



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

Northfield Concern

Newsletter of the Northfield, MN AAUW Branch, April/May 2011



Beth Berry
Director of the TORCH
Program in Northfield
Schools to Speak at
Annual May Potluck
Monday, May 9th
6:00 p.m.
at St. Peter's Luth.
Church, 418 Sumner St.
E.

Beth Berry is the high school coordinator of Northfield Schools' TORCH (Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes) program and will speak about this program at our May meeting.

Northfield has a graduation rate of more than 91%, with over 85% of high school graduates enrolling in post-secondary institutions.

Unfortunately, in the past, Northfield's Latino children have not experienced this same

success. From 2001-2004, only 15 Latino students graduated from Northfield Public Schools, while 27 dropped out – **a graduation rate of 36%**. During that time, *fewer than five of the Latino graduates* pursued post-secondary options after high school graduation.

TORCH began as a collaborative initiative to address this gap — and the results have been incredible. After a successful first two years, TORCH expanded to also serve Northfield's growing low-income population; partners recognized that these young people could benefit from the additional academic and post-secondary support and noted that the number of local children on free- and reduced-price school lunches has grown by **nearly 70% in the past five years**. Moreover, nearly twice as many Northfield low-income students test below grade level on standardized tests as their more affluent classmates.

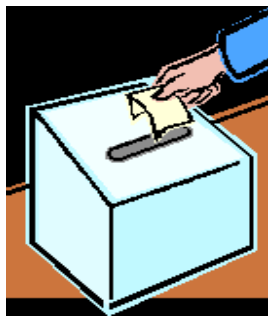
The biggest “problem” for the TORCH program has been the increased demand for the

TORCH services by eligible youth. This is a direct result of the program's success in helping students graduate from high school and progress to college. Although TORCH only expected to serve about 100 youth at the time when it first started, the program now serves over 200 current students and 70 alumni! As a result of the commendable work of the TORCH staff and partners, these additional youth have been able to receive services from the program.

Come to our May meeting, **bring a dish to pass** and find out more about this important program in the Northfield Schools.

Editors Note:

This is a combined April and May issue. My apologies for missing the early April deadline. There will be one more issue in late May/early June before the summer break. Please submit any items to The Concern by May 21st.



Nominees for Election for 2011–2012 Officers

Below is the slate of nominees for our AAUW Officers for the 2011-2012 year. A vote will be held at our May meeting

Co-Presidents:

Audrey Ebert
Rachel Peterson

President Elect:

Carol James

Vice-Presidents, Membership:

Barbara Rippley
Susan Pedersen

Vice-Presidents, Program:

Jo Kleber
Pat Kriesel
Lois Stratmoen

Secretary:

Nancy Lehman

Treasurer:

Pat Romanov

Thank you to all the nominees for agreeing to serve!



Northfield Elementary
Schools' PTO
and League of Women Voters
of Northfield and Cannon Falls
present

School Funding 101: "How Did We Get Here?"

Wednesday, May 4th
6:30-8pm
Bridgewater Elementary
School Cafeteria
401 Jefferson Pkwy,
Northfield

- Are you confused about the rhetoric surrounding public funding for K-12 education?
- Why do Northfield Schools have to make more cuts?
- Are public schools overfunded and poorly managed?
- Is there a serious lack of investment in our schools?
- How can parents and community members make a difference?

Deb Griffiths, Director of Communications and Community Outreach for Schools for Equity in Education, will offer answers to these questions and help clarify Minnesota's complex system of funding K-12 education.

Presenter, Deb Griffiths, is a parent of three boys in the Centennial school district. Frustrated with the loss of educational opportunity for her children, she spent time researching why our schools continue to struggle financially. She soon became a parent advocate and chair of Centennial Legislation Action Committee, a community group that advocates at the state capitol on educational issues. She is currently the Director of Communications and Community Outreach for Schools for Equity in Education (SEE). She has a passion for assisting parents and community members to advocate for their children and their schools. SEE is an association of 58 school districts throughout the state of Minnesota. SEE works for greater equity and adequacy in public education funding and policy for all Minnesota public schools.

This event is free and open to the public

Questions Contact: Julie Pritchard 645-1365 or Anne Maple 645-8501



American Immigration Revisited Presented by Professor Solveig Zempel

At our March meeting Professor Solveig Zempel from the St. Olaf College Norwegian Department spoke on the history of immigration, particularly to North America. Below are some of the main ideas she covered.

Immigration is not a new phenomenon nor exceptional to United States. Immigration has occurred since the beginning of human history, is a fundamental human endeavor and how the globe has been populated

Professor Zempel covered a brief history of immigration in North America providing some myth busters about North American immigrants. The most significant first European groups immigrating to North America were:

1. The Spanish, mostly men, who came mostly for glory, gold, and God
2. The French, again mostly male, who came mostly for fish, furs, and faith. They built

trading relationships with native peoples and in many cases intermarried with these populations.

3. The British who, contrary to popular belief, came mostly for financial enrichment and land not for religious freedom as most of us are taught. The British came from an overpopulated small island and brought their wives and children to help with farming. Unlike the French they did not come looking to trade with conquered nations but rather to push them out in order to access the land.

Our colonial history focuses on British immigration but in actuality colonial immigration was much more multi-cultural, and multi-national: Dutch, Scotch-Irish, Poles, Swedes, Finns, Germans, African slaves and indentured servants were all part of our colonial immigration. Also, anti-immigrant sentiment is not a modern phenomenon, Ben Franklin disliked Germans, “swarming into our land with their language, food” etc.

1820-1920: Century of Immigration

Given the large number of immigrants by the end of the 1800s Ellis Island and other similar places were erected, not to keep people out, but to process them in. This is in strong contrast to today where immigration centers are mostly for keeping would be immigrants out. It is a myth that the U.S. was always warm and welcoming. We had open

borders through the Civil War. Then, starting about 1870 we began putting qualitative restrictions on immigration especially in regards to poverty (i.e., there was no prospect of self sufficiency), disease, Anarchists, etc. None of our laws have kept people out, just made it harder.

Another major change in immigration patterns began in the 1960's. Immigrants from Europe declined as financial prospects in their own countries improved. Also for the first time the United States didn't have open borders with the rest of North American countries. An unintended consequence of this policy is that people could no longer go freely back and forth between Mexico and U.S. as they had before so they stayed. This led to the large influx of Mexican and other Hispanic groups.

Professor Zempel emphasized that it is important to look at individual stories to understand immigrants – primary sources, letters, memoirs, poems. She distributed a bibliography she uses in her class for suggested readings. If you would like a copy please let me know.

Thank you to Anne Larson and Sarah Currier for the Women's History Display at the Northfield Library



Author Barbara Fister at Tri-Branch Luncheon

The annual Tri-Branch luncheon was held on Saturday, April 9th at the Owatonna Arts Center. The speaker was **Gustavus Adolphus Professor, Barbara Fister**. Ms. Fister is an academic librarian and mystery author. Her mystery books include “*On Edge*” (2002), “*In the Wind*” (2008) and “*Through the Cracks*” (2010).

Ms. Fister spoke on the changes facing the publishing industry and the adaptations libraries are making due to these changes. In Ms. Fister’s opinion, the demise of the paper book over rated. While e-readers are becoming popular they are mostly being bought by avid readers for easy of travel.



Annual Garage Sale

It is never too early to start setting aside items for the annual garage sale. It will be held Saturday, August 27th. Last year we raised \$900

which went to fund scholarships.

AAUW: Bridging the Gap for Women and Girls

Winona hosts MN AAUW State Convention April 29th – May 1st

Winona will host the 2011 MN AAUW convention at the Riverport Inn in Winona. Registration fee of \$50 in needed by March 15th. After that date the registration fee is \$60. More information can be found in the most recent edition of the PINE or on-line at [State Convention](#) .



Book Groups

Consider joining in lively discussions each month.

Morning Literature Group

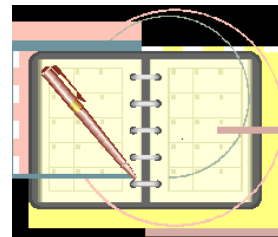
This group meets the *third Wednesday* of each month at **10:00 a.m.** For more information, contact Suzanne Sornson at 664-9611.

May 18th – TBD – Read When Everything Changed by Gail Collins

Evening Literature Group:

This group usually meets the *third Monday* of the month at **7:30 p.m.** Questions? Ask Carol James, 645.6074, or randcjames@charter.net.

May – Saturday breakfast in Webster – time and date TBD – Read Haunted Ground by Erin Hart



2010-2011 Branch Programs

Monday, May 9th , 6:00 p.m.

St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Potluck Dinner
Beth Berry, Director of the TORCH Program in Nfld. Schools. The program works with Latino and low income students to encourage them through graduation.

Other dates to remember:

April 29th – May 1st - AAUW MN State Convention in Winona

June 2nd – 4th NCCWLS Conference



AAUW 2011 National Convention: Breaking through Barriers Advocating for Change

Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel • Washington, D.C. June 16–19, 2011 Registration is now open. [See AAUW Website](#)

2011 – 2012 AAUW Annual Dues Form: Annual Dues \$68

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like to receive “The Concern” via email Yes: _____ No: _____
This saves our branch postage and copying expenses.

Membership Dues for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

FY2011 Membership Dues will be collected at the May Meeting (or mail them to Pat Romanov, 1305 Presidential Dr., Nfld., MN 55057, if you are unable to attend May’s Meeting.) Dues for FY 2012 are \$68 (same as last year.) This breaks down as \$49 for the National AAUW, \$9 for the State AAUW and \$10 for the Northfield Chapter. (Please note \$46 of the Nat’l dues are tax deductible.) See last page of Concern for the form.



Northfield AAUW Branch
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