

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT  
**AAUW GRAND RAPIDS**  
BRANCH MEMBERS

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT – Election of NEW officers in April

Our March meeting was back at the Methodist Church and we enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Deb Cleven. The program addressing mental illness was very well presented by Jan Hatch and Steve Loney of Keisler House. Our members engaged in a very inquiring Q & A and Steve fielded the questions expertly. The subject of mental illness can no longer be kept as a burden or disgrace to families as they struggle with their loved one's illness. NAMI is doing an excellent job of bringing this devastating disease to the forefront and needs the community support.

The nominating committee announced the following slate of officers for the 2014-16 Board. **Vice President of Membership: Co-Chairs Ann Clark and Shirley Jacobson; Secretary: Jan Miland; and Treasurer: Cheryl Vogel.** Our thanks to all these talented members for offering their services to the Board. As of this writing, I am sorry to announce that there is no candidate for President. This saddens me as it is a very full filling position and made very easy by the talented ladies on the Board. Hopefully, a member will come forward before we vote in April.

April's meeting will feature the director of the Forest History Center and a window on all the new events the center is presenting. April is also our semi-annual book sale to raise money for scholarship funds. The "snowbirds" will be returning and we will be glad to share our never-ending winter with them. To coin a phrase, "survival of the fittest" was very appropo for those of us who stayed, endured, and yes, prospered!

Sincerely . . . Jan Hill

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## NEW LOOK FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Given I needed to add the new logo for AAUW Minnesota, I also created a fresh look for the header of our newsletter. The tree line photo is one I took near Target in Grand Rapids last fall. We are truly blessed to live in an area with so many beautiful towering pines. If you have news or ideas for the newsletter, please contact me any time at [Arlene@honeybearwoods.com](mailto:Arlene@honeybearwoods.com) or 218-327-1411. Thanks.

Arlene Wheaton, *Timberline* editor

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## **\*\* BRANCH NEWS \*\***

### **April 21 Dinner Program**

**Location:** Methodist Church, Grand Rapids

**DINNER:** 5:30 pm, followed by short business meeting and program

**Reservations by April 16:** Charmayne Nelson, 326-4178 or [charnels@paulbunyan.net](mailto:charnels@paulbunyan.net)

### **TOPIC: Forest History Center activities, historical connections**

**SPEAKER:** The program will be given by **Jeffrey Johns**, Site Manager of the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids, who will talk about the Center and its work with the Minnesota State Historical Society. The Center offers guided tours of the 1900s-era logging camp and many hands-on environmental learning programs.

Our scholarship grantee students are invited to this meeting, and there will be a **Used Book sale** to benefit the two students from ICC who will attend the National Conference for Women Student Leaders conference at the University of Maryland in Washington, DC in early June. Note: **Chelsea Clinton** will be a NCCWSL Conference speaker this year.

### **May 19 Dinner Meeting**

**Susan Hawkinson and Nancy Johnson: Creating a poetry book for children.** Susan has written a book called "Tina Christina Sestina" and worked with Nancy's 4th grade class for ideas, art and critique. Location: Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge at 5:30 PM.

### **Program Committee Meeting**

The Program Committee will meet on **Thurs., April 17**. *Time and place to be announced via email notice.*

This will be a planning meeting for our summer programs and an initial discussion about the programs for the 2014-2015 program year. All members are encouraged to give ideas to co-chairs **Joanne Bakken** (326-3564, [jbakken@mchsi.com](mailto:jbakken@mchsi.com)) or **Marilyn Rossman** (326-6775, [mbro@paulbunyan.net](mailto:mbro@paulbunyan.net))

We have many good ideas from last year's list and are anxious to have programs that are enjoyable and educational. We try to have most of our programs based on the AAUW mission and public policy issues. All members of our Grand Rapids Branch are encouraged to come to the planning meeting or give ideas.

### **Social Media site for our Branch**

We really need to have a **blog or a social media site** to have an online presence to communicate with area women. AAUW Minnesota will help us with it, but we need a member or two to work on it and get it going. Please volunteer if you are interested; call Marilyn Rossman.

## **AAUW Member in the News: Dr. Barbara McDonald**

The Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities has appointed **Dr. Barbara McDonald as Interim President of Minnesota West Community & Technical College** in Southwestern Minnesota. Her appointment becomes effective July 1, 2014 and lasts until June 30, 2015. Barbara has served at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids since 2000, currently as provost, a role she has held since 2013. Congratulations Barbara from your AAUW sisters! To read more see the [March 26<sup>th</sup> Grand Rapids Herald Review](#) article.

### **\*\* INTEREST GROUPS \*\***

*Any member can start a new interest group. Current interest groups are open to any member. Each group decides on its meeting time, calendar of meetings and subject or purpose of the group.*

#### **LOVE TO PLAY BRIDGE**

The Snowbird Bridge Group has merged with this group and there are not enough members around for the winter months so the group will not meet again until May. Location will probably move from members' homes to Grand Rapids State Bank community room. If you are interested in playing bridge, contact Sandra Nyvall at [sandra.nyvall@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.nyvall@gmail.com) or 218-327-1009 (in Hawaii until May).

#### **CREATIVE ART**

Open studio for painting is held at the MacRostie every Tuesday, 10 AM through the afternoon. Free for members and nonmembers pay \$5. Margaret Z. Morris sends an email to those interested each week, including if this group will not meet some weeks. Bring your lunch. This is open for anyone of any level of painting or any media. We have watercolor and acrylic, and welcome other media. No cost or instruction, learning from each other and having fun. Margaret's email: [ipaint@paulbunyan.net](mailto:ipaint@paulbunyan.net) or phone 999-9683.

#### **LITERATURE – Monday group**

Group meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 10:00 AM (note time change to half hour earlier) at Grand Rapids State Bank (community room).

**April 7:** "The Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin, contact is Jean Halverson.

#### **LITERATURE – Wednesday group**

Group meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 10:30 AM at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Contact is Barbara Zimmer, 327-0911.

**April 9:** "An Invisible Thread" by Laura Schroff

#### **PUBLIC POLICY GROUP**

The next meeting is Thursday, **April 24, 4 to 5:30 PM** at the KAXE Meeting Room. The subject will be Student Success Initiative. The members of the group are

concentrating our efforts on learning about the local schools' work to improve student success. We have invited Jackie David to be our speaker for this meeting.

On March 27, Ben Hawkins, ISD 318 School Board member and retired financial manager, talked about the unusual financial situations this year because of Minnesota legislation and school disparity circumstances. It was a very interesting and informative meeting that helped us understand our local tax levy for schools and the plans for spending the increase in available money on facility improvements, technical equipment and teacher training in the next 4 years.

All AAUW members are invited to attend our meetings and bring a guest. Questions: Call Marilyn Rossman or Jean Halverson.

### **SCRABBLE ANYONE?**

This group meets on the **third Thursday at 9:00 AM to noon at River Grand** in the lounge. Come and play. Bring a scrabble board if you have one. We end by noon. Contacts: Margaret Z. Morris, 999-9683, and Barbara Zimmer, 327-0911.

### **WALKING & TALKING**

The Walking Group's winter schedule is Tuesday afternoons. We meet at 1 PM and walk for 1 to 1½ hours and then have coffee. The group is open to all members and is a "come when you can" group. We talk as we walk so this is not speed-walking, but does get us out and about. The group decides on walk locations and members are notified weekly of the plan. We generally walk in the Grand Rapids area, especially fall and winter, but have taken a few "road trips." If you want to join the group, email Karen at [k.karls@yahoo.com](mailto:k.karls@yahoo.com)

### **WRITING GROUP**

The group will meet at Marge Koch's home on Thursday, April 3, at 2 PM to write and share our work. Any member can come and try it out.

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## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS – Best Wishes!**

6 – Kay Erickson    13 – Pat Mahoney  
15 – Jean Halverson    17 – Emilie Zasada    22 – Mary Singsank

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## **AAUW GRAND RAPIDS MEETING MINUTES**

**March 17, 2014, 5:30 PM, Methodist Church**

President Jan Hill welcomed everyone. There were no guests except Steve Loney, Director of Keisler House.

Committee reports:

The Scholarship Committee announced that there will be a book sale at our April meeting to benefit our scholarships.

Jan Hill announced that we had received a scholarship of \$500 from the State AAUW to benefit our NCCWSL candidates. We will sponsor two candidates for this leadership conference in June at the University of Maryland. Our candidates are Kadeshia Hays and Gabrielle Faith.

Marilyn Rossman announced that the Public Policy Group will meet March 27 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at KAXE. Ben Hawkins will speak on school financing.

The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of Branch Officers for the coming year. President -- no candidate yet; Secretary -- Jan Miland; Membership (serving as cochairs) -- Sharon Quern and Shirley Jacobson; Treasurer -- Cheryl Vogel.

Jean Hoshal announced that a Celebration of Life will be held at Timberlake Lodge on April 12th at 11:00 a.m. for her late husband, Wayne.

Marilyn Rossman asked for suggestions for summer programs.

Our speakers, Jan Hatch and Steve Loney, spoke about local programs that help people with mental illness and also help their families. Jan spoke mainly about NAMI (National Association for Mental Illness) which has an active chapter here in Grand Rapids. Steve Loney, Director of Keisler House, spoke about programs at Northland Community Mental Health Center and about Keisler House, a clubhouse for people with mental illness in our community.

Respectfully submitted, Mac Custer, Secretary

## **AAUW GRAND RAPIDS BOARD MEETING**

### **March 24, 2014, 4:00 PM, Public Utilities Building**

Present: Jan Hill, Jan Miland, Lynette Eck, Jean Hoshal, Marilyn Clark, Marilyn Rossman, Karen Karls, Nancy Raymond, Betty Brandt, Mac Custer

Jan Hill opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. The Secretary's report was accepted as read with the addition of Lynette Eck as a member of the nominating committee.

The Treasurer's report was accepted. Our general account has \$4,335.57; Savings of \$1,694.26 and NCCWSL account has \$1,095.00. Our scholarship accounts are GRACF(endowed) of \$25,180.87 and GRACE (non-endowed) of \$2,348.11 plus the Itasca Community College Endowment of approximately \$28,000. Betty has registered our two candidates for NCCWSL and its activities.

Marilyn Rossman said that her committee is getting ideas together for our summer programs. Further, our January and February luncheons at the Sawmill Inn were very successful.

Committee Reports:

Karen Karls was congratulated on her good articles on AAUW activities for the newspaper.

Marilyn Rossman said the next meeting of Public Policy group would be Thursday, March 27 at 4:00 p.m. at KAXE. Ben Hopkins will be speaking.

Nancy Raymond said that the nametags placed at each table had been well received.

Lynette Eck is working on the directories. Please send her any changes in your information.

Newsletter deadline is this weekend.

Jan Hill spoke with Rutgers about our May meeting. We will be charging \$25 apiece for the meal.

Jean Hoshal spoke about the book sale at our April meeting which will benefit NCCWSL.

Marilyn Clark mentioned that we are looking for good flights for our NCCWSL candidates to travel to Maryland and D.C.

Marilyn also mentioned that the speaker for our April meeting will be the Forest History Director speaking on the Forest History Center and the MN Historical Society.

The nominating committee is still looking for a candidate for President.

Respectfully submitted, Mac Custer, Secretary

**ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS** – FOR MORE INFORMATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
AAUW MINNESOTA [www.aauwmn.org](http://www.aauwmn.org)