



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

# Northfield Concern

Newsletter of the Northfield, MN AAUW Branch, March 2011



**American Immigration  
Revisited  
Presented by  
Professor Solveig  
Zempel  
at  
March Meeting  
Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am  
Kildahl Mtg. Room  
Kildahl Park Pointe  
888 Cannon Valley Dr.**

In 2009 Professor Solveig Zempel from the St. Olaf College Norwegian Department was chosen to take part in a one month NEH workshop in Washington DC entitled "American Immigration Revisited". She brought information and insights from that workshop to the faculty and student body at

the opening of the college. Solveig has agreed to talk to us on this topic at our March 12 meeting.

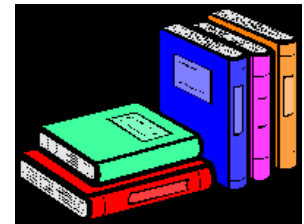
Solveig is the daughter of our long-time member Ella Valborg Rolvaag Tweet so she has deep Northfield roots. She graduated from St. Olaf and holds a Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Minnesota.



## **Women's History Month Display at Northfield Library**

In honor of Women's History Month AAUW has opted to be responsible for the display case at the Northfield Public Library. Thanks to Anne Larson and Sarah Currier for the fine display!! Please stop

by the library during the next couple of weeks to see it.



## **AAUW Donates Books to Northfield Library**

Northfield AAUW has donated books to the Northfield Library in honor of two past members.

*"When the World Calls: The Inside Story of the Peace Corps and Its First 50 Years"* by Stanley Meisler has been given in memory of Carroll Flaten. Carroll was a past president (1998 – 2000) of AAUW Nfld.

*"I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity"* by Izzeldin Abuelaish has been given in memory of Virginia Gangsei. Virginia



**Owatonna to Host  
Tri-Branch Luncheon  
Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m.  
(please note date change)**

The annual Tri-Branch luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Owatonna Arts Center. The speaker will be **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). Tickets for the luncheon are \$15 per person. We need to submit a guaranteed number by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Checks should be sent to Pat Romanov, 1305 Presidential Dr., Nfld., by March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**AAUW: Bridging the  
Gap for Women and  
Girls  
Winona hosts MN  
AAUW State Convention  
April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Winona will host the 2011 MN AAUW convention at the Riverport Inn in Winona. Registration fee of \$50 in

needed by March 15<sup>th</sup>. 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](#) .



**Favorite Books  
and a Discussion of  
Half the Sky :Turning  
Oppression into  
Opportunity for Women  
Discussed at the  
February Meeting**

At the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting a discussion of the book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women* by

Nicholas D. Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn was held. After the discussion we will share favorite books we’ve read or reread this year. So bring your list.



**Annual Garage Sale**

It is never too early to start setting aside item for the annual garage sale. It will be

held in August. Exact date to be determined



**Scholarships Proposed**

The Nfld. AAUW has approved two scholarships this year. One for \$750 to a female from Nfld. High School who will be attending college in fall 2011 and another of \$570 to fund a high school girl (preferably from Nfld.) to attend the 2011 St. Olaf’s Engineering and Physics Camp for Girls which encourages girls to study in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



### **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.

**Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>** – at Suzanne Sornson’s home, 606 Meldahl Ln., - Read Winter’s Bone by Daniel Woodrell (There is a movie of this book)

**Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>** – TBD – Read Memory of Trees by Mayla Marty

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – TBD – Read When Everything Changed by Gail Collins

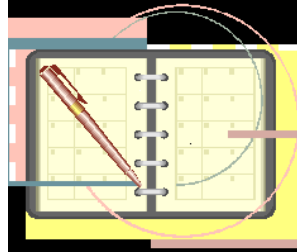
### **Evening Literature Group:**

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](mailto:randcjames@charter.net).

**Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>** – at Audrey Ebert’s home, 618 5<sup>th</sup> St. East – Read Stones into Schools by Greg Mortenson

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** – at Barbara Dettle’s home, 1723 Sunset Dr. – Read Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver

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



### **2010-2011 Branch Programs**

**Sat., March 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.**  
Kildahl Mtg. Room, Kildahl Park Pointe, Cannon Valley Dr., Nfld Solveig Zempel, Prof. of Norwegian at St. Olaf and granddaughter of Ole E. Rolvaag (author of *Giants in the Earth*) will speak)

**Sat., April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.**  
Tri-Branch Luncheon  
Owatonna Center for the Arts  
The program will feature Barbara Fister, mystery writer.

**Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 students to encourage them through graduation.

**Other dates to remember:**  
**April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>** - AAUW MN State Convention in Winona

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>** 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](#)

### **AAUW Signs Amicus Brief in Support of the Plaintiffs in Gender Discrimination Suit against Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.**

WASHINGTON — The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has signed an amicus “friend of the court” brief in support of the plaintiffs in *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* On March 29, 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral argument to determine whether the case can move forward as a class action. AAUW — one of 34 groups to sign the brief — will also provide financial support through its Legal Advocacy Fund to defray the expenses of six of the lead plaintiffs.

The full brief is available on the [AAUW](#) website.

## **Pay Equity Attacks in Minnesota**

Several pieces of legislation aimed at repealing pay equity laws have been introduced in Minnesota. However, Minnesota state Sen. John Carlson (R-Bemidji), a freshman, has retracted his bill that would have repealed the Local Government Pay Equity Act of 1984, among other things. Carlson has publically acknowledged that the provision was a mistake and one he will cease pursuing. Another bill, one that would reverse the state's public sector pay equity

law has been proposed by state Rep. Draskowski (R-Mazeppa) and is still pending. This is the fourth Republican bill to repeal pay equity in the state proposed just this session, despite a continuing gender wage gap in the state of 77 percent.

## **AAUW MN Publication The Pine**

If you didn't receive *The Pine* it is available on-line here [The Pine](#)



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