

**AAUW
BRAINERD LAKES AREA BRANCH
NEWSLETTER
FALL 2017**



President's Corner



Dear Brainerd Branch Members

As I write this, the winds of autumn are blowing, fall has not only officially arrived on the calendar, but weather wise as well. I am always excited when Fall arrives because it means our AAUW Brainerd begins its season of meetings, events and book clubs. The first meeting in September was an enormous success. Invite A Friend, (eight were welcomed) was the theme and the topic, learning more about AAUW, presented by Sandra Martell. I will confess I learned much that night about how vast an organization AAUW is and that it a force to be reckoned with. We were also introduced to Linden Place, a new mental health service in our area. Two new members joined because of that evening, Konnie Schiller and Jennifer Knutson.

This year our branch will present discussions around diversity. How does it impact us here in Brainerd as we wish to make a AAUW impact locally? How does diversity play a role in our own membership, in our own diversity of thinking? In what our branch supports?

In your program booklet you will find information on your sister members, scheduled programs and book club dates, our branch strategic plan and the leadership and officers. Thank you to the steering committee and our secretary for providing this to you. This year I hope that you all will be as much a part of our branch work as much as possible. We need you, your enthusiasm, your elbow grease and your thoughts. Happy Fall!

Deb

September 18th Program - What is AAUW and Why Do We Belong?

We began this season with a program to which we invited prospective members to learn about why AAUW is important to us. We also enjoyed interesting remarks offered by Dr. David Anderholm, a psychiatrist, who has opened Linden Place, a new clinic in Braxter. (His mother served as President of AAUW Rochester branch.)

DIVERSITY PROGRAMS

The first Diversity Program will be facilitated by Alita Reque-Peterson, Psychology Instructor and Sponsor of the Diversity Club at CLC. It will be held on **October 30th** 5:30 TO 7:30pm at Bainerd Public Library. Please bring a Brown-bag; desert and beverages will be provided. We will be using parts of the AAUW Diversity Toolbox. The 2d Diversity Program will be held **Feb 26th**.

AAUW MN CONVENTION

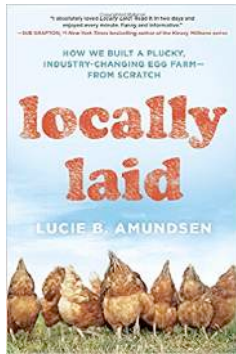


AAUW MN's 88th Annual Convention held in Willmar in April began with a visit to the The Barn Theater for a backstage tour and a presentation by wood-artist Fred Cogelou, whose work in the the lobby is shown here. Friday evening, the entertainment really got us going. We sang patriotic songs played by Irene Wallin on the electronic key board. She changed hats to match the music. Irene showed up again on Saturday in the "Leaders in Action - The Willmar 8" session. She is one of the Willmar 8 who went on strike in 1977 because they were fedup with being paid less than the men at the bank where they worked. **We will discuss The Willmar 8 in March when we hold a program on the wage gap.**

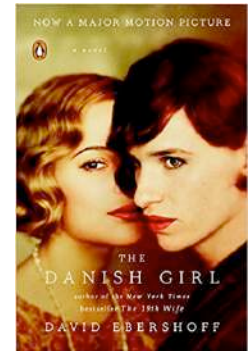


Saturday morning we watched a video made by Senator Klobuchar especially for the convention that was inspiring. Several other speakers, general business and officer elections smoothly completed the days activities. Our own Colleen LeBlanc now serves on the state Nominating Committee. The silent auction raised \$3,671 for LAF. 2018 State Convention will be held in Fiarbault on April 27 & 28, 2018.

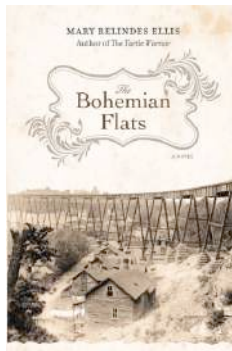
Book Club Selections for 2017-18



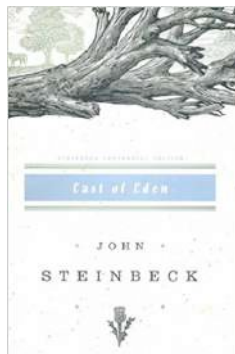
An optimistic Minnesota couple, who knows nothing about farming but who tries to raise eggs from "salad-eating poultry athletes"; Locally Laid by Luci B. Amundsen



The story of one of the first people to undergo sex reassignment surgery; The Danish Girl) by David Ebershoff

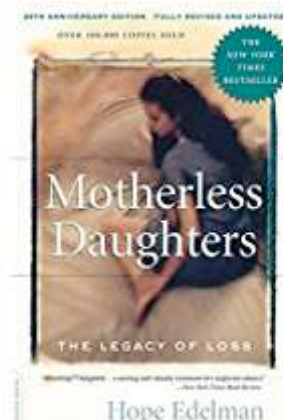


An immigrant who looks for a better life along the Mississippi River in Minneapolis in The Bohemian Flats by Mary Relindes Ellis



Motherless Daughters by Hope Edelman tells how her mother's death when she was a child affected almost every aspect and passage of her life

Genesis set in the Central Valley of CA (Steinbeck's classic East of Eden)



and

Toni Morrison's story about a young girl who wants desperately to be white or at least lighter skinned with blue eyes; The Bluest Eye



PUBLIC POLICY & the State of Minnesota

The Minnesota Office on the Economic Status of Women, which was abolished effective July 1, published a summary, based on formal listening sessions around the state, that found transportation, affordable housing, affordable child care, and earning enough to make a livable wage are the most important problems facing Minnesota women. The entire summary and a history of OESW is available at: <http://www.oesw.leg.mn/Newsletter/OESWNewsletterIssue15.pdf>.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND



The case, *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*, brought by Aileen Rizo, who spoke at the 2016 MN State Convention in Duluth, raises the issue of whether employers can base pay exclusively on an employee's salary history if doing so results in a women being paid less than her male colleague who has less experience and less seniority. Aileen Rizo was a math consultant for the Fresno County Office of Education. She filed suit against the FCOE under equal pay and gender discrimination laws. On April 27, 2017, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit handed down an unfavorable decision in Rizo's case. AAUW joined an amicus curiae brief in support of Rizo's petition for rehearing en banc (before all of the court's judges) to urge the Ninth Circuit to reconsider. On August 29th, the Ninth Circuit granted Rizo's petition for rehearing en banc.

SCHOLARSHIPS

BRAIN BUSTER!

JANUARY 20, 2018

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRAINERD, MN

1PM REGISTRATION, 2PM TRIVIA!

Register your team at <http://www.brainbustertrivia.org>