



NEWS FOR AND ABOUT AAUW – GRAND RAPIDS, MN BRANCH

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FROM THE PRESIDENT – AAUW learning opportunities

A member who I sat next to at our last general meeting said something that “stuck” with me. She said she never knew what she would learn when she came to our meetings, but that she knew she would learn something. I loved that comment and find it so true myself.

Our January meeting was another “learning” opportunity. Judge John Hawkinson came five years ago and shared with us the beginnings of Wellness Court. Now, five years later, we heard firsthand from a participant about the results of a very successful program with goals of rehabilitating, reducing crime and recidivism. I love the name **Wellness. It’s so positive.** Both Judge Hawkinson and Judge Korey Wahwassuck of the Leech Lake Tribal Court preside jointly over Wellness Court hearings. They have now also become a model for similar programs in the United States.

In **February, join us for a trip to Pipestone, Minnesota**, in the comfort of our own Methodist Church setting. Betty Brandt will be our presenter. Betty, Branch treasurer, will also be available to take your money and reservation for upcoming meetings in April at ICC and in May at Ruttger’s. We need to have 45 at the ICC program for the catered meal so please register early.

In February, members who have consented to be on our nominating committee will be announced. If you are asked to help in any way as either a member of the committee or as a candidate for a future office, please consider the opportunity. Be willing to be part of our mission....you might “learn” something!

Read your board minutes and see what’s happening “behind the scenes”. We have now **96 members** of our organization. Some of you may be reading this from your “warm-winter” setting, but keep in touch.

Remember to support our **Hibbing Branch in their book sale February 3rd – 5th** at the Irongate Mall. They raise an amazing amount of money for scholarships.

For now...your pres, Nancy Raymond

QUOTABLE

“God may be in the details, but the goddess is in the questions. Once we begin to ask them, there's no turning back.”

- Gloria Steinem

**** BRANCH NEWS ****

February 20th Dinner Program

Methodist Church, 5:30 PM Social, 5:45 PM Dinner, 6:30 PM Business, 6:45 PM Program

Dinner reservations to: Charmayne Nelson, 326-4178, by Wed., Feb. 15.

Menu: Taco buffet and dessert

TOPIC: Pipestone National Monument/Virtual Tour & Discussion

Join us for a virtual journey to Southwestern Minnesota to visit Pipestone National Monument. For countless generations, American Indians have quarried the red pipestone found at this site. These grounds are sacred to many people because the pipestone quarried here is carved into pipes used for prayer.

The DVD “Pipestone: An Unbroken Legacy” portrays the importance of the pipestone quarries through the voices of the American Indians themselves. Listen to their eloquent words as quarries, workers, pipe makers, and many others describe the personal connections they have with the quarries and the pipestone pipes. See the hard work involved in quarrying, and learn of the struggle the American Indians have had in maintaining their connection with this sacred place.

Discussion by table after the video: Have you visited the National Monument or any of the state parks in the southwest corner of Minnesota? (Blue Mounds, Split Rock Creek, Camden or Lake Shetek)

For a fascinating look at the history of the pipestone quarries, go to the National Park Service’s website at <http://www.nps.gov/pipe/index.htm>

Sign up for April 16 & May 21 Dinner Meetings

From Margaret Pecha, Food Committee

The cost for our annual April 16th dinner meeting at ICC will be \$10. The menu will include Grilled Chicken Breast, salad, steamed vegetable, bread stick and dessert. Those who have special diet needs should contact Annette Delich, ICC caterer, 322-2313, at least **one week** before this meeting.

For our May 21st dinner meeting at Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge, we will have an oriental buffet at a cost of \$18.50, which includes a full meal, gratuity, tax and dessert.

Please sign up and pay our treasurer, Betty Brandt, for one or both of these dinner meetings at our upcoming February and March meetings or mail your check to her at 29394 Pine ridge Rd, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. We have to pay for these meals in advance so early registration is very much appreciated. Thanks.

AAUW Grand Rapids Branch Programs 2012

March 19: "Nonprofits in Northeastern Minnesota" with presenter Mary Streufert, Regional Coordinator for MN Councils of Nonprofits.
Location: United Methodist Church.

April 16: "Career Pathways: Secondary and Post-secondary Partnerships."
Speaker to be decided. Location: Itasca Community College.

May 21: Special spring program. "Aprons: History & Social Significance" with presenter Elizabeth MacLeod. Place: Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge.

Other activities of interest for AAUW members

- **March 8, 2012:** International Women's Day
- **April 17, 2012:** Equal Pay Day
- **April 27-29, 2012:** AAUW State Convention at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, Minnesota (Brainerd area). Grand Rapids AAUW is a co-host and volunteers from our branch will be needed at this event.

Nomination Committee seeks to fill leadership roles

The nomination committee is appointed by the board to recruit officers for the coming year. This year we need to recruit a president, membership chair, and secretary. The terms are two years and may be repeated one time. Election is at the April meeting. Nominations will be requested from the floor also at that time as we operate under Robert Rules of Order, Newly Revised according to our by-laws.

The members of the Nomination Committee are: **Jean Hoshal, 327-2390, Shirley Jacobson, 326-5876, and Marilyn Rossman, 326-6775.**

If you would like to be an officer or want the nominating committee to ask someone, please call one of a committee member before the February 20th meeting. We welcome co-chairs and or committee sharing the responsibilities. The nomination committee welcomes the chance to talk about the tasks of each office. AAUW is a great organization to work for. The members are reliable, willing to help with tasks, do their part, and share in supporting the branch so we all have a good time.

We are looking for AAUW members who are willing to be Officers for the 2012-2014 terms. Yes we know....we all want to be part of AAUW, enjoy the programs, have a good time in the small groups, get to know other women etc....we all have taken lots of responsibility in our work and previous volunteer activities and....yes, we will help but we really are hesitant to commit ourselves and take on responsibility. Many of our members are gone to warmer places for several months each year. We

are who we are as a membership organization and celebrate all our opportunities for creative leadership.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders NCCWSL (called nick-whistle)

Each year, our national AAUW organization sponsors the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** at the University of Maryland, College Park Maryland (just 8 miles from Washington, DC). This year's conference will be held May 31 to June 3, 2012. The purpose is to promote understanding of leadership and encourage young women to become leaders in their school, community or careers. It is open to college women who have completed their 2nd year of post-secondary school and want to learn more about leadership. **It is for potential leaders as well as those who have shown leadership skills and are between the ages of 18 and 34.**

Last year, our branch provided financial support for Randi Amy from ICC to attend. She had a wonderful time and talked to us about it at our September meeting. She is attending UMD this year. **We want to send someone again this year and we need your help identifying a student.** The registration fee is \$395 for the conference activities, room and board. In addition there is air fare cost and pre-conference activities. Our branch will support one student for this. The participant will need to supply her own spending money.

The state AAUW provides \$500 and our branch will provide up to \$400 in addition. Our financial support is for any young woman from our area to attend, but our first preference would be for an ICC student. Marilyn Clark is our ICC representative and will promote this opportunity at the college.

As an AAUW member, you are encouraged to inform your granddaughters, daughters, neighbors, friends, etc. who are attending other colleges, of this opportunity. The state AAUW has allocated money to help 10 girls from Minnesota attend this year. Last year four from Minnesota attended with AAUW help. There are opportunities for scholarships for any woman student to attend. **We want to have our choice made by March 15.** Call Marilyn Rossman or Marilyn Clark for more information.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A COFFEE PARTY HONORING *MARGE KOCH*

Marge Koch had her 90th birthday on January 9th. The Walking Group and the Public Policy Group invites you to a **coffee party on Thursday February 9th at the home of Barbara Popkin. The time is 3 to 5 PM. Come any time. NO gifts please.** Just visiting and enjoying this special woman who moved here from New Mexico several years ago and joined Grand Rapids AAUW among other activities. Barb Popkin's address is 705 NE 6th Avenue in Grand Rapids (near Murphy School). RSVP to Marilyn Rossman at mbro@paulbunyan.net or Karen Karls at k.karls@yahoo.com or Nancy Raymond nmraymond@juno.com If you do not have email, call 326-6775 at Rossman's to leave a message.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

This year our branch will be able to provide **three college scholarships** to local non-traditional students.

The application process is open at Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation. If you know of any young women who are looking for scholarship funding, they should go to <http://gracf.org/scholarships.html>. The application deadline is March 15, 2012. We have determined that we will give one AAUW scholarship for \$1,000 to a qualified non-traditional female student. We will be assembling a group of interested AAUW members to read and evaluate the final five applications for our anniversary scholarship.

Our funds at ICCF are healthy enough that we plan to give **two \$750 scholarships to ICC students** planning to return to ICC for their 2nd year. ICC is in the process of accepting applications now for awards in the Spring for academic year 2012-2013. If you have questions, please contact Pat Mahoney.

A bit of history on a sex trafficking issue

From Marilyn Rossman

About eight years ago while we still met at the Presbyterian Church, we had a dynamic program about sex trafficking in Minnesota from Suzanne Koeplinger, the director of Indian Women's Resource Center. She focused on sex trafficking of Native American girls and told us about her plan to get recognition from the government and general public about the Native Indian girls in Minnesota involved with sex trafficking. She started by getting money to research the issue separately from that of international trafficking. She succeeded and last year she went to Washington, DC, to witness the signing of a law by President Obama that put federal law enforcement forces in line to help with this problem. There is still much to do on this sad problem, and according to the January 29th *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis), the issue is being addressed in Minnesota with a major financial push from the Minnesota Women's Foundation. Suzanne had been on the state AAUW board when she started his project.

**** INTEREST GROUPS ****

LOVE TO PLAY BRIDGE

Group meets on 4th Monday at 9:30 a.m. at hostess' homes.

Feb. 27: Betty Akre, hostess

March 26: Mary Singsank, hostess

SNOWBIRD BRIDGE

Group meets at 12:30 p.m. on 1st Thursday of the month at Bixby's May-December. No more meetings until May.

CREATIVE ART

Painting Day or Open studio is held at Lawron Presbyterian Church every Tuesday, 9 AM until people want to leave. Margaret Z. Morris sends an email to those interested each week, including if this group will not meet some weeks. Bring your lunch. This is open for anyone of any level of painting or any media. We have

watercolor and acrylic, and welcome other media. No cost or instruction, learning from each other and having fun. Contact Margaret at 999-9683.

LITERATURE – Monday group

Group meets on 1st Monday at 10:30 AM at Bixby's. Please let the contact person know if you will be gone.

Feb. 6: *Cleopatra: A Life* by Stacy Schiff, contact: Marney Smith

March 5: *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah, contact: Nancy Raymond

LITERATURE – Wednesday group

Group meets on 2nd Wednesday at 10:30 A.M. at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Contact is Barbara Zimmer, 327-0911.

Feb. 8: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford and *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

March 14: *Here If You Need Me* by Kate Braestraup

PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP

The next Public Policy group meeting is on February 23—the 4th Thursday of the month - at Bixby's Coffee. We gather at 4 pm to exchange news and information, get a cup of coffee and eat supper if you wish. Join us as soon as you can from work or other activities. At 4:30, we begin our consideration of the meeting subject. Currently we are learning about economic, political, or social issues that affect the status of middle class in America. We share resources, read books or articles from magazines or newspapers or compare website resources. The objective is to become better informed and learn how problems are affected by public policy. Tax reform, education funding and innovation, social security, retirement, health care, and the public policy agenda of AAUW provide subjects for study and discussion. We end by 6:30 PM. Emily Zasada is the chair, 326-4909. We welcome new members. If you want to be added to our email list, contact Marilyn Rossman: mbro@paulbunyan.net

SCRABBLE ANYONE?

The Scrabble group meets September through May on the 3rd **Thursday** of each month, from 9:00 AM to noon at River Grand at 355 River Rd. Please come and be ready to play at 9 AM with your scrabble board. We are play in the lounge facing the river. No reservation needed. Contacts: Barbara Zimmer or Margaret Z. Morris.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

This group meets the second Monday of the month. Any members who would like to join this group to go on new outings each month, should contact Marney Smith, 326-2923, or Karen Karls, 326-2053.

Feb. 13: Meet for a pre-Valentine dinner at Timberlake Lodge at 5 PM. We'll be sharing Valentine's memories/stories. What was the best gift you ever received? Do you have any special Valentines to show? Any favorite Valentine decorations? All AAUW members are welcome but you must call or email Marney Smith or Karen Karls so we can make reservations.

WALKING & TALKING

For the winter, the group will walk on **Tuesday afternoons**. The meeting place varies and those who participate get a weekly email from Irma Benner on where to meet and any directions. New members are welcome. Contact person is Irma Benner at 326-1879. Let her know if you would like to be added to the group's email list and notified about each week's walking location.

For more information on our branch activities, check out our AAUW blog at <http://grandrapidsaauw.blogspot.com/>

This is a great tool for sharing information on AAUW with others or to get a quick check on what's happening with our branch. You may sign up on the blog page to get an email when any new information is posted. Look for the "subscribe posts" message.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS – *Best Wishes!*

2 – Shirley Jacobson	3 – Barbara Zimmer	5 – Sarah Copeland, Lynn Uzelac
6 – Diane Levar	9 – Judy Rudnick	12 – Pat Anderson
19 – Linda Bauer, Carole Erickson, Sonia Larsen	20 – Marilyn Clark	
22 – Harriet Mattei, Colleen Nardone	24 – Sandra Nyvall	25 – Sandee Krough
		26 – Ann Clark

Feminist Leader Gloria Steinem to speak in Twin Cities

On Tuesday evening, April 17th, Beth El Synagogue in Saint Louis Park (5224 West 26th Street) will welcome world-renowned author and activist, [Gloria Steinem](#). Steinem will share her reflections on "**Feminism: the Longest Revolution,**" giving us a better perspective on the true meaning of equality and enhancing our collective commitment to tolerance, love and peace. Steinem is particularly interested in the shared origins of sex and race caste systems, gender roles and child abuse as roots of violence, non-violent conflict resolution, the cultures of indigenous peoples, and organizing across boundaries for peace and justice.

Presented as part of Beth El's "Inspiring Minds" Speaker Series, AAUW Minnesota is pleased to serve as a Promotional Partner for this premiere event. Tickets are available at www.bethelsynagogue.org/gloria or by calling 952-873-7300.

*** * BRANCH MINUTES * ***

AAUW GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH MEETING, January 16, 2012 United Methodist Church

Nancy Raymond opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m. after a delicious dinner. She welcomed two guests for the evening, Linda Griffith and Ellen Levar.

Nancy also mentioned that the Hibbing AAUW Branch was holding their annual book sale at the Irongate Plaza Mall. It will be held February 3, 4 & 5. Prices: \$1.00 per book on Friday, \$.50 per book on Saturday, and \$1.50 per bag of books on Sunday.

Nancy gave a reminder that if members use email to RSVP for dinner reservations for meetings to Charmayne Nelson, she will email you back to confirm your reservation.

Marcia Anderson told members that the February program will be a virtual field trip to Pipestone National Monument with Betty Brandt.

Marilyn Rossman announced that the next Public Policy meeting will be January 26th from approximately 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Bixby's. The discussion topic will be tax reform and what it means to the middle class. Members can come early to get something to eat if they wish.

Marcia Anderson announced that the library will be holding a "Community Read" again this year. The book featured will be "Into the Wild" by Jon Krakauer. Multiple copies of this book are available at the library. Further, computer classes (check the Community Education brochure) will be held at the library.

Our program for the evening was a comprehensive survey of Itasca County's Wellness Court, given by Judges John Hawkinson and Korey Wahwassuck. Also, in attendance were other professionals working with the program: probation agents, our retired sheriff who represented law enforcement, the coordinator of the court and also a participant in the program. It was a very interesting presentation.

For AAUW records: The Audit Committee (Nancy Alfuth, Betty Brandt and Pat Mahoney) met on Friday, December 9, 2011, to examine the period between 7-1-11 and 8-31-11. They sampled transactions in each period in that timeframe and examined both deposits and expense items. They found that all samples were verified to be correct.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac Custer, Secretary

AAUW GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH BOARD MEETING January 23, 2012, Public Utilities Building, 4:00 PM

Present: Nancy Raymond, Marcia Anderson, Betty Brandt, Charmayne Nelson, Marilyn Clark, Karen Karls, Mary Singsank, Mac Custer

The Secretary's Minutes of the November 2011 Board Meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was also approved. Our balances are: General Account - \$4,223.11, Local Scholarship ICC - \$535.00, Educational Foundation - \$1,561.88, Savings - \$1,684.26 for a total of \$6,610.25. Our scholarship accounts are: GRACF (endowed) - \$18,569.97 and GRACE (non-endowed) - \$5,275.38 for a total value of \$23,845.35. Also, Barb Popkin saved her change and donated \$32.65 to our convention fund. Thank you, Barb!

Membership: Audrey Erdman sent notice that we now have 96 members. She will write a letter to former members that mentions upcoming meetings and activities and asks them for feedback. Personal phone calls to these former members will be made. We are reminded that Audrey's e-mail address is AudreyE8739@gmail.com if we want to share ideas about membership with her.

Program: Marcia Anderson said that our February meeting will be a virtual tour of the Pipestone National Monument given by Betty Brandt. We all felt that the December meeting with the Itasca County Wellness Court was outstanding!

Communication: Betty Brandt will give Karen Karls information on the February meeting that she can include in the article for the newspaper.

Public Policy: Their next meeting will be January 26th at Bixby's at 4 p.m.

Newsletter: Information for our February newsletter is due on January 27th.

Food: The meal for the February meeting will be a taco buffet.

Telephone: Charmayne Nelson will reply to your email when you make a reservation for a meeting so you will know it has been received.

Scholarship: Pat Mahoney said that applications for our two scholarships are due by the end of March. She asked for a reader committee to help in evaluating the applications.

Historian: Margaret Pecha said that they are continuing to collect materials and pictures for the scrapbook and will continue to bring it to meetings so everyone can look at it.

College Connection: Nancy Raymond suggested to Marilyn Clark that we advise ICC departments of our programs they might be interested in.

Summer program: We are again going to sponsor a young woman to the meeting in Washington, D.C. this summer. There is an April 1 deadline for applications. It was agreed that we allow \$400 to help her pay for her plane ticket and other expenses. AAUW MN will be paying the \$500 for her meals and hotel. Also, Marilyn Clark and Marilyn Rossman will be evaluating the applications for this event and will be making the final decision about who will represent us.

Old Business: Karen Christenson will not be available as the speaker for our fall Northern Minnesota AAUW Chapters meeting in September. We need to form a committee to work on this.

The Audit of our finances has been completed as discussed at our January meeting.

New Business: We will be forming a Nominating Committee to look for candidates for President, Secretary and Membership Chair for next year. Shirley Jacobson and Marilyn Rossman have agreed to participate, but they are looking for additional members to help.

Nancy Raymond shared a letter from Teresa Sagen, one of our AAUW MN Co-Presidents, asking for our input on AAUW's Strategic Plan for the future. Her e-mail address is: tkswagen@frontiernet.net if anyone wants to send her ideas.

Sarah Copeland will be invited to a board meeting to present information on Community Foundation credit cards.

Nancy Raymond mentioned the Hibbing AAUW Chapter Book Sale to take place on February 3-4-5. Please support this big book sale if you wish.

Future programs: The Spring Program in May at Ruttger's will feature an oriental buffet. The cost will be \$18.50 per person. Further, the April Meeting at ICC will feature a meal of chicken fettucine that will cost \$10.00 per person.

Our next Board meeting will be February 27, 2012 at the Public Utilities Building. We may meet a little early at 3:45 p.m. to hear information about the Community Foundation credit card.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac Custer, Secretary

ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – FOR MORE INFORMATION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION www.aauw.org
AAUW MINNESOTA www.aauwmn.org