

HIAWATHA HAPPENINGS

Red Wing Area Branch
American Association of University Women



Winter 2017-2018

Women Meet to Bring about Change

By Hannah Coyle, Student Reporter

It all starts with a group of women sitting in a room to make change. They identify their passion, create connections, conquer failure and take action. The Change Maker's conference brought together a diverse group of enthusiastic women who all have a thirst for change.



With a motivational Ted Talk rally, the conference began Saturday. AAUW Red Wing worked with the League of Women Voters, Community Education, MN State College Southeast, Hispanic Outreach and Every Hand Joined to bring four women to speak at the conference.

Calli Hughes, a freshman at University of Wisconsin - Madison, walked everyone through her process in pinpointing passion. Hughes uses four steps to identify her own: be open-minded, ask why, be brave, and make a plan. She had spent a majority of her senior year at Red Wing High School acting on her passion of making a difference. She used this story to demonstrate the possibilities for change.

Following her speech, Deanna Voth, the facilitator for the program, asked every woman in the room to jot down a few things they feel passionate about, to get the gears to start spinning.



Moving toward the focus on making connections, Michelle Leise explained the importance of having other people work with you. Leise is the community engagement specialist at the city of Red Wing. In her words, there are two kinds of connections needed: Build strong established ties and emerging ties.

"Build a relationship with someone before you need something from them," Leise said.

Each woman at the conference was supplied a worksheet to create a map of connections she had or connections she needed, that corresponded with an identified passion. Subsequent to Leise's presentation, the women were instructed to work with the people at their table to brainstorm possible women in the room who could be great networks. They also wrote

down the ties they already felt were strong and established.

Sandy Wollschlager has served as a Cannon Falls School Board member and as a Minnesota state representative. She talked about the importance of small actions. She presented a chart, starting at the top with her "batting average." This was the average amount of times she won out of all the times she ran. From here, the chart went to the "loser's box" and into the "winning circle." Nonetheless, Wollschlager said she persisted and ended up succeeding, regardless of the losses. Even as Wollschlager discussed deep and important topics, she incorporated humor that got the whole room giggling.

After a couple of conversation-starting questions, Bonnie Schock, the executive director of the Sheldon Theatre, gave the women an overview on how to take action. With a metaphor using motorcycle safety techniques, she connected the pieces of activism.

- Step one: slow down.
- Step two: look around. What you have to work with?
- Step three: press. Give it your all.
- Step four: commit. Don't give up.

Linda Thielbar closed the program with special thanks to all who participated and assisted in putting on the event. When the closing was finished, the women continued to discuss the content they had just spent three hours around. They networked, asked questions and connected with new people. The room was full of change makers.



Get the Latest on MN Education

By LaVonne Lommel

Is public education your passionate interest? Then plan to participate in the presentation by Barb Haley, RW representative to the MN House, to our AAUW branch members and guests. She will be doing this

Wed. Jan. 24, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church.

Barb currently serves on the higher education commission and the K-12 policy reform committee. This is an opportunity to get your questions answered and your opinions noted.

A RW High School graduate, Barb has been active in community non-profits and an originator of the robotic program at the high school.

Come join the group for an enlightening evening. Guests are welcome.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) unites college women from across the country to address important leadership issues of the day. Attendees have transformative experiences that inspire them to improve their campuses and their communities.

We are looking for a candidate to sponsor for this conference. If you know someone from the Red Wing Area, who is currently enrolled in community college or a four-year program who would like to enhance her leadership skills. We want to hear about her. We provide an \$850 scholarship to the conference, which covers conference, room and board, and most of air-fare. Find the application on our web page.

rwab-aauw.org

What better gift can we give a young woman? Be proud of what you do when you support AAUW Red Wing Area Branch.

Kay Humphreys is Honored by Human Rights Commission

Kay Humphreys' lifelong commitment to women



and girls was recognized by the city of Red Wing; she received the 2017 Amos Owen Award for promoting and ensuring others' human rights.

As a direct result of Humphreys' efforts, Red Wing adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women in February 2017, nominators said. CEDAW serves as an

international bill of rights for women. It was first adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979. When it passed locally this year, Red Wing became the fourth city in Minnesota to adopt this resolution.



During the ceremony, her record of activism working with the American Association of University Women Red Wing Area branch was praised by Marilyn Olson, chair of the Human Rights Commission.

"She does not just believe in justice and equality for others, she's working for it to happen," Olson said.

The Amos Owen Award has been given annually since 2001. Its namesake is the late Prairie Island Mdewakanton elder and spiritual leader who worked tirelessly to preserve Dakota language and culture.



Women's History Trivia Night

Sponsored by AAUW & LWV

Thursday, March 15 2018 – 7:00 PM

Stay tuned for details in the New Year!

Connecting Threads: Designing a Home

January 23, 2018—6:30 p.m.

Liz Knapp's New Home
3065 Cougar Court



A home - old or new, a spread in the country, or a chic downtown apartment, a home where we raise kids or retire - is the place where we connect with friends and family. For some of us, home is a place of work...and a place to get away from the workaday world. In each case, planning a comfortable and functional home can be a challenge.

Please join the Connecting Threads group to learn how Liz and Brian Knapp recently planned a new home for the busy lives they share with their two growing children. Liz will describe how they designed, built, and decorated a home to accommodate the needs of their family today and into the next years. And, of course, we'll take a tour of this very carefully designed home!

Hope you'll join the group on January 23!

Please respond to:

Liz (knapp.elizabeth@mayo.edu) or Marilyn Meinke (mhmeinke1@gmail.com)

Board Report

By Cherie Roberts

Our November board meeting began with our Treasurer's report, which stated that we have \$9511.90 in our savings account and \$4776.15 in our checking account. Our initial \$4000 "seed" money to the Quilter's project plus an additional \$1000 was recovered. It was decided that a portion of that money be given to Goodhue County Historical Museum as Fiscal Agent for the Quilter's project.

The Change Maker's conference was a success with 46 attending and resulted in the addition of four new members.

Our recently honored member, Kay Humphreys, will be joining the Northfield branch in submitting a resolution to the state convention for adoption supporting CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women). She also informed us that college age students are currently being solicited for the next conference to be held from May 30 - June 2, 2018 at the University of Maryland. We have budgeted \$500 for this event, and in the past the state has awarded \$500 to the 11 branches who have submitted applications.

Connecting Threads has requested financial help to purchase materials for next year's Holiday Brunch, etc. The Board approved giving them \$150.

(Email to Jean Magnusson from a former member)

Because I no longer live in Red Wing, I renewed my AAUW membership through the National organization.

A few years ago I moved to Perrysburg, Ohio to be closer to my family - especially to my then newly adopted grandsons, Sam and Nick Gorsevski, who are now 8 and 9. When I first met the boys, they spoke only Macedonian. Now they are bi-lingual, do well in school, are avid soccer players, and are full of mischief.

Hello to all my friends in Red Wing.
Very truly yours,
Barbara L. Eldridge

Book Club

By Lavonne Lommel

Looking for some interesting perceptions on books? Look no further than the Jan 11, 2018, book club discussion hosted by Joan Kovacs at her residence starting at 5 p.m.



The group will be reading *We Carry Our Homes With Us: A Cuban American Memoir*, by Marisella Veiga. On 12/30/1960, Marisella, her mother, and two brothers flew from Havana to Miami. Her father followed a few months later. They were sponsored by a host family in St. Paul MN. The story of her life journey reveals how she deals with biculturalism and life in the USA.

This memoir is a short read of only 196 pages...you could do it, even with the holidays.

Quilters Summary Report

Mary Ellen Halverson, Grant Administrator

Our year-long Quilters project came to a climax with the production of *Quilters* presented at the Zumbrota State Theater on September 23 and 24, 2017. One goal was to fill the 275-capacity theater at least 50% full. Our expectations exceeded that...both performances were sold out with the second performance having to turn away guests who didn't have tickets. We hoped for 75 students to attend and even though there were many high school and college

students present, the total free student tickets claimed only reached 43 for both. Our survey told a different story, one that we were pleased with. There were 207 respondents. Our highest rating was that 92% agreed they knew more about how quilts were used historically and how much they meant to those who used them after they saw the play. Our main objective was to create an interest in passing along the folk art of quilting, and 58% of our respondents felt they were motivated to do so.

The cast of *Quilters* is pursuing the possibility of presenting the production again next summer. Their experience as artists was a positive one and all remarked on how wonderful it was to receive a stipend for their talents. This was a second major goal— to recognize and reward the talents of the actors, musicians and directors. Here is a photo of the Quilters Cast in front of the Legacy Quilt.



Because all printed material is to include reference to the grants we received, I would like to list those here: Zumbrota Community Trust, The Minnesota State Arts Board, The Southeast Minnesota Arts Council and Wal-Mart. The collaboration of several community organizations was a third goal of ours. With this event alone, the Evening Star Quilt Guild, The Goodhue County Historical Society, The Zumbrota Area Arts Council, and Red Wing Arts Association all worked together to promote and carry out the mission. Over 30 AAUW members volunteered. The involvement of all members was central in making the ticket sales, both performances, and the post celebration successful.

**Bring your Econofoods receipts to Kai
at Red Cottage Montessori to help provide
revenue for the school.**

Coming Soon! Brave New Girls: Back to the Future

By Marilyn Meinke

As most members are aware, the Branch is taking a year "off" from the Brave New Girls Conference. This has been a highlight of our early spring calendar, and for 15 years has been a huge success, bringing together as many as 60 middle school girls for an afternoon of learning, confidence building and fun.

Over the past couple of years, attendance has fallen some, and it has been harder to recruit leaders and coordinators for the program. Board officers decided that this year would be a good time to take a breather before we launch the program into its next exciting decades. We need your help!

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the March 21, 2018 meeting, when we'll talk about where BNG has been and where it should go beginning next year. If you've been involved in BNG in any way - or if you are interested and would love to become involved - you are needed on March 21. Do you have a passion for bringing more girls into STEM fields? We need to hear from you on March 21. Are there programs out there that we should consider incorporating? With your help we can consider many opportunities. And, because BNG represents a financial investment from the Branch, it's important to add your voice to the conversation.

We've always counted on volunteers from outside our membership to bring their expertise to the conference and so we'll be looking for participation from those folks and others in the community on March 21.

Please bring your dreams and ideas and your experiences with this program or others like it. If you have concerns or have picked up comments and concerns in the community, you're encouraged to share those, too.

Hope you will attend...your input is crucial!

March 21, 2018

The Village Cooperative Building, Great Room

6:30 p.m. Social

7 p.m. Program

From the Treasurer

By Jane Hayden-Hart

Half of our fiscal year 2017-18 will be completed on December 31.

Current Merchants Bank balances:

Savings \$9,511.90 Checking \$8,421.87

The "Woman Wonderland" themed Holiday Brunch gained \$4,616.75 from your generous donations. A portion of donations go to the national AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and Education Foundation, and the remainder stay with the Red Wing branch to fund local AAUW programs that benefit women and girls.

The *Quilters-a Musical* had sold-out performances on September 23 and 24. Goodhue County Historical Society, the fiscal agent for the project, has completed their report of income and expenses. Our branch recouped the \$4,000 seed money advanced to GCHS, and we had a profit from ticket sales of approximately \$1,000.

The "Change Makers" Conference in October was also a huge success. There was a profit of approximately \$470 from the conference. The women and student participants gained inspiration from the speakers and made connections to be change makers for themselves and others.

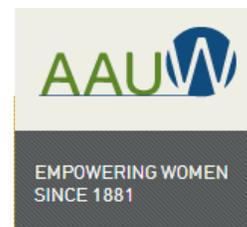
For 2017 tax purposes, \$46 of full-year AAUW national dues and \$21.50 of half-year and Shape the Future national dues are tax-deductible. \$3 of the national dues are not tax-deductible because they are used for lobbying purposes.

The fiscal year 2018-2019 budget is being created. The fiscal year goes from July 1, 2018 to June 30 2019. While that seems far into the future, it takes a good amount of time to analyze the numbers. If there is projected income or expenses from programs proposed during that time, please forward your projected amounts to me as soon as possible

As a reminder—Please keep a copy of all receipts that 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 winter season!

BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



Public Policy Updates

By Lena Kishaba, VP Public Policy

GENDER EQUITY. In the United States, women working full-time jobs on average make 80 cents to every dollar men make. In Minnesota, the number is a bit better -- a recent AAUW study showed Minnesota women earn 83 cents to every dollar earned by men. Achieving pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits are public policy priorities for AAUW. Through salary negotiations workshops sponsored by AAUW, women are being empowered to negotiate their own salaries. AAUW is also working with public sector employers to ensure women are better represented in positions of leadership. Studies have shown that diversity is not only the right thing to do, it is also good for a company's bottom line as well as the economy of the country. AAUW continues to collaborate with policy makers to take steps toward strong equal pay legislation. Minnesota is one of the states that does have an equal pay for equal work law.

DACA. The following is AAUW Chief Operating Officer Kimberly Churches' response to the Trump administration's decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program: "AAUW is proud to be part of a community that fights for the civil rights of all Americans, including immigrants. We stand, and will continue to stand, with the 800,000 Dreamers and DACA immigrants. This action by the Trump administration is a firm rejection of one of America's founding principles: that with hard work and education anyone can achieve the American dream."

The above information is from the AAUW's website. Go the website to become familiar with AAUW's support of a strong system of public education, with its advocacy for all women to achieve self-sufficiency, and with its work to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for our diverse society.

Membership

By Terri Cook

Our local branch is on fire with public programs that are drawing many guests and many new members. It appears that we have found our sweet spot. By offering compelling, thought provoking programming that not only entertains, but educates, our events are resonating with you. And by inviting the League of Women Voters to attend, and sometimes collaborate, we are experiencing a new

level of community awareness – and that is all translating to new members in our branch.

Our branch is now 62 members strong and growing. We are thrilled to welcome the latest new AAUW members to our organization:

Lori Ann Clark
Carrie Enberg
Linda Flanders
Holly Hanson
Heidi Jones
Gina Lynch
Brenda Stewart
Dawn Wetterm
Ann Windenborg.

This is an exciting year for us as a branch and new members offer innovative ideas, fresh energy and contribute to the overall success of our mission. Welcome, women. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with questions or to volunteer with our events.

Rochester Branch Event

Hello from the Rochester Branch of AAUW. We have an interesting program coming up for our Saturday, February 17, 2018, 10 a.m. general meeting. I would like to extend an invitation to your branch members to join us.

Our speaker is Duchess Harris, PhD; JD, Professor of American Studies, Macalester College, author of *Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA*. The meeting will be held at Charter House, Edwards Hall, 211 NW 2nd St.

Maryette Braithwaite, Program Chair





Holiday Auction Pics



Upcoming Events

- Jan 11 Book Club, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan 17 Focus on Education with Barb Haley, time and location TBD
- Jan 23 Home Tour, 6:30 p.m., Liz Knapp's home (Connecting Threads Event)
- Feb 1 Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb 21 Women Leaders of Prairie Island, TBD
- Mar 15 Trivia Night, 7 p.m., AAUW and LWV event
- Mar 21 Brave New Girls, 6:30 p.m., Village Coop Meeting Room
- Apr 18 Annual Meeting, 5 p.m., Jim Isensee Center (formerly Izaak Walton Cabin)

AAUW is older than

Inventions and Discoveries

- Hole punches (1886)
- Automobiles (1886)
- Ballpoint pens (1888)
- Zippers (1893)
- Coca-Cola (1886)
- Electric toasters (1893)
- Paper clips (1899)
- Air-conditioning (1902)
- Airplanes (1903)
- $E = mc^2$ (1905)
- Television (1927)
- Sliced bread (1928) and (1928)

The First . . .

- Movie theater in the United States (1905)
- Dropping the New Year's ball in Times Square (1907)
- Mass production moving assembly line (Ford Motor Company, 1913)
- Daylight Saving Time (1918 in the United States)
- *Reader's Digest* (1922)
- Winter Olympic Games (1924)
- Talking-picture movies (1927)
- Appearance of Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse on film (1928)

Newsletter Information

Send information to: Pat Welke
1844 Bohmbach Drive, Red Wing, MN 55066
pwelke@gmail.com—651-380-3169
Minnesota Website: <http://aauw-mn.net>
Association Website: www.aauw.org
Association email: info@aauw.org
Red Wing Area Branch Website:
www.rwab-aauw.org
Facebook: AAUW-Red Wing Area Branch
Branch Email: rwabaauw@gmail.com

If your email address or other contact information changes, please notify me and one of our presidents ASAP so that you don't miss any of our AAUW email notices.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Co-Presidents | Terri Cook Linda Thielbar |
| Secretary | Cheri Roberts |
| Treasurer | Jane Hayden-Hart |
| 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) |

During this season of giving thanks, we honor the group of visionary women who founded AAUW 136 years ago on November 28, 1881.

AAUW

Celebrating 136 Years

