



Hastings Branch

January 2016



President's Message

Pam Pontzer

The hyper speed at which time moves is unsettling. I went to bed after the AAUW Holiday Social and when I woke up it was January 2, 2016. Speaking of the Holiday Social, it was a lovely way to begin my new warp speed time travel. Thanks to Vikki Amundson, Pam Sullivan and Peggy Horsch for pulling this wonderful event together.

I have been following the progress of Saudi women on a number of fronts. A December 10th article by the Associated Press noted that "Saturday's (December 12, 2015) vote for local council seats marks two milestones for Saudi women: not only can they run in a government election for the first time, it is the first time that they are permitted to vote at all." There were 979 female candidates and 5,938 male candidates vying for 2,100 council seats. This factoid is even better--about 130,000 women had registered to vote versus 1.35 million men.

Drum roll for the results - on December 14th, Saudi Arabians elected their first female officials, voting at least a DOZEN candidates into seats on municipal councils. This fact is so impressive because the ultra-conservative Saudi Arabian monarchy imposes some of the world's strictest limitations on women. Women candidates were forbidden to address male voters and had to speak from behind a partition or have male relatives speak for them.

In 1932 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came into being as an Islamic State with Arabic as its national language and the Holy Qur'an as its constitution. In 1964 the first public schools for girls were established. As noted above, women gained the right to vote on December 12, 2012.

For comparisons sake, the United States became an independent country in 1776. Women gained the right to vote on August 18, 1920, with the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Food for thought.

Program

Peggy Horsch & Pam Sullivan

January 25

Chili Supper/General Meeting/Program

Our January 25th meeting will begin with a Chili Supper at 6:00 p.m.
The AAUW Board is hosting and providing the chili and fixings for all!!
Our business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the program at 7:30.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in the Hastings School District

Our program for January will be a panel presentation from current ISD #200 staff about what is going on with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in our schools. The presenters will be:

- Jennifer Reichel, Director of Teaching and Learning
- Bobbi Seleski, Science Hastings Middle School
- Kim Wald, Math Hastings Middle School
- David Davenport, Industrial Technology Hastings High School

While ISD #200 does not use the label of STEM on any of our sites or specific curriculum, STEM values of teaching interdisciplinary, rigorous academic concepts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are strong throughout our District. These values combined with real-world lessons build STEM literacy, improve our student's ability to compete in the global economy, and engage more students in positive experiences.

Come hear about what is happening in our classrooms and extracurricular activities. Anticipate some really cool visuals, and stories of student success.

Upcoming Events

- January 11.....Book Club
- January 20.....Gad-Abouts
- January 25.....General Meeting
- February 14Book Club

Hastings Branch 2015-2016 PROGRAMS

September 28, 6:00 p.m. SALAD SUPPER
Hmong-American Farm Cooperative in MN
Yao Yang, Alternative Markets Organizer, HAFA
Pam Sullivan, Coordinator

October 26, 7:00 p.m.
School Board Candidates Forum
AAUW Hastings NCCWSL Scholarship Awardees
Peggy Horsch and Gail Glashan, Coordinators

November 23, 7:00 p.m.
Little Falls to Uganda
Bonnie Bzdok, *Resilient Uganda*
Nancy Techam, Coordinator

December 14, 7:00 p.m. HOLIDAY SOCIAL
Holiday Food, Music and Celebration
Evening at the Hastings Arts Center

January 25, 6:00 p.m. CHILI SUPPER
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
In the Hastings School District
J. Reichel, B. Seleski, K. Wald, E. Dietz, C. Benson
Lisa Hedin, Coordinator

February 22, 7:00 p.m.
Autism Affects Us All
Panel Discussion moderated by Kathy O'Keefe

March 22, 7:00 p.m.
Breaking Free from Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking
Joy Friedman, *Sisters Helping Sisters*
Lew Linde, Coordinator

April 25, 6:00 p.m. SPRING SOCIAL
Clutter Clearing Choices
Barbara Tako, Author and Consultant
Sue Wagner, Coordinator

May 23, 7:00 p.m. BOOK SALE
Culture of Poverty
Cathy Rucci, Executive Director, MORE
Karen Moore, Coordinator

Meetings are on Mondays at...
St. Philip's Lutheran Church
1401 15th Street West
Hastings, Minnesota 55033

Secretary

Lisa West

AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES November 23, 2015

PRESIDENT: Pam Pontzer. Pam called the business meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., welcoming 42 members and guests. Pam noted a Fall 2015 AAUW Outlook article about Title IX, commenting that beyond athletics, there are other areas that Title IX coordinators are supposed to be overseeing, including monitoring the gender ratio in science, technology, engineering and math courses, working to monitor and end sexual harassment and support pregnant and parenting students. Pam also commented on a Star Tribune article about Title IX, written by columnist, Lori Sturdevant, about University of Minnesota interim athletic director, Beth Goetz, and current statistics regarding collegiate athletic directors, including that only 32 in 351 Division 1 athletic directors (9%) are female. This is a dismal representation 43 years after Title IX became law. Pam noted that when the U of M merged the men’s and women’s athletic departments in 2002, State Representative, Phyllis Kahn, the sponsor of the landmark legislation that required gender equity in school sports, stated, “I don’t think there’s any question but that men will dominate a merged department unless there’s a woman at the top.” Resigned athletic director, Norwood Teague’s tenure seems to give credence to Kahn’s statement. His tenure includes a \$175,000 settlement payment to a female administrator he fired after she questioned his commitment to Title IX compliance, and the design of a new \$166 million Athletes Village to be dominated by football and basketball, while displacing women’s track and field. These incidents led to a 2014 discrimination complaint to the federal Office of Civil Rights. Two investigations are ongoing; and it appears that U of M leaders will wait until they’re completed before deciding on a search process for a permanent athletic director. Pam suggested that members keep an eye on this; and if any member is a U of M alum, a phone call to Eric Kaler would be helpful.

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

TREASURER: Nancy Techam. Nancy summarized October expenses and reported a month-end checking account balance of \$6,002. Motion by Glenda Schnirring, and seconded by Pat Schultz to approve the October Treasurer’s Report. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: Janet Grove and Pat Hanson. Pat and Janet introduced four guests present. Members are encouraged to take AAUW program bookmarks and AAUW Hastings brochures.

PROGRAMS: Peggy Horsch and Pam Sullivan. Pam informed members that the December program will be our annual holiday social on December 14 at the new Arts Center on 4th Street. Pam thanked Vicki Amundson for her lead role in assisting with this event. A refreshments sign-up sheet was circulated.

GAD-ABOUTS: Cindy Toppin and Sue Cruse. Cindy informed members of the December 8 outing to the Lowell Inn for High Tea and shopping; payment of \$17.00 is needed by December 1. A January 20 event will be a tour of the Union Depot, in downtown St. Paul, with lunch at Christos. The tour is free.

BOOK CLUB: Shirley Tammen. Shirley reminded members that “The Linde Sampler,” a collection of essays and short stories by AAUW member, Lew Linde, is the focus of the Monday, December 7 meeting (note the date change), to be hosted at Shirley’s house. The January 11, Book Club meeting will discuss the Hastings Reads adult reading choice, “The Life We Bury,” by Allen Eskens.

PUBLIC POLICY: Pat Powers. Pat discussed the AAUW emails she’s been receiving, noting the AAUW focuses on sexual violence on college campuses; rape dating violence and stalking; Arnie Duncan, Secretary of Education stepping down; AAUW members hand-delivering tools/materials to Title IX coordinators; the longest serving woman in Congress retiring and receiving the Presidential medal; Senate Democrats social security changes; the Pentagon rise in women entering the Officer Core; and how AAUW impacts \$3.7 million, conducting 1,200 Congressional office visits and visiting 140 college campuses.

TWIG: Lois Twedt. Lois mentioned that if any member is not receiving the Twig, or if members have any other issues with the Twig of notices sent, to let Lois know.

NCCWSL: Gail Glashan. Pat Powers informed members of the status of the NCCWSL, mentioning that we’re now looking for 2016 NCCWSL candidates. Flyers are being posted around town, and more were handed out at the meeting. Pat emphasized how important the programs offered at NCCWSL are and that applications are due January 2, 2016. We have the funding ready for this year’s candidate.

COMMUNITY: Margaret Goderstad. Margaret mentioned that the LeDuc Historic Estate will be open the next three weeks on Saturday and Sunday for holiday shopping. On December 20, Terry Flower will present his “Star of Bethlehem” talk.

ADJOURN

Motion by Betty Hoeschen, and seconded by Cindy Toppin to adjourn the business meeting. The business meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:30 p.m.

Nancy Techam introduced the evening’s speaker, Bonnie Bzdok, whose presentation was entitled, “Little Falls to Uganda.” Bonnie represents Resilient Uganda and brought along items made by the women of Uganda for purchase.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa West, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

Nancy Techam

The checking account balance as of December 31, 2015 was \$5,744.84. Expenses for November and December included: AAUW Funds payment of \$1000, expenses for October and November programs, NCCWSL flyers, Christmas social expenses, general meeting supplies and a memorial flower for Marilyn Pitra. Income included one membership renewal.

Nancy Techam, Treasurer

A Special Note From Program Co-Chairs

Thank you to Ann Skoglund, Gail Glashan, Pat Schultz, Patti Hanson, Mary Ellen Olson and Nancy Techam for setting up, decorating and cleaning up at the Holiday Social.

Peggy Horsch and Pam Sullivan,
Program Co-Chairs.

AAUW Funds

Jan Junkman

Our 2015 high school scholarship recipient, Brittany Pontzer-Johnson, has successfully completed her first semester at Beloit College. I received a transcript of her grades as is required for issuing our scholarship check. As you may recall, this is the first year that we have increased our scholarship amount to \$2500. Brittany did very well at college this fall and earned a 3.925 GPA. I suspect that Brittany (and Pam) are very happy to receive our scholarship award to help fund Brittany’s continued education at Beloit College.

Membership

Janet Grove & Pat Hanson

We have one renewing member, Alice McDougall, whose information is already in your directory. Please make a correction to Pam Sullivan’s cell phone. It should be [651--592-9843](tel:651-592-9843). Thanks.

Gad-Abouts

Susan Cruse & Cindy Toppin

Susan Cruse (651-437-1767) & Cindy Toppin (651-437-7753)

We start the year with a tour of the newly renovated Union Depot in St. Paul followed by lunch at Christos, right in the Depot building. The Union Depot was originally constructed in the early 1920's but was renovated in 2012. It has interesting history as well as fascinating artwork.

Date: Wednesday January 20

Meet at Sterling (Farmer's market area - the NORTHWEST corner) at 10:00 with 10:15 departure to St. Paul.

Tour will begin at 11, followed by lunch.

No charge for the tour, the buffet lunch is \$16.25 which includes tax and tip.

Questions? Call Susan at 437-1767.

Upcoming in March - the Sheldon Theater in Red Wing with lunch at the St. James Hotel:

Date: Thursday, March 17

Cost is \$24.50 for the Sheldon. Make checks to Susan Cruse and she must have them by February 3rd.

Meet at Sterling at 10:30, with 10:45 departure to Red Wing.

Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos defies all expectations and experiences in a dueling piano show. Dave and Ted take you on a variety class act adventure, where the audience paves the way to a wild and zany performance. Completely customized for each venue and audience, the show dares to go where you take it with comedy, music, and a whole lot of improv. Whether twenty-five or eighty-five, your audience will be guaranteed to be on their feet and part of the action!

We only have 15 tickets so sign up soon. We will see if we can get more tickets if there is interest. Call Susan at [651-437-1767](tel:651-437-1767) for more info.

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens is the Monday, January 11th book group discussion selection. It will held at the home of Verna Fuller (**NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE**)

I am Malala by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzal has been chosen for Monday, February 14. An inspiring biography of Malala, a Pakistan teen who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban. Elaine Wilbur will host this February 14th meeting.

HASTINGS READS 2016: MAKING CONNECTIONS-- Events and activities begin on Saturday, February 6th, 1-2 pm at Pleasant Hill Library. Tiffany Wolf, U of Mn researcher, DVM, and PHD will present on "Gorillas- Connecting with the Wild: Know Gorillas". The middle school selection, The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate, correlates with this Gorilla theme.

GUEST AUTHOR AT HISTORIC INN—Jessica Chandler, mystery writer, will speak and discuss her novels at the Historic Inn of Hastings on Thursday, January 21 at 7 p.m. Call Chapter 2 Books in Hudson, Wisconsin (715-220-8618) for reservations.

Community

Margaret Goderstad

The LeDuc Historic Estate

DAVE YOUNGREN PAINTING CLASS

People of all ages are invited to attend Dave Youngren's Painting Class on Sunday, January 16, 2016, 2-4 p.m. All painting supplies (including inspiration) will be furnished and aspiring artists will take home their very own painting. The theme will center around "Winter at the LeDuc." Pre-registration is required and reservations can be made by calling LeDuc at [651-438-8480](tel:651-438-8480). Dave has tracked the construction of the new Mississippi River Bridge through photography and has included these vivid images (200 out of 10,000), along with beautifully written text in his book, *Our Bend in the River*. Professionally, Youngren is an artist, photographer, graphic designer, writer/book publisher and creative designer. Refreshments will be served.

BURNS NIGHT SCOTCH TASTING

The poet, Robert Burns, will be honored at the January 22, 2016, 7 - 9 p.m. Scotch Tasting at the LeDuc Historic Estate. In addition to the Scotch tasting there will be appropriate music and food. Call for reservations at [651-438-8480](tel:651-438-8480).

Health Seminar at Regina

The Regina Foundation's Community Relations Committee is sponsoring its first FREE seminar of 2016 on Monday, January 18.

Dementia: When it's not normal aging

5:30 p.m. Hot Soup Supper; 6:00 p.m. Presentation; 7:00 p.m. Q&A
Regina Hospital Conference Center
See the attached flier for more information

Please let me know if you plan to attend.
Thank you,
Maria

Maria Reis

Foundation Office • Regina Hospital and Regina Senior Living
Phone: [651-404-1104](tel:651-404-1104) • Fax: [651-404-1100](tel:651-404-1100) • maria.reis@allina.com

This is a poem by Maya Angelou that speaks to our current political climate, in our country and all around the world.

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

By Maya Angelou

**Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.**

**It is the Glad Season
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the
corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.**

**Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their
sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.**

**In our joy, we think we hear a whisper,
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder,
Louder than the explosion of bombs.
We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.**

**We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us.
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.**

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

Hastings AAUW Board Members

President	Pam Pontzer
Past-President.....	Glenda Schnirring
Co-Vice Presidents Membership.....	Janet Grove Pat Hanson
Co-Vice Presidents Programs.....	Peggy Horsch Pam Sullivan
Secretary	Lisa West
Treasurer	Nancy Techam
AAUW Funds.....	Jan Junkman
Book Club.....	Shirley Tammen
Community.....	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity	Margaret Cox
Gad-Abouts.....	Susan Cruse Cindy Toppin
Historian.....	Trudy Cragg
Hospitality.....	Betty Hoeschen Sara Strom
NCCWSL.....	Gail Glashan
Newsletter.....	Lois Twedt
Public Policy.....	Pat Powers
Garage Sale	Linda Bindman Kathy O'Keefe
School Supply Drive	Mary Ellen Olson Cathy Sery

[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>