

HIAWATHA HAPPENINGS



ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Red Wing Area Branch
American Association of University Women

January 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

When I received the Two-Minute Activist email from Lisa Maatz today, I knew I had to repeat National's message to our branch. I apologize for the repetition, but sometimes we need a reminder.

Make women's priorities America's priorities!

"There are so many glass ceilings to shatter, and we need to stand together if we're going to break through barriers for all women. Advocates like you are the core of AAUW's mission and the heart of this

weekend's rallies. Sign AAUW's petition today. Whatever your political affiliation, we need you to speak truth to power and make your voice — and all women's voices — heard."

We are a vibrant, savvy, ambitious group of women in the Red Wing Area AAUW Branch. We want to close the gender pay gap, ensure all women have access to health care, stop violence against women, and break glass ceilings in the workplace and in the government. These issues are important to all of us, and we need to stand together if we are to continue to make progress. We need to continue to be active or become active whichever the case may be. What can I do to help, you ask? How can I make my voice heard?

- Become a Two-Minute Activist
Watch for emails from National asking for your response to the two-minute activist request
Go to AAUW.org to see current issues in the two-minute activist section
- Make phone calls to your Senators and Representatives both state and national
- Write letters to the editor on specific issues.
- Have conversations with family and friends. Use your voice.
- Donate your dollars to activist groups working on behalf of women including AAUW

I will repeat, whatever your political affiliation, we need to speak out and use our voice to be heard at the local, state, national and global level for women's issues.

Membership Matters!!

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

We are proud to be members of this organization that promotes equity for women and girls, not only in education, but in all aspects of life. Sharing this passion with others means we expand our reach and grow our support system. Each time you share your AAUW story, you help in this effort. Thank you!

We are excited to announce, three guests from the Holiday Brunch have joined us. Thank you to the member who invited these guests!

Jan Pinsonneault, a graduate of UW-River Falls with a degree in Computer Systems and Business Administration is retired and living with her husband in Red Wing. Jan is an avid golfer and volunteers many hours at Mississippi Golf Links. She is excited to be part of this organization that she has thought to join for years.

Email - falcon12765@aol.com

Phone # 651-388-4225

Sarah Scott, a graduate of Boston University in Sociology works at Express Personnel in Red Wing. She has been friends with many members and contemplated joining; however, speaking at our Holiday Brunch without getting booed (LOL) encouraged her to join our group! Sarah has jumped right in to assist in getting speakers for our Issues & Discussion Group, so kudos to her!! Sarah lives with her husband in Welch.

Email – mns54@gmail.com

Phone # 651-301-0320

Martha Harris also joined us. Many of you know her from the YMCA in Red Wing. Martha has a degree in Therapeutic Recreation and Counseling from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Martha assisted with the Brave New Girls Workshop over the years, a sure sign she believes in our mission.

Email – martha50jo@icloud.com

Phone # 651-528-3166

Welcome to each of you as we move forward in our mission!

Jen Matthees renewed her membership as a student member after the brunch. We somehow lost track of Jen, but now she is found! Jen graduated from RCTC in December, will take her nursing boards and land that nursing job soon! Life will settle a bit more, and we'll see more of her.

Email – jjmatthees@hotmail.com

Phone # 651-380-7971

We are always open to meeting new people! Let Sherry or me know if you would like to have us join you and a friend - whom you feel might be a prospective member - for coffee at a local shop to discuss the possibilities!!

Movie Recommendation from Kay

If you have not yet seen *Hidden Figures*, it is well worth your time. It is currently playing in Red Wing until January 25. It may be extended.

It has been a little known story about three African-American women, each brilliant in her own way, who worked at NASA on the program to launch astronaut John Glen into orbit. The movie highlights the racism that existed at the time and the strength and competence of these women to do their jobs as well as live and work to achieve rights that we all take for granted.

Don't miss it!



Program Notes

By Shannon Hanson, Program VP

Greetings,

I hope this winter has been treating everyone well, I'm used to saying "Happy Spring" as our Spring semester has started at the college! Spring will be here soon, as the time is flying by this year. Sometimes it seems to be going too fast, and I am not able to keep up. Since I am not able to pause time, I am hoping that I can do the next best thing and that is ask for your help.

Between family and work, my schedule has taken quite a turn. I have several family members (on different coasts), dealing with major medical issues all at the same time. We are kind of short-staffed on the family caregiver side, so I need to take a more active role in helping or being able to help at a moment's notice. What that means is I am (although I've tried not to be) very distracted and have had to limit my commitments greatly. When trying to be effective in the program planning role, you can imagine that is not a good combo!

We have the programming outlined for the remainder of the year. I am asking for volunteers to help take those programs and carry them out. If you are interested, please feel free to send me an email to shahanson@southeastmn.edu, and I can let you know more details of the planning. I appreciate your help and understanding. I hope you all have a lovely rest of your winter and look forward to seeing you soon!

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Women and girls make up 71 percent of human trafficking victims worldwide. Remember, this is a problem that impacts Minnesota as well. The National Human Trafficking Hotline is 1 888-378-7888. Minnesota's Indian Women's Resource Center Hotline is 612-728-2000. Minnesota has decriminalized victims of Human Trafficking, and yet there is much work to be done around this issue. Stay alert to this issue politically, and remain aware of what is happening around you.

AAUW Funds

By Jean Magnusson and Joan Kovacs, AAUW Funds Co VPs

The Red Wing AAUW Branch enthusiastically supports and contributes to AAUW National Funds. At our Holiday Brunch, the proceeds of the drawing are donated to the National Funds. For this year's drawing, we had a special prize. AAUW member Joan Halgren donated a beautiful watercolor painting. She donated the painting in memory of her sister, who was the artist. A generous total of \$315 was raised.

The AAUW website highlights nine program areas that receive National Funds. They are:

- ♦ Research—analyzing gender equity issues in education and the workplace.
- ♦ Campus Leadership—helping shape the lives of the next generation of women leaders.
- ♦ STEM Education—leveling the playing field for women in science, technology, engineering, and math.
- ♦ Public Policy—advocating for policies that advance equity for women and girls.
- ♦ Case Support in legal issues—supporting challenges to sex discrimination in the workplace
- ♦ Educational Funding—providing educational and lifelong learning opportunities for women.
- ♦ Global connections—responding to the global development needs of women by helping them contribute to the economic and social development of their countries.
- ♦ Member Leadership—providing leadership development opportunities to AAUW members.
- ♦ Salary Negotiations—through Start Smart and AAUW Work Smart, AAUW is fighting to close the pay gap one workshop at a time.

Please consider a contribution to the AAUW Fund. Another drawing will be held at our holiday brunch in December 2017. Individual donations are accepted any time.

Additional info from Terri: The board designated that 50% of the live auction proceeds go to Funds. That means that \$1,161.00 was designated for AAUW Funds. In addition, \$301 paid by member-direct contributions at the annual Fundraiser is also going to AAUW Funds for a total of \$1,462.00.

Public Policy

By Dee Bender, VP –Public Policy

AAUW has never shied away from speaking truth to power, and that's not going to change during President Trump's administration. In fact, AAUW members and supporters were in Washington, D.C., as part of the Women's March on Washington on Jan. 21, 2017.

Together, at the Washington event and at rallies across the country, we are asking—we are demanding—that the new administration make women's priorities national priorities. From equal pay to violence against women to health care access, the issues that arise in the next four years will be crucial for all women.

AAUW will continue our 135-year history as a nonpartisan organization working to advance gender equity. We've played critical roles in setting agendas for city councils, statehouses, Congress, the White House, and even the United Nations.

You can read more, donate or get involved in other ways at AAUW.org. For our daughters and granddaughters and our future we can't sit and watch and hope 'someone' does something.

We need to raise our voices, here in Red Wing in our own spheres of influence. Other women will be thankful.



Holiday Auction Wrap-Up

By Terri Cook and Candace Gordon

As co-chairs of Holidays Around the World, we look back at our fundraiser and can't help but smile. Who are we kidding? We're jumping up and down with pure delight at the success of the annual event. We experienced record attendance at the new 'home' for our holiday gathering, the Mississippi National Golf Course.

There were many updates to the event this year that drew in more member participation than ever. The personal touch provided by you, with the table decorations, brought us into your world travels, and we truly had Holidays Around the World. Each table told a different story. The addition of the Market Place gave us a new income stream and the important opportunity to 'Buy it Now.'

Then there was the live auction with new items and activities offered this year. We cannot thank the Vogel family enough for the generous contribution of original works of art by Marge Vogel. And who could forget the Hunks for Hire??

We had a large band of merry elves who volunteered their time and talents to make this a fun and profitable event—many hands make light work and much fun! It takes a village, and we certainly had that village. We even got three new members, one who rejoined, and more who are considering joining!

So, thank you, congratulations, and we'll see you next year. Save the date: Saturday, December 2. Wait till you see what we are cooking up!!!



Issue -
Discussion

AAUW - RED WING AREA BRANCH



Issues & Discussion 2017

Join members and guests as we enjoy an evening together listening and discussing issues in our community and beyond. We will begin to gather in the Upper Room at Oliver's Wine Bar at 6 p.m. if you'd like to have dinner. However, a server will take your order at any time throughout the evening, and payment is on your own. The evening's guest speaker will begin at 6:30 with discussion of the topic to follow.

January 25 —Bonnie Schock, Executive Director of Sheldon Theatre

The Sheldon Theatre is the gem of Red Wing and Bonnie is proud of what she has done to continue

its proud legacy. Her journey bringing her to this position will be her focus and one we can relate to on one hand as women deciding our role in the world, but Bonnie brings twists that will interest all of us!

February 22— Pam Johnson - US Army Reservist who will speak of her service in the military, having served in Desert Shield/Storm in the 90s; Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF); Iraq Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF); Afghanistan, and continues to serve today. We are proud to have her speak to us.

March 29— Donna Anderst – Owner of SCS Elevator Products, Inc. – Donna owns a manufacturing business which is dominantly a “man’s world.” She brings us a unique perspective of running this company from the headquarters here in Red Wing. Sharing her story will give us insight into this seemingly hidden world.

No need to RSVP – please join us!

A poster for an "Instrument Repair" event. The poster has a white central area with black and red text, surrounded by a dark red border decorated with various brass instruments like saxophones, trumpets, and tubas. The text in the center reads: "Instrument Repair", "Tuesday, January 24", "4 p.m.", "MSC Southeast (Tech College)", "308 Pioneer Rd", "Learn about instrument repair", "Hear about women working in the field", "Tour the lab where instruments are rebuilt and repaired". At the bottom, it says "Note the time change to 4 p.m." and "In case of inclement weather, watch your email for cancellation."/>

Instrument Repair

Tuesday, January 24

4 p.m.

MSC Southeast (Tech College)

308 Pioneer Rd

Learn about instrument repair

Hear about women working in the field

Tour the lab where instruments are rebuilt and repaired

Note the time change to 4 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, watch your email for cancellation.

AAUW Members on Stage

By Kay Humphreys

On January 18 at the Goodhue County Historical Center, Mary Ellen Halverson and Barb Hanson developed and presented the program "How my (Swedish) Heritage has influenced my Quilting Folk Art."

This event was supported by the Evening Star Quilt Guild and the American Association of University Women. It is one component of meeting the requirements for the arts grant received on our path to presenting the Quilter's Musical next fall.

Mary Ellen shared her Swedish family history both from Sweden and her connections here. She had landmark pictures and great family stories. We found out how her love of quilting came to be. She brought many beautiful samples of her work to share.

Mary Ellen says "My interest in sewing has been fostered through both of my grandmothers, one through her "fancy work and crazy quilting," the other through practical sewing as well as by my mother. Although I have sewn since I was 8, my quilting really began a little over 10 years ago. Samples produced decades ago by my Swedish grandmother as well as my current interests will be shown during the History Break



Barb also spoke of her Swedish heritage and brought samples of her work. The colors and forms of her work are breathtaking. Her husband is certain

that their lake home's sole purpose is to house her work.

Barb says, "My life as a quilter began in the late 1970's as my sewing skills (that were taught by my mother) turned into quilt making. A love of my Swedish heritage created a desire to learn the folk art and influenced my quilt designs. Vibrant, bright colors are evident in the quilts I create. A hand woven wool coverlet of navy and red from my Swedish-born great grandmother has influenced the creation of several quilts and wall hangings at our lake home. Contemporary Scandinavian design continues to fascinate and influence my work."



Barb and Mary Ellen were both entertaining and informative. We are in awe of your talents.





Spotlight on a Member: Sarah Scott

By Kay Humphreys

Sarah Scott is a new member to AAUW, and she says that she fills her bucket by giving to others.

Sarah was born in Orange, New Jersey. She and her two sisters grew up in Livingston, New Jersey. She grew up as part of a small Jewish community, where their first synagogue was in a small house while raising funds to build



Deborah, Naomi and Sarah Clere. (Sarah is the youngest.)

an appropriate sanctuary. She and her sisters attended Sunday school and worshiped at Temple Emanuel until leaving the area in 1975. One of the things about growing up Jewish, “we knew we were different”; hearing about the Holocaust and feeling the need to explain who we were to all others in the community for greater understanding and acceptance was endless. She is proud of her parents, who worked hard for and made contributions to, the creation of Israel; they were Zionists. Her parents and especially her Dad expected that she and her sisters would obtain their education first from notable schools, then have a career followed by marriage and children.

Sarah was an athlete in school. She was a competitive swimmer and loved tennis. She attended Boston University where she earned a degree in Liberal Arts with a focus in Sociology and Psychology. Like so many of us Sarah cherishes her longtime friendships from elementary school through college, now 50+ years.

Her first position was as a meeting planner at MIT. Her mom loved that Sarah worked at the prestigious MIT institution. Sarah quickly learned

that she is a visionary, an influencer and a driver, but needed help with the details. Much to her mom’s disappointment after five years at MIT, Sarah felt it was time to move. She worked a short time in a startup IT Company. From there she became the Office Manager and Assistant to the Vice President and Managing Director of what was to become Boston’s first five-star hotel—the Boston Harbor Hotel. She attributes her parents’ insistence on manners, etiquette and a good work ethic for her success in her new role. It was while working here that she met the love of her life, the new Executive Chef. She and Craig dated several years before getting married. In the meantime, she left her position at the Boston Harbor Hotel and became a Recruiter for the downtown financial district. She firmly believes that it was easy to give equal opportunity to others because she recognized she had been given opportunities.



As newlyweds, Craig and Sarah moved to Park City, Utah for Craig’s work. Sarah found employment as Assistant to the General Manager of the Radisson Hotel. While living and working in Park City, they had many sightings and brushings with the rich and famous. From there they moved to Hot Springs, Virginia and then to Bermuda for four and a half years. She found living in Bermuda as a guest of their country to be both exhilarating and unsettling. They easily integrated into the international community living in Bermuda. However, they were always mindful of the values and customs of the country so as not to offend its citizens. Both sons were born in Bermuda. Living away from family, Sarah was grateful to the “Mums’ Group,” which offered a new mom much needed support and

socialization. They moved their family back to the states and lived in Columbia, Maryland near Sarah's family. She opened a Day Care, became involved in the community and loved the area. Soon they were off to Savannah, Georgia for a couple of years before coming to Red Wing in 2000, where they continue to make their home. Sarah reentered the job market after ten years of unemployment. She began working part time at Express Employment Professionals and then joined them as a teammate in March 2004, where she was an Executive Recruiter and now Outside Business Developer for the company serving the Greater Red Wing Area.

Sarah's most important; most fulfilling and most demanding job has been parenting her sons. Her oldest son is on the spectrum for Asperger's and is now living in Rochester. Her youngest son is in the Navy and stationed in Yokosuka, Japan.

As a mom and wife while working full time, Sarah still had time to volunteer. Currently, she sits on the board of Friends of the Sheldon; she is Chair of the Chamber Ambassadors, and a member of the Manufactures Association. She recently joined AAUW, and we are happy to have her as a member. Sarah is civic minded, loves the arts, gourmet food and values purposeful living and giving to all she can especially her community.

Book Club

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



Mar 9, *The Senator Next Door: A Memoir From the Heartland*, Amy Klobuchar. Host: LaVonne Lommel

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

Expand Your Horizons

By Lavonne Lommel

Winter is a good time to get at that stack of books you've been meaning to read. Well, if you ask book club folks, they will tell you that is true ANY time of the year!! Since starting the AAUW book club, members have read over 90 books...just doing six per year.

What keeps us coming back? It has given us an opportunity to broaden our perspective, find authors we have not enjoyed before, and cover a variety of topics. Group discussions give insights we haven't considered. Book club encourages us to read and sometimes re-read a book. We come to know members in a different light, and the wine doesn't hurt either!!!

Our March 9th book is "*The Senator Next Door: A Memoir from the Heartland*," by Amy Klobuchar. We will meet at LaVonne Lommel's home at 5 p.m. RSVPs are always appreciated.

On the list for May 11 is a "*Spool of Blue Thread*" by Anne Tyler. July will be our book exchange and selection of the next six reads. Watch for detail about the exchange later.

AAUW Members are invited to all or just one of the book club meetings. Put the date on the calendar and come join us.



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 offers an opportunity to share our talents and learn new skills with the pleasure of good company.

Tues, March 14 "Construction Conundrums" --Marilyn Meinke's Home, 7:00 PM

Sat, April 29 "Encaustic Art" by Ellen
Home and Studio of Ellen Hutchinson,
details TBA

May Field Trip to be announced

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

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.*

Looking Ahead

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| Jan 24 | 4 p.m., MSC Southeast, Women in Music with Guest |
| Jan 25 | Issues & Discussion, 6 p.m., Oliver's Wine Bar |
| Feb 23 | Movie Night— <i>Equal Means Equal</i> , 6 p.m., Pat Welke's home |
| Mar 9 | Book Club, 5 p.m., LaVonne Lommel's home |
| Mar 29 | Issues & Discussion, 6 p.m., Oliver's Wine Bar |
| Mar 30 | Brave New Girls, 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 |



Movie Night

Thursday, February 23, 6 p.m.

Pat Welke's Home

Equal Means Equal is a documentary film by Kamala Lopez. She looks at it all. Facts, figures, interviews and graphics abound as she shines a spotlight on gender equality in the USA.

Lopez interviews four generations of American women. We learn about the rights of women (or not) and women's issues from women of several different walks of lives. For some of us it will be walking down memory lane or for others learning from another's perspective. She speaks to the ERA amendment and CEDAW. The night is guaranteed to open up discussions looking for a way forward.

RSVP to Kay: laurelkay1@yahoo.com

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