



# 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.*

**May 20, 2024**

**Location: Forest Lake Restaurant Downstairs**

Social/Registration: 5:00-5:45 PM Dinner: 5:45-7 PM

**Menu:** Chose one of the following meals:

Basil Chicken Linguine  
Walleye Almandine  
6oz Sirloin Steak

Meal includes:

Garden or Ceaser Salad  
Bread loaf  
Asparagus  
Rice pilaf or Baked potato  
Chocolate cake

Cost of \$30 includes tax and tip.

**Food Chair:** Jan Hill

**Program:** 7 PM

**Program Topic: Northern Pine Trio**

Northern Pine Trio came together in the fall of 2023. Having crossed paths through the Reif Center and the Grand Rapids Players, Marina Whight, Emily Slaubaugh, and Amy Leigh Koivisto began working on material to perform at Emily's open mic at Klockow Brewing. This included working out harmonies as they weave their voices in song while covering genres from folk, country, theatre, and film.

A native of the Grand Rapids area, Marina Whight started on stage at the age of four. She plays guitar and harp and has performed with several groups from the area. Since 2011, Marina has recorded and performed with Pat Surface and Spiritwood Music. Marina retired from a 43-year career in Elementary Education, giving her more time to devote to music, theater, and dance.

Emily Slaubaugh, AKA Ditty Wish, has performed solo in northern Minnesota for about four years. She's been involved in different local bands and community events including the performances of the Grand Rapids Players. Emily also hosts a community open mic at Klockow Brewing where musicians, comedians, poets, and storytellers can share their talents.

Amy Leigh Koivisto has been singing since she could talk, according to her family. Although she is most often seen acting on local stages in Grand Rapids, Virginia, and Duluth, singing is her first love. In recent years, she has discovered her flair for figuring out harmonies on the fly.

**\*\*RSVP to [AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com) by Monday, May 13, 2024**

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**President's Message:**

Greetings AAUW members.

What perfect timing to have Bonny Siegford, Itasca County Extension Master Gardener, speak at our April dinner. I hope you're all thinking about your gardens for this summer with great ideas to incorporate native plants, I certainly am.

I would like to welcome our new board officers for 2024, President: Sue LaVelle, Secretary: Vicki Holmstrom, Programs: Anita Firman and returning, Membership: Janis Johnson. Thank you, ladies, for taking the time to volunteer and keep the Grand Rapids AAUW Chapter awesome!

Laurie Clausen, President

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**\*\*Travel Treasures  
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

**Our Book Fair added \$113** to our fund, and **Travel Treasures brought in \$43.** Great job!

- Jean Gardner traveled to Arizona and brought back several items. A hand weaved coaster, fancy soap and prickly pear cactus gummy bears.
- Laurie Clausen brought liqueur filled chocolates from Curaco.

- Marj Lavalier was in Jamestown ND and donated salted carmel popcorn.
- Anita Firman found an olive shell at the Gulf Shores and made it into a beautiful necklace.
- Lily Winter donated one of her beautiful handmade necklaces.
- Marlys Mestemacher brought the first daffodils from her garden.

Thanks to everyone for participating. We will have Travel Treasures at our May meeting.

Marlys Mestemacher

Jean Gardner

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*Nothing is more beautiful than  
a person who is secure  
in the unique way that God made her!*

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

**\*\*\*LITERATURE**

The Monday Morning Lit Group will meet on May 6th at 9:30 AM in the private dining room at Majestic Pines. Judy Gorham will lead our discussion of LADY TAN'S CIRCLE OF WOMEN by Lisa See. (This book is a "fascinating and provocative novel about a remarkable woman of 15th Century China, Lady Tan, who is guided by her grandparents in the medical mysteries and treatments of the time. She forges her own path despite strict protocol for a high-born woman's behavior and responsibilities.") Coffee will be provided. For more information, contact Nancy Salmi @ 218-326-3147 or [nsalmi@earthlink.net](mailto: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](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. 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.



Director for National Bridal Service, headquartered in Richmond, VA. In that role I traveled to various Bridal Salons throughout the US and gave semi - annual sales training seminars. In addition, I wrote and graded a sales training course for store owners and employees.

- Was fortunate to be hired by the MINNNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE to come on board to manage the Newspaper in Education program. That led to a variety of managerial positions over a twenty-year period. My final role was the position of Director of Consumer Sales. I loved all aspects of the newspaper and the roles I was lucky enough to hold.

The lure of retirement tempted me to explore more options. With my children settled (both married and parents of two children each) I was free to travel and explore. I moved to Northern Minnesota with a very special friend and began a wonderful new life.

A proud member of AAUW/Grand Rapids!

Patricia A. Mahoney

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***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**

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Karen Karls shared that the recent focus on women’s basketball reminded her of **Charmayne Nelson**, one of our AAUW members who died at age 90, in 2021. Charmayne grew up in Iowa and played in the Iowa Girls State Tournament. This was a time when girls sports was not a common thing. She had stories to tell about those early experiences. She taught Phy. Ed in Iowa for a few years before moving to MN with her husband. I think Charmayne would be so happy to see the opportunities for women and especially the accomplishments of Caitlin Clark and the University of Iowa.



Myrna Peterson shared that she grew up in Iowa and has been following Caitlin Clark for 8 years! Her mom played basketball in high school competitively back in



Thai is a photo of the basket the Grand Rapids branch is taking to the State Meeting. It is wrapped with a sign but i wasn't sure the items would show. It's called **Gifts From Grand Rapids**. All items are locally produced.

Terri Friesen, Marlys Mestemacher and Karen Karls donated items.  
Note the magnet with the red shoes. 😊



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### **AAUW Notecards**

Did you receive your AAUW notecards?

We had a winner from one of our Northland branches. The card featured her Granddaughter wearing a hard hat while visiting a mine and was one of only 4 winners for 2024.

It was done by Pamela Rooney from the Hibbing branch.

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### **Grand Rapids AAUW Board Meeting Minutes Monday, April 15, 2024 – United Methodist Church**

Laurie Clausen, president, presided over the meeting. Attendees included Karen Karls, Dianne Anderson, Janis Johnson, Marlys Mestemacher, Terri Friesen, Kathleen Spencer, and Helen Ahlbrecht.

**Secretary's report:** Marlys Mestemacher moved the minutes from the previous board meeting be approved as read. Karen Karls seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** \$100 has been donated to the scholarship fund since our March 2024 Board meeting. Twenty-nine members have contributed a total of

\$2285 for this fiscal year. A \$20 honorarium was contributed to scholarships. \$3300 was transferred to our GRACF scholarship fund as approved at the last board meeting. Karen Karl made the motion and Janis Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Kathleen Spencer Moved the \$1100 set aside for the Minnesota North – Itasca Engineering camp be released for the new engineering event planned in its place. Karen Karls seconded the motion.

**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 well in advance of the general meeting scheduled.

**Programs:** Ways to improve the efficiency of program planning and communication were discussed. Anita Firman has taken steps to get input from the membership for suggested topics of interest. A planning meeting is scheduled for April 23.

**Educational Opportunity/Scholarship:** Scholarship applications have been reviewed and candidates selected. Awardees include Amy Glass / Psychiatric Nursing; Lacey Paulley / Vet Tech; Roni Davis / RN. Each student receives \$1500. Meghan Meyer / Accounting & Finance received a \$4000 scholarship funded by the Lonson Family. Helen Ahlbrecht will be connecting with Charlie Black regarding the Minnesota North Scholarship. A discussion was held to assess possible changes in scholarship application requirements. Suggestions include lowering the GPA requirement, lowering the age requirement, revising wording to address advanced degrees, continuing with funding for \$1500 per scholarship, and continuing to include "certificate" in the eligibility description. Kathleen will provide a revised description for the application. Finally, we need to assess how to identify the Lonson scholarship given its unique funding,

**New Business:** Cyndy Agle will acknowledge our Life Members at the May general meeting. The June Board meeting will include outgoing and incoming board members. The meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2024 in the Yellow Room At United Methodist Church.

**Adjournment:** Helen Ahlbrecht moved the meeting be adjourned. Marlys Mestemacher seconded the motion.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Dianne Anderson, Secretary*

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**AAUW Grand Rapids MN Branch General Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 15, 2024 – United Methodist Church**

The Grand Rapids branch of AAUW met at the United Methodist Church on Monday, April 15th, 2024, for a social hour, Used Book Sale Scholarship Fundraiser, dinner and program. There were 45 attendees as well as two community members attending the program.



President Laurie Clausen opened the business meeting with the reading of the AAUW Mission Statement and then conducted the election of officers for the 2024-2025 business year. Officers for the upcoming year include:

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

The April Used Book Sale Fundraiser earned \$113 while Travel Treasures garnered \$43.

Kathleen Spencer introduced the speaker for the evening’s program. Bonnie Siegford, Itasca County Extension Master Gardener presented a program entitled Beautify Your Landscape with Native Plants.

*Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Anderson, Secretary*

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### **EASY REFRIGERATOR PICKLES**

2 cups sugar  
1 cup white vinegar  
Heat to dissolve and cool

7 to 9 cups sliced, unpeeled cukes (smaller cukes work the best)  
1 cup sliced onions  
Put in container (ice cream bucket works well)

Sprinkle with:

2 tablespoons salt  
1 tablespoon celery SEEDS

Pour cooled liquid over, stir and store covered in refrigerator. In a few days can be put into smaller jars, keep refrigerated.

Marlys Mestemacher

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Alice Stark - May 5  
Donita Soucek - May 17

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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)