

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT
AAUW GRAND RAPIDS
BRANCH MEMBERS

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March 2020

Monday, March 16 Program Meeting

Location: United Methodist Church

Social: 5:00-5:45 PM **Dinner:** 5:45-6:30 PM **Business Meeting:** 6:30-7:00 PM

Program: 7:00-8:00 PM

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread & Peaches w Ice Cream

Food Chair: Jan Miland

Cost: \$15.00

RSVP to Deanna Ensley by March 9. Call or text 360 333 0228 or email
deannaensley@yahoo.com



Myths & Facts about Immunizations & Vaccinations

Dr. Stacy Holl, Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital

Join Dr. Stacy Holl, Internal Medicine Physician, for a talk about vaccinations and immunizations. She'll discuss the current recommendations for both and dispel myths and share facts about the same.

Dr. Holl grew up in Grand Rapids, graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 2001, attended Iowa State University and went on to medical school at Des Moines University. She completed her medical residency in Internal Medicine at University of Iowa-Des Moines. Following this, she stayed at University of Iowa-Des Moines for a chief year of residency, where she served as junior faculty member and was able to mentor younger residents in her program.

Dr. Holl lives in Grand Rapids with her husband Garrett, and their two children, Kate and Theodore.

President's Message

As an Irish woman, I send you "Happy St. Patrick's Day" greetings! I will not be attending the March 16th Branch Dinner Meeting. Cyndy is gone until month's end, so **Karen Karls** has graciously agreed to host this meeting. Thank you very much, Karen!

I am attending my second official MN AAUW State Board Meeting. This one was overnight Feb. 28-29. I have learned a lot as VP of Programs about reviewing the criteria and organizing the grant applications. (A report of the grants to MN AAUW branches approved so far this year is included in this issue.) All applicants were granted their requests. Only four branches applied, leaving lots of money not awarded.

I will also report the little bit I have helped with the Regional Convention to be held in the Quad Cities in Iowa June 18-20.

April is the month we welcome **qualified, first-time guests for dinner at just \$7.00**; this is our spring "membership drive" event. We have a very unique and special presenter lined up in April. Invitations will be extended to several groups to ensure people who want to hear this presenter are given an opportunity.

Taysha Martineau of Fond Du Lac Reservation, with a grassroots group known as Gitchigumi Scouts, an indigenous-led group that searches and patrols for missing murdered indigenous women and relatives. They have rescued women and children from sex trafficking, assisted homeless relatives and those struggling with addiction, as they are at great risk for going missing, and advocated for families and justice when a loved one is found murdered. The organization has been involved in more than 20 cases, some of which they have searched for and recovered the bodies of loved ones lost. They don't claim to be experts in this field but definitely have the knowledge, and as indigenous people, the understanding that our demographics alone put them at a higher risk than others.

April is also our **semi-annual book sale/scholarship fundraiser**, please bring current books, read in past five years (approximately), in good condition that you believe may be of interest to others.

Everything folks need to register for the Regional Convention in the Quad Cities June 18-20, is at this website: <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/state-convention/> There is the online registration form, a paper form to download and snail mail, PayPal buttons, a flyer to download, and pictures of the plenary speakers with links to their bios. The registrar (Sue Stauffer) will take mailed registrations and the online form sends me a spreadsheet with those submissions. The IL treasurer (Carolyn Schjelderup) is monitoring the PayPal payments.

Sincerely,
Deanna Ensley, Co-President

“The struggle for women’s equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.”

— Gloria Steinem

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 20: Taysa Martineau, Founder of Gitchigumi Scouts, on "Gitchigumi Scouts- Searching for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women."

Membership Drive: In April we will have "Bring a Guest" evening. A qualified, first-time guest will get dinner for just \$7.00. We have an exceptional speaker and program so this is a great time to introduce a neighbor, coworker or someone from exercise class to see what AAUW is all about.

May 18: "Walking into Spring" with Phenologist John Latimer at Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge.

Farewell to long-time AAUW member

Margaret (Marge) Koch died February 27 at age 98. She was a member of our AAUW branch for many years and still had many friends from our walking group, according to Juliet Jones who had visited her a few weeks ago and shared this sad news with us. No obituary has been posted online or in the Herald Review yet.

Celebrating Women’s Right to VOTE!

A Women's Suffrage Conference will be held in Ely on June 26 & 27, sponsored by the Brunfelt-Sainio Memorial Foundation and the AAUW Ely branch. **"Women's Lives Transformed: The 19th Amendment"** will be held at Vermilion Community College.

**** INTEREST GROUPS ****

BRIDGE

Group meets at Majestic Pines Senior Living on 1st Thursday, year round now. Starts with lunch in the Bistro at 11:30 a.m. followed by Bridge, one to two tables. Contact is Nancy Raymond, 952-715-2365.

EXPLORING OUR COMMUNITY

The group is celebrating the first day of spring on Thurs., March 19 at noon at UnWined in downtown Grand Rapids (2 blocks from the library). Bring all your ideas and suggestions. So many ideas come up when we get together. RSVP to kcjones50@yahoo.com by Thurs., March 12, so we can reserve a large enough

table.

LITERATURE – Monday group

Group meets on 1st Monday (except for holidays) at 10:00 AM at Grand Rapids State Bank Annex. Contacts are Nancy Salmi, 326-3147, and Jan Hill, 246-9791.

March 2: *The Bridal Wreath: Kristin Lavransdatter* by Sigrid Undset, Leader: Janet Coy

LITERATURE – Wednesday group

Group meets at 10:30 am on 2nd Wednesday, Grand Rapids Area Library, River Room, September-May. Contact is Barbara Zimmer, 327-0911 or kbzimmer@q.com

March 11: *Chinese-ness* by Wing Young Huie

***NEW NONFICTION BOOK GROUP**

We're starting a book group that reads nonfiction books and magazines. The group is nonpolitical but will have discussions that are current or about world issues or personal issues. Questions? Call Marilyn Rossman at 218-326-6775.

PUBLIC POLICY

The group will meet **Thurs., March 12, 3:45-5:00 pm**, at the KAXE meeting room. We will continue discussing the book, *How Democracies Die* by Steven Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt. For information, contact Jean Halverson, 327-9159, jehmh@mchsi.com or Jan Miland, 218-208-8659, jan.miland@yahoo.com

WALKING & TALKING

The Walking and Talking Group is on its winter schedule of walking at 1 PM on Tuesdays. The location of the walks changes from week to week and is chosen by the group. Locations are emailed to the group. We generally walk for about an hour and then have coffee. We walk outdoors rather than in a mall or gym. Members walk when they want to and at their own pace; no need to RSVP. It is a social group rather than a hard-core exercise one. We welcome new members. If you want to be added to the group, send your email address to Karen Karls at k.karls@yahoo.com



Meet a MEMBER

Arlene Wheaton

13-year member of AAUW

Family/Education

Arlene grew up in SE Minnesota, graduating from Houston High School, then attending Winona State University for two years and graduating with a bachelor's

degree in Social Welfare from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She met her husband of 30 years in Spanish class at the U of M. They lived in Minneapolis for 25 years before moving up north in 2003. In 2005, they moved to the Grand Rapids area and enjoy the closeness to nature, recreational opportunities and all the cultural and social activities this area has to offer.

Career/Professional Accomplishments

Arlene began her career in social services with elderly people and continued that career path until the mid-1980s when she returned to the U of M to study journalism, embracing her passion for writing. She then began her second career in public relations and marketing, which now spans 30 years. She worked for a national insurance company in employee benefits and corporate communications departments, where she handled internal and external communications. While at the insurance company, she served as president of its women's council, and at the same time was president of a Business & Professional Women's chapter that met in downtown Minneapolis.

For the past 15 years, Arlene has worked as public relations and marketing coordinator for Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin. In this role, she manages numerous projects and does a lot of writing—news releases, newsletters, newspaper columns, patient testimonials, Facebook posts and more. She enjoys the diversity of her project work and communicating about health care issues. She is looking forward to retiring in two years.

Personal Interests

Arlene enjoys daily walks with husband Greg and watching Masterpiece Theater shows with interesting historical settings (Outlander, Downton Abbey), cooking/baking and reading novels. This year she started a journal to keep track of how many books she has read—13 so far in 2020.

AAUW passion/involvement

Arlene joined the Grand Rapids Branch in 2007 when Nancy Raymond invited her to attend a meeting. She enjoys the opportunity to connect with women who share her passion for promoting educational and career opportunities for women and girls. She took on the newsletter editor role in that first year of membership; a few years ago she began managing the production of our annual membership directory.



AAUW Midwest Regional Convention

June 18-20, 2020

Hyatt Place, East Moline, Illinois

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 18

11:00 to 1:00 pm Conference Registration Opens at Convention Site

11:00 to 1:00 pm Exhibit set up

1:00-1:45 pm	Opening Lunch, Welcome from State Presidents
1:45-2:45 pm	Lisa Maatz
2:45-3:00pm	Break
3:00-4:00 pm	Michelle Duster
4:00-4:45 pm	Breakout Session #1
5:00-6:00 pm	Cash Open Bar
6:00-8:30 pm	Banquet at The Bend
7:00-8:00 pm	President's Reception with Kim Churches

Friday, June 19

8:00-8:30am	Registration, Exhibits Open
8:30-8:45am	Welcome, Announcements
8:45-10:00am	Kendra Davis, AAUW in Action and Economic Security Panel
10:00-10:15am	Break
10:15-11:15 am	Panel – Economic Security in Action?
11:15-11:30 am	Break
11:30-12:15 pm	Breakout Session #2
12:30-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:00 pm	Denise Lieberman
2:00-2:15 pm	Break
2:15-3:00 pm	Breakout Session #3

Branch Program Sharing
 State Board Meetings (Illinois and Iowa)
 Legacy Circle Gathering
 5:45-6:15 pm Travel to and Board River Cruise
 6:30-9:00 pm River Boat Cruise

Saturday, June 20

8:00-8:30 am	Registration, Exhibits Open
8:30-8:45 am	Welcome, Announcements
8:45-9:45 am	LAF Speaker
9:45-10:30 am	Plenary
10:30-11:45 am	Kendra Davis, Town Hall
11:45 am-12 pm	Farewell and Evaluations

Early Registration planned at about \$175; late registration after mid-May planned at \$225. Double rooms about \$150. Official registration will start soon. **Questions? Contact Deanna Ensley, 360-333-0228 or deannaensley@yahoo.com**

MN AAUW Awards Branch Grants - February 2020

Brainerd Lakes Area #1 - Central Lakes College and the League of Women Voters are coordinating and cooperating on several events during 2020 with the intention of raising awareness in our communities about the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and women's voting rights. **\$500**

#2 Central Lakes College (CLC), Brainerd Area Women's Fund and AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area Branch will host a 2nd Annual Empowering Girls Institute on the CLC campus in August, 2020 for 100 girls. It will be an expansion of the successful 2019 first year trial. **\$500**

Ely - #1 We are planning to hold yet another set of STEM Workshops in March or April 2020. Each year we have different workshop presenters who cover different

areas of STEM so that repeat workshop participants may get a broader exposure to the various fields. Our girl participation count has ranged from 17 to 39 over these past 8 years. **\$1,000**

#2 The issue of equal pay is front and center in AAUW's mission as an organization and an issue this branch cares about and focuses a significant amount of energy on. The local branch of AAUW has been involved in equal pay activities for many years. In April of 2018, the Branch stepped up its activities with a greater focus on local business. We sent a letter asking businesses to sign an affirmation that they would provide equal pay for equal work. Our goal is to secure signatures from 100% of Ely businesses so that we can celebrate Ely as the first 100% equal pay community in the state. The goal of 100% is aggressive, but we believe we cannot do less for the women who share this community with us. **\$500**

Fargo-Moorhead #1 STEM occupations face a general lack of available workers to fill open positions, but also lack diversity. Many STEM outreach events aiming to increase diversity pair students with role models who look like them, like Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, where girls from local middle schools meet women engineers and do hands-on projects for the day. Events like this are important for girls to learn more about STEM, and some studies show that they are more comfortable and less afraid of being wrong when they are separated from the boys. **\$2,500**

#2 The spring 2019 pay equity programming for the Fargo-Moorhead AAUW affiliate included an introduction to the Work Smart workshop. The introductory course generated significant interest and based on feedback from participants, it was evident that a longer, more in-depth workshop is needed for our community. We plan to extend the AAUW Work Smart workshop to include more role-playing and one on one interaction with experienced hiring personnel. **\$1,500**

St. Croix for an educational display promoting books that address the issues of sexuality and youth. **\$500**

Websites for local, state and national AAUW information:

Our Grand Rapids AAUW blog: <http://grandrapidsaauw.blogspotcom/>

MN AAUW website: <http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

National AAUW website: www.aauw.org

ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – FOR MORE INFORMATION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION www.aauw.org
AAUW MINNESOTA www.aauwmn.net