

HIAWATHA HAPPENINGS

Red Wing Area Branch
American Association of University Women



ON THE MISSISSIPPI

March 2017

2016-2017 Branch Officers

President:	Kay Humphreys
Secretary:	Cheri Roberts
Treasurer:	Ellen Hutchinson
VP Program:	Shannon Hanson
VP Membership:	Laurie Andrews Sherry Drysdale-Schruth
VP AAUW Funds:	Jean Magnusson Joan Kovacs
VP Public Policy:	Dee Bender
Historian:	Lynda Kern
Board Assistants:	Sandy Wollschlager Elaine O'Keefe
Nominating Comm.	Lena Kishaba (2017) Cheri Roberts (2017) Marm Nihart (2018)

From the President

CEDAW What's Next?

Red Wing City Council passed a resolution in support of the United Nations CEDAW in large part because you were willing to step up. At first glance, a couple of the council members admitted they did not think that this was an issue they should be dealing with because it related to the Federal Government. It was your calls, emails and presence at the meeting that convinced those members that yes this issue needed their attention and a "Yes" vote. Red Wing became the fourth city in Minnesota to take this important step. Your actions really did make a difference!! So what now? I will be reaching out to other AAUW Minnesota Branch Presidents asking them to support Ellen Kennedy's efforts in their cities and towns. Ellen's goal is to help 12 Minnesota Cities pass resolutions in support of CEDAW. As this happens across the country, we will work to find a Senator to carry CEDAW forward to the floor of the United States Senate to finally ratify this important document. Sharpen your pencils!! You do make a difference.

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 impacting the lives of women and girls.



Membership Matters!!

By Laurie Andrews and Sherry Drysdale-Schruth,
Co Membership VPs

Through YOUR efforts, the Red Wing Area Branch grows its membership. Because you tell your friends about the great work of AAUW and invite them to join you at branch events, they decide to join; and for that we say THANK YOU!

When you read this newsletter, you see why you joined AAUW. All the different events that give you opportunities to be with women who believe in the power of women in girls gives you proof that this is YOUR organization.

As you go through your day, seize the opportunity to spread the word of AAUW through conversations you have with fellow exercisers at the YMCA or volunteers at the food shelf or shoppers at your favorite local store. Perhaps your comments will be the tipping point for them to come on board. For this, I say THANK YOU!

New Members in 2016-17 program year:

- Joan Halgren – October (Credit to State referral)
- Jan Pinnsonault – December (Credit to Holiday Auction)
- Sarah Scott – December (Credit to Candace Gordon)
- Martha Harris – January (Credit to Kay Humphreys)
- Bonnie Schock – January (Credit to Marilyn Meinke)

Sherry and I are very proud of the membership for continuing to reach out and spread the word of AAUW and our very active branch. Let's continue the effort!

BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Annual Professional Women's Event

The 31st Annual Professional Women's Leadership Event Presented by MN College - SE Technical at Treasure Island Resort & Casino

AAUW – Red Wing Area Branch will once again be visible at this event on April 29.

Membership co-chairs will be present to hand out information to many women who may be students or women in our community eligible for membership but not know who we are. We had a very favorable response last year and hope to continue that presence this year.

Our goal may not be getting new members at this event, but more getting our mission out into the community to engage women at another time to join us in our mission.

Thank you for supporting our membership

Annual Meeting

By Kay Humphreys

The **Annual Meeting** set for May 2 at Pier 55. Join us for a potluck social and annual meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Our nominating committee is looking for officers for our local AAUW Board. Make their job easier, and volunteer to lead. Some will say, "Oh I can't do that. I wouldn't know what to do." Not to worry – there are many members willing to help, and what better way to learn than to jump in and do it. Others would say "Oh, I've done that already," and I would say it is time to step up again. You believe in the work of this organization, and in order to work, this organization needs you to lead. I will support the new president with guidance when wanted, but I am stepping down from the board in any other capacity. It has been a great gig, as they say, and I am proud to have worked with such a dynamite group of women.



BRAVE NEW GIRLS

TEXTILES

TEXT MEANS MORE THAN TEXTING

**FREE WORKSHOP
FOR GIRLS IN GRADES 5-7
THURS., MARCH 30, 2017
3:00-5:00
TBMS CAFETERIA**



SPACE IS LIMITED

**REGISTER BY MARCH 10
REGISTER AT WWW.RWPS.ORG**

SPONSORS: AAUW, UNITED WAY GWP, MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE SOUTHEAST, RED WING YOUTH OUTREACH, GOODHUE COUNTY EVENING STAR QUILT GUILD & RED WING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Public Policy

By Dee Bender, VP –Public Policy

The theme for Women's History Month 2017 is "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business" Lily Ledbetter is familiar because of her trailblazing for equal pay while working at Goodyear Tire. We know how that turned out. Thank you Lily! Oh how today's women have benefited from the struggles of those who've come before us, not just in the US but in many nations.

Recently I was touring the Dubuque, IA Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. A portion of the display introduced the public to Mary Miller, who was the first woman in America to become a steamboat master in 1884. She captained the paddle wheel boats up and down the Mississippi River and others in the west.

Callie French was a riverboat pilot in the 1890s, and also one of the first women to do this. She and her partner owned the *New Sensation*, which was a floating theatre. Not only did she pilot the steamboat from port to port, she also cooked for guests, acted on stage and played the calliope as they arrived in river towns. She played wearing heavy gloves so the steam wouldn't burn her hands!

Are you familiar with Eugenia Anderson, Red Wing resident, daughter in law of AP Anderson? She was the first American woman appointed to any country as Ambassador.

Her first appointment was to Denmark, named by Pres. Truman and then to Bulgaria, named by President Kennedy. Her final national post was in the UN, appointed by President Johnson. While there she became the first woman in the world to sign a treaty as part of NATO.

No doubt you've seen the movie or at least heard of *Hidden Figures*. Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughn with their mathematical brilliance, meticulousness and accuracy, impacted the US and NASA and made it possible for us to win the "space race" by putting John Glenn in space.

There were no STEM programs for them!

Coming up on TPT2, public television, is a three-part documentary called, Suffragettes Forever! Tune in Mondays Mar 20, 27 and April 3 at 9 p.m. to learn about the struggles women in Britain endured for social justice, the vote, and the right to hold political office.

An all women pilot and crew from India recently flew a Boeing 777 around the world. The control tower crew was all women as well as the ground crew in India. That's certainly a first for women. They're now in the Guinness book of World Records.

We may not ever have our names in museums, movies, documentaries or record books. But as Helen Keller said, **I am only one,
but still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but still I can do something.**

Now is the time for each of us to do that *something*. Go make history.

The Board approved a \$300 donation to the Hope Coalition Sexual Assault Services Program. This coincides nicely with the City Council's action to declare (March 7) a Day of Action to End Domestic Violence. We still have much work to do.



Spring Picnic

Once again, Terri Cook has offered to host our Spring Picnic in June. Watch for more information coming from Terri for details.



Issues & Discussion 2017

By Laurie Andrews, I&D Coordinator

January 25 at Oliver's Wine Bar, Bonnie Schock, Executive Director of the Sheldon Theater, spoke to a group of 12 women after dinner that evening. Bonnie told us her journey to getting into her current position and why she feels comfortable there now. Bonnie discussed the changes in programming and funding of the theater. It was another interesting discussion for our members.

February 25 at Oliver's, Pam Johnson, Army Reservist, talked with three of our members about her experience in the Army since graduating from high school until now, when she will retire at the end of 2017. Pam has been deployed in:

- Desert Shield / Storm in the 90s
- Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Iraq
- Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan

Her discussion of the treatment of women in the military, current recruits into the military and her fears for the future of the country were very enlightening.

I only wish more members had been available to hear all that she had to say.

March 29 is our next meeting at Oliver's Wine Bar. Donna Anders, Owner of SCS Elevator Products, right here in Red Wing should prove to be another interesting discussion for our members. Being a woman, owning a business in a male dominated industry will be eye-opening for all of us.

Please join me at 6:00 at Oliver's to hear Donna's story. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors (they do not have to be eligible for membership to attend!).

A special Thank You to our new member Sarah Scott for arranging Bonnie and Donna to speak to this group.

Women in Music

By Cheri Roberts and Kay Humphreys

In case you missed it the program, "Women in Music" was interesting and informative.

The instrument repair department began in 1975-76 the year the Minnesota State College Southeast opened. The department currently has 45+ students with an average age of 26. While there are few colleges that offer instrument repair, Red Wing's program is known and respected internationally with students from around the world attending. Since its inception over 1,000 graduates have received training and degrees. The program is attracting more women, and currently the female population is 25% of those enrolled. Like in so many fields of study, women are making inroads; and their numbers are increasing.

Students learn to repair band instruments, guitars (acoustic and electric) and violin. While repair is the focus, students can learn to build instruments as well. When parts are no longer available for repair of instrument, machinery has been created to make those parts on campus.

The degree offers a path to mainly three careers in repair/building. Graduates may work in music stores repairing instruments, work with music departments in colleges and high schools, and they can also create their own business.

The female graduate (Bernadette) that we spoke with is in Michigan and is currently working with a fairly large company. She will be presenting and teaching at an upcoming seminar in how to build relationships with band directors at various levels. She originally graduated from Western Illinois, taught music and was the band director before coming to Red Wing and joining this program. She graduated here in 2008. Her specialty is woodwinds and she also teaches private lessons. We were also given a great tour of the facilities and they are amazing!

March 2017

Dear AAUW Members:

The AAUW Middle-School Brave New Girls Conference is in its 14th year, thanks to the support of women in our community. The BNG Committee has lots of innovative ideas for *Brave New Girls: TEXT – Means More Than Texting* on March 30, 2017. This year's project is part of a larger Quilt Play project funded in part through the Minnesota Arts Board/Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Look for more about this in the near future....it is very exciting.

Girls will explore the wonderful world of textiles and how they can be used to create beautiful quilts. They will learn about the women's stories behind quilts and the history they represent. Students will do a hands on quilt block project to tell a personal story and learn how textile recycling is utilized in crumb piecing.

We hope you will help make this a special day by sponsoring a girl to attend the conference. Your sponsorship makes it possible for us to offer the conference free of charge to the girls and provide each girl with a specially designed t-shirt, educational materials and refreshments. We hope that you will sponsor a girl for \$10 to help cover costs this year.

If you would like to sponsor a girl please fill out the bottom of this letter and return it to Linda Thielbar, 2544 Oriole Circle, Red Wing, MN 55066 with a \$10 check payable to AAUW. Your prompt response is requested.

Thank you for supporting the girls in our community.

Linda Thielbar, AAUW

Please Print:

Sponsor's Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Email_____



Spotlight on a Member: Ann Seymour

By Kay Humphreys

Ann Seymour, curious, inquisitive, voracious reader, researcher and an educator to those lucky enough to spend time with her grew up in Fargo, ND. While in school, the teachers would reprimand Ann for reading books instead of listening or doing her lessons.

Her claim to fame in high school was 2nd chair clarinet to none other than 1st chair Peter Schickele, a.k.a. PDQ Bach. Even so, Ann was interested in a wide variety of music and attended jazz, classical, and opera.

She also enjoyed playing intramural sports (the only venue open to girls back then) and was a strong swimmer. Her athleticism and swimming made working as a camp counselor, life guard/instructor perfect summer jobs for her.

Ann always knew that she would leave Fargo for college, graduating from Hamline in 1957. There she explored many areas of interest including P.E., History, and French and completing her degree in Comparative Literature. (Better known as Liberal Arts or generalist)

Shortly after college and in her first marriage, she discovered public policy. This has been a lifetime interest for her. She became active in League of Women Voters while living in Bloomington. She served as president of her league and went on to serve on the State Board as a lobbyist on issues of local government. She also was an advisor to the Red Wing area league.

As a single mom, Ann worked briefly for the state. Remarried, she secured a news assistant position in the editorial department of the Minneapolis Tribune



and other positions over 11 years—an educational, exciting and frustrating environment.

As a hobby, Hal and Ann acquired river property in Stockholm and in 1991 chose to retire in Red Wing, selling the cabin in 1995.

As a new member of the community, Ann sought involvement, joining LWV and Goodhue County Horticulture Society (Hort) and then AAUW. She has served as the public policy board member for AAUW for a term or two. Ann enjoys being in the background working on issues rather than being out front. Her philosophy in dealing with politicians is to remain flexible. She remembers a time when there was a much more openness within politics.

A lover of the outdoors, Ann has been a member of Broadsides: Great Old Broads for Wilderness. While she is not as physically active in the group (Broadwalks) as she once was, she appreciates the important work that is being done by this organization.

As a blended family, Ann had four children and Hal three—only one girl. Together they have 10 grandkids.

One of Ann's favorite quotes comes from Nora Ephron, author, screenwriter and director, "Whatever you choose, however many roads you travel, I hope that you choose not to be a lady. I hope you will find some way to break the rules and make a little trouble out there. And I also hope that you will choose to make some of that trouble on behalf of women." Sounds like words that Ann has taken to heart.



Connecting Threads

AAUW Red Wing Area Branch

Women have been weaving their lives together since time began. A small part of the female fabric of life has taken form through art, textiles and the creation of homespun items. Connecting Threads

Sat, April 29

"Encaustic Art" by Ellen

Home and Studio of Ellen Hutchinson,
details TBA

May

Field Trip to be announced

Connecting Threads Meeting

March 14, 2017

7 p.m.

814 Central Avenue

Meinke/Melstad Home

Please join your fellow AAUW members for an evening of conversation about the threads that connect us.

When and how did you first become interested in working with thread...yarn, fabric, rope, ribbon, other material? How did you learn to manipulate that thread? Who taught you those lessons? Are there still techniques you'd like to learn - or interesting challenges you've met or still confront? Please bring stories and work to share! And if you're struggling to create or perfect a piece of thread work, bring it along...it's likely someone in the group will have an idea to help move your work along!

**Please call (388-1004) or drop an email to
mhmeinke1@gmail.com if you are able to attend.**

See you on March 14!

Spring Field Trip 2017

Any ideas for a field trip for the May/June season?

Anyone willing to coordinate?

Send your ideas to Linda at linthielbar@charter.net.

Book Club

The Book Club meets six times a year at members' homes. Come Join Us!



May 11, *A Spool of Blue Thread*, Anne Tyler. Host: Joan Kovacs

Jul 13, Book Exchange and next reads. Location and time TBA.

Sep 14, *A Man Called Ove*, Fredrik Backman, Host: Jean Magnusson

Looking Ahead

- | | |
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| Mar 14 | Connecting Threads, 7 p.m., Marilyn Meinke's home |
| Mar 29 | Issues & Discussion, 6 p.m., Oliver's Wine Bar |
| Mar 30 | Brave New Girls, 3-5 p.m., TBMS |
| Apr 29 | Encaustic Art , by Ellen, Home and Studio of Ellen Hutchinson |
| Apr 28-29 | State Convention, Wilmar |
| May 2 | Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Pier 55 |
| June | Annual End of Year picnic, Terri Cook's summer home |

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

If your email address changes, please notify me and our president ASAP so that you don't miss any of our AAUW email notices.