



# Grand Rapids Timberline

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT  
**AAUW GRAND RAPIDS**  
BRANCH MEMBERS

EDITOR: Myrna Peterson  
[myrnakay67@gmail.com](mailto:myrnakay67@gmail.com)  
(218) 301-6028



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

 **Holiday Dinner December 9, 2024** 

**Location: Forest Lake Restaurant**

**Social/Registration: 4:15 PM Dinner: 5:00 PM**

**Meal Choices:**

Broiled Walleye with a choice of Rice Pilaf or Au gratin Potato

Chicken & Rib Combo with a choice of Rice Pilaf or Au gratin Potato

Steak Caprese over pasta

Garden or Ceasar Salad Bread

Loaf

Chocolate Mousse

Cost: \$32

**Program: 6:15 PM**

At the December meeting, **Anita Firman** will be doing ***an interactive scarf tying experience!!!*** Anita's mother was a buyer for Maison Blanche in New Orleans and Dayton's in Minneapolis. Her scarves are from all over the globe!

Anita will have many scarves of all shapes, sizes and fabrics that will be available to use or buy! She will donate proceeds which will go to the Scholarship fund.

Plan for a fun evening!!!

**\*\*RSVP to [AAUW0RSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW0RSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com) by Monday, December 2, 2024**



## President's Message

Hello Friends!

The AAUW November meeting was held on the 11th at 5 PM at our regular meeting place. Dr. Kathleen Annette, who spoke at our gathering, is a locally, regionally and nationally known speaker. She has achieved many different roles across the country as well as being the President and CEO of the Blandin Foundation for 12 years. If you missed the meeting and find out that she will be speaking somewhere else, plan on attending the presentation.

The date for the Holiday Dinner has been set for Monday, December 9th at the Forest Lake Restaurant. The cost will be \$32.00. Registration will begin at 4:15 with dinner at 5:00 PM. PLEASE make your reservations at: [AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com).

Anita Firman will be demonstrating how to tie scarves that will be available for purchase. Hope to see you all there.

Susan LaVelle, President



### \*\*\*Travel Treasures

Thank you, members! We added \$53 to our Scholarship Fund at our November meeting. Thank you, Norma Eppinga for assisting me. Once again, many beautiful items were donated.

- Anita Firman - She made a beautiful Christmas earring tree to get us in the spirit!
- Janis Johnson traveled out west and brought: a Native stone bracelet from Idaho, a cowgirl book from Montana and a beautiful bread baking pottery vase from North Dakota.
- Louise Koglin Fidely brought: Anastasia coconut patties from Florida and a Bookmarker from Badlands National Park in South Dakota.
- Sharon Quern brought: Raspberry Tabasco sauce from Louisiana.
- Marlys Mestemacher brought: Note Cards from Portland, Maine and Maple Cream Cookies from Montréal.
- We WILL have TRAVEL TREASURES at our December Christmas Party! 🌲

Sincerely,

Marlys Mestemacher

Jean Gardner



*If you think you can or can't, you're right.*



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

### **\*\*\*LITERATURE**

The Monday Morning Lit Group will meet on December 2nd at 9:30 AM in the private dining room at Majestic Pines. Ellen Edverson will lead our discussion of *THE CEMETERY OF UNTOLD STORIES* by Julia Alvarez (the celebrated writer, Alma Cruz, literally creates a graveyard for her untold stories - the manuscripts and characters whose lives she could not bring to life; but her characters have other ideas and begin to talk back to her and to Alma's groundskeeper, Filomena. The novel asks "whose stories get to be told and whose buried"). Coffee will be provided. For more information, contact Nancy Salmi @218-326-3147 or [nsalmi@earthlink.net](mailto:nsalmi@earthlink.net).

### **\*\*\*WALKING & TALKING**

The group is on its fall/winter schedule of walking on Tuesday afternoons at 1 PM. The locations change from week to week but are generally in the Grand Rapids area. We walk for about one hour and then may gather for coffee. We are hardy women and always walk outside but we are not speed walkers so you can set your own pace. Group members receive a notification of the location of the walk. Members walk when they want to. No need for RSVPs. If the walk is cancelled for any reason (potential weather threat) you will be notified. The group welcomes new members interested in walking. Send your name, email address, and cell phone number to Karen at [k.karls@yahoo.com](mailto:k.karls@yahoo.com).

### **\*\*\*SUNSHINE & CARIN**

If any member of AAUOW needs a bit of sunshine because of illness or a sympathy card, please let Nancy Raymond know, she is our SUNSHINE & CARING contact. She will send a card from AAUW. You can email her at: [nmraymond14@gmail.com](mailto:nmraymond14@gmail.com).



## **State Meeting in Austin, MN.**

**April 25 and 26, 2025**

Friday evening dinner and speaker will be held at the Austin Country Club.

The Saturday meetings will be held at the world-renowned

Hormel Institute Cancer Center.

Tours of the institute will be held.



## **AAUW Grand Rapids MN Branch General Meeting Minutes for November 11, 2024**

The Grand Rapids branch of AAUW met at the United Methodist Church on Monday, November 11, 2024, for social hour, dinner and a program. There were 39 attendees including the speaker and 1 guest.

President Susan LaVelle opened the business meeting with the reading of the AAUW Mission Statement.

The cost for our December meeting will be \$32. The meal can be paid for at the November meeting, the December meeting, or mailed to treasurer Julie Skallman at PO Box 5163, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

Kathleen Spencer described our local chapter scholarship funds and recruited several members to help review applications.

Travel Treasures raised \$53 for our Scholarship Funds.

Anita Firman introduced our speaker, Kathleen Annette. Kathleen is a past President and CEO of the Blandin Foundation as well as the first Ojibwe woman MD. She spoke on mentors who influenced her throughout her career.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Holmstrom, Secretary



## **Grand Rapids AAUW Board Meeting Minutes Monday, November 25, 2024**

Susan LaVelle, President, called the meeting to order. Additional attendees were Janis Johnson, Karen Karls, Linda Johnson and Vicki Holmstrom.

**Secretaries report:** Karen Karls moved the minutes from the previous board meeting be approved as read. Janis Johnson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** 79 members have now paid dues for the 2024-2025 year. The bank account currently has a balance of \$5959. \$1542 of that is dedicated to scholarships. This leaves \$4417 available to spend.

**Membership:** We have had 4 new members join since the October meeting.

**Programs:** Everything is set.

**Communication:** There will not be an article for the December meeting in the Herald Review since it is a closed meeting.

**Dinner/Food:** The RSVP link for the December meeting will be in the December Newsletter, but since the meeting is coming up so quickly, we will have an extra RSVP reminder sent out before that. People can pay at the meeting. The price has gone up to \$32 this year.

We also discussed changing the visibility of where the RSVP appears in the Newsletter and changing the heading of the Newsletter so that AAUW Timberline appears first in the Subject Line.

We will charge \$13 for the noon meals in January and February.

We have switched to using disposable cups for coffee. Those cups are placed next to the coffee maker for members to take back to their table. Not having the china cups at every spot on the table saves a lot of dishwashing.

**Scholarships:** If anyone has ideas for how to disseminate information about our business scholarship opportunity, please pass those ideas on to Kathleen Spencer.

**New Business:** We discussed the Northland Gathering in Grand Rapids in October 2025. Our chapter will be in charge of putting on this meeting. The first thing to be done is to reserve a meeting site and caterers. Linda Johnson said that our current caterers are very interested in being involved with this meeting. We are currently talking with the Methodist Church about costs and space availability.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 20 before the noon general meeting.

**Adjournment:** Linda Johnson moved the meeting be adjourned. Karen Karls seconded the motion.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Vicki Holmstrom, Secretary



Carol Rasmussen - December 2

Marlys Mestemacher - December 6

Linda Johnson - December 12

Susan Lynch - December 12

Gayle Coyer - December 27

Bev Griffin - December 28



**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](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)