



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.*

March 18, 2024

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

Menu: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, Salad Bar, Carrot Cake
Cost \$12

Food Chair: Marlys Mestemacher
Food Committee: Jean Gardner, Pam Friesen, Sue Koprowski

Business Meeting: 6:30 PM
Program: 6:45 PM

Program Topic: Children's Programming at the Grand Rapids Area Library
Presenter: Tracy Kampa Children/Youth Librarian

Programs and resources for children go far beyond the books on the shelves and the creative learning/play activity area at the east side of the library. An on-line story time, Artastic at Home, a winter reading program, a summer reading program followed by the Summer Celebration along the Riverwalk are just a few of the activities under the direction of Tracy Kampa, Children's Librarian.

With financial support from the Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation and Lisa Tabbert, its President, the children's area of the library and its programming continues to grow. A special area for teens, the StoryWalk along the river, and McCartyPark, an interactive music area, are just few of the projects.

Tracy Fideldy Kampa graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1984. She began her college studies at St. Ben's but graduated from Augsburg with a BA in Communications. She has numerous library certifications. Tracy began working at the Grand Rapids Area Library in 1994 before spending 14 years as a school librarian for St. Joseph's Catholic School. She returned to GRAL 16 years ago.

****RSVP to AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com by Monday, March 11, 2024**

President's Message

Hello all!

I sent out an email to everyone that included the registration for the State meeting. If you need a copy, let me know.

Cyndy and Louise are still looking for a volunteer to take over the role of Secretary. This is a great opportunity to become more involved with our local Chapter. Louise sent out an email with details last week.

Thank you.
Laurie Clausen, President

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*****Travel Treasures**

Thank you all!

Your generosity at February's meeting brought in \$88 for our Scholarship Fund.

- Our presenter, Hannah Holmes, donated a candle from Duluth.
- Norma Eppinga traveled to Spooner, Wisconsin, and brought Amish hullless popcorn and from Mt Horeb, Wisconsin, chocolate heart candy.
- Nancy Raymond brought back chocolate/carmels from Buenos Aires; Barberry jam from Ushuaia, the most southern city in the world and a children's penguin book from The Antarctica.
- Marlys Mestemacher had heart cookies from IKEA.

Thank you to Norma Eppinga for helping with Travel Treasures, and welcome to Jean Gardner in that position.

Marlys Mestemacher

'The most alluring thing a woman can have - is Confidence!'

Meet a Member — Jan Bilden

Writing your own biography is quite the exercise in self-examination. What events or people influenced you? What truisms have affected choices and decisions along the way? I was born and grew up in a small (under 1000) town in eastern North Dakota, heavily Norwegian and Lutheran, and with a graduating class of 33, I had the opportunity and expectation to participate and do my part. I took as much science and math as possible, and was in band, choir, drama and the first girls track and field team. I started piano in first grade when I noticed kids leaving school during the school day for lessons and eventually became church organist in 10th grade. Summers and holidays were spent working in the family drug store, where I had a great boss, my dad.

My four years at Concordia College in Moorhead, a big city, were a time of great opportunity and growth. I double majored in biology and physical education/health, the first being fascinating and the second being so much fun. And there were sports for every season: field hockey (who knew what that was?), basketball, badminton, volleyball and of course, track. I also took organ lessons from a wonderful and demanding teacher and her finest compliment was that "I played well enough to be a music major!"

To compress the next period, I taught for a couple of years, then had a short Outward Bound course in the Boundary Waters and adventured off to Mankato State for a masters in Experiential Education. Along the way, I spent time as a canoe guide, married, lived in the Twin Cities for about ten years, worked as a youth/education lay professional in a Lutheran congregation, as a part-time educational resource editor and curriculum writer for Augsburg Publishing, and of course, as a church organist. My two daughters were born during this period also, quite a highlight, and eventually I and the girls left for Grand Forks ND so that I could get my masters in school counseling at UND.

My first counseling position was at GFW in Fairfax, MN and after three good years there, we moved to Grand Rapids in 1991 where I was a middle school counselor for about four years, then went to the high school for the rest of my career where I also was involved in coaching cross-country running and junior high girls track. Retirement in 2013 has given me the time to become more active in our ELCA Northeast Minnesota EcoFaith Team whose goal is for the church to be better stewards of the earth in this time of climate change, to be on the Arrowhead Guild of Organists board and to cochair our Concordia 50th class reunion. I do more traveling (bicycling across Minnesota and the hiking/knitting trips in Iceland are favorites), spend time with my

friend Dick, knit and spin (it is therapeutic), read lots of books, maintain my house and yard and go outside every day. I usually am at the organ for at least 8-10 hours a week and take lessons as well as play for services.

To return to the initial question: What guides me? I would say that I want to keep learning, and AAUW is a part of that, and that I hope to make a contribution to my community and to enjoy the gift of life. Thanks for sharing it with me!

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

**AAUW Grand Rapids MN Branch General Meeting Minutes
for February 19, 2024**

The Grand Rapids branch met at the United Methodist Church on Monday, February 19th, 2024, for a social hour, lunch and program. There were 42 attendees including two guests. There were additional guests for the program presentation only.

Laurie Clausen opened the business meeting with the reading of the AAUW Mission Statement. She announced by-laws will be made available for on-line voting. Louise Koglin Fidely updated the membership on the selection of candidates for officers for 2024 – 2025. Candidates are still needed for secretary, program committee member and travel treasures member. Elections will take place this spring. Kathleen Spencer reported on scholarships. Five volunteers agreed to assist in the review of applications once they are available. Jan Bilden announced an organ recital to be performed at St. Andrews's Church and free to the public on February 21st. Travel Treasures garnered \$68 for the scholarship fund.

The afternoon's program was titled "Climate Change and Minnesota Forests" presented by Hannah Friesen-Holmes from the Nature Conservancy of Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota. Hannah is also the daughter of Terri Friesen, chapter member. The program was very well received by the membership.

*Minutes respectfully submitted,
Dianne Anderson, Secretary*

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*Nothing is more impressive than a person
who is secure
in the unique way God made her!*
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Treasurer's Report

During the Fiscal year 23-24 which started in July our Branch has been given \$765 honoring individuals who have died. Some have been in honor of past members and some in honor of family members or good friends who support the mission of AAUW. Most have come from members but a generous gift came from Elaine Thorstenson's family which contributed \$235 in honor of their mother.

These gifts can be designated to our scholarship fund or to general support of our Branch activities. We have been given both types and will respect your wishes.

If you are interested in honoring someone in this way please send me a check written to AAUW Grand Rapids. Most people notify the family of their donation in a sympathy card but if you want me to write a card to the family saying we received a donation I will do so. Please indicate a name and address for my use.

Julie Skallman Treasurer
PO Box 5163
Grand Rapids, MN 55744



I received this fudge recipe from a co teacher many years ago. The recipe usually stays creamy. It will keep a few weeks if wrapped tightly. It has been a crowd pleaser.

Betty Brandt 2020.

Fanny Farmer Fudge

2/3 c. evaporated milk

2 c. sugar

10 large marshmallows- cut up

Cook on med heat and when it begins to boil set timer for 6 minutes. Stir constantly, it can scorch easily.

Take off heat and add

1 stick (1/2 c.) butter

1 heaping cup of choc. Chips

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 c. nuts (if desired)

Stir

Pour into a buttered 5 x 7" pan. May line pan with parchment, foil or plastic.

Chill overnight then remove from pan and cut into pieces.

This is a softer fudge. To make it harder add more chocolate chips.

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- Jan Mary Hill - March 4
- Kathy Pliska - March 8
- Susan LaVelle - March 14
- Vicki Holstrom - March 21
- Lynn Moratzka - Marh 24
- Barbara Duffy - March 25
- Norma Eppinga - March 2

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