



Hastings Branch

November 2014



President's Message

Pam Pontzer

I just got home from voting. My polling place was hopping. Thank you to Ann Skoglund and all the other election judges who volunteer their time in order to facilitate voting for all citizens.

A few other big thanks are in order. Gail Glashan, Jan Junkman, Ann Skoglund and Pat Powers have done a wonderful job in getting the Hastings AAUW Branch in a position to sponsor a Hastings area sophomore or junior female college student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington D.C. Now we need the membership to bring forth some possible candidates!

Kathy O'Keefe and Linda Bindman have graciously volunteered to head up the AAUW Great Garage Sale next fall! Because both of you are overachievers by nature, we'll set the garage sale goal high so as to keep your interest!

Finally, Mary Memelink pitched in to get the October general meeting notice out to the membership after Lois Twedt tried, unsuccessfully, from Paris no less. That is dedication, Lois.

I hope that you all take time to listen to the Supreme Court Preview Call. The actual recording is on the AAUW website. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund does an outstanding job of both covering how the cases arrived at the Supreme Court and the intricacies of the particular cases. 10,000 case requests are made to the Supreme Court each term. Of those cases, a mere 70 are accepted. The 5 cases covered in the preview call directly affect women's rights in a variety of settings. We can more effectively lobby our congress people if we are armed with this type of research.

Tomorrow evening, November 5, the AAUW Action Fund is sponsoring a Post-Election Analysis Call. Information on how the election results will affect AAUW priority issues, such as pay equity legislation, will be addressed. I will report on what I hear at our November Meeting.

Program

Pat Schultz & Ann Skoglund

November 24



November's guest speaker will be Hastings resident David Page, an English and journalism instructor at Inver Hills Community College. His topic will be "F. Scott Fitzgerald and James J. Hill: The Ties between St. Paul's Literary and Entrepreneurial Lions." He will be talking about the "poor little outsider" myth.

David is an international and national expert and lecturer on F. Scott Fitzgerald, his life and his works. He has been a featured speaker at and organizer of international and national conferences on F. Scott Fitzgerald and is a current board member of "F. Scott Fitzgerald in St. Paul," a non-profit dedicated to promoting Fitzgerald's life and work in St. Paul.

He has spoken around the world and the country including at the LeDuc Mansion where he spoke on "F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Civil War."

He is a published author; a couple of David's writings include: the text for the *Fitzgerald in St. Paul Walking Tour* brochure and the introduction to *The Thoughtbook of F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Secret Boyhood Diary*. David will have copies of *The Thoughtbook* for sale.

Our meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., followed by our guest speaker

Upcoming Events

- November 10Book Club
- November 24General Meeting
- November 25Gad-Abouts
- December 8Book Club

Hastings Branch

2014-2015 PROGRAMS

September 22 — Salad Supper
Hastings as a Destination: Looking Back, Moving Forward
Cynthia Messer, U of M Tourism Center
Co-Creator TPT Minnesota Tourism Special

October 27
Financial Advice for Women
Suzann Brown, Wealth Management Advisor

November 24
An Evening with F. Scott Fitzgerald
David Page, Inver Hills Community College

December 15
A Holiday Social
at the LeDuc Mansion

January 26 — Chili Supper
Trauma/Adverse Childhood Experiences
Sheri Fox, M.A., R.N.

February 23
Children In Child Protection — Why Should I Care?
Cindy Toppin and Theresa Gomez,
Metro Alliance for Healthy Families

March 23
Refugees in Minnesota
Laura Svoboda, Resettlement Director for Arrive Ministries (formerly World Relief)

April 27 — Spring Social at Bella Vista Restaurant
"I'm New at Being Old!"
Lucy Rose Fischer, Author and Artist

May 18
"Cooking Up the Good Life"
Jenny Breen, Chef and Author

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 27, 2014

PRESIDENT: Pam Pontzer. Pam called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcoming 43 members and guests. Pam brought a Wall Street Journal column to members' attention. On October 11, John Bussey, wrote an article entitled "Gender Wage Gap Reflects 'Ask Gap.'" Mr. Bussey was responding to comments made by Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, who was speaking at a Women's Technology conference. A woman at the conference asked for advice for women interested in advancing their career, but who are not comfortable asking for a raise. Nadella responded, "It's not really about asking for the raise, but knowing and having faith that the system will actually give you the right raises as you go along." While Nadella's advice was shockingly "tin-eared," Bussey implies in his article that the wage gap could be solved by more women simply asking for a raise. Additionally, Pam shared an October 14, op-ed written by Gerald Skoning, a labor and employment lawyer in Chicago, entitled "The Mythical 'Pay Equity' Crisis." Skoning is adamantly opposed to the Paycheck Fairness Act. He believes women are already protected by current law. He says, "Pay disparities between men and women generally reflect other factors such as interrupting a career to raise children, the types of jobs men and women on average choose, the type of education they have (sociology versus engineering), etc." We still have a long way to go, with opinions like these published in the Wall Street Journal.

SECRETARY: Lisa West. Lisa submitted meeting minutes from the September 22, 2014, general meeting that were published in the Twig. Motion by Pat Powers, and seconded by Barb Moen to approve the September 22, 2014, general meeting minutes as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER: Nancy Techam. Nancy summarized recent revenues and expenses, and noted the checking account balance of \$7,199. One of the most recent expenses was the \$439 cost of the new projection system for program and member speakers. Motion by Sallee Jepsen, and seconded by Arden Sanstead, to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

PROGRAMS: Pat Schultz and Ann Skoglund. Pat and Ann noted next month's speaker, David Page, who will present "An Evening with F. Scott Fitzgerald." The Holiday Social will be held on December 15 at the LeDuc Historic Estate; Mary Ellen Olson and Laura Leak are coordinating the event. A sign-up sheet for event refreshments was circulated.

GAD-ABOUTS: Jane Driscoll and Joann Bergman. Jane and Joann informed members of the next three Gad-About events: October 30 – the Treasure Island Cruise; November 25 – the Buddy Holly Story at the Minnesota History Theater; and December 19 – a visit to the Swedish Institute. Sign-up sheets were circulated, with another chance to sign up for events at the November general meeting.

HOSPITALITY: Betty Hoeschen. Betty thanked members for the refreshments provided at the meeting and asked members to please sign-up to fill in any blanks on the list for up-coming meeting refreshments.

BOOK CLUB: Shirley Tammen. Barb Moen noted the November 10 discussion of the book, "Defending Jacob," by William Landay that will be hosted at Pat Giddings' home. The December 8 Book Club discussion will be of the book, "A Christmas Blizzard," by Garrison Keillor, that will be hosted by Ramona McCullough.

PUBLIC POLICY: Pat Powers. Pat reported the following items. Linda Hallman, Executive Director of AAUW National, wants us to know that AAUW is supporting combating all crimes against women, especially sexual assault against women in the Military, all domestic violence, and attacks on young women on college campuses. Donations are welcome. AAUW Action Network is now embracing Twitter. Go to www.Wetweet.org/AAUW, put in your zip code and select the cause that you want your congressman or candidate to know you support. A tweet will go to those who represent you. It is the countdown to the elections. We need to help everyone get to the polls. Do you know someone who needs a ride or needs a reminder to go vote? Voting is open right now; you can go to the courthouse or city hall and vote. Also, you can easily get an absentee ballot, with no need to provide an excuse and mail your vote. There is a report on Social Security in a Washington Update. AAUW believes Social Security is important to the economic security of women. New rules were announced for expanding the Federal Direct Plus Loan Program to help more American students afford college. The process

of requesting a loan is easier, and there are new tools to help families make informed decisions about what they're agreeing to accept and what they can afford to pay back. Lastly, Federal Reserve Board Chair, Janet Yellin, said that making higher education affordable and accessible is the key to reducing economic inequality.

AAUW FUNDS: Jan Junkman. Jan informed members that a committee was formed to prepare an application and process to solicit candidates for the 2015 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. (NCCWSL), to be held at the University of Maryland, May 28-30, 2015. This is a great opportunity for a Hastings area college student. Gail Glashan gave a presentation on NCCWSL and the benefits for the college student chosen. A flyer was distributed, and an article will appear in the Hastings Star Gazette. Members are encouraged to seek candidates among family, friends and students for a mid-level college student – preferably a sophomore or junior student. The NCCWSL has been held for 29 years and is attended by about 1,000 students from across the country. AAUW Minnesota has \$5,500 budgeted to send 11 college students to the NCCWSL by providing \$500 toward each student's expenses. AAUW Hastings would provide \$350 toward our chosen student's expenses. Members can go to the AAUW Minnesota webpage to find more information.

COMMUNITY: Margaret Goderstad. Margaret informed members of several events taking place at the LeDuc Historic Estate: November 8 – 16, there will be an artist show from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; November 16, Hastings resident, Dave Youngren, will be the Author of the Day, with musical entertainment that evening; November 13 and 21, there will be a Scotch Tasting, through Community Education; and November 30 and into December, Holiday Teas are scheduled.

GARAGE SALE: Kathy O'Keefe and Linda Bindman. Kathy informed members that she and Linda will be Co-Chairs of the 2015 Grand Garage Sale, and that several other members have offered to assist. Kathy encouraged members to start saving their stuff!

NEW BUSINESS

Glenda Schnirring informed members of a website that can tell you where your election polling place is: www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

ADJOURN

Motion by Kay Leadholm, and seconded by Lisa Hedin to adjourn the business meeting. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Diane Saed introduced the evening's speaker, Suzann Brown, a wealth management advisor for the Private Client Reserve of U.S. Bank. Suzann spoke on the topic, "Retirement... A Time of Transition," informing members of how women cannot only survive retirement, but can prepare for it and reap the benefits of their preparation.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa West, Secretary

Gad-Abouts

Jane Driscoll & Joann Bergman

Joann Bergman (651-319-0272) & Jane Driscoll (651-437-6802)

Tuesday, November 25th we're headed "Back to the '50's" at the History Theatre to enjoy Buddy, the Buddy Holly Story. We will leave the Clancy's (Sterling) parking lot at 9 AM with the play starting at 10:00. Reservations are in, but the History Theatre says there are additional tickets available, so if anyone is still interested, call Jane ASAP. Tickets are \$21.00. We plan to lunch at the Downtowner Woodfire Grill following the play.

Friday, December 19th we are going to the American Swedish Institute for the Holiday Tour and Lunch. We will leave the Clancy's (Sterling) parking lot at 9:30 with the tour beginning at 10:30. \$18 payable to Joann will cover the tour, lunch and tip. Reservations need to be made before December 12th. Plan to sign up at the November meeting.

Additional outings are in the works for Gad Abouts 2015!

Diversity

Margaret Cox

Making the Connection

When parents and students come from various countries, it is difficult for teachers and schools to know where to begin with parent outreach and involvement. In Hastings, the ESL program addresses this issue in several ways:

* Interpreters at conferences (when needed)

*Two yearly family events that have become quite popular

+A December Potluck: Families bring food from their culture, and we play games with prizes. We have representatives from the community come to present various community programs such as the YMCA or Community Education.

+A Spring BBQ on the Middle School Yard: Mark Zuzek brings his grill and families bring food. The Middle School ESL classes organize games.

+ Use of Language Line when teachers/nurses/office personnel need to contact parents.

Is there more that could be done? Most likely! At Mt. Rainier Elementary School in Maryland, they are using a program called "Tellin' Stories", a program made possible through the social justice organization *Teaching for Change*. Parents share stories of their families and culture as a way to bring parents and educators together. Parents receive training on understanding testing, report cards, and how to support and advocate for their children. Teachers receive training on improving/encouraging parent involvement. At Mt. Rainier, the parents' stories are made into a story quilt which will be displayed at the school.

If you would like to learn more about Tellin' Stories, go to www.teachingforchange.org

Historian

Trudy C ragg

A View of the Past



Gail, Marcia, Ann, Margaret, Kay, Mary, and Sandy

Treasurers Report

Nancy Techam

The checking account balance as of October 31, 2014 is \$6,626.55. We did not have any deposits in the month of October. Expenses totaled \$1,012.19. This included the cost of the projection system for speaker use, October and November speaker fees, and payment to National AAUW and Minnesota AAUW for the membership dues of our three new members and three membership renewals.

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Contact Shirley Tammen (651-437-9206) with additional questions.

Monday, November 10-- *Defending Jacob* by William Landay. A legal thriller of a family, a crime and a community. Pat Giddings will host this meeting.

Monday, December 8--*A Christmas Blizzard* by Garrison Keillor. This is a whimsical tale about contemporary life in the midwest and the holiday season. James Sparrow dreads the holiday season and wants to travel to Hawaii. His wife loves the snowy season...An unexpected blizzard and a call from a cousin takes them to North Dakota to visit a dying uncle where Sparrow experiences magical redemption. Ramona McCullough will host this meeting.

FYI—The Monday, January 12 selected book is Christina Baker Klines's *Orphan Train*. KLINE WILL BE SPEAKING AT HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, AT 6:30 P.M. FOR THE COMMUNITY, AS PART OF HASTINGS READS, 2015.

Hastings AAUW Board Members

President	Pam Pontzer
Past-President.....	Glenda Schnirring
Co-Vice Presidents Membership.....	Janet Grove
	Pat Hanson
Co-Vice Presidents Programs.....	Patricia Schultz
	Ann Skoglund
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AAUW Funds	Jan Junkman
Public Policy	Pat Powers
Diversity	Margaret Cox
Historian	Trudy Cragg
Newsletter.....	Lois Twedt
Book Club	Shirley Tammen
Hospitality	Betty Hoeschen
	Sara Strom
Garage Sale	Sue Cruse
	Patty Todnem, Cindy Toppin
School Supply Drive	Mary Ellen Olson
	Cathy Sery
Gad-Abouts	Joann Bergman
	Jane Driscoll

Community

Margaret Goderstad

THE LeDUC HISTORIC ESTATE

Please join us at the LeDuc Historic Estate for these special events:

- *Hastings Artists' Show* - November 8-16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day - FREE
- *Community Ed. Scotch Tasting* - November 13, 6 p.m. - Register through Hastings Community Ed. - \$25
- *Third Sunday Series* - Dave Youngren with [This Bend in the River](#) and harpist Chris Ward - November 16, 5 p.m. - \$20
- *Scotch Tasting* - November 21, 7 p.m. - \$25
- *Victorian Holidays Tea* - November 29, 3:30 p.m. Reservations required - Call 651-437-7055 - \$25
- *Victorian Holidays Guided Tours* - November 29 & 30, December 6 & 7, December 13 & 14, Regular hours and rates apply - Perfect for Holiday Shopping
- *Victorian Holidays Tea* - December 6, 3:30 p.m. Reservations required - Call 651-437-7055 - \$25
- *Victorian Holidays Dinner* - December 14, 5 p.m. Catered by Las Tortillas - Reservations Required - Call 651-437-7055 - \$55 for members of Dakota County Historical Society & \$65 for non-members
- *Third Sunday Series* - Century Brass Band - December 21, 5:30 p.m. - \$20

GOBBLE GAIT

Be a part of this important fund raiser for Hastings Family Service on Thanksgiving morning. Register online at www.gobblegait.com or on paper at the businesses that are mentioned in the website. This event dates back to 1998 and has grown to over 2,000 participants. If you are not a runner or walker join the celebration on 2nd Street in downtown Hastings and cheer for the runners. Contributions of non-perishable foods or \$\$s would be greatly appreciated. "C'mon & Get Your Gobble On."



You are invited to . . .

OUR ANNUAL AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Monday Evening, December 15, 2014

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Le Duc Historic Estate,

1629 Vermillion Street, Hastings

Members will provide hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

Please sign up at the November meeting.

Good friends and good cheer

Come celebrate this time of year!

AAUW Funds

Jan Junkman

NCCWSL

Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm with our new project, NCCWSL! As we discussed at the last general meeting, this scholarship represents an opportunity for a college woman to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Maryland in May, 2015. We are offering a \$850 scholarship to help with most of the expenses; \$500 will be from the state AAUW, and the other \$350 will be from our branch. We appreciate your help with spreading the news about this great opportunity to eligible young women.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO AAUW NATIONAL FUNDS

Every November we typically 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 3rd board meeting, the contribution of \$1000 was approved. This year we decided to divide our contribution in 5 segments of \$200 for each: The Legal Advocacy Fund; The MN Past Presidents' American Fellowship Fund, which is a special program within The Educational Opportunities Fund; The Public Policy Fund; The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, which supports research; and the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Fund, which is within the Leadership Programs Fund.

FUNDRAISING POLICY 501

I recently received information from the co-chairs of the National AAUW Funds. This included a newly revised policy regarding fund-raising and the dispersing of funds. The policy specifically states that the guiding principal 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. The policy also addresses collaboration with other charities and non-profit organizations, and how they relate to the AAUW mission. The board had many questions regarding this new policy. I sent an email to the co-chairs of national and am awaiting further clarification. We will inform the membership in terms of what this means for our branch, as soon as we have some answers.

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>