



Hastings Branch

February 2016



President's Message

Pam Pontzer

I listen to NPR A LOT. My house is littered with scraps of paper covered in barely legible scrawl regarding stories that I find interesting. One such story discussed the book "Broad Influence: How Women are Changing the Way America Works" by Jay Newton-Small. She posits that "once women reach critical mass, or 20-30 percent in a group, change starts to happen for the better".

The author found that this "critical mass" has been reached in Congress (20% female); the current presidential administration (30% female), and federal judgeships (35%). It has not however, reached the private sector.

Happily, NPR provided me with a story involving the private sector and women just this morning. Last year, Intel Corp (the company with the four note jingle) set a goal that of all new hires, 40% have to be women or under-represented minorities (Black, Latino, Native American). Intel reported this morning that it managed to exceed this goal, hitting 43.1% with women comprising 24% of that number.

Intel CEO Brian Krzanich said he was motivated by the fact that he has two daughters. He said "they're both technically very bright. I want them to come into a workplace that's a better place than the way the workplace is today." I find Intel to be so impressive because other tech giants such as Google, Facebook, Apple and Microsoft, will not publicly state any measurable goals when it comes to diversity, hiring, or retention of employees. I hope that Intel's actions shame the other organizations into being more proactive and transparent.

So, NPR provided me my article. I guess I had better grin, bear and donate during the upcoming member fund drive!

Program

Peggy Horsch & Pam Sullivan

February 22 **Autism**

Autism--- it is more than the "Rainman" character you probably think of when you hear the word autism.

Come and learn from a panel of local teachers, dare I say 'experts' who work closely with this diverse population of unique learners. We will dispel the myths, discuss the trends, and give you the facts about this every growing population.

Sarah Anderson- Early Childhood Special Education and district representative to the state for ASD.

Kathy O'Keefe-Elementary Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and does all the initial ASD testing for the district.

Carlyn Cooper-Middle School Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and also does the initial testing with Kathy O'Keefe.

Jan Hanson-High School Teacher for Students on the Autism Spectrum and district representative to the state for ASD.

Submitted by Kathy O'Keefe

Upcoming Events

- February 15.....Book Club
- February 22.....General Meeting
- March 17Gad-Abouts

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

January 25, 2016

PRESIDENT: Pam Pontzer. Pam called the business meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., welcoming 27 members. Pam thanked the Board for providing a fabulous chili supper, and thanked those who supplied the desserts. Pam passed along information from the State AAUW Board. 1) The deadline to submit NCCWSL candidates is February 1. 2) Young Women of Equity Award nominations are due February 15. Pam nominated Hannah Hornbuckle, a junior at Hastings High School. Hannah was a driving force behind forming the Feminism Club. She is dynamic, insightful, and very bright. Pam asked Hannah about her plans after high school, to which she replied, “Besides Feminism Club, I am most heavily involved in the high school newspaper and GSA. Social activism and writing are the two things I am most passionate about. I try to use the newspaper to express my opinion and share issues that are important to me whenever possible. I am also in Spanish Honor Society and orchestra. As for college I have no idea where I’m going, but I have a lot of big dreams. I’m hoping to take a path that incorporates activism and/or writing. Whatever I end up doing, I hope to give back, whether that’s through journalism, law, social work etc.” Pam urged others who know deserving women to submit a nomination as well. 3) Branch Project Grants are also due February 15. Last year, we applied for and received \$100 to work with the Hastings High School Feminism Club. If anyone has suggestions, please let her know. 4) AAUW MN is looking for a branch to host the 2017 State Convention. They are also looking for a motivated person to serve on the State Nominating Committee. Lisa West informed members that a message she received informed State Board members that the Willmar Branch has agreed to host the 2017 State Convention. 5) The AAUW MN State Convention will be held in Duluth this year, April 29 – May 1.

Pam noted that tonight’s program will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the Hastings School District. Along those lines, Pam found a few interesting factoids. During the early stages of computer development, a majority of the software was developed by women. Walter Isaacson, author of the book, “The Innovators,” states that “Men didn’t think (software development) was an important job. Men were interested in building the hardware, doing the circuits, figuring out the machinery – and women were very good mathematicians back then.” Isaacson notes that during the 1930s, female math majors were fairly common. In 1986, the number of women majoring in computer sciences began to drop from close to 40% to around 17% today. Tonight’s presentation will shed some light on how Hastings schools are addressing all things STEM.

SECRETARY: Lisa West. Lisa submitted meeting minutes from the November 23, 2015, general meeting that were published in the Twig.

Motion by Gail Glashan, and seconded by Ann Skoglund to approve the general meeting minutes as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER: Nancy Techam. Nancy was absent and no report was given other than what was printed in the Twig.

Motion by Pat Powers, and seconded by Pat Schultz to approve the Treasurer’s Report as printed in the Twig. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC POLICY: Pat Powers. Pat briefly mentioned a voting cartoon she saw on Facebook that depicted the fact that two-thirds of people don’t vote in our national election.

GAD-ABOUTS: Cindy Toppin and Sue Cruse. Cindy informed members of the March 17 event will be to the Sheldon Theater in Red Wing to see “Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos,” at 1:30 p.m., at a cost of \$24.50 per person. There are only 15 tickets initially available; it’s possible more could be obtained if there is interest beyond 15 attendees. There is no February outing planned

BOOK CLUB: Shirley Tammen. Shirley informed members that I am Malala, by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzal, has been chosen for Monday, February 15, book discussion. The book is 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 15 meeting. Hastings Reads 2016, “Making Connections” events and activities begin on Saturday, February 6, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at Pleasant Hill Library. Tiffany Wolf, U of M researcher, DVM, and PHD, will present “Gorillas – Connecting with the Wild: Know Gorillas.” The middle school book selection, The One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate, correlates with this gorilla theme. Hastings Reads flyers were provided at member tables.

FUNDS: Jan Junkman. Jan informed members that we paid out our first \$2,500 scholarship to Brittany Pontzer, who did very well her first semester and provided the needed transcript. The selection committee will be selecting the 2016 recipient in about two weeks. Ann Skoglund, Betty Hoeschen, and Ruth Versaw are the scholarship selection committee members with Jan.

NCCWSL: Gail Glashan. Pat Powers informed members that she, Ann Skoglund, Gail Glashan and Jan Junkman chose a NCCWSL candidate out of five applicants prior to the meeting. Her name is Salina Sok. They were impressed by her definition of leadership. Gail informed members that she visited AAUW National while on a recent trip to Washington, D.C. Gail received an impromptu two-hour tour, several business cards, a book – Secrets of Powerful Women, and took some photographs that she shared in a short slide presentation, including a picture of the Christmas card AAUW National received from President Obama.

COMMUNITY: Margaret Goderstad. Margaret mentioned that the LeDuc Historic Estate will host a 3:30 p.m. tea for Valentine’s Day. Reservations are needed. Margaret also mentioned the book club that occurs every first Thursday, beginning with a discussion of The Life We Bury, by Allen Eskens. Also mentioned was the community authors’ event that occurs every third Thursday in town.

GARAGE SALE: Kathy O’Keefe and Linda Bindman. Linda mentioned that a new venue is still being researched.

ADJOURN

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

Lisa Hedin introduced the evening’s panel of speakers: Jennifer Reichel, Director of Teaching and Learning; Kim Wald, Math – Hastings Middle School, and Erik Dietz, Industrial Technology – Hastings High School. Although ISD #200 doesn’t use the STEM label at any sites or in any specific curriculum, STEM values of teaching interdisciplinary, rigorous academic concepts of science, technology, engineering and mathematics are strong throughout the District. Panel speakers discussed how STEM values, combined with real world lessons, build STEM literacy, improve our students’ ability to complete in the global economy, and engage more students in positive experiences.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa West, Secretary

Message from Shirley Tammen:
Barb Moen’s address and telephone number are:

Barbara Moen
Parkshore Assisted Living, Apt. 321
3633 Park Center Blvd.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-855-7940

Barb says she likes her new home and is taking part in activities offered there. She will spend a week with her sister and brother in Florida, Feb. 7-14.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

AAUW Hastings Branch received seven very qualified applications for an \$850 Scholarship to participate in the June 2-4, 2016 University of Maryland, College Park NCCWSL event. At this two and a half day conference, students will:

- Choose from more than 50 [workshops](#) that prepare them for life after college
- Meet inspiring role models including Women of Distinction [awardees](#) and [speakers](#)
- Make connections for life
- Discover their future from 100 [graduate schools and many employers](#) looking for qualified women
- Gain the confidence and skills to return to their campuses and communities ready to take action

What we received from the candidates was a resume, a short essay on their background and interests and a short essay on the meaning of leadership from their point of view.

A selection committee read the applications and voted to award the scholarship. This year the NCCWSL Scholarship will go to Salina Sok. Salina is an Inver Hills Community College student. Salina’s background as a first generation (in her family) college student has taken her on a journey that gives her experience at overcoming huge obstacles. She is multilingual. She maintains a 3.9 out of 4.0 grade point average and she is very involved in leadership activities at Inver Hills Community College. She has held two different business internships in St Paul. She is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Human Resources.

Salina’s essay on what leadership means to her was particularly impressive. “I define leadership as the ability to help others succeed with your existence and make sure that the impact will be long lasting with your absence!” “As a leader I need to support my subordinates and share my knowledge and experience with them to make sure they do not repeat my mistakes.”

Salina embodies the mission and values of AAUW focusing on how women can pursue higher education and bring other women along. We hope that NCCWSL will provide a transformative experience for her and prepare her to be part of the next generation of leaders.

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

I am Malala by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzal has been chosen for Monday, February 15. This is 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 15th meeting.

Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah is the selection for discussion on Monday, March 14. A moving novel that traces the bond between a mother, her daughters and sisters whose lives come together when their dying father reveals long buried secrets about their mother’s past life in Leningrad. The hostess will be named at a later date.

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr was chosen for Monday, April 15. This Pulitzer Prize winning novel has been on the NY Times best seller list for two and 1/2 years. This sensitive, beautifully written novel traces a young German mechanical genius and a blind French girl living in occupied Paris during WWII.

Membership

Janet Grove & Pat Hanson

Dues are now half price - \$40, so if you know of someone that might be interested in joining, this would be a good time.

Community

Margaret Goderstad

The LeDuc Historic Estate

Enjoy a Valentine's Day at the LeDuc Historic Estate on February 14, 3:30 p.m. There will be samplings of teas and a variety of tea foods such as scones, tea sandwiches, and sweet treats. Pre-paid registrations required. Call [651-438-8480](tel:651-438-8480) or register through Hastings Community Ed.

HPAAC

Celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Hastings Community Band on February 21, 3 p.m. at the Hastings Art Center. In addition to hearing the band there will be an unveiling of the exciting ArtSpace Building on Second Street.

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

Gad-Abouts

Susan Cruse & Cindy Toppin

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

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 March 1.

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.

May - tentative date set

Tuesday, May 10 - Tour of the Basilica in Minneapolis, with lunch at The Third Bird near Loring Park.

Watch for further details. Tour is only \$2 or whatever you want to donate.

Diversity

Margaret Cox

Earlier this year, I was told about an organization in Uganda called Reunite Uganda. One of its purposes is to reunite children in orphanages with their biological families. When we think of orphanages, we imagine children who do not have parents or extended families. Often this is not the case. According to The International Child Campaign, more than 80% of children defined as orphans have a surviving parent or close family member that they could live with. Across sub-Saharan Africa, only very small numbers of truly orphaned children find themselves living without any resident adult caregiver. Reunite Uganda works to get children out of orphanages and back into their Ugandan families. Reunite uses qualified Ugandan investigators, social workers, and family support workers.

How does this topic affect us--Minnesotans, AAUW members, parents, grandparents? So many of us are touched by international adoption. There is not "one answer" to this question, but there is a lot to learn about and ponder. Here is a paragraph from my readings that hit pretty close to home--people who go on mission trips wanting to learn and help children.

Visiting an orphanage benefits who exactly?

"Visiting an orphanage can make you feel like the most popular person in the whole world. It really can give you an inflated sense of your own importance. Most of the children in orphanages run up to you, wanting to climb on you and hug you, and you can convince yourself that you are the most wonderful person in the world.

There is actually a well-known phrase for this behavior - it's called indiscriminate friendliness. We must remind ourselves that this is not "normal" behavior. Children who have had loving parents with good attachments, just don't do this - in any country in the world.

I remember visiting our friend's home in Uganda and meeting his nieces and nephews. None of those children ran up to us and climbed on us, they all had appropriate stranger - danger awareness. Don't convince yourself that it's just a thing that African children do. It's behavior that children all over the world often present when they have been in the foster care system or neglected; it's just so much more exaggerated in an orphanage setting because there are so many children doing it all at the same time."

<http://www.internationalchild.org/volunteering.html> This PDF is very interesting (and easy read!) for anyone who has interest in [ethical volunteering](#). It can be a great experience to volunteer, but we must make sure that we "Do no harm". You can also do a google search of Reunite Uganda, International Child Campaign, or Alternative Care Framework.

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 Page From The Scrapbook by Trudy Cragg, Historian



Q&A-Abouts Lunch at the Chocolate Shop - Hastings
February, 2010



Q&A-Abouts Lunch at the Chocolate Shop - Hastings