

WILLMAR BRANCH AAUW

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
FEBRUARY 2014

PLEASE JOIN US!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

6:45 P.M.

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (use south door)
“New Americans: U.S. Immigration Policies”**

One of our own members, BARBARA LITTLE, who is working at Woodland Centers, will speak to the topic of immigration. Barbara has a Masters Degree from Florida International University in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. While living and working in Arizona, she became very involved in the immigration issues in that state. We look forward to hearing first hand the stories of migrants, their struggles and the humanitarian efforts that go on and don't make the headlines. Refreshments will be served by Barbara, Bonnie Pehrson, and Beverly Crute.

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MEET MARI DAMHOF!

MARI is our newest member and works at the Willmar Regional Cancer Center. She has her BS in Nursing from Jacksonville University in Florida. She is originally from Sheldon, Iowa and Edgerton, Minnesota and is the oldest of four children. Mari's hobbies include working out and flower gardens (you and Susan Mattson need to talk!). She and her husband have season tickets to the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis.

When asked what she hopes to gain from belonging to Willmar AAUW, Mari said: "I look forward to being involved in an organization that supports and encourages education in women of all ages. Educated women gain a pathway to countless opportunities, and they also develop a larger network of resources."

Mari added: "Belonging to AAUW gives me a better connection to women who support and encourage women to reach their dreams and goals, whether it be starting college or running for office. I look forward to giving of my time and resources to encourage women to never stop learning and giving support to young ladies who have dreams to achieve."

WELCOME, MARI!!

NEW BOARD MEMBER

CARLA BUZZEO had graciously accepted the appointment to serve as the Willmar branch AAUW Secretary for the remainder of this school year through May. Carla is an active member of our branch, having served as VP Program for several years. She was appointed to replace Sharon Jones who is on a "leave of absence" while healing from serious eye surgery. We appreciate Carla stepping into this position and wish Sharon a speedy recovery.

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NEW OFFICERS FOR 2014-16 NEEDED!

We will be looking to fill two offices for the next two years come July 1. They are:

President (or Co-Presidents)

Vice President for Membership (or Co-Vice Presidents)

If you are willing to take your turn at either of these positions, please call or email:

Beverly Crute (H)235-8418 (W)231-4211 revbev@rice.willmar.mn.us

Jeanette Carlson 212-2267 carlsonj2@charter.net

We will be voting on these offices at the April 21 branch meeting.

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WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Because I am mentoring a Somali single mother and her family who are partnering for a new Habitat for Humanity home in Willmar, I picked up the book Keeping Hope Alive. It's the story of Dr. Hawa Abdi, "the Mother Teresa of Somalid", who is the founder of a massive camp for internally displaced people located a few miles from war-torn Mogadishu. Dr. Abdi grew up in rustic conditions, lost her mother when she was 12 years old, was married and lost a child in the subsequent two years, and then, after a divorce, left all that she knew to move to the Soviet Union to get an education and a medical degree. One of the first women in Somalia to become a gynecologist, she became a respected doctor at the largest hospital in Mogadishu.

In 1983, Dr. Abdi founded a rural clinic to offer medical care to those living outside the city; but then in the early 1990s, the Somali government collapsed, famine struck, and aid groups fled. Since then she has dedicated herself to providing help for people whose lives have been shattered by violence and poverty. Her hospital has grown to over 400 beds, she has built a school, and her 1,300 acres of farmland have been turned into a camp that has sheltered as many as 90,000 displaced people, mostly women and children. Dr. Abdi has raised her own children in the midst of one of the world's most devastating humanitarian crises and inspired her two daughters to become doctors, also. I will have this book at the February meeting for anyone who would like to borrow it. (Jeanette Carlson)

Do YOU have a favorite book to share with our AAUW members? Email your review for an upcoming newsletter, please: carlsonj2@charter.net. Thank you!

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FYI: Please correct the date that the bylaws were accepted – 2014 (not 2013).

The state AAUW convention is Friday and Saturday, April 11-12 at the Minneapolis Gale Mansion.

Our used book sale fundraiser is April 30 and May 1-3.