



**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER**

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

**WILLMAR BRANCH MEETING**

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM  
MONDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

**Coffee at 6:45 p.m.  
Program at 7:00 p.m.**

***Legislative Review***

Join us on **Monday, November 16**, at Bethel Lutheran Church for a Legislative Review! Our special guests for the evening will be Representative Al Juhnke and Senator Joe Gimse. With our mission statement in mind, they have been asked to share current policy and/or legislation that will be of interest to our members. Plan to join us for what could be an exciting evening.

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**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

One of the highlights at the national AAUW convention in St. Louis last June was to hear our keynote speaker, Lily Ledbetter, who is referred to as "the face of pay equity." She worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Gadsen, Alabama. Despite receiving top performance awards, Lily discovered that she had been paid significantly less than male co-workers with the same job. In 1998, she filed suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded back pay and other remedies in a jury trial. In 2007, however, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned that ruling and 40 years of EEOC precedent in a 5 to 4 decision that significantly narrowed the interpretation of pay equity laws. The justices ruled that employees could only file a wage discrimination complaint within 180 days of the original pay decision, leaving women, minorities, and others in Lily's situation with no recourse.

On January 29, 2009, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act became the first bill that President Obama signed into law. AAUW helped to lead the coalition of women's rights, labor, and civil rights groups who worked for almost two years to get the bill passed. The law restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allow employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive.

A nationally recognized pay equity advocate, Lily has testified several times before Congress. Prior to her tenure at Goodyear, she worked as a district manager for H&R Block and as an assistant financial aid director at Jacksonville State University. She was married to Charles Ledbetter for more than 50 years until his death in December 2008. Lily has two children and four grandchildren.

Says Lily, "The wage gap still exists. Our work is still not finished. The pay gap's days are numbered." The next step is the Pay Check Fairness Act. There were 30 co-sponsors in the Senate as of June. Our AAUW lobby corps speaks and testifies before Congress.

I was fortunate to shake Lily's hand at the Saturday night banquet and thank her for her dedication to pay equity. She even signed my program! I think that will make a grand item for sale at the LAF silent auction in April at the state AAUW convention in St. Cloud, don't you?

Did you see the recent article about Elinor Ostrom, a professor of political science at Indiana University? She became the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize for economics. She was praised "for her analysis of economic governance, especially the commons." I guess girls really can do math!

That's the good news. The bad news is that while I was staffing our AAUW booth at the Women's Expo, a little girl came up to me and showed a purse she had just decorated. It said: "Girls just wanna have fun." Oh dear, I thought, AAUW has work to do!

*Jeanette Carlson, President*

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Belated congratulations to Willmar branch member Raeanna and her husband Walt Gislason on joining the ranks of the retired in our community! They have sold their Walt's gas station/car wash business to some of their employees. Both are well known for their philanthropic endeavors in the community. Willmar AAUW thanks them

for their participation in many community events and wishes them well in their retirement.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Willmar Branch members now total 38!  
Please add the following to your Membership Booklet:

Rebecca Harberts  
2309 Gorton Ave NW  
Willmar, MN 56201  
320-262-3369  
BA University of Minnesota  
Major: German

Le Lucht  
1103 Wilbur St  
Worthington, MN 56187  
507-376-6378  
University of South Dakota,  
Vermillion  
Masters of Selected Studies  
Major: Spanish

## **REFRESHMENT HOSTS**

|             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| November 16 | Sharon Jones/Jeanette Carlson |
| December 21 | All bring Christmas goodies   |
| January 18  | Carla Buzzeo/Lori Boike       |
| February 15 | Becky Romosz                  |
| March 15    | Dee Rosenbrook                |
| April 24    | Marion Nordin                 |
| May 17      | Annual Dinner Meeting         |

*We encourage submissions from members for this newsletter. Send ideas or articles by the fifth of the month to:*

*Becky Romosz ([becromosz@yahoo.com](mailto:becromosz@yahoo.com)) and  
Dee Rosenbrook ([drosenbrook@tds.net](mailto:drosenbrook@tds.net))*

See the difference: Impacting Girls' and Women's Lives: and the world! AAUW advocates equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

2010 AAUW State Convention  
April 16-18  
St. Cloud at the Radisson Hotel  
“Discover A Whole New Country”

## **BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

*Dee Rosenbrook*

One day recently I was doing laundry in my basement. As usual the radio in my laundry room is set for MPR. I came in the middle of a program and suddenly heard the name **Kristin Maschka**. I listened a little more closely as that name was very familiar to me in the 80's. Kristin Maschka was a classmate of my daughter (Willmar branch member Laurie Ukestad) during their school days in Mankato. Kristin was doing an interview, and the topic was the difficulty of achieving a satisfying life while being employed, married, and a mother.

A little research on the internet told me that, indeed, this was the Kristin Maschka I knew. Soon I was ordering her book and took the time to read it when it arrived. The book has an unwieldy title: ***This Is Not How I Thought It Would Be: Remodeling Motherhood To Get The Lives We Want Today.***

Kristin was very athletic. In the early chapters of the book she writes about trying out for some boys' teams before girls' teams were available to her. She and my daughter played together on a very successful fast pitch softball team when they were 15. We (players and parents) had the privilege of riding on a Greyhound bus all the way from Mankato to Salt Lake City—with no overnight motel stays! They achieved the position of 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation (Junior Olympics). Go Peppers! And Kristin was instrumental in leading the Mankato East Cougars to the 1987 Minnesota girls' basketball championship.

It was interesting to read a younger woman's perspective on parenting and the working world. I was also impressed that she has chapters on the implications of the outdated Social Security policies for women and also tax implications. As I told my daughter, “This book is sooooo AAUW.”

If anyone wants to read my book, please contact me and I will be willing to share. I ordered it from Amazon.com. However, if you order through Barnes and Nobel, they will donate to AAUW.

Shirley Bosch has agreed to write a book recommendation for the January issue. Thanks, Shirley. Who else will?

## **Willmar Branch Holiday Party \***

**December 21, 2009**

**6:45 p.m.**

Once again we shall gather to celebrate the holidays with the residents of the girls group home (part of Prairie Lakes Youth Programs). Our branch members will present some readings/entertainment. All will play games and have delicious refreshments. Each member is asked to bring a “treat” so share such as a few Christmas cookies or snack items. Leftovers will be sent home with the group home residents. Gifts purchased for the girls will be distributed. You can expect great fellowship, music, and food!

***\*Please Note: This Willmar Window covers both November and December.***

## **GIFTS FOR GIRLS GROUP HOME**

At the November branch meeting gift lists will be distributed. Anyone not able to attend to take a list is invited to contact Dee Rosenbrook ([drosenbrook@tds.net](mailto:drosenbrook@tds.net) or 599-4118) to volunteer. Often two members will share a list for one girl. The gifts are given to the girls at the December meeting/party.

Also, please bring to our November and December meetings prizes to be used for the games. Small items under \$5 are suggested.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Thank you to our president Jeanette Carlson who prepared and staffed an AAUW display at the 2009 Women's Expo in early October. She handed out lots of info, showed the AAUW DVD, and had a chance to share the AAUW mission with many women of the area; she also prepared a lovely basket that went to a lucky recipient.

## **AAUW BRANCH MEETINGS**

### **September 21, 2009**

President Jeanette Carlson welcomed everyone to the 523rd meeting of the Willmar Branch AAUW held at Ridgewater College. Dee Rosenbrook introduced retired Willmar teacher guests, Sandy Fernelius, Julie Knutson, Joan Kuhn, and Pauline Reigstad. Lanell Mahler was a returning guest. Beverly Crute introduced her guest, Becky Harberts.

Carla Buzzeo introduced our program facilitator for the evening, Julia Janssen, who was filling in for Vicki Melbye, who needed to be out of town to attend another meeting. After viewing the Dewitt Jones video, "For the Love of It," Julia distributed two activities. Upon completion of The Big Question and Important Lessons, we were invited to write a thank you note to someone who has made a positive difference in our lives. Note cards and stamps were provided.

Art Norby hopes to open an art museum in Willmar to exhibit his sculptures and the work of other local artists. He distributed brochures and asked those who may be interested in his project to contact him.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as corrected. Treasurer Louise Thoma reported a checking balance of \$282.65 and \$2,228.78 in savings. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit. A motion was made by Betty Schneider, seconded by Marion Nordin and carried to approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Dee announced that Le Lucht, Carla Buzzeo's mother, has joined the Willmar Branch. If a prospective member joins at a branch meeting, they may pay a reduced dues rate of \$45.50.

**PROGRAM:** Carla thanked Kathy Vruwink for preparing the bookmarks. The October meeting will be a LAF fundraiser. Members are encouraged to

invite guests to a wine tasting at Glacial Ridge Winery located between Spicer and New London. Members are asked to bring appetizers to share.

**EDUCATIONAL FUNDS:** Betty Schneider informed guests that money raised at the used book sale is used for a local scholarship at Ridgewater, a contribution to the Willmar Civic Scholarship, and the largest amount is given to the Educational Funds on the national level.

**HISTORIAN:** Marion Nordin requested that members assist in gathering newspaper articles featuring our branch or branch members.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION:** Lily Ledbetter signed Jeanette's banquet program. Membership remains open to those holding a college degree or its equivalent. The motion to open membership to everyone supporting AAUW's mission was defeated. Bev Crute thanked the Willmar Branch for their financial support for the convention. Jeanette and Bev will continue to inform us about the national convention via the newsletter.

A motion was made by Dee Rosenbrook, seconded by Bev Crute and carried to have a booth at the Women's Expo in Willmar on October 10. The cost is \$200 plus an additional \$25 for electricity. Jeanette will set up the booth with a DVD from the national convention, and she will donate a gift basket. Attendees may register to win the basket. It's an opportunity to inform others about AAUW and to recruit new members.

A thank you from Tessa Anderson was read. Tessa was the winner of a 2009 MN AAUW "Young Women Breaking through Barriers for Equity" award.

This year Rya Haglund of Willmar was elected governor of Girls State. She will be honored at our May meeting and nominated for the "Young Women Breaking through Barriers for Equity" award.

"Challenging Expectations" will be aired on TPT MN on Sunday, September 27. The program focuses on barriers that prevent high school graduates from enrolling in college.

### **October 19, 2009**

The venue for the 524<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Willmar Branch of AAUW was Glacial Ridge Winery, north of Spicer. Dee Rosenbrook, membership chair, welcomed everyone to the fundraiser for the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Ron Wothe, owner of the winery, led a tour of the production shed. Surrounded by plastic tanks holding

up to 1,250 gallons of wine, Ron related how their business has evolved from a pie and ice cream/soup and sandwich shop to a winery in just five years.

A large portion of the 20 tons of grapes that were crushed this year are Minnesota grown. Minnesota wines fall in the category of cold climate wines. Ron is justifiably proud that Glacial Ridge had two winners out of the three wines that were entered in the 16-state first annual Cold Climate Competition.

Examples of wine labels with a local connection were: Jimmy Appleseed, Antique Car Run, and Green Lake Girl. Three white, two red and one apple wine, Jimmy Appleseed, were available to taste. As members enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, Kathy Vruwink, LAF Chair, gave background information about LAF. In AAUW's 127-year history, LAF was established in 1981. Originally LAF supported women who had experienced inequities in higher education, but now LAF supports cases that occur in any work place.

We were reminded that our program speakers in October 1999 were Marjorie Fish and Laura Robinson from St. Cloud State and their lawyer, Dorothy Buer. They were one of the 107 cases that have received financial aid from LAF from its inception in 1981 through 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Jones, Sec.

### ***Festive Forest***

Our AAUW branch will be decorating a tree for the Festive Forest at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society again this year. The "ornaments" this year will feature women from the book *Herstory*. Stop in to see the fascinating accomplishments of women in our country from pre-Revolutionary days through the 1850's! Thanks to Marion Nordin for heading the project.

### ***LAF Fundraiser***

Thanks to all of you who attended our October fundraiser for AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund! We raised \$80 to assist women and men who have suffered discrimination in higher education and the workplace. We had a beautiful evening for a brief tour to see where the wine-making takes place at Glacial Ridge Winery. Then we had a chance to try several wines. There was

also time for some good visiting! Our goal is to contribute \$5 per member to LAF. If you were not able to come to the fundraiser, please consider making a donation. Checks can be made to Willmar AAUW and sent to Lou Thoma or brought to a meeting. The monetary, in-kind, and moral support AAUW offers selected plaintiffs is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Kathy Vruwink, LAF Chair

### ***ANOTHER CHANCE TO SUPPORT LAF***

There will be a gift basket at our November AAUW meeting, the proceeds of which will go toward our branch LAF contribution. One dollar will buy you a chance to take the basket home.

### ***2009-2010 WILLMAR BRANCH AAUW PROGRAMS***

Willmar Branch meets the third Monday of the month at Bethel Lutheran Church unless otherwise noted.

#### **Nov 16-**"Legislative Review"

Al Juhnke, Joe Gimse  
Bethel Church

**Dec. 21-**Holiday Party  
with Girls' Group Home  
Bethel Church

**Jan. 18-**"Minnesota's Vanishing Graduates"  
Video and Discussion  
Bethel Church

**Feb. 15-**"Be Good to Yourself" (con.)  
Women's Health Issues  
Cam Anderson  
Bethel Church

**March 15-**Coalition for Healthy  
Adolescent Sexuality (CHAS)  
Mary Holstad  
Bethel Church

**April 24-**"Street Children of Oxaca,  
Mexico"  
Le Lucht

Bethel Church  
**Saturday, 9:30 AM**

Location TBA

**May 17-** Dinner Meeting & Awards  
Diane Buzzeo, speaker

**Unless otherwise noted:  
Coffee at 6:45 p.m.  
Program at 7:00 p.m.  
Business meeting to follow.**

***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.***

**Willmar Branch Executive Committee**

|   |                                |                            |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>President</u>                              | Jeanette Carlson               | <u>Legal Advocacy Fund</u> | Kathy Vruwink                  |
| <u>VP Membership</u>                          | Dee Rosenbrook                 | <u>Newsletter/Booklet</u>  | Dee Rosenbrook<br>Becky Romosz |
| <u>Co-VP - Program</u>                        | Lori Boike<br>Carla Buzzeo     | <u>Historian</u>           | Marion Nordin                  |
| <u>Secretary</u>                              | Sharon Jones                   | <u>College Rep</u>         | Vicki Melbye                   |
| <u>Treasurer/Finance<br/>Educational Fund</u> | Louise Thom<br>Betty Schneider |                            |                                |