



Grand Rapids Timberline

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT
AAUW GRAND RAPIDS
BRANCH MEMBERS

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MISSION: *AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research education and advocacy.*

April 15, 2024

Location: United Methodist Church
Social/Registration: 5:00-5:45 PM Dinner: 5:45-6:30 PM

Menu: Spaghetti with - red sauce and meatballs or - Alfredo sauce and chicken,
Spinach salad, Garlic bread, Bread pudding
Cost \$15

Food Chair: Marj Lavalier

Food Committee: Linda Lonson, Jean Hoshal, Ann Clark, Kathy Pliska

Business Meeting: 6:30 PM

Program: 6:45 PM

Program Topic: Beautify Your Landscape with Native Plants

Learn how adding "Native" Minnesota flowering plants to your landscape can increase the beauty that we all crave after this past grey winter.

Bonny Siegford has been a University of Minnesota Itasca County Extension Master Gardener since 2014. Bonny has designed and planted a large native plant garden, with the help of her husband Gary, for their new retirement home's landscape in Deer River. Today her gardens contain more than 70 varieties of Minnesota's native flowering herbaceous forbs, trees and shrubs. She enthusiastically spreads the word about the beauty, importance and joys of growing native plants by conducting pollinator workshops and tours of her pollinator-friendly gardens.

****RSVP to AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com by Monday, April 8, 2024**

May 20th meeting is at Forest Lake at 5pm. Cost is \$30

Your choices are:

Walleye Almandine

6oz Sirlion Steak

Basil Chicken Linguine

Includes: Bread loaf, Garden or Ceaser Salad, Rice Pilaf or Baked Potato, Asparagus, Chocolate Cake

President's Message

Hi all.

Just a reminder the April Dinner Meeting is the Book Sale. I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter weekend!

Laurie Clausen, President

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*****Travel Treasures**

At our March meeting we had five Travel Treasures which brought in \$59 for our scholarship fund, great job!!

- * Pam Friesen traveled to the Grand Canyon and brought 'Night Sky' socks
- * Anita Firman went to Gulf Shores Alabama and donated a colorful Mardi Gras basket
- * Julie Skallman brought an Evil Eye Bowl from Cypress, which keeps evil out of your home
- * Louise Koglin-Fideldy made note cards from photos she took in the Dominican Republic
- * Nancy Raymond framed a dried Dragon Plant from Florida to celebrate the Chinese Year of the Dragon

At our April meeting, along with Travel Treasures, we will have our BOOK FAIR! Bring books, and money to purchase more. Always a fun evening.

Thanks to all our members,
Marlys Mestemacher
Jean Gardener

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A Goal without a Plan... is just a Wish!
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****INTEREST GROUPS****

*****LITERATURE**

The AAUW Monday Morning Lit Group will meet on Monday, April 8th, at 9:30 AM in the private dining room at Majestic Pines. Nancy Raymond will lead the discussion of *WHERE COYOTES HOWL* by Sandra Dallas. (Master storyteller Sandra Dallas tells the story of schoolteacher Ellen Webster who, in 1916, accepts a teaching position in rural Wyoming. She meets and falls in love with a cowboy, Charlie Bacon. Ellen becomes a rancher's wife and she and Charlie face numerous trials as they build a life together. This is, also, a story of the other women in the community and how they help one another through difficult times. According to one review, ("...WHERE COYOTES HOWL is a vivid and deeply affecting ode to the early Twentieth Century West..."). Coffee will be provided. For more information, contact Nancy Salmi @218-326-3147 or nsalmi@earthlink.net.



*****WALKING & TALKING**

The Walking Group walks on Tuesdays at 1 PM. The locations change from week to week but will be in the Grand Rapids area. The group is open to new members interested in walking. If you would like to join us, send your email and cell number to Karen Karls at k.karls@yahoo.com.

You will receive an email with the weekly walk location. Members walk when they can or want to; no need to RSVP. We generally walk for about an hour. If the weather is very dreadful, we may cancel and will let you know. However, we are a hardy group of women who value the fresh air and exercise as well as companionship.

*****SUNSHINE & CARING**

If any member of AAUW needs a bit of sunshine because of illness or a sympathy card, please let me know and I will send a card from AAUW. You can email me at: cyndy.agle@gmail.com.

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*'Would love to restart a **Scrabble Group** that ended several years back.
Anyone interested please email Juliet Jones at kcjones50@yahoo.com
Thanks so much!' Juliet*

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Meet a Member — Margaret Barrick

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Writing this autobiographical article has given me the opportunity to reflect about some of the changes that have occurred in my life, especially relating to my years in Grand Rapids.

In 1953, my father, Myron Nielsen, accepted a teaching position with School District 318, and our family moved from Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, to Grand Rapids. I attended Forest Lake School for grades 3 and 4, Old Forest Lake for grades 5 -6, the Junior High School for grades 7-9, and the Senior High School, then home of the Grand Rapids Indians, for grades 10-12. Today, none of these buildings exist, my high school cheerleading uniform is in the Itasca County Historical Society, and the hospital where my three children were born is an apartment building! How life changes!

My husband, Joe Barrick, moved to Grand Rapids from Ankeny, Iowa, at the beginning of our senior year – 1963. We dated for three years, realized we were meant for each other, and now have been married 58 years. We have three children, Michael, Matthew, and Miriam, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. We moved from GR to Glen Ellyn, Illinois, when Miriam was 10 days old. Then, when she was in 8th grade, we moved to Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, where we lived for 28 years. When Joe and I retired, we decided it was time to move back "home." Both of us are very happy to be back in Grand Rapids.

I graduated from Bemidji State University with a B.S. in English/Speech and Drama. I earned a M.A. in Educational Administration and Supervision from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Although I had the credentials to be an administrator, I chose to remain a classroom teacher because I really enjoyed the positive daily interaction with students. Most of my career (34 years), I taught high school juniors and seniors. My teaching career started in Grand Rapids, but after two years, Joe and I moved to Glen Ellyn, Illinois. I taught English for nine years at Glenbard North High School. Then, as I mentioned earlier, we moved to Pennsylvania. At Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School, I taught AP English Literature, World Literature, British Literature, American Literature, and Mythology. I served as the National Honor Society Advisor for 15 years and the English Department Chairperson for several years until I retired. The 24 teachers in the MASH English Department, as well as the teachers in Grand Rapids and Illinois,

gave me the opportunity to work with many dedicated educators throughout my career.

I feel very fortunate to have spent so many years teaching, which I really loved. I miss the students, but I am thankful that I no longer spend every weekend reading essays! However, I must say the I am enjoying retirement, too! Now I have time to spend doing other things I enjoy, like belonging to AAUW.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

AAUW Book Sale—April 19, 20 & 21



Hibbing Armory

2310 Brooklyn Drive

Across Highway 169 from Minnesota North College—Hibbing, Minnesota

Friday Apr 19
9:30-8 PM
\$1.00 Per Book

Sat Apr 20
9:30-5:30 PM
50 Cents Per Book

Sunday Apr 21
9:30-2:00 PM
\$2.00 A Bag

Membership dues for 2024-25 are being collected now.

The dues are \$100.00 for 2024-25.
All members that have paid by the May meeting
will be entered in a drawing for a free membership.

A check can be mailed to our treasurer:

Julie Skallman
PO Box 5163
Grand Rapids, MN 55744



The Slate of Officers for the 2-year term:
President: Susan LaVelle
Vice President/ Membership: Janis Johnson
Co-Vice President/Programs: Anita Firman
Secretary: Vicki Holmstrom

The voting will take place at our April meeting.
Louise Koglin Fidely and Cyndy Agle, Nominating Committee

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Grand Rapids AAUW Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 11, 2024 – United Methodist Church

Laurie Clausen, president, opened the meeting. Other attendees included Karen Karls, Dianne Anderson, Julie Skallman, Janis Johnson, and Marlys Mestemacher.

Secretary’s report: Minutes were approved as corrected. Corrections included membership for the Nominating Committee being Cyndy Agle and Louise Koglin Fidely and not President Laurie Clausen. In addition, the Chapter Donation for the Spring Meeting’s Silent Auction will be \$50 - \$100.

Treasurer’s report: The balance as of March 11, 2024 was \$8712 with the actual available balance for expenses being \$4213. We increased dues for FY24-25 to \$19 for the branch and \$100 total. Julie Skallman requested a motion to transfer \$3300 of scholarship funds to GRACF to accommodate this year’s additional scholarships. Karen Karl made the motion and Janis Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports

Communications: Karen Karls submitted an article to the Herald Review about the upcoming meeting and program. There was also a discussion for the need to submit program information to Karen for these articles.

Programs: Ways to improve the efficiency of program planning and communication were discussed.

AAUW Funds: Jean Gardner has joined Marlys Mestemacher in overseeing Travel Treasures.

Educational Opportunity/Scholarship: GRACF has announced applications are ready for online review and Helen Ahlbrecht will be connecting with Charlie Black regarding the Minnesota North Scholarship.

New Business: Janis Johnson agreed to reside over the March general meeting. The April Board meeting will include the selection of committee chairs.

Adjournment: Karen Karls moved the meeting be adjourned and Marlys Mestemacher seconded. The next meeting will be April 15th at 4pm prior to the general meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Dianne Anderson, Secretary

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**AAUW Grand Rapids MN Branch General Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024**

The Grand Rapids branch met at the United Methodist Church on Monday, March 18th, 2024, for a social hour, dinner and program. There were 37 attendees including one guest.

Janis Johnson opened the business meeting with the reading of the AAUW Mission Statement. Louise Koglin Fidely then announced the slate of officers for the upcoming April 2024 election. They include:

- President – Susan LaVelle
- VP/Membership – Janis Johnson
- Co-VP/Programs – Anita Firman
- Secretary – Vicki Holstrom

Other announcements included a welcome to guest Mary Kay Jacobson, a reminder about the upcoming April Book Sale, and a congratulations to Karen Karls on her 50 year AAUW membership. After announcements, Travel Treasures garnered \$59.

Margaret Barrick then introduced speakers Lisa Tabbert, President of The Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation, and Tracey Kampa, Children and Youth Librarian. The presentation included the role the Foundation and the Friends of the Library play in supporting the Grand Rapids Area Library as well as many examples of the Programs funded and/or supported.

*Minutes respectfully submitted,
Dianne Anderson, Secretary*

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Treasurer’s Report

Dues for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024, are \$100 and can be sent to me at Julie Skallman PO Box 5163, Grand Rapids 55744. Please make it payable to AAUW and put Dues on the memo line of the check. If it arrives on or before our May dinner meeting you will be placed in the drawing for a free membership. You can also hand carry the check to the April or May meeting. You will remain in good standing if I have a check by July 1.

I will be out of the country from April 5 to 24 so if it arrives in my post office box during that time it will be held and not cashed until I return.

If you joined after January 1, 2024 DO NOT send me a check without contacting me first.

Julie Skallman Treasurer
julie.skallman@gmail.com



Almond Bars

Cream
1 cup butter
1 cup almond paste

Beat in
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1/2 t. almond extract

Add
2 cups flour
1/2 t. salt

Spread in greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup sliced almonds.

Bake at 300 for 40-45 mins.

The only store in Grand Rapids where I have found almond paste is Walmart, though I haven't looked at Aldi. My niece calls this "cheater blanket."

Norma Eppinga



Ellen Edverson - April 3
Margaret Barrick - April 4
Patricia 'Pat' Mahoney - April 13
Jean Halverson - April 15
Emillie Zasada - April 17
Martha Lentz - April 17
Marsha Miller - April 20
Sally Hagman - April 25



Websites for local, state and national AAUW information:

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

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

