Hastings Branch

March 2016



## President's Message

*Pam Pontzer*

It is tax season. I realize the actual drop dead date is over a month away but still - from January 1st until April 15, I have tax malaise. This year, I was able to pinpoint the exact reason why - I assisted my son in completing his 2015 tax returns. The W2 portion was a piece of cake. Then we encountered the "independent contractor" status that was his paper route. I won't get into the particulars, but, names were taken in vain, and it went south from there. Why oh why is our tax code SO convoluted? Are the forces that make our tax code a Gordian Knot the same ones that came up with Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDO) and Credit Default Swaps (CDS) during the financial crisis? I posit that they are and that the complexity of our tax code mirrors the ridiculous financial contortions that caused the Great Recession of 2008.

At this point, I was going to disparage men (not ALL men Cindy Toppin) and money management but, the Wall Street Journal did it for me. The article is entitled "If Only Women Ran the Banks". Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, noted "If Lehman Brothers had been Lehman Sisters, today's economic crisis clearly would look quite different." Research indicates that financial crisis would have been less severe if more women had been in top finance jobs. 7000 U.S. commercial banks were examined. Those with female CEO's and chairmen held about 5% to 6% more equity capital than male-led banks and had lower default risk. Consequently, male-led banks were six to seven times more likely to fail during the financial crisis. The study provides support for the idea that female executives and directors may inherently promote more conservative strategies and less risky financial decisions.

The European Union is currently discussing implementing a law requiring that at least 40% of a public company's board seats be held by women. It is predicted that the study covered in the Wall Street Journal article will persuade policy makers to move forward with gender quotas in the European Union.

See you on March 28th.

## Program

*Peggy Horsch & Pam Sullivan*

### March 28

### Breaking Free from Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking

The March program will deal with a topic that is of local, state and world-wide importance - sex trafficking. The U.N. estimates that 27 million people are enslaved worldwide - more than any time in history! In 2003, Minneapolis was identified by the FBI as one of 13 cities with a large concentration of child prostitution enterprises. In 2010, the online sales of minor girls being sold for sex in MN increased by 55% over a six month period. The average age of entry into prostitution by minors is 12-14 years of age. These statistics can all be found on the Breaking Free website, but what they don't tell is the story of one woman's survival of 28 years of sex trafficking.

Jennifer Gaines will speak to her story and the mission of Breaking Free at our March meeting. It is a powerful story of survival and resiliency not to be missed.

## Upcoming Events

- March 14.....Book Club
- March 17.....Gad-Abouts
- March 28.....General Meeting
- April 25.....Spring 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 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 February 22, 2016

**PRESIDENT: Pam Pontzer.** Pam called the business meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., welcoming 42 members and guests. Pam thanked members for introducing her, and her daughter Britta, to AAUW. Britta is very involved in student government at Beloit College, and in that capacity will be attending the “Elect Her” workshop at Rockford University in Illinois on April 2, 2016. Excerpts from the workshop description stated, “In collaboration with American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Running Start, Elect Her is a national program that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and political office. During this free, one-day, nonpartisan workshop, participants will learn and practice hands-on campaign skills, hear from inspiring local speakers, and discuss research on women in government. In 2016, only 50 campuses across the nation will be hosting an Elect Her workshop. Rockford University was selected as one of the 13 campuses to host this event for the first time.” Britta was excited by the workshop and the fact that she’s familiar with AAUW and can introduce AAUW to the other women attending.

A Nominating Committee is in place to work toward filling the Board positions of President, Secretary, and Membership Co-Chairs. The committee members are Glenda Schnirring and me from the Board, and Kathy Kies, Camille Nelson and Chris Erickson from our membership. Pam thanked committee members for their time serving in this important role.

Pam shared the following factoids from the Wall Street Journal. An article entitled, “The Gender Gap in Giving,” noted evidence that women give more than their male peers in virtually all income levels, even though women in general earn less money in retirement than men, and have a greater life expectancy. Explanations for this occurrence included the way men and women are socialized regarding caring, self-sacrifice and the well-being of others. Research suggests that men tend to make charitable gifts when an appeal frames donations as being in the man’s self-interest or as a way of maintaining the status quo, while women tend to give to promote social change or help others who are less fortunate. Another explanation had to do with how the two sexes view money. For men, money may represent power, achievement or prestige, while women tend to view money in terms of personal security, freedom and a way to achieve goals. We observed this phenomenon first-hand when we needed extra funds to send a second candidate to the NCCWSL last year. This membership contributed above and beyond what was needed. On another note, a blurb from the AAUW Washington Update noted a study from computer science researchers found that computer code written by women has a higher approval rating than that written by men, but only if the writer’s gender is not identifiable.

Lastly, Pam received an email from Kari Jaeger, the teacher advisor for the High School Feminism Club. The club has a tentative date of March 31 to host a screening of “He Named Me Malala.” The plan is to show the movie either after school or that evening. Put this event on your radar. It would be great for AAUW members to attend.

**SECRETARY: Lisa West.** Lisa submitted meeting minutes from the January 25, 2016, general meeting that were published in the Twig.

Motion by Lisa Hedin, and seconded by Pat Powers to approve the general meeting minutes as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER: Nancy Techam.** Pam noted that the checking account balance is \$2,782, and the only February expense was \$350 for the NCCWSL candidate.

Motion by Trudy Cragg, and seconded by Glenda Schnirring to approve the Treasurer’s Report as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MEMBERSHIP: Pat Hanson and Janet Grove.** Three guests were introduced.

**PROGRAMS: Peggy Horsch and Pam Sullivan.** Peggy and Pam reminded members that March will feature the speaker from Breaking Free, and that the April program will be the annual Spring Social at the Onion Grill.

**PUBLIC POLICY: Pat Powers.** Pat summarized the AAUW National weekly reports. Tammy Duckworth, who lost her legs in an Iraq explosion, is working in Congress to introduce a bill to maximize financial aide for working students whose aide is adversely affected because they need to work to support themselves and pay for their education. Catherine Hill (AAUW National) quoted Tammy in her press release. Regarding the issue of voter fraud, research has shown that out of 1 billion votes, there may be 30 fraudulent votes. And while this number is minuscule, there is a substantial drop in voters when photo identification is required in order to vote. Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, announced 12 weeks of paid maternity leave for active duty or reserve service women. The navy currently provides 18 weeks of paid leave. Federal subsidized child care was increased to 14 hours a day. The cost of frozen eggs or sperm will

also be covered, if a service member fears they will be unable to have children when they return from service.

**GAD-ABOUTS: Cindy Toppin and Sue Cruse.** Sue reminded members of the March 17 event to the Sheldon Theater in Red Wing to see “Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos,” at 1:30 p.m., at a cost of \$24.50 per person. There are only 4 tickets left. It’s possible more could be obtained if there is interest beyond 15 attendees. A May 10 event is planned – a tour of the Basilica, with lunch somewhere near Loring Park. There will be a “plan B” in place in case there is an unforeseen event at the Basilica (e.g., funeral).

**BOOK CLUB: Shirley Tammen.** Shirley summarized the successful, well-received 2016 Hastings Reads events. The March 14, Book Club discussion will be of “Winter Garden,” by Kristin Hannah. It’s a moving novel that traces the bond between a mother, her daughters and sisters whose lives come together when their dying father reveals long buried secrets about their mother’s past life in Leningrad. The hostess will be Pat Giddings. “All The Light We Cannot See,” by Anthony Doerr, was chosen for the April 11 book discussion. 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. Katherine Applegate, author of “The One and Only Ivan,” will be in town on April 7.

**NCCWSL: Gail Glashan.** Gail mentioned that the St. Cloud Branch will be hosting a Tech Savvy event on Saturday, April 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. AAUW members are invited to attend, but must pay for lunch.

**COMMUNITY: Margaret Goderstad.** Margaret noted that March is a quiet month at the LeDuc Historic Estate, but that the Hastings Tastings event will be March 1.

**HISTORIAN: Trudy Cragg.** Trudy reminded members that she is the “keeper of the archives” and would appreciate any pictures members want to share relative to AAUW.

**GARAGE SALE: Kathy O’Keefe and Linda Bindman.** Kathy and Linda mentioned that a new venue is still being researched. They are in negotiations with Kennedy Elementary regarding a required on-site person. The custodians think it should be one of them at \$35/hour.

### NEW BUSINESS

It was mentioned that the late Cliff Moen’s art will be shown in a retrospective sometime in April at the Orange Dragon Art Gallery in Prescott. More details are forthcoming.

### ADJOURN

Motion by Shirley Tammen, and seconded by Pat Hanson to adjourn the business meeting. The business meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:28 p.m.

Kathy O'Keefe introduced the evening's speakers on Autism: Sarah Anderson – Early Childhood Special Education and district representative to the State of Minnesota for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Kathy O'Keefe – Elementary Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and administer of initial ASD testing for the district; Carlyn Cooper – Middle School Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and conductor of initial testing with Kathy O'Keefe; and Jan Hanson – High School Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and district representative to the State of Minnesota for ASD.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa West, Secretary

## AAUW Funds

*Jan Junkman*

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The high school scholarship selection committee met in early February and selected a very well qualified young woman to receive our \$2500 scholarship for 2016. The name of the scholarship recipient will be announced at the May 23rd Awards Night Ceremony at the high school. This is the same evening as our last AAUW general meeting for the season, and hopefully I will be able to attend both events and tell you all about her!

I received a nice thank you note, below, from Britta Pontzer Johnson for the 2015 scholarship which was paid out in January of this year. I am sure that Mom continues to be proud...

"2-3-16

Jan, Thank you again for the generous donation towards my college education. I'm sorry this note took so long to get to you-life has been hectic. So far second semester is going well. I'm in Spanish, Econ, International Relations, Russian culture studies, and a class to certify me as a writing center tutor. I am also involved in student government-I am one of the class of 2019 representatives. I am also on the funding board committee. I hope this note finds you well, and thank you again.

Best,  
Britta Johnson"

## Public Policy

*Pat Powers*

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The AAUW Minnesota Board has voted to join the Courts Matter Minnesota Coalition. The Courts Matter Minnesota Coalition brings attention to the issues surrounding the federal courts.

"Our nation's federal courts make rulings on virtually every issue that is important to Americans. Although most Americans are familiar with the Supreme Court, many are surprised to hear that more than 900 judges have lifetime appointments to serve on lower federal courts and hear thousands of times the number that the Supreme Court hears. And most of the time it's these lower courts that have the final say. They deal with controversies in Civil Rights, Corporations, Criminal Justice, Environment, Gun Violence, Healthcare, Immigration, LGBT Equality, Money In Politics, Religious Liberties, Reproductive Rights, Voting Rights. The lower courts are awaiting: 81 total vacancies; 31 Judicial Emergencies, 12 nominees awaiting a vote from the full US Senate, having cleared the Judiciary Committee, 22 nominees awaiting a vote in the Judiciary Committee." (from Why Courts Matter)

Filling the open positions is important. It matters especially if you are involved in a case. The courts cannot get to the cases at hand. The access to justice is too slow for millions of Americans. Even at the level of the Supreme Court Justice, as we will see, there is obstruction. Get more information, go to <http://whycourtsmatter.org/>.

And  
March 8th was the 107th year of celebration of International Women's Day. March is also Women's History Month. Social Media posts on the 8th were fabulous especially the successes of women. Nobel Prize posted a video of Women who changed the world. It was 56 photos of women and their contribution that won the Nobel Prize. And on the down side there is so much to be done for women in the world to say we have equal rights in the realms of economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. There are statistics compiled by the United Nations of 145 nations that are staggering in the differences in the treatment of women. Iceland rates at the top. <http://www.startribune.com/on-international-women-s-day-still-far-to-go/371459051/>

## Book Club

*Shirley Tammen*

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Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah is the selection for discussion on Monday, March 14. A moving novel that traces the bond between a mother, her daughters and sisters whose lives come together when their dying father reveals long buried secrets about their mother's past life in Leningrad. The hostess will be Pat Giddings.

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr was chosen for Monday, April 11. This Pulitzer Prize winning novel has been on the NY Times best seller list for two and 1/2 years. This sensitive, beautifully written novel traces a young German mechanical genius and a blind French girl living in occupied Paris during WWI. The hostess for this evening will be Lisa Hedin.

Bookstube at the Bierstube continues its monthly author appearances. Sponsored by Chapter2 Books, Steve Thayer (The Weatherman) will discuss his novels at the Bierstube on Thursday, March 17-7-9pm. No registration necessary. On April 21, Mary Sharratt, historical fiction writer, will speak.

## Gad-Abouts

*Susan Cruse & Cindy Toppin*

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

**Thursday, March 17 - the Sheldon Theater in Red Wing with lunch at the St. James Hotel:**

**Meet at Sterling at 10:30, with 10:45 departure to Red Wing.**

Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos defies all expectations and experiences in a dueling piano show. Dave and Ted take you on a variety class act adventure, where the audience paves the way to a wild and zany performance. Completely customized for each venue and audience, the show dares to go where you take it with comedy, music, and a whole lot of improv. Whether twenty- five or eighty-five, your audience will be guaranteed to be on their feet and part of the action!

At this point, we have 16 women going. If you are still wanting to join us, call Susan at [651-437-1767](tel:651-437-1767) for more info and we can check if more tickets are available.

**May Event:**

**Tuesday, May 10 - Tour of the Basilica in Minneapolis, with lunch at The Third Bird—** near Loring Park. Watch for further details. Sign up will be begin at the March general meeting. The tour is only \$2 or whatever you want to donate.

## Community

Margaret Goderstad

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### HASTINGS FAMILY SERVICE

March is Food Share Month and what a wonderful opportunity to be a neighbor to someone we may not even know. Donations of non-perishable food and cash may be dropped off at Hastings Family Service. Several churches around town are also holding food drives and donations may be dropped off at your respective churches.

### THE LeDUC HISTORIC ESTATE

#### STORY HOURS

Each Saturday morning, 10-11 a.m. there will be a story hour for children ages 3 to 9 years and accompanied by an adult. During the month of March the story hours will center around the theme of "Cabin Fever." After the end of May when the chicks have arrived the story hours will meet near the LeDuc chicken coop. Old-time favorites and classical stories will be read. Children will be able to make a take-home craft item that relates to the stories and enjoy cookies and milk.

#### 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.

## Diversity

Margaret Cox

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### **Minnesota High School Graduation Rates**

Minnesotans are pretty proud of our school and commitment to education. It was a shock for me to hear that Minnesota is on the bottom of the pack for its failure to graduate students of color: Native American, black, Hispanic, or Asian-American. MPR has a chart on its webpage showing Minnesota's rank in the nation, including a breakdown by demographics. <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/03/07/graduation-gap-by-the-numbers>

Minnesota education officials explain Minnesota's graduation rate and the racial graduation gap in part by pointing to the state's rigorous course standards and credit requirements, aimed at college readiness. That makes our HS diploma more valuable than in other states.

It is likely there is truth to that explanation. However, Minnesota also spends less than any other state on student support services, such as counselors, social workers, and attendance trackers. The MPR article that I read has a lot of interesting information of what various districts are doing to raise their graduation rates. There are also stories of students who dropped out and the impact on their lives.

Some websites that provide information are:

\*Star Tribune Article: Minnesota Graduation Rates are up but 2020 goal will be a steep climb. <http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-graduation-rates-are-up-but-2020-goal-will-be-a-steep-climb/293945711/>

\*Minnesota Alliance with Youth: Creating innovation through collaboration-- an initiative of the Alliance, Governor Dayton, and the Minnesota Department of Education that aims to end the state's dropout crisis by 2020. <https://mnyouth.net/about/the-five-promises/>

I would say that the ESL teachers in Hastings work very hard to make sure that all English Learners graduate. They keep on top of attendance, homework assignments, and have high expectations for post HS education. The ELs are supported by their teachers and also other very committed support staff. At the high school, the ESL study hall has an EL teacher, paras, and HS students to help bridge the academic gap and find success.

## Treasurer

Nancy Techam

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The checking account balance as of February 29, 2016 is \$2,792.84. The AAUW Board is presently working on the budget for 2016-2017. The proposed budget for the upcoming year will be presented to the full membership at the April meeting.

Nancy Techam,  
Treasurer

### **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>



SUMMARY: Four teachers in the Hastings School District — Carol Mattson, Mary Ellen Olson, Pat Schultz and Mark Zuzek — have been selected as Teachers of Excellence. Based upon a vote of Hastings Education Association members, one will be named the 1992 Teacher of the Year on March 6.



### Sherry Akins

A 21-year member of the faculty of the Hastings School District, Sherry Akins has been teaching life science for five years at the Hastings Middle School. She has been honored by her peers at the Middle School.

"Mrs. Akins does not expect her students to be the best, but she does expect them to do their best," said Middle School Principal Leonard Schwartz. "She feels that each of her students possesses special gifts and talents and she works very hard developing opportunities for them to achieve success in the area of science."

Schwartz said that it is not unusual to see Akins standing over her students at their laboratory tables challenging them to expand their ideas and thoughts about a particular experiment or complex problem.

Often students return to see Akins and seek her advice about a particular science project they may be working on at the senior high school. "Students care about Mrs. Akins, because they know how much she cares about them."

In addition to regular classroom responsibilities, Akins participated in Science Fair, Science Challenge, is an advisor to the speech team, and is a member of the superintendent's advisory committee. Thanks to her efforts to conserve natural resources, many tons of white paper are recycled each year by students at the school.

MEMBERS  
IN THE  
NEWS  
1992



### New masters program on site in Hastings

SUMMARY: Twenty-two Hastings teachers are completing their work on their masters in teaching program through St. Mary's College. And they are doing it here at the Middle School.

Diane Saed is an enthusiastic supporter of the masters in teaching program.