

THE HEART OF THE ARROWHEAD

AAUW Hibbing Branch Newsletter

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"I believe the rights of women and girls is the unfinished business of the 21st century."

— Hillary Clinton

President's message —

As Sara is leading a student European tour, she has given the newsletter editor the liberty to express her greetings.

Thus, on behalf of Sara, ***the state of the AAUW Hibbing branch is strong. The branch successfully completed its annual Book Sale. Learn more in this newsletter under 'Book Sale Recap'.***

The AAUW Hibbing branch has experienced both sadness and happiness to our membership. "In Remembrance" provides a memorial to Sharon Kearney.

On a brighter note, AAUW Hibbing branch welcomed new members who have joined over the past few months — Nancy Lopac, Rosa Crawford, Joslyn Cook, Pam Rooney, and Amy Schwab.

Most importantly, AAUW MN members will be attending the AAUW Central States Regional Conference in St. Louis, MO, October 19-21, 2023. I hope many will attend this enriching meeting. Read more under AAUW National News.

Enjoy your summer and we'll see all of you in September as we begin another exciting year of AAUW advocacy.

Sara



Contact:

Sara Merfeld, AAUW-Hibbing
Branch President

merfeldsara@gmail.com



BOOK SALE RECAP

Moments to Remember

Those of us who have worked at the book sale know that our conversations with AAUW members and customers make the book sale a truly heartwarming, satisfying and often humorous experience. Below are only a few of the moments to remember from this year's sale:

Theresa Cox found the 50 Shades of Grey books in Harlequin romance and religion. She removed them two times and put them in the paperback section.

A customer recently painted a room lilac and grey. She was buying books with those colors to match her walls.

Unfortunately Sue Moody fell backwards when she sat on one of the newer Armory chairs. Good that she wasn't hurt. Bob Kearney removed those chairs and replaced them with old chairs. When Barb told Sergeant Wyek about this, he sat on a few of the newer chairs and even bounced a little to show that those chairs could safely support a 260 pound person. The mystery of the possible broken chair continues!

Barb sorted an unusual box of books. The top layer of books was fine, but the other layers had a white dusting of something like powder. She was concerned and wore gloves, but the books were excellent for the sale so Barb started dusting them off. On the bottom of the box was a note stating that there was baking soda on books for storage!

A man from Hibbing and his two teen daughters said that he has brought them to the sale every year since they were little. It is now a family tradition.

A regular customer bought all the records that were left on the last day. When asked if he wanted them in boxes, he said that he didn't have time. He needed to get them in the car before his wife saw him!

Many interesting items were found in the boxes from the White Elephant Sale.

The Impact of the AAUW Book Sale

[Becky Kapella provides this touching story. It makes every second of our work worthwhile.]

I met a retired woman who lost her husband during Covid. She worked for a huge law firm in Duluth before new management terminated her job after 30 years. She came to the sale from Virginia, MN and it was her first time at the book sale. She hadn't been out of the house much since Covid and she was delighted to be around all the other book lovers. She bought three huge boxes of cookbooks stating "I just love to read different cookbooks at night...it makes me happy. After Covid, this book sale is like a breath of fresh air!" This woman felt lonely, depressed and isolated. However, the AAUW book sale made a positive impact on her mental health.

The AAUW book sale has added benefits to the people who walk through our doors. We inspire people to connect with one another. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard this year!

Becky

Book Donations are now being taken. Books have already been coming to Barb's garage and our new storage facility!

Please share with your family and friends!

Guidelines: No Readers Digests, old textbooks, encyclopedias, or magazines (except crafts).

Call Barb @ 218-340-2639.

Book Sale Recap cont'd

Our Fantastic 2023 Book Sale -

Congratulations to our Hibbing branch of AAUW for having a fantastic sale with the most books, 80,000, and the most profits, \$18, 875, except for last year! Rosa Crawford who is a new member won the chocolate for her guess of \$19,125.!

The following are some of those who generously donated towards rent, insurance, after-hours custodial fees, and other expenses:

Owens Family Foundation Patty Miller Mary Jean Waters Thrivent Financial

Super 1 Foods Bougalis Construction Express Print Yoder Building Supplies

Memorials for Lynn Daniels and Sharon Kearney

Accomplishing the overwhelming task of hauling, sorting, displaying and selling thousands of books was fantastic. We saw steady progress every shift with many members working extra shifts and hours. The HHS Key Club members, Hibbing Youth in Action, Boy Scouts Troop 1, and Victory Christian Academy students helped us immensely.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. The sale would not have been possible without you. Your cooperation, creative ideas, dedication, and very hard work are to be commended.

Special thanks for:

Publicity – Marilyn Kaeli

Map maker- Stefanie Carlson Flyers- Jan Carey and Stefanie Carlson

Collages and signs-Anita Forte & Charlotte Hanegmon

Donated additional new aprons-Jan Carey

Storage & hauling-Pam Klune Treasurer Julie Takkunen with Bette Jo Greateon

Food- Ken's A-1, Theresa Cox & Gretchen Wright

Cardboard breakdown and removal in summer- Stephanie Rancourt & Bob Kearney.

This year we needed extra help in many ways. Thank you to the following relatives and friends:

Ed Cox, KenKapella, Lance Takkunen, Leah Wright, Brian Moody, Tony Klune, Owen Walters, Tony Ridlon, Ernie Hummel, Pam Rundell, Dale Spenser & Hazel, Maddie Hormann, Joanne Stehlin and Thistledeew Restorative Justice Workers.

I apologize if I have forgotten anyone.

Once again, it was my pleasure, privilege, and honor to work with you to raise money for scholarships for women and girls. No task was too big or small for you to undertake, and you never gave up when the work seemed overwhelming. Throughout the nine days, you maintained your friendliness and sense of humor and probably worked harder and longer than you planned without complaining. I truly appreciated working with you.

Let's look forward to another fabulous book sale in 2024!

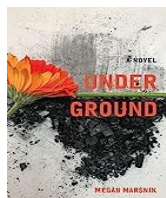
Barb Wojciak, Book sale chair

HIBBING BRANCH NEWS

LITERATURE GROUP SETS READING LIST FOR 2023/24. Hostess/location will be listed on AAUW Hibbing FB page.

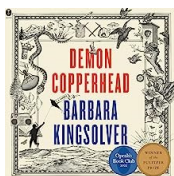
AUGUST 30

Under Ground
by Megan Marsnik



SEPTEMBER 30

DEMON COPPER
HEAD”
by Barbara Kingsolver



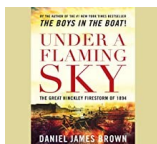
OCTOBER 24

Vanishing Half
By Brit Bennett



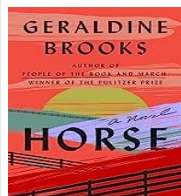
NOVEMBER 28

Under a Flaming Sky
The Great Hinckley
Firestorm of 1894
by Daniel James Brown



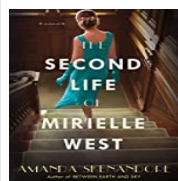
JANUARY 23

HORSE
by Geraldine Brooks



April 30

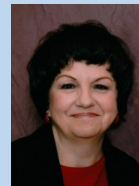
The Second Life of Mirielle
West
by Amanda Skenandore



IN REMEMBRANCE



Sharon
Kearney



AAUW Hibbing branch extends its sympathy to the family of Sharon Kearney who passed away January 8, 2023. Sharon served AAUW Hibbing branch in various capacities — as president, board member, Book Sale co-chair and the office of Treasurer for over 17 years.

Her career led her to employment at Minnesota Twist Drill working in accounts payable, where she would remain for 30 years, until retirement on Dec. 1, 2022. Sharon loved her job and the many special relationships she made while working there.

She loved her job, family, travel and Italian heritage. Sharon extended her creativity and passions to friends and family. AAUW benefitted from her numerous hours of sorting and organizing for the Book Sale and most importantly counting every penny, on the hour, each day of the sale. Sharon often read as many as 5 books at a time and figured she had read 1000s over her lifetime, many of them more than once. Reading was her peace, her, solace and her escape.

A celebration of life was held at Valentini's Supper Club, Chisholm MN, May 13, 2023, with all the festivity and cuisine of her Italian heritage.



HIBBING (MN)
BRANCH

AAUW National News



AAUW members representing Central region states will convene the second in-person regional states AAUW Conference, October 19-21, 2023 in St. Louis, MO. Previous regional conferences occurred in Kansas City, MO in 2016 and a ZOOM regional meeting in 2021.

“Celebrating AAUW: Reaching New Heights Together” is the theme for the conference. The conference will be held at the Drury Plaza Arch Hotel, 2 South 4th Street, St. Louis, MO.

The complete conference schedule, registration form and application for Swap Shop sessions will arrive soon to state presidents and will be distributed immediately to state branches and members.

If members cannot attend, the planning committee requests personal, branch or state donations be made to support the financial costs of the event. Any amount of support will be greatly appreciated.

Remit to: Lois Domsch, 3349 S. Scott Ave., Independence, MO 64052—

Paid to: AAUW Central Regional Conference.

Celebrating AAUW

ARKANSAS • ILLINOIS • INDIANA • IOWA • KANSAS • MICHIGAN • MINNESOTA • MISSOURI • NEBRASKA • OKLAHOMA • TEXAS • WISCONSIN

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS *together!*

AAUW Central States Regional Conference
October 19-21, 2023 • St. Louis, Missouri
Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch

Featuring

Cloria Blackwell
CEO of AAUW
Keynote Speaker

Lisa Maatz
Public Policy &
Organizational Consultant
Keynote Speaker

Plenary and breakout topics:

- Voting Rights and Issues
- Reproductive Rights and Women's Health
- Equity and Inclusion
- Succession Planning and Leadership
- Women's Economic Security • pay Equity
- AAUW and The Future!

Full conference details at aauw-mo.aauw.net

ADVOCATING UNDER THE ARCH

CONFERENCE DETAILS

AAUW Central States Regional Conference
CELEBRATING AAUW - REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER!
October 19-21, 2023 • St. Louis, Missouri

Welcome: 1:00pm (Central) on Thursday, October 19th
Farewell: Noon on Saturday, October 21st

Venue **Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch**
Room rates \$221 per night for 2 queen beds (max. occupancy 4).
Additional \$27/night for covered parking. Call Drury at 314-231-3003 or visit DruryHotels.com for more information.

Registration **Conference Registration**
Early bird registration: \$200/person before September 16th (\$225 thereafter). **Registration forms available July 1st.** Registration fee includes conference meals.

Bonus **Swap Shop Sessions**
Casual sessions to network and share great ideas. Branches and states can submit their favorite projects, ideas, and programs. Top selections will be presented at the conference and others shared on websites.

Join your fellow AAUW members from 11 central states for three days of education, inspiration, great ideas, fun, and friendship in exciting *St. Louis!*

Contact: Karen Francis • karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com • (314) 223-4235

INSPIRE • LEARN • IMPACT • CELEBRATE

AAUW HIBBING BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS—2023

AAUW 2023 Scholarship Winners

Collegian Scholarship Winners

Female high school seniors who have been chosen as Future Collegians. It is intended to help women working toward a 4-year degree. Each Scholarship Winner received \$1,200 towards their college education.



Sabine Wetzel
Hibbing High School
Fashion Institute of Technology, New York
International Trade & Marketing for the
Fashion



Emery Maki
Hibbing High School
Univ. of Northwestern-St. Paul
Exercise Science/Nutrition

STEM Collegian Scholarship Winners

This is for female high school seniors who have been chosen as Future Collegians. It is intended to help women working for a 4-year degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Each Scholarship Winner received \$1,200 towards their college education.



Emma Williams
Nashwauk Keewatin High School
Univ. of MN- Crookston



Madison St. George
Iowa State University
Biology



Lives-in-Transition Scholarship

This is for female students who are returning to school after an extended absence. The student must carry 6 or more semester credits at HCC and have financial need.



Danielle Flategraff
Hibbing Community College
Nursing
\$1,200 Award



Julie Sweep
Hibbing Community College
Nursing
\$600 Award

Vida B. Adams Scholarship

This scholarship is for female HCC graduates who will be continuing on to pursue a 4-year degree. It is based on: at least a 3.0, focus on education, career and financial need. The Scholarship Winner received \$1,200 towards their college education.



Madyson Lee Hopke
Hibbing Community College
Teacher/Early Childhood
Education



AAUW-Hibbing Branch Officers: 2022-23

President	Sara Merfeld
VP Membership	Marcella Schwecke
VP Programs	Gretchen Wright & Becky Kapella
Secretary:	Kathy Laffin
Treasurer:	Julie Takkunen

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Follow AAUW MN

Follow AAUW

AAUW MN Newsletter, THE PINE—Summer 2023 Issue.

READ IT @ <https://aauw-mn.aauw.net/>

THE AAUW MN PINE newsletter is published approximately 4 times/year and distributed to branch presidents who in turn forward to members. Archived issues are available on the AAUW MN website.

Don't forget to mail the newsletter to a friend or prospective member.

Print/address/fold/stamp/mail - It's that easy!



AAUW-Hibbing: Committees & Chairs

Programs, Gretchen Wright & Becky Kapella

Public Policy, Stefanie Carlson

By-Laws, Sara Merfeld

Membership, Marcella Schwecke

Book Sale/AAUW Funds, Barb Wojciak

Scholarships, Shanna Eskeli & Sara Merfeld

Cultural Interest, Mary Enge & Peggy Vidmar

Historian, Mary Petron

Projects, vacant

Reservations, Linda Manney & Sue Moody

Future Collegians, Sue Moody & Lynn Stish

Literature, Patty Miller

Special Funds, Jeannie Brandstrom

Sunshine, Marilyn Kaeli

Newsletter Editor/FB Administrator, Jan Carey



HIBBING (MN)
BRANCH

The Heart of the Arrowhead: AAUW-Hibbing branch newsletter is compiled by Jan Carey and member contributors and published four times annually. c2023