

ITANYAN

“To grow by reason”

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Northeast Metro Branch

**Volume 34, No. 5
February, 2012**

MISSION STATEMENT:

**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy,
education, and research.**

January Program Discussed Adoption

Debra Harder has years of experience in working with the Children's Home Society and Family Services. Debra is an adoption information coordinator and works to protect the legal rights of children.

She spent a very interesting hour sharing her information about adoption law and practice in Minnesota and around the world. We learned that MN has more open adoption laws than many other states and does not control who comes here from other countries. In MN we also have more freedom in granting adoptions to same-sex couples. Foreign countries almost never allow these adoptions. Many children placed for adoption around the world today are handicapped in some way. Other countries adopt about 500 children from the US each year. Most of them go to Canada. We adopt about 8000 from other countries. Numbers of adoptions in the US are not tracked.

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February Program

February 9, 2012 meeting:

**6:45 PM at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,
1965 County Road E, White Bear Lake**
Treats Clara Gray, Joan Henry

Feb. Itanyan speaker: **Deepinder Singh Mayell**
Immigration is the topic for the February program. Our speaker will address the topic of myths surrounding immigration.

Deepinder Singh Mayell is a staff attorney in the Refugee and Immigrant Program of The Advocates for Human Rights. Prior to joining The Advocates, he was an attorney with Merrimack Valley Legal Services in MA where he represented poor victims of domestic violence in family, immigration and housing proceedings. Committed to human rights throughout his career, Mr. Mayell interned with the Texas Civil Rights Project, Human Rights Watch, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. Prior to law school, he served as a member of a research team that investigated and documented labor conditions in apparel factories in Jakarta, Indonesia. He also worked as a community organizer in Boston with a focus on youth empowerment and independent media. Mr. Mayell received his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 2007 and a B.A. in Political Science from Boston College.

NE Metro AAUW
Branch Meeting Minutes 1/12/12

The branch meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by co-president Joan Macheledt. There were 13 members in attendance.

The agenda was approved.

The secretary's minutes were approved as printed in the *Itanyan*.

Treasurer's report: Linda reported \$1384.22 in checking and \$3068.62 in savings. As reported in the January *Itanyan*, the holiday auction brought in \$2,161.90.

Membership: Gail reported that Nancy is still trying to determine who the Century College contact is for their Institutional Membership. They are also working on posters to display in the library.

Program: Chris Koentopp reported that the February program will be on myths about immigration.

Itanyan: LouAnn will be gone from January 31st until April, so she asks that members send her materials for the *Itanyan* and *Pine* as soon as possible. She will still remain in contact via e-mail during her absence.

EF/LAF: Doris was not present to give a report, but she sent a thank-you letter from the Lakeshore Players for inviting them to perform at the holiday auction. She asks members what the consensus was: do we want to invite them again next year? Present members said that they enjoyed the performance, but also like to try different programs.

Public policy: There is still no chair for this position, but Joan prepared a Pepto-Bismol® pink binder containing relevant information that will be available at branch meetings for those who are interested.

Hospitality: No one is currently signed up for the March meeting. We will need 2 people to bring treats and set up prior to the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Charitable giving: Doris collected votes on where our membership would like to distribute funds for charitable giving in 2012. Only 3 members responded. Based on the nominations, Vernita moved that \$150 be distributed, \$50 each, to Deep Portage, History Day, and Lakeshore Players. The motion was seconded, discussed, and approved.

LouAnn moved that we support NCCWSL to the maximum of \$350, if we can find a suitable candidate. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed on what to do with the money if we are unable to find a suitable candidate, and it was agreed that that would be decided only if the problem arose. The motion passed.

LouAnn asked if a student who graduates from Century College in winter term is eligible for our branch scholarship. Nancy may need to follow up with Century to determine if this is possible.

Archives: The MN History Museum is willing to take our branch's archived materials. The material becomes their property once donated, but we would still have access to it. Jan moved that we donate our historical documents to the MN Historical Society. The motion was seconded and passed. A

committee was organized to sort materials and to discuss what to keep and what to donate, including membership and financial information, minutes, and *Itanyans*. The committee will include Clara, Jan, Joan, and Joni. Discussion of relevant materials to include will also be on the agenda for the board meeting in January.

New Business

For our April program, we will be preparing bags of cleaning products for the women's center. Chris asked if it would be easier for one person to purchase all of the items, once the number of bags and the budget is known. Members agreed this would be best, and Chris volunteered to do the shopping. We will assemble the bags at the April meeting.

Joan mentioned that she has one potential applicant for NCCWSL; her granddaughter. She asked if we should have a process for multiple applicants. If we receive multiple ideal candidates, we could refer them to other branches, since the program is consistently underutilized. This would give more girls the opportunity to attend.

The State is offering a Young Women for Equity award—this is intended for high school and college-aged women who show leadership in a project that supports the AAUW mission. Members are asked to nominate potential candidates. Winners will be invited to attend the State Convention banquet. Information on the nomination form is available on the State website: <http://www.aauwmn.org/awards.htm>

Announcements

The State Strategic Plan 2012-2013 is being drafted. The board asks for recommendations from members on anything they feel is relevant to include.

A board meeting will be held at Joan's on January 26 at 7:00 PM.

Gail mentioned that she is now looking for a new job, as 1/13 is the last day of her current position.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Burlison, Secretary

Membership Report

by Gail Van Horn

The Membership Committee is currently seeking permission from the Maplewood and White Bear Lake libraries to post newly designed posters promoting the NorthEast Branch. Nancy FitzGerald designed and had the informative pieces printed.

Membership is also continuing its efforts to build on our partnership with Century College by discovering the names of faculty and staff members amenable to helping AAUW.

Both Nancy and Gail Van Horn encourage anyone attending monthly branch meetings to wear a name tag and get to know someone new.

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From Your Presidents

Jan Femrite and Joan Machledt

It is rather cozy, isn't it, to have a breathing space after the busyness of the fall and holiday seasons, as exciting and invigorating as they are. It is a time to rest, regroup, and maybe do a project or two that have been pushed back. State AAUW has some project ideas for you to consider and perhaps add to your list.

First in line is the annual Young Women for Equity award, given to a high school/college level student who has shown leadership in a specific action or event that reflects the AAUW mission. There will be up to three awards given, selected by a panel of AAUW members. The honorees will be awarded a framed certificate at our state banquet where they will be our guests. If you have a nominee, contact Joan or Jan for more information and an application form.

Another opportunity for young college women is the \$500 State AAUW grant to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at College Park, Maryland, May 31 - June 2. At our January branch meeting we voted, as part of our charitable giving, one \$350 grant to this conference. The two grants together should pay the expected expenses of the conference, including transportation. This is a leadership conference, and applicants need to demonstrate involvement in community and civic activities. If you have a candidate for these grants, again contact Joan or Jan for an application form. The State AAUW deadline for this application is April 1, although should we have more than one applicant, our selection process must begin sooner, perhaps by mid-February. We do have one nominee.

The final suggestion is just for our branch. At our board meeting on January 26, we will be discussing ideas for making our branch meetings more interesting (fun even?) to current as well as prospective members. Hopefully, we will present some thoughts at our February branch meeting for discussion. Think of things you might like to see happen and bring those ideas to the February meeting. If you cannot attend and have something to share, contact a board member.

Stay warm, make soup, and enjoy winter...Joan

Book Club

Book Club meets on Saturday mornings at 10:00. Refreshments are served and lively discussion of literature follows. It's a lovely way to spend a few hours and we invite all to join us for as many of the discussions as possible. You need not be a regular member if you choose to attend. All are welcome. Call the hostess if you plan to attend. And we hope you will!

- Feb 11 Betty Werner, The Jefferson Key by Steve Berry
- Mar 10 Clara Gray, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skoot□
- April 14 Place TBD Everyone will bring a book to recommend and do a 5-10 minute summary of the book and its author.□
- May 12 Jeannine Bohlmeier, Eccentric Islands by Bill Holm
- June 9 ? A trip to Bayfield, WI with a Kent Kruger or Nevada Barr book about Lake Superior

Gourmet Club

The Orient Express was the inspiration for a holiday dinner hosted by Ted and Janet Brownell. The guests were assigned tables in specific “dining cars” and the food was served by “waiters.” Ted was the head “porter” and shared his great knowledge of trains and model trains. The atmosphere and food will be remembered for a very long time.

Gourmet Club is a great way to become acquainted with others on a personal level and also to learn about other cultures through food. To join email Donna Wen at: rydbwen@cpinternet.com or call at 651-636-2401.

Feb. 18 Iceland, Hosts: Gray, Ruggles

Apr. 21 North Africa, Hosts: Hoppe, Willroth

June TBA barbecue picnic, Caribbean theme

Unknown

After all this is over, all that will really have mattered is how we treated each other.

Benjamin Franklin

The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of the wise man is in his heart.

David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister and statesman, (1863-1945)

If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it.

J.R.R. Tolkien

All that is gold does not glitter; not all those that wander are lost.

Officers: 2011-2012

Co-Presidents:

Janice Femrite, Joan Macheledt

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership:

Gail Van Horn, Nancy FitzGerald

Vice President for Programing:

Robbie Johnson

Treasurer: Linda Ruggles

Secretary: Kathy Burleson

AAUW Funds Chair: Doris Morrison

Newsletter Editor: LouAnn Hoppe

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LouAnn Hoppe

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