

WILLMAR BRANCH AAUW

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
SEPTEMBER 2015

PLEASE JOIN US!

Monday, September 21 - 6:45 P.M.
Bethel Church (use south door)

This will be our “kickoff” meeting for the year, and you won’t want to miss it! We will view the new National AAUW video: “One AAUW” which was shown for the first time at the state convention last spring. There were only three copies, and we were given one of them. It’s a 20-minute audio/video look at the many changes in mission and vision for AAUW branches all across the country with emphasis on STEM careers, pay equity, Legal Advocacy Fund support, fellowships and scholarships for young women professionals, and much, much more.

Together with this, we have our SILENT AUCTION for LAF. You’ll find such items as a knitted afghan, tea basket, Harper Lee’s latest book, an AAUW tote bag just to name a few. We encourage you to bring something for the auction.....gift certificates, homemade goodies, etc. , and come prepared to take home something while contributing to a great cause.

Refreshments will be served by Vicki Melbye and Jeanette Carlson.

A TECH SAVVY UPDATE

Four members of our branch board.....Beverly Crute, Mary Myers, Kim Boysen, and Jeanette Carlson.....have been meeting this summer with representatives from Ridgewater College and the DREAM Technical Academy to prepare a grant application for a Tech Savvy conference in April 2016 for girls in Grades 6-9. The app is complete and ready to be emailed to the National AAUW office. If selected, we will receive \$5,000. There are only 20 branches throughout the country to be given this grant, so the competition is great. But, we think we have the perfect combination of stakeholders with Ridgewater College, Willmar AAUW, the DREAM Academy and bio-tech businesses on the MinnWest campus. We'll have copies of Tech Savvy and our application at the September 21 meeting if you would like to learn more.

Refreshments Volunteers

October 19:	_____ and _____
November 16:	Marion Nordin and Dee Rosenbrook
December 21:	Christmas Potluck
January 23 (9:30 a.m.)	Beverly Crute/Carla Buzzo/Le Lucht
March 21:	_____ and _____
April 18:	_____ and _____
May 16:	Annual Dinner Meeting

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

ANN ZASTROW lives in Belgrade and has a BS in elementary education with a music minor and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Ann is the pastor of Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish in Belgrade. Earlier, she was a financial aid counselor at the U. of Minnesota and a teacher in White Bear Lake as well as the Seisen International School in Tokyo, Japan. Ann's hobbies include counted cross stitch, reading, walking, and spending time with friends. "Through AAUW I hope to get to know a different part of the area and community beyond Belgrade," she said and added "I hope to get to know people beyond the congregations I serve as pastor." She also hopes to give the perspective of a newcomer to the community as well as participate in meetings and other activities. WELCOME, ANN!!

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AN UPDATE ON MALALA YOUSAFZAI.....the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize for her brave work in encouraging young girls to attend school.....posted a string of top grades in a set of important exams faced by British teenagers. She lives in London with her family because they cannot return to Pakistan for fear of retaliation by the Taliban. What a wonderful role model for girls!

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WHAT ARE YOU READING?

The Nightingale, by Kristin Hannah, is the story of two sisters at the time of the German occupation in France during WWII. One sister houses two German officers (not her choice). One is a polite and helpful man, the other one a cruel despot. After her husband departs for the front, she is left to care for her child and keep the home front going. While she struggles with finding enough food and other necessities to live as best she can, her sister joins the French underground that smuggles Jews out of the country. She suffers immeasurably at the hands of the Germans when she is caught, but she stays loyal to the cause, hence the name of the book. This is historical fiction at its best, my favorite venue when I choose a novel.
(Jeanette Carlson)

Do YOU have a good book to share with AAUW friends? Just email your review, and I will publish it in a future newsletter: carlsonj2@charter.net.

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THREE WONDER WOMEN GAME CHANGERS

RACHEL CARSON (1907-1964): American marine biologist who taught people about the beauty of the world, inspiring new generations to protect the environment. Her book, "Silent Spring", challenged practices of government and scientists.....resulting in a DDT ban in the U.S.

JANE GOODALL (B. 1934): Traveled to study chimpanzees in Tanzania and ultimately won their trust. Her work with the Jane Goodall Institute is focused on inspiring action on behalf of endangered species and encouraging people to make the world a better place for all.

WANGARI MAATHAI (1940-2011): The first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She introduced the idea of community-based tree planting, developing it into the Green Belt Movement, an organization that focuses on poverty reduction and conservation.