

WILLMAR BRANCH AAUW

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

PLEASE JOIN US!

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

6:45 P.M.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (use south door)

“Sometimes Your Passion Finds You”

In our effort to recognize and honor women leaders in our community this year, we look forward to hearing from JAMIN JOHNSON who has been the Special Projects and Resource Center Program Manager at West Central Industries since 2001. Jamin graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a BA in speech communication and history and from BGSU, Ohio, with a Master’s Degree in Interpersonal and Public Communication. Her work experience includes Coordinator, Main Street Willmar and Celebrate Art/Celebrate Coffee; Volunteer Center Coordinator, United Way of Minneapolis; Director, Robinson Hall/Fall Training Coordinator, Grand Valley State University; and Executive Director, Camp Fire Inc. Jamin can also be seen interviewing guests on our local Willmar TV channel she says “is mostly for fun and to meet new people.” She also is the WCI PR/Marketing person and does some fundraising and grant writing. Jamin will talk about WCI’s Resource Center Program, how it started, whom it helps, and why we should care.

Do YOU remember? Back in the '70's when WCI was in the basement of the city auditorium, AAUW volunteers would accompany clients to the downtown shops and help them buy personal items with money clients had earned at WCI. Later, when the agency moved to a building on East Willmar Ave., we provided “money” classes on a one-on-one basis. So, AAUW has been a friend of WCI for many years. We look forward to an update from Jamin. Refreshments will be served by Carla Buzzeo, Le Lucht, and Jeanette Carlson.

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HURRAH, BECKIE!

We are proud of one of our newest members, Beckie Simonson, the Willmar Middle School Assistant Principal, for receiving the honor of Minnesota Middle School Assistant Principal for 2013. Congratulations, Beckie!

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Please make these changes for VICKI MELBYE (retired from Ridgewater College) in your membership booklet:

Home Phone Only: 320-222-1927

Email: vicki347@charter.net

AAUW CAMPUS ACTION PROJECT

In November, Mary Myers at Ridgewater College submitted an application for a Campus Action Project grant to the National AAUW. It involved providing women foundational electronic theory used in high skill, high wage, and high demand STEM career fields. Target audiences would include female students attending alternative learning centers, women referred through the WorkForce Center, and women students at Ridgewater College with undeclared majors. Sounds wonderful, doesn't it? And "right on" with the mission of AAUW. Unfortunately, we did not receive the the grant. But, does that stop us? Never!

Beverly Crute, Mary Myers, and Jeanette Carlson met on January 3 to discuss other possibilities for seeking an AAUW CAP grant during the next go-around for applications. They decided this "Pilot for Outreach Training in STEM Careers" is still a good one. It just needs a bit of "tweaking." This will be brought to our branch board when they meet on February 11 and then at a later date to the branch members for input.

We also suggested a second project that would involve the girls from the group home, mentors at Ridgewater College, and experts in STEM careers at MinnWest.

We'll keep you all informed as we work on these exciting possibilities!

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WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Have you ever had a favorite author and read every book that person has written? I did this recently with GERALDINE BROOKS. I first read Year of Wonders, the tale of a young mother in early England living in a small village during the plague year and how she survived and helped others survive. Then, along came Caleb's Crossing, the story of the first American Indian to attend Harvard University and the young woman who helped him succeed. March came next. In this book, Brooks tells the side of the Civil War story from the view of the father of the "Little Women." Finally, I read People of the Book and the young woman who restores old manuscripts. She discovered an ancient Jewish book and traced its origin....if you love history, you'll love this one! (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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Malala was 14 years old, old enough to appreciate how much education could help her own future and the future of other girls in Pakistan. Did she understand the price to be paid for championing the right of girls in her country to go to school? On October 9, 2012, as Malala was riding home from school in a van, she was shot in the face and neck by a "bearded man" who first asked which girl was Malala. She was gravely injured. Countless Pakistani people were outraged. People around the world sent well wishes and held demonstrations to promote education. Malala may experience a measure of justice in her lifetime, and surely other Pakistani girls have been inspired to strive for their education. She was nominated for a much-deserved Nobel Prize last year. Her story is now out in a new book.

