



# Hastings Branch

April 2015



## President's Message

Pam Pontzer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Now that I have your attention! I received the following email from Sharon Bigot.

"Please remind your members to VOTE in our AAUW National Election. Members will need their member # and the PIN # in order to vote. Both numbers can be found by their name/address label for the spring/summer Outlook. Online voting begins on April 15.

We will be voting on 12 Proposals to our AAUW Public Policy Program, 5 Proposed Amendments to our Bylaws, AAUW National President, AAUW National Vice President and 10 Directors - the full slate for the AAUW National Board of Directors.

BE SURE YOUR MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF A POSSIBLE **MAJOR CHANGE** TO OUR BYLAWS:

### **Bylaws Proposal 1: Eliminate the Degree Requirement for Membership**

This proposal has been defeated when brought up in past Conventions. At those past Conventions, delegates of the membership did the voting. **THIS** will be the first time this proposal will be voted on a **"one vote per member"**. It is crucially important that every member vote."

Sharon goes on to give two general and opposing ways to look at this proposal:

**For** - We should eliminate the barriers to membership.

**Against** - We advocate for girls and women to obtain equity through education. Shouldn't we set an example by promoting higher education degrees for members?

Sharon was told by her AAUW National Board mentor that **National is considering sending out a link to each member who has email. That link would enable that member to vote directly -- eliminating the entry for member or pin numbers.** She notes that she did outline how to obtain a paper ballot for those members without email in the last issue of the Minnesota Pine.

April 15th is rapidly approaching. I myself am going to scratch around and find my member and pin number. I have strong feelings about this bylaw and want my vote to be counted!

## Program

Pat Schultz & Ann Skoglund

### Reminder—Spring Social—April 27<sup>th</sup>

#### **The Onion Grille (the upper room) / 5:00 p.m. 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 and 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 mailed to Vicki Amundson at 13680 Henna Ave., Apple Valley, MN 55124. Be sure to include your dinner choice. The full count with payment is needed by April 16. Questions—contact Vicki at—952-431-4080 or 612-710-5498 or email at cvamundson71@charter.net.

## Upcoming Events

- April 13 ..... Book Club
- April 27 ..... Spring Social
- May 11 ..... 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 The Onion Grille  
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

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### AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES—March 23, 2015

**PRESIDENT: Pam Pontzer.** Pam called the business meeting to order at 7:09 p.m., welcoming 42 members. Pam talked about Equal Pay Day on April 14, the day that women make the same amount that men made the previous year. In 2015, the pay gap for individual states puts Minnesota at number 19, with women making 80% of what men make. The District of Columbia ranks number 1, with women making 91% of what men make. The New York Times noted that women tend to save at the same rate or higher than their male counterparts. Yet overall, the typical working man's 401K balance is \$48,000 higher than the average woman's, thanks largely to the persistent wage gap. A story now dominating the headlines highlights the problems of women working for venture capital firms. Venture capital firms provide financing for start-up businesses. Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield & Byers (KPC&B) is one such firm and is famous for its early investments in Facebook, Google, Amazon and Twitter. Ellen Pao was hired by the firm in 2005 as a junior partner. In 2011, she was told that she was not on track for senior partner. Shortly after that, she sued the company alleging sex discrimination and retaliation. Pao was then fired. This case is important for women for two reasons. First, Ellen Pao's work environment. Only 4% of senior venture capitalists are women. In KPC&B's case, by 2011, only one woman had ever passed from junior to senior partner in the firm's 40-year history. And second, is the affect that venture capital firms have on women-owned start-ups, which are at a huge disadvantage for receiving funding. Only 2.7% of companies getting venture funding in recent years had a female chief executive. Perhaps this will turn out to be another Lily Leddbetter moment. As columnist Amanda Bennett states in the Washington Post, "Watch Ellen Pao. Whatever you think of her or her case, watch her as a sign of women increasingly asking for their place in the world of money." On a more positive note, one of the big four accounting firms placed a woman in the corner office for the first time. Cathy Engelbert became the new chief executive of Deloitte on March 11. At accounting firms, many women leave while still at the manager or senior-staff level, before making partner, mainly due to work-life balance concerns. Accounting firms recognize that they need to address this issue, says Ms. Engelbert. Also, an organization called, "Women on \$20.00" has come up with a group of 15 women they would like to see replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20.00 bill. Jackson replaced Grover Cleveland in 1928. Some of the women on the list are Rosa Parks, Eleanor Roosevelt and Rachel Carson. Campaign organizers have targeted the \$20.00 bill, because 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. The organizers also aim to literally raise the profile of women in a male-dominated field. Go to the site, womenon20s.org and cast a vote for your top three choices. Pam reported that the Hastings, Ely and Willmar branches were awarded Branch Project Grants by AAUW Minnesota. We applied for \$100 to work with the Feminist Club at Hastings High School. Finally, we received a Certificate of Honor from AAUW National, recognizing the 45th Anniversary of the Hastings Branch!

**SECRETARY: Lisa West.** Lisa submitted meeting minutes from the February 23, 2015, general meeting that were published in the Twig. Motion by Pat Powers, and seconded by Lynn Moratzka, 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 \$3,043. Nancy stated that there had been little activity since the previous month's report. Motion Trudy Cragg, and seconded by Shirley Tammen to approve the March Treasurer's Report. The motion was unanimously approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MEMBERSHIP: Janet Grove and Pat Hanson.** Janet reported that we have 94 members, and suggested that checks for next year's dues could be brought to the annual Spring Social on April 27.

**PROGRAMS: Pat Schultz and Ann Skoglund.** Ann reminded members of 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." There will be a cash bar social hour beginning at 5:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet was circulated with dinner choices; the cost is \$25. Ann asked members to pay if they hadn't already done so. Ann also asked that members send her or Pat an email with program ideas for next year.

**GAD-ABOUTS: Jane Driscoll and Joann Bergman.** Joann informed members that due to the Spring Social event in April, there will be no April Gad-Abouts event planned. A Stillwater Historic Trolley Tour is planned for May 12.

**BOOK CLUB: Shirley Tammen.** Shirley reported that a good crowd was present at "The Orphan Train" presentation on February 24 at the Middle School. The presentation was also available to view on cable. The Monday, April 13, Book Club discussion, hosted by Lisa Hedin, 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. A car pool will leave the Greene Mill parking lot at 6:40 p.m. There will be a mini book sale at the May general meeting.

**PUBLIC POLICY: Pat Powers.** Pat explained the Pay Day candy bars placed on all the chairs as a reminder of Equal Pay Day. For every \$1.00 men make, women make \$0.77. Cindy Toppin mentioned that she invited Katie Sieben and Denny McNamara to the March meeting, noting that Katie Sieben responded that she was sorry she couldn't be there.

**AAUW FUNDS: Jan Junkman.** Jan, Gail Glashan, Pat Powers, and Ann Skoglund presented a "skit" announcing the winners of two scholarships to the NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) from the Hastings Branch. The Hastings Branch contributed a \$350 scholarship, matched by a \$500 scholarship from AAUW MN to help send Elin LaBeck. And, Hastings Branch members raised an additional \$1,249 to provide an \$850 scholarship to Jolena Zabel to also attend the NCCWSL. The extra \$399 collected will be set aside to help fund a NCCWSL scholarship for next year.

**COMMUNITY: Margaret Goderstad.** Margaret informed members of the LeDuc story hours for kids three to nine years old and parents, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays in March and early April.

**NEW BUSINESS--**Glenda Schnirring introduced the members of this year's Nominating Committee: Jane Driscoll, Camille Nelson, Rosalie Cavis, Chris Erickson and herself. Glenda announced that Nancy Techam agreed to accept the nomination for Treasure for a second term; and that nominees for VP Programs Co-Chairs are Pam Sullivan and Peggy Horsch.

### ADJOURN

Motion by Shirley Tammen, and seconded by Kay Leadholm to adjourn the business meeting. The business meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:34 p.m.

Karen Moore introduced the evening's speakers: Michelle Eberhard, Director of Refugee Arrival Services at Arrive Ministries in Richfield; and Annie Bunio, Resettlement Coordinator at Refugee Arrival Service at Arrive Ministries. They spoke about Refugees in Minnesota: who they are, how they got here, and what life is like for them in Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa West, Secretary

## AAUW Funds

Jan Junkman

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**Thank you, AAUW Hastings Members for the**

### **NATIONAL COLLEGE CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS (NCCWSL)**

#### **Scholarship Donations!**

We have GREAT news to share with you! After our branch voted to grant scholarships for two wonderfully qualified candidates to attend the NCCWSL convention in May 2015, it was time to ask for donations. At the March general meeting the NCCWSL committee blew our whistles, and announced that we had received a staggering \$1250 in donations. However, as of this writing, we are thrilled to announce that we have received even more! Our grand total for donations is **\$1290!** Our goal was to collect \$850, but we exceeded that amount by an incredible \$440. As promised, the extra \$440 will be seed money for a NCCWSL scholarship for next year. Please note that this was a one-time request for membership funding of the second recipient, and we do not intend to repeat this in the future. One NCCWSL scholarship recipient annually is the plan.

As we previously announced, our NCCWSL recipients are two very qualified young women, both in their junior year of college. Elin LaBreck appeared at our March 2 board meeting and discussed her academic life and extra-curricular activities. She is majoring in Materials Science and Engineering at the U of M-Twin Cities. Jolena Zabel appeared at our board meeting April 6. She is majoring in Political Science, International Studies, and English Literature, with a concentration in Human Rights and Humanitarianism. She is at Macalester College in St. Paul. Both of these young ladies seem thrilled to have been selected as our scholarship recipients. They embody our mission of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. We are so happy to send these very deserving Hastings young women to the NCCWSL convention. We know that NCCWSL will empower them as leaders! Perhaps they might be able to attend a general meeting in the future so that you may get to meet these outstanding women, and to hear about their NCCWSL experience.

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

#### **Hastings High School Scholarship**

A top ranking female Hastings High School scholarship recipient has been selected. We will award this young woman with our scholarship at the Awards Night Ceremony on May 18, 2015. She will receive a letter that night detailing the award for \$2500, to be given after receipt of a transcript documenting completion of a successful first semester in college. I do not know yet who this young lady is, as this is a "blind" selection process. But, soon after the Awards presentation, I will ask Lois to send you an email discussing who she is, and a little bit about her "story".

At the board meeting Monday night, April 6, I requested that a small committee be formed to help in the future selection of a high school scholarship awardee. As I have noted for the past few years, there are usually about 5-7 female graduating students with a 4.0 GPA. The board voted and approved the formation of a small committee of 2 individuals to assist in the selection process.

## Membership

Janet Grove & Pat Hanson

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Members may pay dues of \$80 for next year's AAUW membership at the April and May meetings. Make your checks payable to AAUW Hastings. Thank you for helping us get a head start on our membership for 2015-2016.

## Treasurer's Report

Nancy Techam

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The checking account balance as of March 31, 2015 was \$4,318.17. March deposit: NCCWSL donations from members of \$1285.00. Expenses for March were \$135.50. At the April 6, 2015 board meeting, the AAUW Board approved bringing the proposed budget for 2015-16 to the general membership for approval. The proposed budget will be presented at the April 27th General Meeting/Banquet.

## Gad-Abouts

Jane Driscoll & Joann Bergman

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

We are taking a historic tour on the Stillwater Trolley on May 12th. The tour is a 45 minute narrated trolley tour around Stillwater highlighting the history of Stillwater, the Lumber Barons and historic area. The cost is \$12. We will lunch on our own at the Dock restaurant. Please contact Joann Bergman to save your place or sign up at the April Spring Social.

## Book Club

Shirley Tammen

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. Lisa Hedin will host the April Book Club. We will meet behind Green Mill at 6:40 p.m. to carpool to her home.

The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty is the selected novel for Monday, May 11. The author wrote-"The trouble with the truth is that it can change everything." Barb Moen will host this meeting at her home. Carpooling is available from Regina Medical Center at 6:45.

REMINDER! Gather your gently read books and bring them to AAUW's mini book sale held before and after our Monday, May 18 meeting. \$100 of the money raised from this sale helps to sponsor the annual Hastings Reads programs.

*The LeDuc Historic Estate*

**Third Weekend at the LeDuc Historic Estate**

Visitors who attend the Third Weekend Series at the LeDuc Historic Estate will hear an area author discuss his book and enjoy two Minneapolis musicians. The Afternoon at the LeDuc is at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, April 19. Reservations @ \$15 per person are requested and may be made by calling [651-437-7055](tel:651-437-7055). Refreshments will be served.

Ken Martens, vice president of the Afton Historical Museum and historian will discuss his book, *The Perilous St. Croix River Valley Frontier*. The book contains over 50 stories of the frontier that deal with topics such as life and adventures in the St. Croix River Valley, horse and buggy road rage, scalp dances, land disputes that were settled only by war, and the history and legends of the Native American settlements.

In addition to Martens' presentation there will be folk and contemporary music from Larry Carpenter and Laura Moe of Minneapolis. Carpenter has been playing and singing since his college days and has taken his guitar around the U.S. and the world - to Africa, Micronesia, China, and New Zealand. Twice he has sailed in his own sailboat across the North Atlantic, playing at many stops along the way. He plays from the deck of his sailboat and many of his songs he plays have a nautical flavor. He might be playing on Lake Superior or around a camp fire at music festivals. His music will take listeners to glaciers in Patagonia, farms of the Great Plains, the Canadian Maritimes, and the Australian Outback. His songs are of such a nature that they will "Take You Home."

**Mother's Day Tea**

Be sure to call now for reservations for a lovely high tea for Mother's Day, May 10, 3:30 p.m. There will be several courses of fine food and some very special entertainment. Reservations only for this event and they may be made by calling [651-437-7055](tel:651-437-7055).

*New Hastings Arts Center Open House*

The new Hastings Arts Center will hold a grand opening weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 10-12.

The Hastings Arts Center, formerly the Guardian Angels Church at Fourth and Ramsey Streets, has been newly renovated and converted into a facility for the arts. It is the home of the New Blessings Academy of Arts and Music.

Come enjoy a full weekend of live music, class demonstrations, art displays, and tours of the facility. Registration for summer sessions will also be available. See the April 2 *Hastings Star Gazette* for hours and lists of performances or see website [www.HastingsArtsCenter.org](http://www.HastingsArtsCenter.org).

**Historian**

*Trudy Cragg*



Gadabouts tour Capital guided by Rep. Denny McNamara  
Kay, Ann, Fidelis, Pat  
Betty, Sallee, Ramona

***Thank you notes***

Dear Pam and AAUW Members,  
Thank you for your support of the 2015 Hastings Reads. Your donation went toward the cost of our main event author Christina Baker Kline who spoke to approximately 1,000 students and community members. It was a very successful author day!

Your support is very much appreciated.

Hastings Reads Committee

Pat & AAUW

Thank you for your kind donation of women's gifts to the Moms at the Lewis House.

We appreciate the support you give our families as they move forward to rebuild their lives.

Judy Bowman

Lewis House Manager

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
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AAUW Funds .....	Jan Junkman
Public Policy .....	Pat Powers
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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

**AAUW Mission Statement**

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy 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>**