



# 2024 Winter Newsletter

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You are invited to a Tea Party.  
This is an awesome event and will be fun!!



Date: January 16<sup>th</sup>

Location: Red Wing High School Kitchens

Social and Short Meeting: 5:30pm

Event: 6pm

Cost: \$20 (for the supplies for the scones, cucumber sandwiches, tea, room and instructor)

Rita Dassner from Wisteria Twig Tea Room & Café, will lead us in the making of scones and cucumber sandwiches and even supply tea & tea cups! I am excited as this will be a fun event for all. Of course, guests are welcome to join. Pre-registration is needed and payment should be sent to Jane Kono with checks payable to RWAB-AAUW. Cost again is \$20 per person. If you have any questions, please email Jan Pinsonneault [falcon12765@aol.com](mailto:falcon12765@aol.com).

Jane Kono  
1478 Hillside Drive  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Deadline for the registration is January 9<sup>th</sup>.

## A Message from the President: Laurie Andrew



WOW, what an amazing start to the 23-24 program year for the Red Wing Area Branch.

I am so proud that we have been able to bring in new ideas by simply responding to what the members want and can help provide. Kathleen Gronvall brought in our September Kickoff speaker, AnnMarie Rose brought in our October speaker and Janet Brandt with Barb Brown's assistance, was able to secure our November speaker. Love it when our programming swells from the members! Let's keep that going for next year. If you have an idea and can help get it here, please let me or Barb Brown know.

And next we can thank our Chairs, Cyndie Traun and AnnMarie Rose for their leadership in a very successful Holiday Brunch and Fundraiser. So many members were willing to assist, knowing the leadership had things well in hand. Thank you to everyone, as helpers or donors. You all make a difference in the total!

And we have four new members to boot! We are rockin' into 2024 and I am so excited to see us continue this momentum.

One thing I hope to start in 2024 is a coffee discussion group. There are so many issues today that are supported and advocated for by our National organization. It would be nice to sit around a table and discuss them with each other. Each member's perception can be different and I would like to give a platform to our members for inclusion in the discussion. Knowing why we support some issues over others helps us advocate on the local, state and national level with confidence.

**So members, continue the good work. I hope to see you at our next event.**

## 2023 AAUW Annual Brunch and Fundraiser considered a success! Cynthia Traun & Ann-Marie Rose Holiday Brunch Co-Chairs



Our annual Holiday brunch and fundraiser was held at Mississippi National Golf Links on December 2, 2023; there were 72 tickets sold!

During the event, the items in the silent auction and marketplace were unique, diverse and of such high quality, Joe Lommel entertained us by playing beautiful music on the accordion, and the golf club served brunch with coffee bread provided by The Bake Shop in Goodhue, MN. Sue Casewell, of Spring Creek Evergreens, created a beautiful holiday planter that was donated along with a





decorated live Spruce holiday pot and a holiday door swag. These beautiful items and the lighted Birch table centerpieces were won by those that purchased tickets. There were multiple lucky winners!

The total income of the event reached a generous \$6738.00! After our expenses were paid, we donated the proceeds for the holiday evergreen tickets of \$581.00 to AAUW National and the proceeds for the lighted birch centerpieces of \$440.00 to the Little Blue Bookshelf sponsored by AAUW, Red Wing Branch. The remaining funds of roughly \$3608.00 will be used for AAUW Red Wing Branch Programming and for needs within our community.

Save the date: Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for our next Holiday event!

We do need a Holiday Event Chair... Who would like to be part of this fun, creative, and energetic planning committee? If interested, please reach out to the group at [rwabaaauw@gmail.com](mailto:rwabaaauw@gmail.com).

Many of the planning committee have agreed to stay on for next year's event and we are in the process of finalizing a few key items such as theme and venue. A round of applause to those that were part of the 2023 AAUW Holiday planning and decorating committee for all their hard work!

Committee Members are: Alida Herling, Ann-Marie Rose, Becky Foot, Cynthia Traun, Deborah O'Donnell, Dee Bender, Jan Pinsonneault, Jane Kono, Janet Brandt, Jean Magnusson, Kathleen Gronvall, Kathy Mackowick, Laurie Andrews, Lena Kishaba, Lois Hesford, Lynda Kern, Marg Henke, Marilyn Meinke, and Mary Ellen Halverson



Lastly, a standing ovation to all our members and guests that were able to join us for this wonderful event. For without all of you, this day would not have been the success it was!

## Treasurer's Report: Jane Kono

**Checking: \$6,286.18**

**Savings: 3,126.76 (no change/interest is paid only quarterly)**

The Holiday Brunch was a lovely event and great fundraiser (approximately \$4,000 income for our Branch) The raffle proceeds were designated for National AAUW programs (\$581) and Local Program through United Way (\$440)



Janet Brandt has been working with Sunnyside School on a literacy project, AAUW financial support through a prior grant went towards the purchase of reading series: \$472.

We have three new members from the Holiday Brunch for a net of \$45 in local dues. AHT Insurance was paid \$200.

Donations for our Branch received at the Holiday Brunch were \$374.

Please send any outstanding receipts to me for reimbursement. Thanks to all, Jane Kono, Treasurer

## Philanthropy: Lois Hesford VP Funds

What a fun morning at our Holiday Brunch! While we await the report of funds raised from that event, I thank you for inviting friends to learn about our branch and the national organization which promotes values we all lift up.

One effort locally to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research is providing nutrition to women and girls through the United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha & Pierce Counties Empty Bowl Fundraiser supporting “Packing for the Weekend”. This is a grass roots effort to raise funds for local food programs ensuring no child goes hungry when school meals are not available. Studies show that good nutrition not only helps physical growth, but it also lessens anxiety, increases school attendance and attention levels. Our sponsorship of \$200 on 9/29/2023 feeds 29 children for a weekend.



**Thank you for your generosity at our Holiday Brunch and throughout the year.**

## Public Policy Report: Janet Brandt VP of Public Policy

*Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied by this state or any of its cities, counties, or other political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin.*

This is the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, which if passed by both chambers of the legislature, would be voted on in the next statewide general election.

There has been much discussion in our branch regarding the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) movement in Minnesota, including our branch program in November. On January 23 join us at Caribou Coffee to sign postcards to send to our legislators in support of this important bill. This will also be an opportunity to discuss the bill, the process, and its ramifications. This will be a ‘come and go’ event; you can stop in and pick up postcards if you can’t stay for coffee or let me know and I will get some to you. Our branch is also discussing attending a rally at the state capitol on February 12 in support of ERA, along with other AAUW members from around the state. For more information about what is happening in Minnesota regarding ERA, go to the website [eramn.org](http://eramn.org).

Also, I am very excited to invite you to a couple of zoom sessions regarding ERA. The following is taken from an email sent to all branch Public Policy VPs by Kelsey Waits, AAUW Minnesota Public Policy VP. Anyone is welcome to join these meetings.

Again, from Kelsey Waits:



Dr. Jennifer Rothchild  
[jrothch@morris.umn.edu](mailto:jrothch@morris.umn.edu)  
600 E 4<sup>th</sup> St. Division of Social Science  
Morris, MN 56267-2132

Each member is a vital part of AAUW's future. Through your support and outreach for new members, AAUW is able to make a difference in the lives of all women and girls. AAUW's policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to empower women and girls. Thank you for your continued support.

## **Environmental Dilemmas: Anne Wildenberg**

**Dear LWV RW, AAUW RW and CCL RW Members,  
The Red Wing Chapters of LWV, AAUW, and CCL are holding an event on**

**Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> Social at 5:00, program at 5:30 – 7:30 pm, at **Fire Station 2** near  
Kwik Trip on Hwy 61 4880 Moundview Dr, Red Wing**

This meeting will include videos related to our climate dilemma and our response. Discussion will be encouraged following the videos. You can bring your own paper bag supper. Simple refreshments will be available.

Doors open at 5:00 pm. Program starts at 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

We look forward to seeing all our members and want you to enjoy this opportunity to get together and have some fun. Your RSVP to Anne or Jan by Noon Tuesday, Jan 16, would be helpful for planning space and snacks.

Walkins are welcome. Bring a friend!

**Anne Wildenberg, Tina Langton, Laurie Andrews, and Jan Pinsonneault**

**Anne Wildenberg, 651-380-0840 [pawildenberg@msn.com](mailto:pawildenberg@msn.com)  
Jan Pinsonneault 952-994-1755 [falcon12765@aol.com](mailto:falcon12765@aol.com)**

## **Up Coming Events**

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
Jan 2	Board Meeting: United Lutheran Church at 5:30pm
Jan 11	Book Club Book Club: <i>How the Penguins Saved Veronica</i> by Hazel Prior
Jan 16	Tea Party at Red Wing High School by Rita of Wisteria Social 5:30 pm Event 6:00 pm

Feb 29 Event at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing (including tour) 5:30pm. Planning by Barb Brown

Mar 5 Board Meeting: United Lutheran Church at 5:30pm

Mar 14 Book Club: *Queen of Our Time*, by Robert Hardman

Mar 21 Cathy Wurzer - MPR & TPT Almanac host/Founder of End in Mind Project, Goodhue History Center TBD. Planning by Barb Brown

Apr Annual Meeting TBD

May 7 Board Meeting: United Lutheran Church at 5:30pm

May Wrap up Meeting picnic TBD

May 9 Book Club: *In the Night of Memory*, by Linda LeGarde Grover

Sept Book Club: *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig TBD