



# 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.*

## **President's Message**

Hello, Friends!

I have enjoyed my role as president and would like to thank all who have been so helpful for the past two years. Enjoy summer and hope to see you at the potluck in August!

Laurie Clausen, President

## **\*\*\*Travel Treasures**

Thank you to our wonderful AAUW members. We had many beautiful items from your travels and added \$90 to our Scholarship Fund!

- Linda Johnson wintered in North Padre, Texas, and brought back real vanilla, flower decor and moonshine.
- Louise Koglin Fidely was also in Texas and donated honey, a variety of pecans and Birds of Paradise seeds from her niece from Hawaii.
- Jan Hill donated turtle earrings from the turtle hospital and an Ernest Hemingway log book, both from Florida Keys.
- Julie Skallman traveled to the 'Stans' and donated a scarf from an active mosque in Kyrystan, a variety of fruits and nuts from a Turkmenistan and soap from Cyprus.
- A lovely evening bag from India was donated by Cathy Davies.
- Cyndy Agle wintered at the Gulf Shores and brought mango salsa.

A big thank you to Jan Hill. She held a raffle for a lovely fuchsia hanging basket which added another \$140 to our Scholarship Fund.

The Spring Banquet was so fun, a good time was had by all!  
Marlys Mestemacher and Jean Gardner

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*Thank You!*

Our sincere thanks to the members that are going off the board:  
Laurie Clausen served as President  
Dianne Anderson served 2 terms as Secretary  
Terri Friesen served as Co-Vice President/Programs

*Welcome!*

Welcome to the members joining the board:  
President: Susan LaVelle  
Secretary: Vicki Holmstrom  
Co-Vice President/Programs: Anita Firman  
Vice President/Membership: Janis Johnson (doing a second term)

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**\*\*\*Membership**

Congratulations to the winner of our Membership drawing;  
All members that had paid the \$100 dues by the May meeting were entered in the drawing.  
Our winner was: Judy MacAlpine Congratulations, Judy!



Our members that attended the **State Convention** in Hastings in April:  
Left to right. Jan Miland, Janis Johnson, Marlys Mestemacher and Karen Karls

The members attending the state convention in April received information on all state branches. We rank 6th in membership for the state out of 27 branches. We can be proud of our accomplishment for both existing and new members.

Our Grand Rapids branch received an award for increased membership. We were one of five in the state that had an increased membership over the past year. Thank you to all our members for referrals and to our Vice President of Membership—Janis Johnson.

Hastings did a wonderful job of hosting the **95th AAUW of Minnesota Annual Meeting**. The program was headed Confluence = Inclusion, Collaboration, Empowerment. It was held at the Confluence Hotel which is newly-opened in a repurposed factory, making use of much of the old fixtures and materials. It is located at the confluence of the Mississippi, St. Croissant, and Vermillion Rivers.

All the presenters were excellent and stressed the importance of women working together, standing up for gender equity, being willing to take risks both in speaking up as well as trying new things like starting a business. There was a presentation by five women entrepreneurs as well as a welcome from the Hastings Mayor Mary Fasbender. There were video presentations by Rep. Angie Craig and Sen. Amy Klobuchar as well as a live presentation by Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan who is very impressive. Sen. Klobuchar said that women get things done, that not only must they be at the table, but at the head of the table.

Hastings is an old river city that has done a nice job of retaining old buildings in a core area with lots of little shops and restaurants, all an easy walk from the hotel. Our time was limited but Hastings would be worth a visit if you want to take a little road trip. There is a nice river walk and falls we did not see.

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**\*\*\*Summer Happenings**

Our summer potluck will be held on Monday, August 19. Cathy Davies has generously offered to host the potluck with a tour of her gardens. Thank you, Cathy!

**\*\*\*Exploring Our Community:**

Julie Skallman will be speaking on her trip to the Central Asian countries of Kazakhsta, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. We will meet at Smoke on the Water at 11 AM on Monday, June 10, with lunch after. The address is: 94 Roosevelt Ave, Coleraine. RSVP: [lindajohnson@q.com](mailto:lindajohnson@q.com).

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**\*\*INTEREST GROUPS\*\***

**\*\*\*Literature**

The AAUW Monday Morning Lit Group will meet on June 3rd to discuss Congressman Jamie Raskin's UNTHINKABLE: TRAUMA, TRUTH, AND THE TRIALS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (in his memoir, Congressman Raskin tells the searing story of the 45 days at the start of 2021 when he lost his son to suicide and lived through the January 6th violent insurrection in our Nation's Capital). On August 5th, we will discuss THE HEAVEN AND EARTH GROCERY STORE by James McBride (the novel tells the story of Black and Jewish residents of the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, in the 1920s and 1930s who mobilize to help a young Black boy who is deaf). We will meet both months at 9:30 A.M. at Majestic Pines. Coffee will be provided. We will NOT meet in July.

**\*\*\*Walking & Talking**

The group is switching to the summer schedule of walking on Wednesday mornings at 9 AM. The locations change from week to week but usually in the Grand Rapids area. During the summer we've expanded the area a bit to include Hill City, Bovey, and some trails around. The group is open to new members interested in walking. If you would like to join us, send your email address and cell number to Karen Karls at [k.karls@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

**Summer schedule: Wednesday mornings at 9 AM.**

**\*\*\*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](mailto:cyndy.agle@gmail.com)



**AAUW National Election Results**

The initiative to open AAUW's membership did not pass. This would have eliminated the education requirement.

Changes to AAUW's bylaws require 2/3 majority (66.6%) to pass. AAUW members voted 65.1% to approve the measure, just shy of passing.



**Lifetime Members Honored**

We honored our Lifetime Members at our May meeting. We appreciate our Lifetime Members for their commitment to AAUW for 50+ years. Think of all the changes these members have seen promoting our "Mission of Advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy." The Lifetime Members were presented with flowers. They are:

- Sharon Burt**
- Dody Davies**
- Marilyn Rossman**
- Shirley Jacobson**
- Karen Karls**
- Colleen Nardone**
- Harriet Lucia (not pictured)**



Thank you for your years of support and all that you have done for our organization including offices that you have held.

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### **Meet a Member – Judy MacAlpine**

Hi!! I am Judy MacAlpine and I graduated from Grand Rapids High School many years ago. I was born in Minneapolis but visited often in Grand Rapids because we had a cabin on Pokegama Lake. I never thought we would be moving here, but we did. I went to Central School, the old junior and senior High School. I was planning to be a teacher and so I started my college career at St. Catherine's College.

I had no idea about the excellent education I received here until I went to college. I thought about becoming either a math or science teacher and then focused on math. I still remember my first final at St. Catherine's and it was physics. I was surprised at how easy it seemed as I had physics as a class in high school. With what I brought with me from high school, I received the highest grade in the class and earned the Freshman Physics Award at the college. I also tried out mathematics and liked that even more so I declared my major as mathematics with a minor in German.

I decided to transfer to the University of Minnesota after two years at St. Catherine's. I was definitely among the very few females who were pursuing a major in mathematics. I had one class where there were about 200 males in the class and me!! I graduated and started teaching in Minneapolis, where I had done my student teaching. I was married and moved to Bloomington.



I continued teaching in various schools in Minneapolis and then was a substitute teacher as well when my children were little.

I went back to school while teaching and earned a Master's degree at St. Thomas. It was a great program with business and education majors. I believe it was called Learning, Human Development and Technology. It was interesting to learn the application of mathematics in the business world. I finished my teaching career at Edison High School in Northeast Minneapolis. It was interesting and a challenge as many of these students were legal immigrants from countries in Africa and Asia. I did not speak their languages but they quickly learned English and mathematics. They often told me stories about why they had to leave their country.

I retired in 1998 and we moved to Grand Rapids. I am enjoying my retired life here and have met so many new friends.

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### **Scholarships**

The AAUW Mn North Scholarship recipient of \$1500 is Heather Smith from Bovey. She is a 30-year-old Practical Nursing student who will be working toward an associate degree.



Heather Smith & Helen Ahlbrecht

Our Anniversary Scholarship recipients awarded from the GRACF are; Amy Glass from Bovey. She is a Psychiatric Nursing major from Walden University. Lacey Paulley from Deer River. She is a Veterinary Technician major from Penn Foster.

Roni Davis from Marble. She is an RN major from Northwest Technical College (Bemidji).

Meghan Meyer from Marble. She is an Accounting/Finance major from the Collage of Scholastica.



Amy Glas, Roni Davis, Kathleen Spencer & Helen Ahlbrecht

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***Best Wishes to June, July & August Birthdays!!***

- Judith 'Judy' MacAlpine - June 1
- JoAnn Solberg - June 4
- Marjorie 'Marj' Lavalier - June 5
- Harriet Lucia - June 6
- Juliet Jones - June 9
- Sharon Burt - June 12
- Helen Ahlbrecht - June 15
- Sharon Quern - June 20
- Cheryl Vogel - June 24
- Marcia Anderson - June 25
- Vicky Harding - June 25
- Lynette Eck - June 27
- Janis Johnson - June 28
- Nancy Raymond - July 1
- Julianne 'Julie' Erickson - July 10
- Margaret 'Marge' Domish - July 30
- Laurie Clausen - August 3
- Julie Karels - August 3
- Judith Gorham - August 14
- Anita Firman - August 16
- Marilyn Rossman - August 17
- Johnnie Fulton - August 18
- Kathleen Spencer - August 21
- Karen Karls - August 30

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**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](http://www.aauw.org)

**ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – FOR MORE INFORMATION**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

AAUW MINNESOTA [www.aauwmn.net](http://www.aauwmn.net)