

**Photos from Gad Abouts Trip to the Capitol**



Look for more Gad Abouts information on Page 3.

**Program**

*Rosalie Cavis & Deb Saunders*

**Poverty in our Midst: Facts, Figures and Action**  
**To address Poverty in Dakota County**

Our November Hastings Branch AAUW Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 27. Kelly Harder, the Director of Dakota County Community Services, will be our speaker. In the abundance of this time of year it is good to reflect that not everyone is as fortunate. Thanksgiving is one day that most will have an opportunity for a healthy abundant meal but what about the rest of the year? Poverty in Dakota County increased from 5.1% (2007) to 7%. (2015). We know that poverty disproportionately effects women and children; an estimated 11% of children in Dakota County live in households below the federal poverty level. While lower than the state and national averages, Dakota's poverty level is higher than other metro counties, except Hennepin and Ramsey. Last year Dakota County piloted an emergency shelter program with local churches. It was used: for 32 days, a 24-hour temporary shelter that switched off among four churches fed and housed 78 people, ages 8 months to 71 years. Housing remains a critical issues for our neighbors with long wait lists for supported, affordable housing. Kelly Harder is a recognized leader on these issues and has implemented a progressive, innovative approach in Dakota County to coordinate and address all areas of a client's needs that is gaining national attention. His passion for the work to address poverty will be sure to impress.

Coordinated by Peggy Horsch

**Upcoming Events**

- November 13.....Book Club
- November 27.....General Meeting
- November 30.....Gad-Abouts
- December 18.....Holiday Social

**HASTINGS BRANCH**

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

**2017-2018 PROGRAMS**

**September 25, 6:00 pm SALAD SUPPER**  
**Hastings School Board Candidates and Superintendent Tim Collins**  
2017 NCCWSL Takeaway, Scholarship Recipients  
Rosemary Pechous and Loren Bushyhead

**October 23, 6:00 pm AT HHS**  
**Sexual Assault on High School and College Campuses--St. Olaf College Sexual Assault Resource Network Speakers**  
Co-presentation with Hastings High School Feminism Club and Counseling Office

**November 27, 7:00 pm**  
**Poverty in our Midst: Facts, Figures and Action to Address Poverty in Dakota County**  
Kelly Harder, Dir., Dakota County Community Services

**December 18, 7:00 pm HOLIDAY SOCIAL**  
**Food, Music and Celebration**

**January 22, 6:00 pm CHILI SUPPER**  
**Her Story – Some Hastings Women Who Made a Difference**  
Heidi Langenfeld, Local Historian

**February 26, 7:00 pm**  
**History of African Americans in Minnesota**  
Bill Green

**March 26, 7:00 pm**  
**What's Next for State Health Care Policy: Cost and Coverage**  
Lynn A. Blewett, U of M School of Public Health

**April 23, 6:00 pm SPRING SOCIAL**  
**Meditation and Mindfulness**  
Dr. Mona Roach

**May 21, 7:00 pm**  
**"Katie's Kids" Program**  
Joan Demeules, St Catherine's University Access and Success Director

## Secretary

Pam Pontzer

### AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – October 23 , 2017

The meeting was held at the Lecture Hall at Hastings High School. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by President Lisa West.

Lisa welcomed the members of the Hastings High School Feminism Club who were in attendance at the general meeting. Lisa noted that it has been a pleasure working jointly with the club and the club's advisor Kari Jaeger on the October AAUW program which would commence at 7:00 in the Hastings High School Auditorium. Lisa described AAUW and its history and outlined the many activities that AAUW is involved in. Lisa noted that our branch has a new website. She thanked Mary Ellen Fox who developed the website. Mary Ellen noted that in addition to our new website, we will now have a Facebook presence. Mary Ellen will provide log-in information to members.

The Secretary's Report was approved for the September 2017 General Meeting with a motion by Nancy Techam, and second by Vicky Amundson. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer, Mary Charlson, presented the Treasurer's report for October 2017. October has been a quiet month. There have been no deposits or expenses. We have received funding from AAUW Minnesota for tonight's program. We have added one new member and had a final donation for the garage sale. The balance is \$6,804.43. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Cindy Toppin and seconded by Gail Glashan. The motion was unanimously approved.

Membership Co-Chair Ruth Versaw and Camille Nelson noted that there were two guests present at the meeting and that our membership is now at 84.

Program Past Co-Chair Peggy Horsch informed the membership that there would be a short reception after the business meeting to allow our membership and the Feminism Club members to mingle. Peggy noted that she is very impressed with both the Feminism Club and its advisor, Kari Jaeger. Peggy mentioned that the November program deals with poverty in Dakota County. The speaker will be Kelly Harder, the Director of Dakota County Community Services. Program Past Co-Chair Pam Sullivan informed the membership that the Holiday Social will be held on December 18, 2017 at the Hastings Art Center. She asked members to sign up to bring a dessert, an appetizer, or contribute \$10.00.

Public Policy Chair Pat Powers noted that Jan Carey is the new Public Policy chair for AAUW Minnesota. Jan would like to focus on four areas. The first is to build relationships with politicians at all levels. The second is to develop an 8-10 minute public policy video. The third is to provide education about candidates running for office and the fourth is SALSAs, an email communication system to cut down on duplication. Pat noted that AAUW National has been active in critiquing proposed changes to Title IX made by Betsy DeVos, Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Education. Pat noted that 10,000 AAUW members have lobbied to block the proposed rollbacks to Title IX safeguards.

Gad-Abouts Co-Chairs Cindy Toppin and Sue Cruse informed the group that the first activity will be a tour of the Minnesota State Capital on October 26, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. The event is free but a \$5.00 donation would be appreciated. The group will leave Hastings at 9:00 A.M. with lunch to follow the tour at the Louisiana Cafe. The second event will be a presentation of "Coco's Diary" at the Minnesota History Theater on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. There are 4 tickets left for the play. Please see Sue after the meeting as arrangements will be finalized in a few days.

Hospitality Co-Chairs Patty Todnem and Nancy Ahn had nothing to report.

Book Club Chair Shirley Tammen informed the members that the book group will meet on November 13, 2017 at the home of Ramona McCullough. The book is "LaRose" by Louise Erdrich.

Twig Editor Lois Twedt informed the group that she will be attending the "Tech Savvy" event to be held on October 28, 2017 in St. Cloud. Tech Savvy is a STEM event for girls in grades 5-9 and will run from 9:30 to 3:30. The event is sponsored by AAUW St Cloud and St Cloud State University. Lois noted that a \$2500 grant is available from AAUW Minnesota for any branch wanting to undertake such an event. She will report back to us next month.

AAUW Funds Chair Glenda Schnirring had nothing to report.

NCCWSL Chair Gail Glashan explained the NCCWSL program to the Feminism Club. She noted that the membership should be thinking about possible candidates to attend the 2017-2018 event. Be on the lookout for eligible junior and senior college women.

Community Chair Margaret Goderstad informed the group of that on October 24, 2017 there was a free musical concert at the Hastings Art Center. The concert begins at 10:30. On the evening of the 24th, the Community Band, the Sheldon Orchestra, and the Hastings High School Wind Ensemble will perform at Hastings High School. The HPAAC Gala will be held at SEAS church on November 3, 2017. Debbie and Alan Saunders will be honored as the Art Heroes at that event. On November 25, 2017, there will be a holiday tea at the Le Duc. Spiral Brewing will hold a tasting on December 9, 2017. Check the HastingsNow app for other upcoming activities.

Diversity Chair Marlys Schmitt had nothing to report.

Historian Lisa Hedin had nothing to report.

Garage Sale Co-Chairs Linda Bindman and Kathy O'Keefe told the group that the garage sale had been fantastic and that they are stepping down to allow others to experience the fun of chairing this committee.

Old Business. None

New Business - Two representatives of the Hastings High School Feminism club told the members about the club. The Feminism Club was formed in 2014 with the mission to bring awareness of feminism and equality for women to Hastings High School. They have been associated with "Girl Up", A United Nations organization. The Feminism Club would like to hold a fundraiser to purchase bikes for girls to use to get to school in countries where transportation is not available. The club meets twice a month on Wednesday. They have discussions, speakers and view relevant documentaries. They will be selling the 2017 Feminism Club T-Shirts in upcoming months and will let our membership know when they go on sale.

Announcements - Kelsey Waits, a School Board Candidate, told the group that the Hastings Chamber of Commerce is holding a School Board Candidates Forum at the Hastings Middle School on October 24, 2017. A Reception would be held at 6:30 P.M., with the Forum beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Lisa West noted that we had received a thank you note from Tim Collins regarding his appearance at our September General Meeting to discuss the upcoming Bond and Levy vote.

There were 52 attendees at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

The evening's program, "Sexual Assault on Campus Awareness" was presented by St. Olaf Sexual Assault Resource Network and began at 7:00 p.m. in the Hastings High School Auditorium. This program was a co-sponsored by the Hastings High School Feminism Club and AAUW of Hastings for current high school and college students and prospective students and parents. There were approximately 150 attendees at the program.

Secretary,  
Pam Pontzer

## Community

Margaret Goderstad

### THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE-

- November 25 - Holiday High Tea - 3:30 p.m. - Reservations Required - Call 651-438-8480

- December 2 - Holiday High Tea - 3:30 p.m. (Filled)

- December 9 - Spiral Brewery Tasting - 5:30 p.m. - Reservations Required - Call 651-438-8480

- November 25 & 26 and December 2 & 3 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open House for Holiday Tours and shopping

### HASTINGS ARTS CENTER

- November 10 - "Songs at Work" - 7:30 p.m. - FREE concert featuring Carolyn Campfield, Soprano, & Sarah Lockwood, Piano - Donations accepted to help with on-going Steinway piano fund.

- November 18 - "Hornucopia" - 7 p.m. - Unforgettable hit-making, horn-driven groups from the 60's to the current era - Advance discount tickets online @ [hastingsartscenter.com](http://hastingsartscenter.com) or call 651-437-3250 - Tickets are also available at the door.

River Valley Community Band—Watch for December date, time and venue for this excellent group's holiday concert.

## Gad-Abouts

Susan Cruse & Cindy Toppin

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

### Update on visit to the restored State Capitol:

We were 29 strong on our visit to the Capitol in St. Paul last month. We were lucky enough to have Lisa West's daughter, Mariah, as our tour guide, and she did a great job! The newly restored building is wonderful, and really worth a visit. Then we went through the tunnel to the new Senate Office Building, where AAUW member Danna Elling Schulz gave us a tour. (Danna works in Senate Research for the DFL). Danna has kindly offered to bring more copies of the "green book" that lists all Legislators and their contact info to the next AAUW meeting. This is a great tool in your efforts to advocate for issues that you care about. (Trivia note: These books are available for free in the State Office Building where the House of Representatives members have their offices - Hastings Mayor Paul Hicks is in charge of the office where you pick up the books.)

### Next up is the History Theater - "Coco's Diary"

The story is about Co Co Irvine, a precocious young woman in St. Paul who receives a diary for Christmas. *Coco's Diary* follows her ups and downs of a roller coaster year featuring the greatest songs of the 1920's.

**Date: Thursday, November 30** - play is at 10 a.m.

Meet: Sterling parking lot, NW corner, at 8:45. We leave at 9:00.

Lunch is at the Downtowner Restaurant, you will order off the menu for lunch.

**All tickets have been reserved.** If you want to be put on a waiting list, call Susan Cruse.

## Book Club

Shirley Tammen

Louise Erdrich's LA ROSE was selected as the Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> book club selection. When a man accidentally kills his best friend's son in a hunting accident, he offers his own son to replace the son who died. Ramona McCullough is hostess at this meeting.

OUR SOULS AT NIGHT by Kent Haruf will be the novel for discussion on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This novel's theme captures our need to love and be loved, no matter our age.

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Author Night at the Bierstube on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> will be Brian Landon, who has written several crime novels featuring Detective Doyle Malloy as the bumbling, goofy protagonist.

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Hastings Reads is gearing up for an event filled February, 2018. REFUGEE VOICES is the theme. The speaker on Tuesday, February 20 at the Arts Center will be Kao Kalia Yang, a Hmong refugee whose family settled in St. Paul, Minnesota. Yang's memoir of her father, THE SONG POET, won the 2017 Minnesota Book Award. Many other activities are scheduled for February, with the kick off at Pleasant Hill Library on Saturday, February 3. The Twig will provide a full slate of the events in the January issue. Hastings AAUW is a sponsor of the Hastings Reads programs.

## Treasurer

Mary Charlson

Our branch received a Project Grant from AAUW MN State Board for the funding of October's program. After paying for expenses associated with the presentation the checking account balance at the end of October is at \$6,797.21.

Mary Charlson  
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>

***HOLIDAY SOCIAL!***

***December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.***

***Hastings Arts Center***

***Food, Music, and Celebration***

Sign up at the next meeting  
or email Pam Sullivan—toadmanormail@gmail.com

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**Historian**

*Lisa Hedin*

**Hastings AAUW Board Members**

President .....	Lisa West
Past-President.....	Pam Pontzer
Co-Vice Presidents Membership.....	Camille Nelson
	Ruth Versaw
Co-Vice Presidents Programs.....	Rosalie Cavis
	Deb Saunders
Secretary .....	Pam Pontzer
Treasurer .....	Mary Charlson
AAUW Funds.....	Glenda Schnirring
Book Club.....	Shirley Tammen
Community.....	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity .....	Marlys Schmitt
Gad-Abouts.....	Susan Cruse
	Cindy Toppin
Historian.....	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality.....	Nancy Ahn
	Kathy Stockman
	Patty Todnem
NCCWSL.....	Gail Glashan
Newsletter.....	Lois Twedt
Public Policy.....	Pat Powers
Website.....	Mary Ellen Fox
Garage Sale .....	Linda Bindman
	Kathy O'Keefe
School Supply Drive .....	Mary Ellen Olson
	Cathy Sery

***A Page From the Scrapbook***



December 1989 at LeDuc Historic Estate  
Shirley Tammen and Marcia Pletcher