



NEWS FOR AND ABOUT AAUW – GRAND RAPIDS, MN BRANCH

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FROM THE EDITOR – Happy New Year everyone!

We had another great meeting in November, and I hope you are all looking for opportunities to mentor a woman. As we were leaving, Marian said that she had asked for Nicole's number because she was planning on mentoring her. That's being aware and being ready to advocate actively for another.

I attended the ICC Symposium and was impressed and educated by the speakers. It was very worthwhile. Some time ago my aunt sent me an article that my uncle had written as a letter. My uncle was a medic and was involved in liberating Buchenwald. I dug it out of the file and reread it....so chilling. The symposium dealt more with the resistance efforts as opposed to the conditions of the concentration camps, and it was a subject I hadn't thought as much about. I also heard Frieda telling her parents' story. Her parents and my uncle rarely talked about what they experienced. It made me question the core of our being. How can humans treat others humans so inhumane and live with themselves as well as understand how anyone could be so cruel.

I'm reading a book for my teacher's book club called, "Broken for You," by Stephanie Kallos. What do you think of this statement? **"In our minds we need never grow old. It's the wrong expression, isn't it, if you think about it: When we stop growing, we are old!"** Need I say more about our AAUW branch!

Ten of us met at Marge Koch's home on November 29th to celebrate the life of Connie McGee with great stories and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Public Policy Group met and I'm excited about a couple future plans. We are looking at concentrating meetings during the time more members are around and focusing on women and money. I hope we can work with younger women and their future. Another area I like is looking at how to track our donations to charities. I'm just beginning reading "Half the Sky", which will be discussed after the holidays. Watch for meeting times and join us.

Our December festive meeting at the Timberlake Lodge was a delight. We had a wonderful meal, great fellowship and holiday music selections by the Zion Chamber Singers....such talent from our community. Our thanks to Anita Firman, a member of this group and our AAUW branch. Thank you also to all those that brought "birthday bags" that I will deliver to the food shelf. If you wish to bring a

bag in the future, I'll bring them to the food shelf. Our lap quilt raffle, won by Marney Smith, netted \$79, which will be given to our scholarship fund.

Hope you all had a great holiday and my wish for a wonderful New Year to each and every one of you.

Nancy Raymond

QUOTABLE

"We need to jump-start social change so that women can move up to more equal status." – Marian Barcus, Chair, Blandin Foundation Board of Trustees

**** BRANCH NEWS ****

Monday, January 17 Branch meeting

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

Entrée: Meatloaf

Topic: What Happens to All the Stuff We Do Not Want Anymore?

Mary Jean Davis who is the head of the Solid Waste Services for Itasca County will lead the program. We will hear about consignment businesses, GoodWill and Salvation Army Stores, Habitat for Humanity's Restore, recycling services, used book outlets and other ways we support reusing and recycling.

However, we need to also realize that the **landfill** is the final destination for much of what we do not want anymore. We decided to restrict this program to stuff related to personal and household items. We will leave information about auto, heavy metal items, dangerous chemicals, etc., for another time. An interesting read is *"My T-shirt in a Global Economy"*. If you have used resources other than those mentioned above, please share them with us.

Monday, February 21 Branch Meeting

Our program will be about the **global movement to help women and girls escape poverty and oppression**. AAUW is a partner with CARE, who has made this their mission. We plan to show two videos about this subject and have a discussion and conversation about the movement to support women and girls break through barriers. If you have read a book about this subject, let us know so that we can share our resources. You are urged to find out how organizations (church, civic, or social) that you belong to or give money support this important work.

Suggested reading list for February meeting:

1. "Stones into Schools"
2. "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson
3. "Global Profit and Global Justice" by Deb Abbey*
4. "Banker to the Poor" by Muhammad Yunus*
5. "Right Relationship, Building a Whole Earth Economy" by Peter Brown and Geoffrey Garver*
6. "The Latehomecomer" by Kap Lalia Yang* (Grand Rapids Area Common Read for 2011)
7. "Half The Sky", by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn**

- * Available at the Grand Rapids Public Library
- **Special Emphasis on this book by prize-winning journalists

AAUW Grand Rapids Branch Programs, 2010-2011

February 21, Non-Government Organization (NGO) Programs: Focus on international human rights, economic and education development for women and girls living in poverty and oppression.

March 21, Women's History Month: "Women's Styles Reflecting History" presentation by Karen Teff; and video, "Killing Us Softly," about the effect of advertising on women's body image, and current trends of concern for girls.

April 21, Meeting at Itasca Community College: Program about Student Services that support ICC students efforts to complete their college education.

May 16, Connecting to our Fabulous Forests: Efforts to connect all of us to our fabulous forests by Karen Christenson and other women from area forestry programs. Special emphasis on how to get children involved outdoors.

Other Activities for AAUW members:

- **International Women's Day Celebration**, Sat., March 19 or 26 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.
- **AAUW State Convention**, April 23-24 in Winona.

Welcome new member!

Marian joined AAUW last fall. Please welcome her when you see her at an upcoming meeting.

Marian Barcus

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Bemidji State: BS

U of M: MS, Social Work

Birthday: Jan. 31

Thoughts While Hiking

By Connie McGee, March 1985

What is so compelling
About the vertical
That you neglect and forget
The horizontal?
You may reach your mountain top
But without outstretched arms for balance
You will not soar.

One of many poems written by Connie McGee, AAUW member who died October 2010. This one was read at her funeral and at our November 2010 Branch meeting.

**** INTEREST GROUPS ****

LOVE TO PLAY BRIDGE

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

Jan. 24, Hostess: Marney Smith

Feb. 28, Hostess: Nancy Raymond (to carpool, meet at Kmart/American Bank lot at 9 AM)

SNOWBIRD BRIDGE

Group meets May through December, 1st Thursday at 12:30 PM at Bixby's.

See you again on May 5, 2011!

CREATIVE ART

Open studio every Tuesday at Lawron Presbyterian Church on Scenic 7, beginning at 9 AM. Any questions, contact Margaret Morris, ipaint@paulbunyan.net or 999-9683. Bring your own lunch.

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.

Jan. 3: "Heaven to Betsy and Betsy in Spite of Herself" by Maud Hart Lovelace, Contact: Marney Smith

Feb. 1: "The Latehomecomer" by Kao Kalia Yang, Contact: Jan Hill

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.

Jan. 12: "The Latehomecomer" by Kao Kalia Yang

Feb. 9: "The Nineteenth Wife" by David Ebershoff

PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP

We're going to try a new time for the Public Policy Discussion Group. Join us on **Thursday, Jan. 27th, 12:30 to 2:00 PM, in the KAXE Meeting Room.**

We will be discussing the book "Half the Sky - Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. We hope that many members will be able to attend. Please bring your suggestions for future discussions. If you have any questions, call Emilie Zasada, 326-4909.

SCRABBLE ANYONE?

The new Scrabble group meets on the **1st Thursday** of each month, from 9:00 AM to noon at the Community Presbyterian Church. You must come at 9:00 AM sharp to play. Join the fun, bring your Scrabble board and a friend. No reservations needed. For questions, contact Margaret Morris at 999-9683 or ipaint@paulbunyan.net or Barbara Zimmer at kbzimmer@q.com or 327-0911.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Special Interests group meets the second Monday of the month.

Jan. 10: Program on Skype computer communications at the home of Juliet Jones. Potluck dinner, bring a dish to share. If you want to carpool, meet at the bank parking lot near K-Mart at 4:15 pm. Contacts are Karen Karls, 326-1353, or Marney Smith, 326-2923.

WALKING & TALKING

Beginning in November, the walking group changed to walking on **Tuesdays at 1:00 PM** for the winter months. New members are welcome. Contact person is Irma Benner at irmabenn@hotmail.com or 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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS – *Best Wishes!*

2 – Marney Smith 3 – Connie McGee 9 – Margaret Koch, Lois Scanlon
11 – Gunny Gunsolly 18 – Sherry Burcar Flint, Liz White 27 – Karen Wennen
31 – Marian Barcus

National AAUW NEWS

Member support has helped AAUW influence public policy throughout 2010. In the current economic climate, when so many organizations are cutting back, AAUW remains uniquely positioned to be a strong voice for you in the halls of power. AAUW continues to be an advocate and catalyst for sustainable change, to break through barriers for women and girls tomorrow.

To view some of the key advocacy and program achievements of the AAUW Action Network for 2010, go to:

<http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=21060501>

Check out more national news of interest to AAUW members at www.aauw.org

**** BRANCH MINUTES ****

AAUW-GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH BOARD MEETING

November 22, 2010, Public Utilities Building, 4:00 PM

Present: Nancy Raymond, Lynette Eck, Marilyn Rossman, Jean Hoshal, Karen Karls, Audrey Erdman, Mac Custer

The Secretary's minutes of the November 15th meeting were approved with corrections. There was no Treasurer's report.

Audrey Erdman, Membership, discussed some strategies to get new members. They are planning a Valentine's Day get-together, will make phone calls inviting new members. After visitors attend their first meeting, we should call and ask them if they have any questions and invite them to the next meeting. We need to make them feel welcome.

Marilyn Rossman announced the next Public Policy meeting for November 30, 7 PM at Caribou Coffee.

Some plans for the Christmas Dinner were discussed. Anita Firman has arranged for the program of Christmas music with the Zion Chamber Singers. There will be a 5:00 to 5:45 PM social time with dinner served around 6 PM. Arlene Wheaton will send out email message to remind everyone of the time. The Hospitality Committee has decided there will

be open seating and no name tags. There will be a quilt raffled at the dinner. Members are asked to bring birthday cake supplies for the Food Shelf.

The newsletter will have no December issue and the deadline for the January issue is December 30th.

We want to encourage members to use the national AAUW website. We will need our member numbers to access the site. Our member numbers are included in our directory.

The Historian Committee is taking pictures of our meetings and activities for the scrapbook.

We need to get up to date on our own branch website.

We have been asked to host the State AAUW Convention at the end of April 2012. However, Brainerd AAUW has volunteered to host with the help of Virginia, Ely, Hibbing and Grand Rapids branches. More on this in the future.

We will try to have a five-minute presentation about AAUW and its programs at the beginning of our meetings.

We are hoping to encourage a young woman from ICC to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, which takes place in the summer in Washington, DC. Marilyn Rossman will ask Barb McDonald, Marilyn Clark and Pam Rajala for their input.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac Custer, Secretary

ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – FOR MORE INFORMATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION www.aauw.org
AAUW MINNESOTA www.aauwmn.org