



***Reminder* Kick Off Meeting**

Thursday, September 14th - 5:30

Fall Kickoff Event: "Healer in Heels"

Location: Pier 55



Author Jasna Burza will speak about her life journey and current career.

Jasna Burza is an internationally recognized certified Life Coach and a spiritual advisors to CEOs, entrepreneurs and dreamers. Having lived in a refugee camp during the war in her native Bosnia and Herzegovina. Jasna teaches about resilience, life purpose and connecting to a deeper life meaning. She holds a Master degree in Public Policy and is a sought after motivational speaker and a regular quest expert on various news & TV shows.

**This event is OPEN to the public.
Bring family and friends. ALL are Welcome.**

President's Message - Laurie Andrews



Welcome back to a new program year for the Red Wing Area Branch. As your new president, I am excited to start the year and look forward to being part of this important group in our community that advocates for what I strongly believe in - equity for women and girls in all areas of our lives.

As you read through this newsletter and read what each VP and group is doing in their area, you will find many activities to participate in and so many ways to become involved in our group and its work toward our mission goal.

I would like to ask you to stop for a minute and take account of why you belong to this group.

- Is it to volunteer to help with activities?
- Is it to go online and use the 2-minute Activist tab on the National website to help support upcoming legislation to advance equity for women?
- Or is it to support the mission and support the activities as best you can through paying dues and contributing to fundraisers?
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Whatever your involvement, we and I personally, Thank YOU for being part of this awesome organization.

**We can't reach our mission goals without you.
I look forward to seeing you at our next event!**

The October Program is:

Book Banning

A Cultural Crisis



The American Association of University Women
Red Wing Area Branch

INVITATION

We invite you to attend a program that explores the cultural impact on intellectual freedom created by book banning.

SPEAKERS

Laurie Hertzell
Journalist - Author

Kimberly Edson
Librarian - Reading Advocate

Thursday • October 19th, 2023 • 6:00 - 8:30pm
Social 6:00 - 6:30pm

Location: Anderson Center at Tower View - Barn
163 Tower View Drive, Red Wing, MN

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

In four decades of journalism, Laurie Hertzell has worked as a columnist, news reporter, feature writer, news editor at the Duluth News-Tribune and writer and senior editor of Minnesota Monthly magazine. For 15 years she was the books editor at the Minneapolis Star Tribune and worked as editor of special projects. Laurie has also reported from the Soviet Union and Cuba. She has held fellowships from Duke University and the James Thurber House and has won national, regional, and local awards for her writing. Her memoir, *News to Me: Adventures of an Accidental Journalist*, won the Reader's Choice Award at the Minnesota Book Awards. She has taught at the Loft Literary

Center in Minneapolis and at Ohio State University and has been on the faculty in Narrative Nonfiction at the University of Georgia. Now retired from her books editor position at the Star Tribune, Hertzell continues to review books for the Star Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, and the Washington Post.

As the Head of Readers Services at the Rochester (MN) Public Library, Kimberly Edson is responsible for the selection of adult fiction, large print, feature films, recorded music and related digital collections. She manages the RPL bookmobile, reader's advisory services, adult programming, homebound, and deposit collection services. Kim also participates in a variety of outreach activities and the promotion of various library programs and collections to under-served populations. From 2011-2022 Kim was a member of the SELCO advocacy committee. In addition, she has served on the MLA legislative committee since 1999, served on the Minnesota Association of Library Friends board from 2013-2018, was the chair of the MLA Public Library Division in 2009, and chaired the Intellectual Freedom Committee from 1989-20. She has also served on the Coalition Against Censorship Board and was a board member of the Minnesota Civil Liberty Union.



Treasurer's Report from Jane Kono

AAUW Branch Treasurer's Report for September 5, 2023

Beginning Balance 8/1/23	\$1560.57
Deposit of Dues of	192.00
Charges & Checks: Deluxe Checks	13.08
Dues to National AAUW	405.00
Balance in Checking 9/4/23	<u>1,334.49</u>
Balance in Savings:	\$3,126.76

(no change this month)



Thank you AAUW members.

From Lois Hesford VP Philanthropy.

The branch has been very generous last year. This year we hope to raise funds

which will enhance programming around issues we as a branch are passionate about. Examples are the upcoming "Healer in Heels" author presentation and the book banning program in October and others that are coming this year. Your generosity has enhanced learning programs for the youth of the community with the Blue Bird Library which provides books, the learning bags for third graders among others.

Thank you for your generosity in the past, and an even bigger thanks for your generosity in the future. This is what makes our Branch successful.

This is our ONLY fundraiser for the year



The poster features a dark blue background with white snowflake patterns. At the top left is a large, detailed snowflake. The text is centered and reads: 'Save the Date' in a cursive font, followed by the title 'Snow Flakes are as Unique as YOU' in a bold, serif font. Below the title is the subtitle 'Annual Fundraiser & Holiday Brunch plus Market Place'. The date and location are 'December 2, 2023 at Mississippi National Golf Links', with 'Doors open 9am, Brunch 9:45am' below. A yellow highlight is under the text 'Brunch cost before November 17th is \$35, \$40 after that date.' The registration information states 'Registrations close November 24th. Send check payable to AAUW: Jane Kono 1478 Hillside Drive Red Wing, MN 55066'. At the bottom left, it says 'Brunch proceeds will fund local programming and philanthropy. Drawing proceeds will be sent to National AAUW Funds.' The AAUW logo is in the bottom right corner.

Save the Date

"Snow Flakes are as Unique as YOU"

Annual Fundraiser & Holiday Brunch plus Market Place

December 2, 2023 at Mississippi National Golf Links
Doors open 9am, Brunch 9:45am

Brunch cost before November 17th is \$35, \$40 after that date.
Registrations close November 24th. Send check payable to AAUW:
Jane Kono 1478 Hillside Drive Red Wing, MN 55066

Brunch proceeds will fund local programming and philanthropy.
Drawing proceeds will be sent to National AAUW Funds.

AAUW

Menu: Egg Bake with Ham, Broccoli, Cheese

Vegetarian Egg Bake –

dairy free with cheese on the side

Fruit Cup

Baked goods from The Bake Shoppe, Goodhue, MN

Coffee, Tea and Juice Station

And a special drink from the bar at an additional cost

Silent Auction

It is not too early to be thinking of a donation to the silent auction! Silent Auction items are valued from \$25.00 or higher and the donor will have to fill out a donor bid sheet prior to dropping off the item/items at Silent Auction table. The donor bid sheet will be given out at all meetings or I can snail mail you a card/cards.

We need additional ideas for Market Place or the Silent Auction? In the past, we have had delicious bakery goods, artwork, jewelry, pillowcases, quilts/blankets, mittens, hand towels, table runners, wooden cutting board, books, bird feeders, baskets with different themes, and so much more!

Ann Marie will be bringing tags, price stickers, fabric safety pins, earring cards & etc. to the September 14th AAUW Kick-off. All items must be priced prior to dropping them off at the Market Place table. The value of items has changed; \$1.00 to \$25.00.

Lots more information to follow
Ann-Marie Rose and Cynthia Traun



We are excited about this year's upcoming programs for our meetings and we know many outside of our membership are interested in the events. Please share in the information and invite friends and family to attend. Kathleen and I, of course would like to add new members to our branch.

Use the AAUW national website for more information about our organization and joining AAUW at aauw.org or contact Kathleen Gronvall or Jan Pinsonneault.

Book Club

Everyone is invited to join the Book Club. If you have any questions contact La Vonne Lommel 651-380-6140 or email to vonlommel@yahoo.com.

- Sept 7 Book Club : *Radiant*, by Liz Heinecke.
- Nov 9 Book Club: *The Dictionary of Lost Words*,
by Pip Williams
- Jan 11 Book Club: *How the Penguins Saved Veronica*,
By Hazel Prior
- Mar 14 Book Club: *Queen of Our Time*, by Robert Hardman
- May 9 Book Club: *In the Night of Memory*, by
Linda LeGarde Grover
- Sept Book Club: *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig
TBD

PUBLIC POLICY – JANET BRANDT VP Minnesota Legislative Report

These are issues supported by AAUW during the last legislative session.

ERA:

In the AAUW Minnesota Pine newsletter for Summer 2023, AAUW Minnesota State President Jan Cary reported :

“On May 22nd, the MN legislature adjourned without passage by the House of the ERAMN bill to add an Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution through a 2024 ballot measure. As a result, ERAMN was given written assurance by the Rules Committee chair 2 the House will forward the bill in the 2024 legislative session. The Senate bill passage should hold in the next session. I will serve on the ERAMN strategic planning committee. We have already convened and are prepared to get this initiative on the 2024 November ballot. There was good news in the legislative session for women. The MN House and Senate

enacted a bill to support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution and other substantive bills related to paid leave, economics and healthcare for women.”

Paid Family Leave:

A state-run insurance program has been created to provide Minnesota workers with up to 20 weeks per year of paid time off to deal with family or medical issues. Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, benefits will be available to an employee unable to work due to a family member’s serious health condition, a qualifying exigency, safety leave, bonding leave, or the employee’s own pregnancy, pregnancy recovery, or serious health condition.

The law establishes a family and medical insurance account modeled after the state’s unemployment insurance fund. It will be managed by a new Family and Medical Benefits Insurance Division within the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Reproductive Health Rights:

HF1/SF1 passed, affirming the right to reproductive healthcare but HF91 did not pass. The description for HF91 is : Abortion regulating statutes repealed, sex offenses repealed, statutes governing the sale of articles and information and prohibiting advertisements repealed, limitation removed on performance of abortions at birth centers, language stricken regarding medical assistance coverage of abortion, limitation removed on MinnesotaCare coverage of abortion, and conforming changes made.

Education related:

Free school lunch and breakfast passed, School funding tied to inflation did not.

Literacy project grant money:

We have \$472 remaining from the grant application. I am in conversation with the principal of Sunnyside School, Michael Pagel. He has been most supportive and has contacted the teacher who is working with children learning to read this summer during the summer program for those who need extra help. There is a plan in the works to provide readers suitable for 1st graders to the school district. Helping 1st graders makes to me as we would push forward our efforts regarding literacy to a grade where we can hopefully provide some tools to give them a boost.

We need to spend the money by the end of the year, and of course, report to the state.
