



NEWS FOR AND ABOUT AAUW – GRAND RAPIDS, MN BRANCH

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FROM THE PRESIDENT – Interest groups another membership benefit

My thanks to Arlene for writing the opening letter in our last newsletter. She mentioned mentoring and that idea was also suggested by our last guest speaker, Melissa White. Whether you are working or retired, mentoring is always available if you are open to the opportunity. When I was volunteering in the classroom, one of the principals asked if I would work with the new elementary counselor, and last May I did a breakout session at Madden's for elementary counselors. Both opportunities were unexpected but welcome.

I missed some of the great color while I was enjoying hiking in the Cascade Mountains in Washington State. I also enjoyed great short-story discussions with the St. Olaf Adult Study group. Two members of our group are strong Minnesota AAUW members, Pat and Roger Sween. Pat is a former State President and also was the guest presenter at the northern Minnesota AAUW gathering in Duluth a couple years ago. (Marilyn volunteered our branch for the next gathering next fall.) They will both be at our convention in April at Ruttger's on Bay Lake. Returning home I caught up on activities here and was pleased to hear a good turnout for the ICC symposium; a nice number attended Tablesapes at Timberlake Lodge; and as I read my newsletter, I wrote out a check for our birthday party.

Read your newsletter carefully and consider joining a small group of your choice. It's a place to grow, have fun, exercise, try something new, and get to know other members so much better. I'm in five smaller groups and consider myself so fortunate to have the opportunity. See you in November...

- Nancy Raymond

QUOTABLE

"It's important for women to continue to play roles in the world of finance and become economic leaders."

- Melissa White, Senior Finance Executive/speaker at AAUW Grand Rapids' October meeting

**** BRANCH NEWS ****

November 21st 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.

TOPIC: "The 'Schoolmarm' as Feminist: The Achievements of Early-Twentieth-Century Female Schoolteachers"

Teresa Alto, English instructor at Itasca Community College, explores the undersung role of schoolteachers in women's history in the United States. While most of us have a stereotype of early women teachers as sour disciplinarians and dour and retiring figures, in reality schoolteachers can be credited with opening up the professional world and higher education to women. They were pioneers who fought relentlessly for women's right to have a voice as citizens and as workers. In this talk, which uses Alto's ancestor as a focal point, Alto shows the central role of schoolteachers in winning women's rights.

Speaker Bio: Teresa Alto is an English instructor and Associate in Arts Program coordinator at Itasca Community College. She has just returned this fall from a year-long sabbatical, in which she researched her ancestor, high school English teacher and department chair Mabel Holman, and the teaching of English in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. This talk arises from a side focus of the research: the lives and working conditions of women teachers in this time period, especially in New York City, where Alto's great-great aunt spent her career.

At our November dinner meeting, we'll also be celebrating the 130th birthday for AAUW with a focus on giving to our scholarship funds. See the flyer on last page of this newsletter.

*******AAUW Dinner Meeting Reservations*******

Good news...we had a wonderful turnout for our meeting last month. Bad news....there were quite a few unreported members to our caterer. As "educated" women, we can all can do a better job of calling or emailing in our dinner reservations. **Please call Charmayne Nelson at 326-4178. Reservations are requested by the Wednesday before our Monday dinner meetings.** Thank you for your attention to the RSVP process.

AAUW Grand Rapids Branch Programs, 2011-2012

December 19: Festive dinner and holiday music program with the Itasca Strings group. Location: United Methodist Church.

January 16: Itasca County Wellness Court with presenters Judge John Hawkinson and others. Location: United Methodist Church.

February (date to be determined): Bus trip to event in Duluth.

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

- **November 28, 2011:** 130th Birthday of AAUW (our branch is 63 years old!)
- **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.

Welcome THREE new members!

JoAnn Bakken of Grand Rapids
Rosaire Hall of Cohasset
Pat Mortenson of Bovey

You can find contact information for all three in our 2011-2012 directory.

2011-2012 AAUW Directory updates

Please note these corrections for our member directory that was distributed in October.

Page 3: Jeri Berndt is no longer on the Membership Committee

Page 5: Scrabble meets on the 3rd Thursday. Nancy Alfuth's last name has a typo under Public Policy, "Elfuth" should be Alfuth.

Page 36: Beth Anderson's home phone number should be 246-2220.

Page 45 Gina Hawkinson's address: 1219 NW 9th St.

Lynette Eck has mailed directories to members who will not be in Grand Rapids for a period of time. It costs \$1.71 to mail a directory. Contact Lynette at 326-8198 to pick yours up or have a friend pick it up for you at the next meeting. We can make "better" use of our general fund rather than paying unnecessary postage.

**** INTEREST GROUPS ****

LOVE TO PLAY BRIDGE

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

Nov. 28: Sandra Nyvall, contact

SNOWBIRD BRIDGE

Group meets at 12:30 p.m. on 1st Thursday of the month at Bixby's.

Nov. 3: Ann Clark, contact

Dec. 1: Sandra Nyvall, contact

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.

Nov. 7: *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel

Dec. 5: Holiday format

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.

Nov. 9: *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls

Dec. 14: *A Walk on the Beach* by Joan Anderson

Jan. 11: *My Name is Mary Sutter* by Robin Oliveira

PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Public Policy Discussion Group will meet at Bixby's, Thursday, November 17th, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. We will again be discussing the article, "Can the Middle Class be Saved?" by Don Peck, which was published in the September issue of *Atlantic Magazine*. Contact is Emilie Zasada, 326-4909.

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.

Nov. 14: Meet at Community Presbyterian Church parking lot in Grand Rapids at 3:00 p.m. for carpooling to Margaret Morris' home for a painting lesson. The group will go out to dinner following this activity.

WALKING & TALKING

For the late fall and winter, the group will walk on **Tuesday afternoons, effective Nov. 1**. 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.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS – *Best Wishes!*

NOV 1 – Irma Benner
NOV 14 - JoAnn Bakken

NOV 2 – Connie Burley, Nancy Eltgroth NOV 3 – Ginny Saxhaug
NOV 23 – Kathy Adams NOV 29 – Margaret Pecha

DEC 2 – Carol Rasmussen
DEC 14 – Crystal Sunell
DEC 27 – Donna Lovinger-Sipe

DEC 6 – Nancy Alfuth DEC 9 – Abby Marier
DEC 16 – Beth Anderson DEC 26 – Charmayne Nelson

AAUW National News

Opportunity to take action on Social Security

Right now, 94 percent of Americans pay into Social Security on the basis of their whole salary, but the wealthiest 6 percent do not. Because the cap for individual income stands at \$106,800, someone who makes that much pays exactly the same amount into Social Security as does a millionaire or a billionaire.

The No Loopholes in Social Security Taxes Act (H.R. 797) would gradually lift the cap so that by 2033, the wealthiest 6 percent of Americans will be on equal footing with everyone else. This plan would extend the full solvency of Social Security for the next 75 years, ensuring that the program continues to help provide retirement security for future generations.

Here at AAUW, we think of Social Security as a promise, a commitment that we as Americans make to care for one another across the generations. Although Social Security is among our nation's best and most efficiently-run anti-poverty programs, it's critical for elderly women - more than half of whom would fall into poverty without it. So, we are particularly interested when good ideas come along aimed at strengthening and improving Social Security.

Take Action! Ask your representative to become a cosponsor of the No Loopholes in Social Security Taxes Act (H.R. 797). You can send a message by clicking the "Take Action" link above or by visiting [AAUW Two Minute Activist](http://www.aauw.org). Or (if you're reading a printed copy of this article) go to www.aauw.org and click on the Social Security legislative action link on the homepage.

P.S. I went to the AAUW link and submitted an email message to Rep. Chip Cravaack. Very easy to do! They urge you to add a few sentences of your own to personalize the message a bit, which I did as well. – Arlene Wheaton

AAUW GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH MEETING, October 17, 2011 United Methodist Church

Nancy Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that our new Branch Directories were being passed out. She thanked Lynette Eck for all her hard work getting the directories organized and printed. Nancy also asked that we take directories to those who were absent. She thanked the caterers for a delicious meal and asked that guests be introduced. We had one guest, Janet Neurater, who is working at ICC with their foundation.

Announcements:

- Betty Brandt told us about a special PBS documentary called "War, Women and Peace," which will begin on October 18 and run for 5 weeks on Tuesday nights.
- Our new AAUW brochures with up-to-date inserts were passed around. We could take one if we wanted to place it somewhere prospective members would see it.
- Pat Mahoney announced that our November meeting would celebrate AAUW's 130th birthday. Birthday donations would be welcomed to benefit our scholarships.
- Liz White will be hosting another weekend at her studio on Friday evening, November 11, and Saturday afternoon, November 12.
- Jan Hill announced that Project Read is still ongoing and that our red bookshelf in Deer River is being used a great deal. We are encouraged to donate children's books when we can.
- Marilyn Rossman announced that the Public Policy group's next meeting will be Thursday, October 27th at 4:30 p.m. at Bixby's. The topic of the loss of the middle class will continue.
- Marcia Anderson announced that the Grand Rapids Library now is able to download some books to Kindles. This is free of charge. If you missed the genealogy workshop, handouts are posted.

The meeting concluded with a talk by Melissa White (Liz White's daughter) who has worked in finance for 20 years in a variety of high level management roles. She talked about her own career and education (often being the only woman in the room) and was able to answer a large variety of questions from our members on the topic of finance.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac Custer, Secretary

AAUW-GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH BOARD MEETING **October 24, 2011, Public Utilities Building, 4:00 PM**

Members present at the meeting: Marilyn Clark, Nancy Raymond, Jean Hoshal, Marcia Anderson, Pat Mahoney, Mac Custer.

The Secretary's minutes for the branch meeting on October 17th were accepted as read with one addition: Liz White's Benefit at her studio on November 11 and 12 is to benefit our scholarships.

Treasurer's Report: General fund - \$3,192.90, Local ICC Scholarship - \$478.00, Educational Foundation - \$1,509.88 and Savings - \$1,684.26 for a total of \$6,865.04.

Membership: Audrey Erdman will be having a coffee at her home on November 19, inviting about 25 of our most recent members. She plans to ask a series of questions about AAUW and our branch to learn these new members' views and any suggestions they may have for improvements.

Program: Our November 21st meeting will feature a presentation of "Schoolmarm as Feminist" by Teresa Alto.

Communications: Marcia Anderson will be covering for Karen Karls (who is in New Zealand) and handling the articles for the newspaper.

Public Policy: The next meeting will be Thursday, October 27th at 4:30 p.m. at Bixby's.

Hospitality: Is arranging to have balloons for our 130th birthday of AAUW celebration on November 21st. Birthday gifts of donations to our scholarships will be much appreciated.

Newsletter: The deadline will be Friday, October 28th.

Directory: Lynette Eck reported that she had mailed 3 directories at the cost of \$1.71 apiece. She may need to mail more. We should all try to hand deliver the remaining directories to save money on postage.

Food: The December meeting will consist of appetizers, entrees, entertainment and dessert with the performers, in that order.

Historian: Will bring scrapbook to meetings to share with members.

Website/Blog: Marcia Anderson has updated the program information for November.

College Connection: We plan to sponsor another young woman for the National Conference of College Women Leaders in Maryland next summer. The dates for this will be May 31st through June 2nd of 2012. We will be looking for good candidates at ICC and elsewhere.

Cold at dinner meeting in church: Several members complained of being cold at our last meeting. Nancy will ask the church to turn up the heat a little.

State Convention: Nancy and Marilyn Rossman will be attending another planning meeting for the state convention in Brainerd (dates are April 27 to 29, 2012). She will try to firm up what our responsibilities will be.

Northern Minnesota AAUW chapters: Tentatively, a meeting for the Ely, Brainerd, Duluth, Hibbing, Virginia and Grand Rapids chapters will be hosted by us next fall. This would consist of a meeting with a speaker and lunch.

Next board meeting will be November 28th at 4:00 p.m. at the Public Utilities Building. There will be no board meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac Custer, Secretary

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



IT'S A PARTY!

AAUW is 130 years old, and we think it's worth celebrating!

Join us on November 21st as we celebrate 130 years of growth, change and leadership.

Social - 5:30 PM, Dinner- 5:45 PM,

Program - 6:45 PM, at the Methodist Church in Grand Rapids.

Our celebration is focused on expanding our support of the two scholarships we have established to help non-traditional women students.

*Please plan to attend our regular monthly meeting and if you can, **bring a contribution to our scholarship funds.***

We will donate dollars received to both the ICC and the Anniversary Scholarships.

Please make your check out to AAUW/Scholarship Funds and on the memo line indicate either ICC or GRACF.

*If you cannot attend, please consider sending your contribution to AAUW c/o Betty Brandt, Treasurer
29394 Pine Ridge Road, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.*

Think about giving a gift in memory of someone who helped you on your way.

*Thank you and remember, **"Equity is Still an Issue".***