

# HIAWATHA HAPPENINGS



Red Wing Area Branch  
American Association of University Women

Fall 2017



**AAUW September Kick-Off /Quilters Program**

**Save the Date**

RSVP Maggie Paynter  
paynter@charter.net by September 12

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

**Depot Gallery 418 Levee Rd , Red Wing**

**6:30-8:00**

Join us for a social evening of all things Quilts at the Depot Gallery.  
Enjoy the current exhibition at the Gallery "Stories in Stitches" a small quilt exhibition as well as a display of the quilt blocks from the Quilter's Musical.  
While this is not a public event, feel free to invite friends

**Light Refreshments**



## Quilters A Musical by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek

**Quilters** -This musical is a production with local performers based on the play that was nominated for a Tony Award in 1984. In the American West, a pioneer woman, Sarah, and six women, who are called her daughters, face frontier life. Rather than a straightforward storyline, the musical is presented as a series of short tales and tableaux matched with musical numbers, each presenting an aspect of frontier life or womanhood. The patches or blocks show "girlhood, marriage, childbirth, spinsterhood, twisters, fire, illness and death." [9] The patches are ultimately put together to form one dramatic tableau.

Quilters Musical will be performed at the historic Zumbrota State Theater, Sept. 23-24, 2017.

## AAUW Funds

*Jean Magnusson and Joan Kovacs, Co- Vice Presidents of AAUW Funds*

Our local AAUW branch is part of state and national AAUW programs and initiatives and assists by fund raising to support them.

The state and national funds cover many women's issues which include equality for women in the workplace, leadership opportunities for women, strengthening and enforcing Title IX, and providing fellowships, grants and scholarships for women. We are pleased to be supporting these issues.

A portion of the money raised at the Holiday Brunch is our contribution to the state and national AAUW Funds.

Come to the Holiday Brunch. Have a wonderful time and support our efforts.

## Abby Riegelman, NCCWSL

*By Kay Humphreys*

Why we send young women to NCCWSL seems obvious to our members. But the full impact of that experience on young woman can only be realized by that individual. Abby Riegelman, Red Wing, expressed that impact beautifully as well as her gratitude to your organization for giving her an incredible experience.



As a first time solo traveler, Abby learned about her own capabilities and gained a greater sense of independence. She discovered strengths in herself and found a comfort with her own being. Abby spoke of the connection she immediately felt with other young women from across the nation and the world when they came together during the first evening. According to Abby, the support for one another in the room was palatable. Abby stressed that though the

women on stage had accomplished great things their stories were stories of normal women setting a goal, taking a stand, fighting back against adversity in both small and large ways. She learned that the women around her, including herself, can "come together to form an incredibly strong and open-minded generation that are powerful tools of change and betterment."



"The stories of hope, change, trying times, struggle, and accomplishment that I heard this night were outstanding and empowering—it conveyed the message to us 700+women that normal women are, and are meant to be, leaders who are capable of extraordinary things." Abby Riegelman.

Abby thanks Red Wing AAUW members for their generosity. She believes that what she learned at NCCWSL will forever stay rooted within her. This is why our work is so important.

## Citizenship Workshops Thanks

*(We received this letter from Katina Gehr)*

The Citizenship Washington Focus-Presidential Inauguration was an experience I'll never forget. Thank you so much for giving Morley Struss and I monetary assistance for this trip. It was a truly a unique, exciting and educational experience. We were busy every second of the trip, whether we were exploring the different types of government in workshops, touring museums, visiting memorials in D.C., or experiencing the inauguration itself. I really enjoyed touring the Newseum, a museum dedicated to showing all aspects of the First Amendment. Another highlight was hearing previous

workers in the White House describe what they do and how they first became interested in their jobs and departments. I'm so glad I was selected for this trip, and I thank you for supporting me.

## June Board Meeting news

*Cheri Roberts*

### Highlights include :

- Reviewing the proposed budget
- The \$400.00 for the “Quilters” project has been transferred to the Goodhue County Historical Society as well as the \$200.00 for the October 28<sup>th</sup> Leadership Conference. Also, as per grant stipulation, \$500.00 from the Brave New Girls has been requested to purchase 75 quilt tickets for young girls wishing to attend.
- Pat Welke advised us on the new RW AAUW web site and its versatile capabilities.
- The board position entitled Board Assistant has been changed to Board Member at Large.
- The board is looking into the possibility of on-line membership renewal.

The upcoming events for this year were listed and it looks like a wonderful year ahead! Remember the September Kick-Off Event with Maggie!



### From the treasurer:

Hello from Jane Hayden-Hart; I am the newly elected branch treasurer. Ellen Hutchinson will be working with me as I get used to using the AAUW

databases, accounting software, and reporting processes.

Current Merchants Bank balances: Savings \$2010.00 Checking \$4714.99

2017-18 membership dues payments have been received, reported, and paid to National and MN State AAUW. Thanks to everyone for your excellent effort to get this done. Our fiscal year ended June 30.

The negative amount questioned in the Proposed 2017-18 Budget submitted in April was due to monies paid to Goodhue County Historical Society to cover advance expenses for the Quilters play. GCHS is the fiscal agent for the administration of the grants received for the play and will present a final report after the conclusion of the play.

As of August 24, “Quilters” tickets sold: Saturday: 70 Sunday: 76 Student: none

As a reminder—Please review your Blue Book personal information and let me know of corrections or additions which I will make to the membership database. Also, keep a copy of all receipts which are approved and submitted for reimbursement. We want to maintain a strong paper trail to substantiate payments made from the branch’s accounts.

Have a good fall season!

## Public Policy

*By Lena Kishaba, VP Public Policy*

### “I Speak For Those Who Cannot”

AAUW’s Public Policy Program is based on the mission of advancing equity for women and girls. As we are all aware, the work is being done at the local, state, national, and international levels.

AAUW doesn’t merely advocate for public policy issues important to women and girls; AAUW members take action to advance equity and to empower women and girls. Lobbying and grassroots

efforts are used to advance policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women.

Actions taken are based on voted upon policy issues dealing with --

- **Civil Rights.** AAUW advocates for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.
- **Education.** AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.
- **Economic Security.** AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- **Title IX.** AAUW supports vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education. (In July AAUW met with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos on the importance of Title IX to make schools safer and more equitable for students. In spite of the conversation, Secretary DeVos left open the possibility of rolling back regulations that had previously made progress toward keeping all schools free from discrimination and violence. Watch for more information on what AAUW members can do to urge the Department of Education to preserve Title IX regulations and fully enforce the law.)

You can find details on each of these issues at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org).

As Rosemary Pechous, a young Minnesota woman who was a participant at the most recent National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), believes, **"I Speak for Those Who Cannot."** This would appear to be an apt mantra for all AAUW members.

Former Red Wing Area Branch Public Policy chair Dee Bender and Kay Humphreys, immediate past president of the Red Wing branch have previously encouraged members to participate in the **Two-Minute Activist**. If you haven't done so yet, please go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and sign up to be a Two-Minute Activist. It is a painless and simple process. Then, upon receiving an e-mail of a call to action, we can easily notify our Congressional representatives of our opinions and thus advance AAUW public policy

principles. Again, this is an easy way for our voices to be heard!

## WOMEN WONDERLAND

The stage is set for the Annual Fundraising Holiday Brunch on Saturday, December 2 at the beautiful Mississippi National Golf Course. We will be featuring the tried and true Silent Auction and will bring back our newest cash and carry store, the Market Place.

A highlight this year will be the live auction of Marge Vogel original paintings, so bring your friends. Postcards will be available at our kick off on Sept. 19. Get your tickets early and save with our \$25 early bird registration (price good through November 15). All reservations this year will be paid prior to the event.

If you would like to decorate a table with information about a woman who has influenced you or your community, please let Jan Pinsonneault know at [falcon12765@aol.com](mailto:falcon12765@aol.com). Not sure who to feature? How about Katherine Johnson, the NASA mathematician who calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon? You may have seen her story featured in the movie *Hidden Figures*. Or google 'influential women,' and you will find many to consider. Look to your personal history; your teachers, mother, grandmother, neighbor, or even the silly woman at the end of your block. It's a fundraiser, so don't forget your checkbooks!





**Sophia Yoemans**, daughter of Erin Yoemans, won medalist honors at the Section 1AAA championship. After carding a two-day score of 146, Yoemans became co-state champion at the Class 3A state championship meet.

## Connecting Threads

By Marilyn Meinke

Connecting Threads Meets October 24, 2017

Please join the Connecting Threads group for an evening of crafting and fun, hosted by Lynda Kern and Jane Rutledge.

This is a great opportunity to spend an evening with AAUW members and to learn about the art of paper crafting! You'll create small gift items like cards and tags that will be sold during the annual Holiday Brunch at the "Marketplace" table. Last year the Marketplace was very popular, and the cute and inexpensive gifts (\$5) sold out quickly.

We'll meet at Lynda Kern's home (2661 Oak Grove Court) at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24. All materials will be provided, and when the 'work' is done, you are welcome to socialize with fellow crafters—always great fun!

And, please put November 15 on your calendars. In addition to our regular meeting, you'll be treated to a Holiday Brunch preview, including a look at what's coming to the Marketplace this year. Our meeting is at the Ignite Building beginning at 6 p.m. with a social hour, followed by the 7 p.m. meeting when Kim

Lampe and Megan Tsui will present "Social Media for Change Makers."

## Spotlight on a Member

By Kay Humphreys



Joan Halgren is a native Minnesotan and a recent transplant to Red Wing. Joan grew up in Golden Valley, Minn., and attended what was Robbinsdale High School at the time. She was pretty sure that she wanted to be a social worker, but her mother guided her into the field of journalism. Her mother thought that Joan was just too sensitive for what she would encounter in social work. Joan had demonstrated an early interest in journalism--working on the school's newspaper. She declared her major of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Minnesota and never looked back. Her career path has been varied and has allowed her to live in other parts of the country.

Her first position was at the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* as a Consumer Reporter. Remember *Action Line*? This was during the era of Ralph Nader where awareness for consumer issues had finally surfaced. Joan really enjoyed this position. She worked to resolve problems for her readers. She met and worked with people in the governor's office, the attorney general's office and other state and local agencies to find solutions. She also loved photojournalism, and as a woman she was just a bit too early to pursue that interest full time. Her editor did not want her working with the men in the dark room!

Joan moved on to become the Director of Public Relations for the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. She then spent several years in the health care arena. She worked for UnitedHealth Group, where she became Communications Director for Ovation's Government Programs and she promoted Medicare and Medicaid. Joan could see an opportunity for a marketing and communications

consulting company in the health industry so she started her own. The timing proved somewhat difficult as the years progressed and the Clinton Administration was making efforts to revamp the health insurance industry that resulted in companies hesitant to do new or innovative marketing for their products or services.

One move took Joan and her sister to Austin, Texas. She lived in the hill country nearby and loved the energy of the city. She soon found, however, that the constant focus on money was not consistent with her values. One industry ruled over all others in Texas unlike Minnesota, which has by design a more diverse economy. Looking for a warm climate and more progressive politics and values took Joan and her sister to the Triangle area of North Carolina in 2007. There she served as an advocate for Democracy North Carolina. The focus was to make better voter laws. Their efforts were to eliminate all forms of discrimination against voters, including age for both young and old, matters relating to economic stature as well as educational and racial identity too. Voter suppression laws were growing not abating.

The beauty of the Red Wing bluffs and the river brought Joan and her sister to relocate here. She has had a couple of tumultuous years with the loss of her sister, Judy. Yet, she has found staying busy helps. She serves on the Sustainability Commission for the City of Red Wing, and recently was accepted as an inaugural participant in a fellowship program at the University of Minnesota, called Advance Career Initiative. It is designed to help people nearing or in retirement to find meaning and purpose. It is an intergenerational program and sounds fascinating. Be sure to ask Joan about it the next time you see her.

## Good News for Change Makers

AAUW – RWAB has received a \$500 grant from AAUW-MN for the October Change Makers Conference. The grant is to help branches support projects that advance the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Collaboration was a key component for receiving the grant. Luckily, our conference planning team includes the League of

Women Voters, Minnesota State College Southeast, Red Wing Community Ed, Every Hand Joined, and Hispanic Outreach.

For more conference details, see page 8.

## The Voice of a Change Maker

By Sandy Wollschlager

Our **Oct. 19 AAUW meeting** is at Red Wing Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. program.

Our speaker is Rep. Melissa Hortman (DFL) 36B, Minority Leader. You may recall earlier in the year she made news for scolding male colleagues for playing cards during a floor debate. She will offer us an inside view of what it's like to lead in a "man's world."



**She's a REAL CHANGE MAKER!**

Rep. Hortman ran 3 times to win, first elected in 2004. Her home is Brooklyn Park, she's married and has 2 adult children. She is an attorney, and has a degree in political science/philosophy, Boston Univ., and her J.D. from the Univ. of MN. She is currently enrolled in the Harvard University Kennedy School MPA program, and her focus is on climate change.

Please plan to attend this terrific event.

## Social Media for Change Makers

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram—so many applications—but when do we use which?

Public or Private Face Book groups, web sites, you name it. Megan Tsui and Kim Lampe, two of our newest members, will help us cut through the confusion and show us easy to use tricks to using

social media to our advantage. Bring your tablets or laptops for this hands-on evening. **November 15** at the Ignite Building 419 Bush St. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. Program at 7 p.m.

## Membership

*By Laurie Andrews & Kathy Gronvall, Co-VP Membership*

The Red Wing Area Branch always has its ups and downs with membership and this year is no exception.

In the 16-17 program year, we welcomed new members:

Jane Halgren  
Jan Pinsonneault  
Sarah Scott  
Martha Harris  
Bonnie Schock

Each has brought much life experience and volunteer enthusiasm to our branch.

This summer we welcomed:

Martha Mendenhall-English  
Kim Lampe  
Megan Tsui  
Kate Wendler

Each will bring new skills and ideas to the branch, and we look forward to introducing them at coming branch events.

A current member introduced each of these women to AAUW. We thank Pat Welke, Terri Cook and Jane Donkers for spreading the word about AAUW and the Red Wing Area Branch for these women to want to join us in our women's equity pursuits.

We are excited about the coming year of programming and hope it appeals to even more women in our community. Keep spreading the word

and inviting more women and men to join us for our interesting and fun events.

Please let us know when you need membership info. We look forward to another great year of AAUW in our community.

## Upcoming Events

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Sep 7       | Board Meeting, 5 p.m.  |
| Sep 17      | Hispanic Heritage Festival, Central Park, Noon-4 p.m.                  |
| Sep 19      | Fall Kickoff, RWAA, Quilt Show, 6:30 p.m.                              |
| Sep 23 & 24 | Quilters Musical performances  |
| Sep 29      | Quilters Thank You Open House, GCHS, 4:30-6 p.m., Program: 4:15        |
| Oct 19      | Voice of a Change Maker, Presbyterian Church, 6 p.m.                   |
| Oct 24      | Card Making (Connecting Threads), Lynda Kern's home, 4 p.m.            |
| Oct 28      | Change Makers Conference, River Bluff Education Center, 8:30 a.m.-Noon |
| Nov 2       | Board Meeting, 5 p.m.  |
| Nov 9       | Book Club, 5:30 p.m.   |
| Nov 15      | Social Media for Change Makers, Ignite Building, 6 p.m.                |
| Dec 2       | Holiday Brunch and Fundraiser, 8 a.m.                                  |
| Dec 10      | Deadline for winter newsletter   |
| Jan 11      | Book Club, 5:30 p.m.   |
| Jan 17      | Focus on Education with Barb Haley, time and location TBA              |
| Jan 23      | Home Tour (Connecting Threads Event)                                   |

**Bring your Econofoods receipts to Cai at Red Cottage Montessori. This will provide revenue for the school.**



# Change Makers:



## A Conference for Women



Presenter –  
Calli Hughes

**Saturday, October 28, 2017**

**8:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**River Bluff Education Center**

**(395 Guernsey Lane, Red Wing)**

**Adults - \$20**

**Youth – FREE**

**Class # 9503 – 17F1**



Presenter –  
Bonnie Schock



Presenter –Sandy  
Wollschlager



Presenter –  
Michelle Leise

What are you passionate about? How do you connect with others to build coalitions? What action steps are you taking to create positive change? If these are questions that you are interested in answering, then this is the conference for you. This will be a fast paced, creative morning to help you see what the possibilities are for making our community a better place!



**Register with Red Wing Community Education:**



**On-Line** at [rwps.org](http://rwps.org) under Com. Ed./Rec.



by **phone** at 651-385-4565 **OR**



**Walk-in** to our office located at Red Wing High School, 2451 Eagle Ridge Drive, enter the building through door #10.

### **Sponsored by:**

- ⚙ American Association of University Women – Red Wing Area Branch
- ⚙ League of Women Voters – Red Wing
- ⚙ Minnesota State College Southeast
- ⚙ Red Wing Community Education and Recreation
- ⚙ Every Hand Joined
- ⚙ Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County



2017 Citizens of the Year, Kay Humphreys and Marilyn Olson



**2017-2018 Board of Directors**

- Co-Presidents Terri Cook Linda Thielbar
- Secretary Cheri Roberts
- Treasurer Jane Hayden-Hart
- Membership Laurie Andrews Kathleen Gronvall
- AAUW Funds Joan Kovacs Jean Magnusson
- VP Public Policy Lena Kishaba
- Board Members at Large
  - Deb O'Donnell Marilyn Meinke
- Nominating Marm Nihart (2018) Liz Knapp (2019) Carmen Bertleson (2019)

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