



**November/December 2011 Newsletter**

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

**WILLMAR BRANCH MEETINGS**

**Monday, November 21, 2011**

6:45 pm – coffee

7:00 pm – program

Business meeting to follow

On Monday, November 21 we are **THANKFUL** to have the opportunity to have Becky Bode and Julie Sievert speak to AAUW - Willmar Branch. Ms. Bode and Ms. Sievert will speak to us about Bode Dairy and dairy farming in Minnesota. With coffee and dessert at 6:45pm, join us for an interesting evening at Bethel Lutheran Church with a business meeting to follow.

**Monday December 19, 2011**

6:45 pm -- "It's Beginning to Look A lot Like Christmas" or it will be soon so make sure you attend the December meeting for AAUW Willmar Branch to get into the Christmas spirit. On Monday, December 19, we will meet at Bethel Lutheran Church for our annual Christmas party with the girls from the group home. The festivities begin at 6:45pm with holiday treats, games, carols and gifts. Please plan to **bring some goodies to share and inexpensive prizes to donate**. We look forward to seeing you there!

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**FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS...**

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS.....

Can you believe that our Willmar AAUW branch is 65 years old this year? We started in 1946 and have been going strong ever since. Just think of the impact we have made in our community and especially for women and girls. I remember fondly my first meeting at Christmas because a friend invited me back in the early sixties. Of course, my two favorite projects have been Picture Lady and Wonder Camp, in cooperation with the college, BPW, and women in the workplace. Our PL project of bringing art history and appreciation into area classrooms lasted 35 years, and we delighted hundreds of children with our many art prints. Our Wonder Camps exposed 5th and 6th-grade girls to career areas (archeology, dentistry, agriculture, forensics, computers, astronomy, rocketry, etc.) that they may not have known even existed. What special memories we have! So.....we need to celebrate! Bernice Grabber-Tintes and I will treat you all to birthday cake, ice cream, and drinks at the November meeting. Don't miss it! And bring a friend.

Have you ever considered making application for a position on the state AAUW board? There are a number of open slots: VP Membership, VP AAUW Funds, Secretary (each for two years), and Nominating Committee (for one year). I have the job descriptions and application form if you are interested. It is an exciting adventure, and several Willmar members have served on the state board, including Carol Esbjornson, Raeanna Gislason, Beverly Crute, and myself.

We also have an opportunity to send a woman college student to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) next year from May 31 to June 2 at the University of Maryland. The state board will provide \$500 if we can contribute about \$300 for registration, flight costs, and expenses. Mollie Bredeck, one of Vicki Melbye's students, attended year before last

and enjoyed it very much. If those of you who are at Ridgewater have a student in mind, let Jennifer or me know that, and perhaps we can work something out. It's a great learning experience for young women!

*Jeanette Carlson, Co-President*

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is an occasion for governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to raise public awareness of violence against women. It has been observed on November 25 each year since 2000.

On November 25, 1960, three sisters, Patria Mercedes Mirabal, María Argentina Minerva Mirabal and Antonia María Teresa Mirabal, were assassinated in the Dominican Republic on the orders of the Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo. The Mirabal sisters fought hard to end Trujillo's dictatorship. Activists on women's rights have observed a day against violence on the anniversary of the deaths of these three women since 1981.

On December 17, 1999, November 25 was designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women by the UN General Assembly. Each year observances around the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women concentrate on a particular theme.

An ongoing campaign that people are encouraged to participate in, especially around this time of the year when awareness levels for the day are high, is the "Say NO to Violence Against Women campaign". Through the campaign, anyone can add their name to a growing movement of people who speak out to put a halt to human rights violations against women. For more information go to [www.unric.org](http://www.unric.org).

*Jennifer Gibson, Co-President*

## **WILLMAR AAUW BRANCH MINUTES: WILLMAR BRANCH AAUW MEETING**

**October 17, 2011, 6:45 p.m.**

Co-President Jennifer Gibson welcomed everyone to the 541<sup>st</sup> meeting of Willmar Branch AAUW at Bethel Lutheran Church. Guests in attendance were Walt Gislason and the girls from the Prairie Lakes Youth Program. Sharon Jones provided refreshments.

In VP Program Carla Buzzeo's absence Le Lucht, Carla's mother, introduced Margaret Schmitz, ALC science teacher and program speaker. Schmitz and three other Willmar educators were awarded a two-week internship at NASA's Ames Research Center located in California. The summer program was called Stimulation-Based Aerospace Engineering Teacher Professional Development Program. The requirements were to teach middle or high school in a STEM discipline and more than 30% of the school district's student population must be a minority and 30% must be receiving free or reduced lunch. The focus was to tour the facility, attend presentations, work with a mentor, and learn about NASA opportunities and resources. Highlights were simulators and a wind tunnel that used an argon plasma stream. Expectations upon returning were to develop a lesson plan and to inform others about their experiences.

### **Membership:**

Dee Rosenbrook, Co-VP Membership, stated there are 43 members. Rosenbrook offered to call or send letters to anyone members felt would be interested in AAUW.

### **Program:**

Le Lucht announced the November program: Dairy Farming in Minnesota by Becky Bode and Julie Sievert.

### **Board Reports:**

**Program Booklets-** Becky Romosz should be advised of corrections.

### **Historian-**

Marion Nordin asked for volunteers to decorate the Christmas tree at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

### **Public Policy-**

Julia Janssen will update members via e-mails.

### **Newsletter-**

The deadline for the combined November/December newsletter is November 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other:**

An open house honoring Raeanna Gislason will be held at the Oaks Country Club Friday, November 4, 4-6 p.m. It is given in appreciation of Raeanna's piano teaching career and support of the arts in the community.

The girl's Christmas wish lists will be circulated at the November meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Jones, Secretary

## ***WILLMAR BRANCH AAUW - PROGRAMS 2011-12***

### **November 21, 2011 (Monday) BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

\*Becky Bode & Julie Sievert – Bode Dairy and dairy farming in Minnesota

### **December 19, 2011 (Monday) BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

\*Christmas Party with Girls Group Home – gifts, games, carols

### **January 16, 2011 (Monday) BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

\*Nancy Powers – Middle School math teacher, Math Counts

### **February 20, 2011 (Monday) BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

\*Black History Month – book discussion led by Mary Gruis of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

### **March 19, 2011 (Monday) BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

\*Women's History Month – Ruth Trageser – “Mary Magdalene”

### **April 21, 2011 (Saturday) RIDGEWATER COLLEGE CONFERENCE CENTER**

\*Vednita Carter – “Breaking Free”, non-profit organization serving women and girls in systems of abuse, exploitation, prostitution/sex trafficking

### **May 21, 2011 (Monday) BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

\*6:00pm – Catered International Dinner Meeting  
\*Guest Speaker: Marsha Milani – New Guinea Education Experience

*Willmar AAUW meets on the third Monday of the month from September through May at Bethel Lutheran Church, 411 Becker Ave SW, Willmar (use SOUTH DOOR) unless changes are noted. Unless otherwise noted: Coffee is served at 6:45pm, Program at 7:00pm, Business meeting to follow.*

## ***MEMBER NEWS***

*Sympathy* to our treasurer Louise Thoma in the recent loss of her husband Ben. And sympathy to Ramona Lackore in the loss of her mother Elizabeth Lackore. Both Ramona and Elizabeth are Willmar Branch members.

*Congratulations* to Raeanna Gislason on her retirement from teaching piano lessons. We thank her for her reaching out to so many students and for her participation in numerous other musical and community endeavors.

## ***WHO CAN HELP?***

Marion Nordin is looking for help decorating the AAUW tree November 21 at 10 a.m. at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society. Just come--or it would be nice to give her a call soon: 235-4347 or [mnordin@charter.net](mailto:mnordin@charter.net).

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

It has been 100 years since **Marie Curie** won the Nobel Peace prize in Chemistry. And did you know that AAUW awarded her \$156,413 to help purchase 1 ounce of radium. Her daughter returned some of the unused funds, which was a start for the Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship. Now you know!

## ***MARK YOUR CALENDAR***

The state AAUW convention will be held April 27-29, 2012 at Rutgers' Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood – six miles from Brainerd.

## ***LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS***

**Co-Presidents:** Jeanette Carlson and Jennifer Gibson  
**Co-VP Membership:** Dee Rosenbrook and Rebecca Harberts

**VP Programs:** Carla Buzzeo

**Secretary:** Sharon Jones

**Treasurer:** Louise Thoma

**Educational Opportunities Fund:** Betty Schneider

**Legal Advocacy Fund:** Kathy Vruwink

**Public Policy:** Julia Janssen

**Newsletter:** Dee Rosenbrook and Becky Romosz

**Historian:** Marion Nordin

**College Rep:** Vicki Melbye

*Rebecca Romosz  
Box 374  
Willmar, MN 56201*

*AAUW Value Promise*

*By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance*

