

# HIAWATHA HAPPENINGS

Red Wing Area Branch  
American Association of University Women



Winter 2021

## Letter from the President –

The board began every meeting by sharing something we are doing to help with the isolation due to the pandemic. I've asked "How is everyone holding up during this difficult time? How are we staying active?"

I am discovering the healing qualities of Qigong for women, movement as medicine. **Catherine Friend**, VP of Public Policy, is really enjoying spending more time at home with her two cats, but she also found time to take up the ukulele! **Carmen Bertelsen**, Secretary, has her hands full with remodeling her house! A few times a week, **Jane Hayden Hart**, Treasurer, and her husband Charlie drive the back roads of Wisconsin. **Candace Gordon**, Member-at-Large, goes snowshoeing with her friends and Jan Pinsonneault, VP Philanthropy, shared the many winter resources available to us, from sledding to snow shoeing to skiing at the Mississippi Golf course.

Since our Fall 2020 Newsletter, Red Wing Area AAUW experienced the first ever Hybrid Holiday Fundraiser, which you will hear more about from Mary Ellen Halverson, whose creative vision and enthusiasm led our devoted committee forward to deliver an unprecedented success story. Although the constraints of the COVID pandemic continue to keep us confined, we have some great events coming up and opportunities for you to get involved. Events are planned for February and March and we will be in touch with plans for the Annual Meeting.

Let me begin to roll out the coming events first with a heartfelt *CONGRATULATIONS* to our AAUW member Becky Norton as Red Wing's new President of the City Council!

Here is a listing of what you can expect to find in this newsletter.

1. Membership Matters
2. A message from Becky Norton about how to get involved with local government.
3. The Judy Christianson Citizen of the Year Award nominations are due in March.
4. **NEW:** In February we will hear from Megan Tsui, the Director of Downtown Main Street.
5. **NEW:** In March, Linda Thielbar and Heidi Jones have organized a two part zoom event addressing Equity in Education. Save the Date information is below with more details coming soon via email.
6. Save the Date for Annual meeting in April.
7. Nominations for the Board – On June 30 we will need to approve a new President, a VP of Programming, two Members at Large, one more person on the Nominating Committee
8. Bylaws to be updated.
9. The Hybrid Holiday Fundraiser and Financial Report– Bells Bells Bells and a request for volunteers to join the Holiday fundraiser committee for 2021
10. National Conference for College Women Student Leaders aka NCCWSL is pronounced Nick-Whistle – Red Wing Area AAUW representatives Hannah Coyle and Megan Jeranek update
11. Revisit of Reviving the Dead Ladies
12. Philanthropy Corner



# Membership Matters

## Annual dues increase for FY2022, FY2023, FY2024

From Julia T. Brown, AAUW National Board of Directors Chair regarding the dues increase and Jane Hayden Hart regarding Red Wing Area AAUW dues:

At the October 16, 2020, meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual National Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 to \$62.00 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, by \$5 to \$67.00 for FY2023 and by \$5 to \$72.00 for FY2024. All but \$3.00 of the National dues are tax deductible. This means that Red Wing Area branch members'

individual dues will be \$86.00 for FY 2021-22, \$91.00 for FY 2022-23, and \$96.00 for FY2023-24. This includes \$9.00 AAUW-MN dues and \$15.00 Red Wing Area branch dues.

This decision wasn't made lightly. The board members couldn't be more grateful for our members — or prouder of the work you've done this year. We also recognize that all of us are navigating numerous challenges in these uncertain times. However, in order to preserve the viability of this organization we all love, the board needed to take action. Simply put, this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity.

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## A Message to our Members from Becky Norton.

Hello Friends,

Those of you looking for some civic involvement this year could consider a position on a city board or commission. Currently there are openings in the Sustainability Commission and the Sister Cities Commission. As a member of these commissions, you would participate in monthly meetings, typically 2 hours long. There may be research or committee work outside of the monthly meetings that some members participate in. I would say most members spend between 5-10 hours a month on their commission appointments, some more if there is some event, policy, or activity that has come up in which they are particularly interested.

More information on the Commissions as well as a link to Current Opportunities which includes the application can be found on the City's website here: <https://red-wing.org/281/Boards-Commissions>

Michelle Leise with the city would be a good contact for more questions or information or you could reach out to me as well.

Michelle Leise Community Engagement Specialist, 351-385-3618, [michelle.leise@ci.red-wing.mn.us](mailto:michelle.leise@ci.red-wing.mn.us)

Becky Norton Council President, 651-380-5173, [becky.norton@ci.red-wing.mn.us](mailto:becky.norton@ci.red-wing.mn.us)

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## Judy Christianson Citizen of the Year Award

Every spring we honor a citizen who has done outstanding work in our community to advance our mission of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. We are now accepting nominations for this award. Do you know someone the AAUW should recognize? The person does *not* need to be an AAUW member.

To nominate someone, please provide the following information:

- \* Name of nominee
- \* Phone, street address, and email address
- \* Your nominee's background
- \* Your nominee's community and professional contributions

Send this information in an email to Catherine Friend at [cfriend@hbc.com](mailto:cfriend@hbc.com).

Let's continue to recognize community service even though we are living through a pandemic!

**Deadline: March 1, 2021**

**"Save the Date" Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021**

## **Nominations for the Board**

After two years of positions of organizational leadership, some of us will be stepping back to create opportunities for others to step forward. The Nominating Committee will be meeting to begin the outreach for the next generation of our organization's leaders. Our terms of service end June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We will be seeking members for these positions. Please consider supporting our organization in one of these roles.

President (2019-2021)- Burke Murphy

Board Members at Large (2019-2021) Candace Gordon and Lori Ann Clark

Nominating Committee – (2019-2021) Tina Langton, Maggie Paynter, Carmen Bertlesen

Contact Carmen Bertlesen for more information:  
[ambertelsen@charter.net](mailto:ambertelsen@charter.net)

## **By-Laws to be Updated**

In 2020 it came to the attention of the Board of Directors that due to Covid-19 restrictions on in-person meetings and other issues, the AAUW Red Wing Area Branch By-laws need updating to meet the changing needs of the branch. Proposed changes will be announced in print at least two weeks prior to a vote by the membership at the annual meeting April 27, 2021.



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## **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders aka NCCWSL is pronounced Nick-Whistle**

Gail Glashan, AAUW of Minnesota, NCCWSL Chair

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is sponsored by AAUW.



Each year, AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking at NCCWSL. With more than 10,000 attendees over the conference's history, it is the premier leadership event for college women. Skill-building workshops, expert lead panel sessions, Women of Distinction speaker awards, and endless networking opportunities make NCCWSL a life-changing conference. NCCWSL is scheduled for May 26–29, 2021, College Park, MD.

AAUW is happy to announce that the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) 2021 will be a fully virtual experience. While we value opportunities to gather in person, we do not anticipate global health conditions being favorable for a large gathering in May 2021 but are excited about providing the virtual conference experience on May 25-26, 2021. Red Wing Area AAUW representatives are Hannah Coyle and Megan Jeranek.

# Annual Holiday Fundraiser

Mary Ellen Halverson, 2020 Committee Chair

“Why volunteer? I don't look at the time the volunteer tasks take but at the time I am privileged to get to know others who share the same goals I care about.”

## Wanted: Two volunteers to be on the 2021 brunch committee!

### Qualifications:

AAUW member

Interest in organizing Market Place

Interest in menu planning

Contact Mary Ellen Halverson

at [mary\\_ellen\\_halverson@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_ellen_halverson@yahoo.com) or 651 388 7066

We will begin planning the theme, menu, time and place by February 1st!



Wishing everyone a safe Holiday Season and a much better New Year.

This has been a difficult year for all and wishing everyone good health. A special thanks to all those participated in the Hybrid Holiday Brunch. We had over 50 participates and as we could not have our usual brunch - this is a **SUCCESS!**

Thanks to Mary Ellen Halverson for her creative idea to get this going. Total proceeds after expenses was \$2,540 to be split between National (Education and Security, which includes Legal Advocacy) and the local branch.

Take care,  
the Hybrid Holiday Lunch Committee

Laurie Andrew gave the winning bid for the last auction item of the Family Game Night for \$50



## Treasurers Report

By Jane Hayden Hart, Treasurer

Our 2020 Holiday Brunch committee developed a Hybrid Holiday Brunch to continue our main yearly fundraiser for the branch amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The participation from our members and one guest produced \$2540.00 in income which was divided 50/50 between the Red Wing Area Branch and AAUW Funds.

Red Wing Area Branch ..... \$1270.00

AAUW Fund 4449 Economic Security

*Elves deliver Holiday Auction purchases*

(includes Legal Advocacy) ..... \$ 635.00

AAUW Fund 4450 Educational

Foundation ..... \$635.00



## Revisiting Reviving the Dead Ladies

By Burke Murphy, President

I want to bring your attention once again to the video production of Reviving the Dead Ladies. We worked through October to record this production and delivered it to be viewed on are around our 2020 Election. It was posted on the AAUW Facebook page and sent via email. While it was timely, it was also a time of chaos and could easily have been missed. I want to bring your attention to the young students who contributed to this as well as a big thank you to Julie Martin for organizing the students. Two video links below will give you the opportunity to view the SPOKEN WORD recognition given to some of the women behind Suffrage who worked diligently to secure our right to vote.

Our Cast and their roles:

Jason Neuffer--Narrator

Alainn Hanson--Paulina Wright Davis

Amiya Lofton--Sojourner Truth

Julie Martin—Lucretia Mott

Carli Waddell--Abby Kelley Foster

Isabella Goeman--Abby Price

Tiyah Stone—Lucy Stone

Gabby Bungum-- Harriet Hunt

Jayda Penna--Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Taylor Butenschoen--Ernestine Rose

Director – Julie Martin

Videographer – Tiyah Stone

Costume Design—Mary Ellen Halverson

Producer—Burke Murphy

Reviving the Dead Ladies, Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRAIvLRG6SA&feature=youtu.be>

Reviving the Dead Ladies\_Part 2 (14 minutes and 15 seconds)

<https://youtu.be/zzRsGM-ESAY>

## Philanthropy Corner

By Jan Pinsonnault, Philanthropy Chair



Just one 'big thank you' for the support you gave for philanthropy events this year. It has been a difficult year for all and we could not hold our annual event this year to review the accomplishments.



But, we able to fund three events for the girls in our community. The girls developed woodworking skills (pictured), built bird houses (Brave New Girls) and learned management and technical skills. The creativity of their organiza-

tions came through, the management and technical skills were learned through zoom sessions – WOW.

We helped one of our great community assets – Hope Coalition. The need for support for the Women's Shelter has increased. Families are under stress and we were able to give them a \$1,250 grant.

We are now looking for ways to help others in our community that fulfill our mission. The AAUW's mission *"is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research"*. We are currently working on our budget for next year and the amount available for these endeavors is yet to be determined. I am looking for input from you, our members, for activities to support our mission and benefit the community. Please contact Jan Pinsonneault, email [falcon12765@aol.com](mailto:falcon12765@aol.com) with your ideas.

Thank you all again for your support.



# “It's Going to Take Everyone to Save Our Downtown”

ZOOM Meeting  
February 9<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30p.m.

Downtown Main Street is tasked with keeping our downtown healthy and vibrant. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on all of our lives. Our businesses are on life-support and our events and programming have been put on hold. But there is hope! Megan Tsui will share Downtown Main Street's plans for supporting businesses and filling vacancies in 2021.



**Join us in learning more about our Community.**

## SAVE THESE DATES

### Equity in Education – A 2-Part Series via Zoom

Tuesday, March 9 – 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Guest speaker from the Minnesota School Board Association

Tuesday, March 16 – 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Guest speakers from the Red Wing School District

Pre-registration is requested.

Additional details and information will be sent in the near future.

Questions to Heidi Jones [heidij256@gmail.com](mailto:heidij256@gmail.com) or Linda Thielbar [linthielbar@charter.net](mailto:linthielbar@charter.net)

Hope you can attend.

## Book Club — 2020-2021

Mar 11, 2021 *Island of Sea Women*, by Lisa See

May 13, 2021 *The Dutch House*, by Ann Pachett

Sep 9, 2021 *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabelle Wilkerson



## 2020-2021 Board of Directors

President	Burke Murphy
VP Membership	Jennifer Staley Gini Benton
VPAAUW Funds	Jan Pinnsonault
VP Public Policy	Catherine Friend
Treasurer	Jane Hayden-Hart
Secretary	Carmen Bertleson
Board Members at Large	Candace Gordon Lori Ann Clark

If your email address or other contact information changes, please notify [pwelke@gmail.com](mailto:pwelke@gmail.com) or one of our presidents ASAP so that you don't miss any of our AAUW email notices.

## Newsletter Information

Red Wing Area Branch Website:  
[www.rwab-aauw.org](http://www.rwab-aauw.org)  
Facebook: AAUW-Red Wing Area Branch  
Branch Email: [rwabaauw@gmail.com](mailto:rwabaauw@gmail.com)

**Mission Statement:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research

**Vision Statement:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas