

PRESS RELEASE

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RE: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW) CELEBRATED 50TH ANNIVERSARY (18 MONTHS LATE)

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The Hastings Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was founded by 23 women on 9 February 1970, and on 27 September 2021 the Hastings AAUW Branch celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Hastings Public House. Although the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the event by 17 months, Hastings AAUW could not allow such a landmark event to go unrecognized. Over 60 past current and new members and guests celebrated their 50th program year with an evening of dinner, music and remembrance. Five charter members were in attendance and shared their memories of founding the organization and highlights from the 50 years. The event also served as the 52nd program year kick-off!

The Hastings AAUW Branch remained strong through the time of COVID-19 with the membership level holding at over 80. Programs, field trips, book group and business meetings pivoted to a virtual platform with vibrant participation. With in-person restrictions being lifted over the summer, Hastings AAUW held a used book sale at Rivertown Days and hosted a Summer Wine Soiree. The funds raised at these events will be used to continue the Branch's long-term support of Hastings Reads and an annual HS scholarship.

AAUW is the oldest and largest national organization working for women. For more than a century it has promoted education and equity for women and girls. Nationally, more than 100,000 AAUW members work daily to help women meet the demands of our complex society. AAUW fosters the hopes and dreams of teenage girls, doctoral candidates, homemakers, career women and volunteers. AAUW raises millions of dollars for fellowships. AAUW raises America's awareness about issues that affect families and women's careers. AAUW leads today to ensure women a place among the leaders of tomorrow.

More information about the Hastings AAUW Branch, programs, how to get connected, and membership information can all be found at <https://hastings-mn.aauw.net/>.