



# Hastings Branch

## March 2015



### President's Message

Pam Pontzer

I've felt more disorganized than usual for the past few months. In the world of AAUW, the activity seems to increase after Christmas. Thankfully for me (and for you) Glenda Schnirring has all of our backs. She is passionate, smart, involved and, thank heavens, very organized. Thanks for all that you do Glenda.

I also want to thank Lew Linde for sharing program suggestions with me for our 2015-16 season. He had some wonderful ideas. I know that there are more ideas bubbling up in our membership! Let me know.

March 5 was ERA Day at the Capital. Minnesota Senate File 113 and House File 212 are resolutions urging the United States Congress to remove the Equal Rights Amendment ratification deadline. The Equal Rights Amendment was written by Alice Paul and introduced in Congress in 1923. It was passed by Congress in 1972 and later ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary for inclusion into the Constitution. The deadline set by Congress for obtaining 38 states was June 30, 1982.

The above Minnesota resolution notes that the 27th and latest Amendment, known as the Madison Amendment, was originally introduced by James Madison on **June 8, 1782!** It was finally added to the Constitution on **May 7, 1999.** Surely, if this amendment, dealing with Congressional salaries, can have a 203 year ratification window, the Equal Rights Amendment should be accorded **EQUAL treatment.**

The states that have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia. As I looked at this list of states, I must admit to being surprised by a few of the names.

The AAUW State Convention registration deadline is March 13. You can register online at the Minnesota State AAUW website.

### Program

Pat Schultz & Ann Skoglund

#### March 23

On Monday, March 23, Michelle Eberhard and Annie Bunio will talk to AAUW members about Refugees in Minnesota: who they are, how they got here, and what life is like for them in Minnesota.

Eberhard is the Director of Refugee Arrival Services at Arrive Ministries (AM) in Richfield, MN. She received a BA in French and Peace Studies from the College of Saint Benedict (St. Joseph, MN) and an MA in Human Rights Studies with a concentration in genocide prevention from Columbia University (New York, NY). Eberhard enjoys working with all of Arrive Ministry's families, and strives to support each of them individually throughout their initial settlement in Minnesota

Bunio is the Resettlement Coordinator of Refugee Arrival Services at AM. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in African History and Political Science. She recently joined AM after living in rural Tanzania for two years as a teacher through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Bunio's collegiate research on the repercussions of Rwandan genocide, as well as her experiences living in Tanzania, sparked her passion to work with the refugees who now call Minnesota home.

The AAUW business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at St. Philips Lutheran Church, 1401 15th Street W. The program begins at about 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Moore

### Upcoming Events

- March 9.....Book Club
- March 23 .....General Meeting**
- March 26.....Gad-Abouts
- April 13 .....Book 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*  
Michelle Eberhard & Annie Bunio  
Arrive Ministries
- 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

**AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES-February 23, 2015**

**PRESIDENT: Pam Pontzer.** Pam called the business meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., welcoming 40 members and guests. Pam talked about how she and four other members attended the screening of “Anita – Speaking the Truth to Power” event presented by the Red Wing AAUW Branch and other community partners. Pam noted that the film was thought-provoking. Anita Hill’s testimony was far different than Clarence Thomas’. She endured three days of hostile cross examination, and had witnesses to corroborate her testimony. Thomas was gingerly questioned by the Senate Judiciary Committee and no witnesses were called. Anita Hill noted that in this case, race trumped gender. Pam went on to note the similarities between the Hill/Thomas gender inequality and sexual harassment situation and the less-palatable, Monica Lewinsky/Bill Clinton story, that many people believe was a consensual interaction. But in both cases, the more-powerful man’s actions toward the woman were inappropriate, and the balance of power was far from equal. And, as Pam’s son observed, people tend to elevate one woman and vilify the other. On a more positive topic, Pam notes that Wal-Mart announced that 500,000 full- and part-time employees will receive a pay raise in April to at least \$9.00 an hour; and by February of 2016, the rate will go to at least \$10.00 an hour. Wal-Mart also announced that employees will be able to access sick-pay immediately, versus not until the second day of an illness. And, since women comprise 57% of Wal-Mart’s work force these changes are appreciated. The AAUW State Convention will be held on April 10 and 11 in Austin, Minnesota, and it’s time for members to think about registering for the convention. The Hastings Branch can send up to six convention delegates, based on our membership. The convention registration deadline is March 13. The convention theme is, “Full STEAM Ahead,” focusing on women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math fields. Our branch will be asked to provide something for the silent auction that benefits the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Perhaps our item could center on one of the areas of focus. Please provide your thoughts on our potential auction item. We have a Nominating Committee in place to fill the roles of Program Co-Chairs and Treasurer. The committee members are: Glenda Schnirring and Jane Driscoll (from the Board), and Chris Erickson, Camille Nelson, and Rosalie Cavis from our membership. Thank you to these members for volunteering for this important committee. Lastly, in honor of Valentine’s Day, Pam left members with part of a Wall Street Journal article entitled, “The Truth About Romantic Love,” by Lee Siegel. Pam quoted the following, “Part of the change in our new disillusioned way of thinking about romantic love is that women have come into their own. The man was usually the one who called the cab after a breakup, into which he gallantly place the weeping discard. Now, from Beyoncé to Lena Dunham’s HBO series “Girls,” women are telling their side of the story. It is less hysterical then the male narratives, more disillusioned and less sentimental.” Pam concluded, “I don’t know about you, but I took it as a compliment!”

**SECRETARY: Lisa West.** Lisa submitted meeting minutes from the January 26, 2015, general meeting that were published in the Twig. Motion by Lisa Hedin, and seconded by Pat Powers, to approve the general meeting minutes, as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER: Nancy Techam.** Nancy reported the month end checking account balance of \$3,226. Nancy stated that there had been little activity since the previous month’s report. Motion Pat Schultz, and seconded by Vicki Amundson to approve the February Treasurer’s Report. The motion was unanimously approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMBERSHIP: Janet Grove and Pat Hanson.** Janet and Pat informed members that dues are \$40 for anyone who would like to join AAUW at this time of the year; and that there are extra directories available if anyone would like one. One guest in attendance was also recognized.

**PROGRAMS: Pat Schultz and Ann Skoglund.** Vicki Amundson provided an update about the April 27, annual Spring Social that will take place at the Onion Grille at 6:00 p.m., featuring speaker, author/artist, Lucy Rose Fischer, whose presentation is entitled, “I’m New at Being Old.” A sign-up sheet was circulated with dinner choices; the cost is \$25. The March program will be “Refugees in Minnesota” presented by Laura Svoboda, Resettlement Director with Arrive Ministries.

**GAD-ABOUTS: Jane Driscoll and Joann Bergman.** Glenda Schnirring reminded members that the March 26 Gad-Abouts event will be the Habsburgs exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA). This is a self-guided tour with lunch at MIA at a cost of \$16.00. Checks should be given to Joann Bergman.

**BOOK CLUB: Shirley Tammen.** Shirley noted the March 9, Book Club discussion will be of the book, “The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates,” by Wes Moore, hosted by Verna Fuller. The Monday, April 13, Book Club discussion will be of the book, “Rebecca,” by Daphne Du Maurier, a classic Gothic novel written in 1939 that has remained a book list favorite since the 1940s. Shirley mentioned the upcoming Hastings Reads presentation by Christine Baker Kline, author of “The Orphan Train,” scheduled for Tuesday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle School.

**PUBLIC POLICY: Pat Powers.** Pat and other members talked about the Patricia Arquette acceptance speech at the Oscar Award ceremony, when she won the award for Best Supporting Actress. The speech included positive comments regarding equal pay and equality for women. Pat reminded members that April 14 is Equal Pay Day, the day that women’s wages equal what men earned on average for the previous year. In other words, it takes women about 15.5 months to earn what men earn in 12 months.

**TWIG: Lois Twedt.** Lois informed members that the March Twig will only be sent in a pdf document format, because when it’s sent in Word format, the information can get off-set when the document is opened and it looks unprofessional. If a member has trouble opening the pdf document, please let Lois know and she will send it in Word format if requested.

**AAUW FUNDS: Jan Junkman.** Jan turned the Funds report over to Gail Glashan to provide an update on the NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) application process the Hastings Branch has conducted. The Hastings Branch will contribute a \$350 scholarship to hopefully be matched by a \$500 scholarship from AAUW MN. Hastings submitted two applications, hoping that there would be a possible second scholarship from AAUW MN, if they weren’t all used by other branch applications. As of this meeting, Gail had been eagerly checking her emails, awaiting a response from AAUW MN regarding one or both Hastings applications for NCCWSL scholarships; but no final decision had been made by the AAUW MN Board.

**COMMUNITY: Margaret Goderstad.** Margaret encouraged members to attend Hastings Tastings on March 2.

**GARAGE SALE: Kathy O’Keefe.** Kathy encouraged members to begin setting aside items for the annual September Garage Sale, especially big things that are worth a lot of money! Again, members were asked to please price items before

bringing them to the sale. The question was raised regarding a possible place to store items that members want to be rid of now, rather than having another charity pick them up between now and the sale. Kathy said that as long as they are already priced, she will find a place to store items between now and the sale. The actual sale date is not chosen yet, but it's anticipated that it will be the same day as the annual September LeDuc event.

## ADJOURN

Motion by Shirley Tammen, and seconded by Gail Glashan to adjourn the business meeting. The business meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:26 p.m.

Kathy O'Keefe introduced the evening's speakers: Cindy Toppin, Hastings AAUW member and former VP of Programs at Lifetrack; and Theresa Gomez, Director of Metro Alliance for Healthy Families, a nine-county collaborative. Cindy talked about the Governor's Task Force on Child Protection recommendations and how trauma for a young child can affect their entire life, in terms of health and school success. Theresa talked about highly effective home visiting services and intervening early in high-risk families.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa West, Secretary

## Gad-Abouts

Jane Driscoll & Joann Bergman

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

On March 26 we will be going to MIA to see The Hapsburg exhibit. The cost is \$16.00 and we need to order tickets by **March 12th**. We will eat lunch at the Institute on our own. We will leave Sterling Parking lot at 9:30. Our tickets are for the 10:30 showing. Please call Joann Bergman if you are definitely going.

## Program

Pat Schultz & Ann Skoglund

**Spring Social--April 27th**  
**The Onion Grille (the upper room)**  
**5:00 p.m. with social hour (cash bar)**  
**Dinner choices are:**  
**Champagne Chicken, Parmesan Crusted Walleye or**  
**The Pork Tenderloin.**  
**All meals include:**  
**House Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette**  
**Loaded Mashed Potatoes**  
**Seasonal Vegetables**  
**Small Dessert**

Our guest speaker is Lucy Rose Fischer, PhD. She is an award-winning gerontologist, author and artist. Her book, [I'm New At Being Old](#) portrays the experience of growing older with wit, whimsy and vibrantly fanciful art. Fischer has had a 25-year career as a researcher and writer, specializing in the study of aging. (from her bio online)

The cost for our evening is \$25.00 which includes meal, tax and gratuity. Checks can be made out to the Onion Grille and given to Pat Schultz or Vicki Amundson. You will again be able to sign up at the March meeting or call either Vicki or Pat to indicate your dinner choice. Hope to see everyone there!!

(We need to have our full attendance count by April 16.)

Vicki Amundson  
H [952-431-4080](tel:952-431-4080)  
C [612-710-5498](tel:612-710-5498)  
[cvamundson71@charter.net](mailto:cvamundson71@charter.net)

## Book Club

Shirley Tammen

[The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates](#) by Wes Moore will be discussed at the Monday, March 9 meeting. A fascinating non-fiction look at the lives of two Wes Moore's whose lives took opposite directions. One became a Rhodes Scholar, the other imprisoned for life. Verna Fuller will be the hostess for March.

[Rebecca](#) by Daphne Du Maurier is the selected novel for the Monday, April 13. This classic Gothic romance novel was written in 1939 and has remained a book list favorite since the 1940's.

## Treasurer's Report

Nancy Techam

The checking account balance as of February 28, 2015 is \$3,168.67. As you work on your taxes for 2014, remember that \$46.00 of your AAUW dues are tax deductible.

## Membership

Janet Grove & Pat Hanson

Members, please bring your checks for next year's dues to the April meeting. Your checks for \$80 should be made payable to AAUW Hastings Branch.

## Community

Margaret Goderstad

The LeDuc Historic Estate

### Cabin Fever Story Hour

Each Saturday morning during March from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. there will be a story hour for 3-9 year olds and their parents. Delightful & entertaining stories will be read by an expert, and there will be milk and cookies served. It's a cozy way to enjoy a Saturday morning. There is no charge for these events, but a gratuity would be appreciated.

### 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>

**A New Era for our Hastings AAUW Branch  
Is beginning  
By Providing Scholarships to College Women!**

We continue to be super excited about our NCCWSL scholarship recipients and appreciate your support!

You received an email a few days ago providing you with up-to-date information about NCCWSL. I would like to recap and remind you about that email; we are sponsoring 2 young women to attend the *National Conference for College Women Student Leaders* in Maryland at the end of May. This is a well-respected conference that has the potential to change lives. Our two scholarship awardees are **Elin LaBreck** who is studying at the U of M, Twin Cities; and **Jolena Zabel**, who is studying at Macalester College in St. Paul.

At our March 2 Monday evening board meeting, we were very fortunate to have Elin appear. She is a junior majoring in Materials Science and Engineering. There are 60 students pursuing this field of study, and only 20 are women. Elin has strongly advocated for women in her studies and out-reach volunteer and community programs. I think that I can speak for all the board members and say that we were just "blown away" with this young woman's poise, knowledge and quality of her major, and all her accomplishments to date.

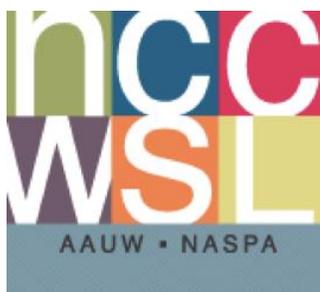
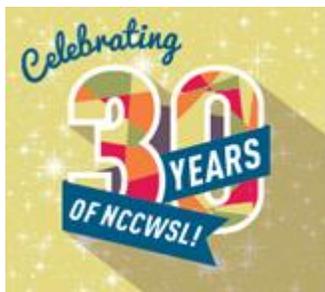
Jolena Zabel is also a junior. She is majoring in Political Science, International Studies, and English Literature. We have invited Jolena to attend the next board meeting to tell us about her field of study and achievements. Both of these women have shown outstanding leadership qualities and have strongly promoted women's rights. The NCCSWL committee believes that we have 2 absolutely awesome young Hastings women to sponsor for this premier conference in May.

As you know, we have funding for 1 scholarship of \$850. It was not the intent of our committee to select 2 candidates, but the quality and content of their applications made it clear that both are very deserving of this scholarship. Therefore, we are committed to raise \$850 to sponsor both young women. We are appealing to our membership to get us there. We welcome any donation of any size to help support this second scholarship. Please consider our request, and send a check to me by March 17.

Jan Junkman, 325 Crestview Drive, Hastings, MN 55033.

Make your check payable to: **AAUW Hastings Branch**, Memo: **NCCWSL Donation**. Please note that all donations will be kept confidential, and any amount will be very appreciated. Monies collected that exceed the \$850 needed will be placed in the Hastings AAUW Branch NCCWSL Scholarship fund for next year. We now understand that a donation to NCCWSL may be tax deductible. If you have any questions, you may call or email anyone on the committee:  
Gail Glashan, Ann Skoglund, Pat Powers, or myself.

**Thank you so much for supporting and sponsoring our first NCCWSL scholarship recipients!**



<http://www.startribune.com/local/south/290389861.html>

**Rosemount, Hastings districts deemed racially isolated by state**

- Article by: [ERIN ADLER](#) , Star Tribune
- Updated: January 31, 2015 - 12:09 AM

Last month I provided a link to a Star Tribune article (see above) about growing diversity in the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan school district. Hastings was listed in the sub-Heading because our district, with 9% non-white students, is neighboring Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan, with 32% non-white students. When the disparity is more than 20%, the state designates them "racially isolated". When that happens, both districts need to work together to integrate students. This means there needs to be some sort of collaboration that could include professional development, student programming, and/or offering families more choices. I talked to Mr. Collins to see what this means for Hastings. Here is part of his answer:

*It is going to be very difficult for Hastings and Apple Valley to have a lot of collaboration with programs due to the fact that our students live a long distance away from one another. A student who lives out by Miesville is not going to want to go to an afterschool program in Rosemount where students are involved in either discussion or a program that has diversity.*

*Hastings is 91% Caucasian and Rosemount is about 68% Caucasian. The state would like us to integrate some programs so that all students involved can have a positive experience with the diversity. (The state gives no \$\$\$ to help with that.) It is much easier to say than to do. There are a lot of unanswered questions at this time.*

Both the article and Mr. Collins pointed out that diversity is a strength and a positive thing. It is an asset because it allows for multiple perspectives.

# Public Policy

Pat Powers

## LET GIRLS LEARN: A Whitehouse Initiative

“Today, the Obama Administration announced that it is expanding its efforts to help adolescent girls worldwide attend and complete school through an initiative called Let Girls Learn. This new effort will build on investments we have made and successes we have achieved in global primary school education, and expand them to help adolescent girls complete their education and pursue their broader aspirations.

62 million girls around the world – half of whom are adolescent – are not in school. These girls have diminished economic opportunities and are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, early and forced marriage, and other forms of violence.

Yet when a girl receives a quality education, she is more likely to earn a decent living, raise a healthy, educated family, and improve the quality of life for herself, her family, and her community. In addition, girls’ attendance in secondary school is correlated with later marriage, later childbearing, lower maternal and infant mortality rates, lower birth rates, and lower rates of HIV/AIDS. A World Bank study found that every year of secondary school education is correlated with an 18 percent increase in a girl’s future earning power.

This new effort will build on the Let Girls Learn public engagement campaign launched last summer by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Let Girls Learn will elevate existing programs, including in areas of conflict and crisis, and leverage public and private sector partners. It will also look to build more partnerships and challenge other organizations and governments to commit resources to lift up adolescent girls across the globe.

A key part of Let Girls Learn will be able to encourage and support community-led solutions to reduce barriers that prevent adolescent girls from completing their education. Through the efforts of the First Lady - working with the Peace Corps –this new initiative will support community-generated and community-led girls’ education projects worldwide.”

From: The Fact Sheet at the Let Girls Learn Whitehouse website.

Educating girls changes the social foundation of communities. They will educate their parents and when the time comes better educate their children. Literacy and leadership go hand in hand. Girls hold up “Half the Sky”. SEE LINK <http://www.whitehouse.gov/letgirlslearn>



# Historian

Trudy Cragg

## A View from the Past



Diane, Marsha and Leslie

President .....	Pam Pontzer
Past-President.....	Glenda Schnirring
Co-Vice Presidents Membership.....	Janet Grove Pat Hanson
Co-Vice Presidents Programs.....	Patricia Schultz Ann Skoglund
Secretary .....	Lisa West
Treasurer .....	Nancy Techam
Community.....	Margaret Goderstad
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 .....	Linda Bindman Kathy O’Keefe
School Supply Drive .....	Mary Ellen Olson Cathy Sery
Gad-Abouts .....	Joann Bergman Jane Driscoll