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Program Topics

- The Arts
- Education
- Empowering Women
- Environment
- Equity and Inclusion
- Health
- Literary Pursuits
- Public Policy
- Science & Technology

Focus Days

- October 30: Minnesota's Great Outdoors
- January 29: Living Your Best Life
- April 29: International Day - Haiti

From Our President

Greetings, fabulous members of AAUW Minneapolis Branch! Welcome to the start of a new year of programs filled with exciting opportunities,



growth, and community involvement. As we embark on this journey together, I am honored and thrilled to serve as your president.

Pundits say that laughter is the best medicine, and I could not agree more. So, in the spirit of spreading some cheer, let's take a lighthearted detour from our usual no-nonsense message. Don't worry, I promise to keep it brief—after all, we do have significant work ahead of us. Here's a little riddle to brighten your day: Why did the AAUW member go to the gym? To exercise her right to uplift and empower

women, of course! And, hey, those advocacy muscles do need some toning.

Now, let's consider the serious part. Most importantly, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all our dedicated members who have played a vital role in making our branch a force for positive change. Your passion for empowering women and girls through research, education, and advocacy is the driving force behind everything we do.

As we approach the new year, we are excited to present an array of enriching programs designed to educate, validate, and motivate. From our thought-provoking speaker series to our community outreach programs, ample opportunities arise for each of us to utilize our unique skills and perspectives.

Collaboration is at the heart of our success, and I encourage each of you to actively participate and share your ideas and expertise. Whether you are a long-standing member or joining for the first time, your

voice matters. Your contributions will help shape the direction of our branch.

Additionally, I urge us all to extend a hearty welcome to new members, embracing their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives.

Together, we can create a supportive network that nurtures growth and fosters lasting friendships.

I am excited to witness the impact we will make as a united force, and I have no doubt that this program year will be one of resilience and progress. Let's approach the challenges with determination and the opportunities with an open mind, knowing that each step forward brings us closer to our vision of a brighter future for women and girls in our community.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for the trust you have placed in me to lead this remarkable organization. Thank you for being an essential part of AAUW Minneapolis Branch. Your support and dedication fuel our progress, and I am genuinely grateful for each of you.

Membership

“Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect.”

— Samuel Johnson

AAUW Minneapolis is composed of members who are curious about the world. These are women and men who have pursued their curiosity through study, work, reading, volunteering, and listening to the spectacular selection of speakers we have at our AAUW Monday sessions!

Hearing three speakers the first three Mondays of the month and two on the fourth Monday, AAUW members learn through nine yearly topic areas. This year, our topics are: The Arts, Education, Environment, Equity and Inclusion, Health, Empowering Women, Literary Pursuits, Public Policy, and Science and Technology.

The first session on fourth Mondays is your choice: Great Decisions, Book Discussion, Crafts, Hot Topics, or Travel. These presentations truly expand our knowledge of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

It always amazes us to hear the bios of our speakers. They are grounded in their fields and are truly pioneers and leaders. It is a privilege to hear these speakers who are willing to share their knowledge and perspectives of the future with us. Many of us invite friends to hear them. Please consider inviting a friend to one of our meetings and maybe even ask them to join AAUW.

Our book discussions on the fourth Mondays are both fiction and nonfiction. We love to see which books the committees have decided to highlight. Your reading list for the year has begun.

Another important aspect of AAUW that many of us love is our community outreach work. Each year we provide four-year

college scholarships to women graduates of the Minneapolis Public Schools. We collect warm hats and mittens, socks, underwear, and other needed clothing for students at two elementary schools. Gently used clothing is given twice yearly to *From Me to You*, an organization that provides clothing for men, women and children in need. And we collect food, money and toiletries for those who visit the Groveland Food Shelf.

Finally, we have each other. Seeing a smiling face when you enter the Gale is always a warm introduction to the many friends you meet when you go downstairs into the Presidents' Hall. Sitting by friends and new members, listening to speakers, and chatting about the presentations and each other's adventures at lunch strengthen the bonds of friendship and care.

Rae Cornelius and Victor Barela

Professional and Casual Business Clothing Drive - Plus Children: October 2, 2023

Recycle your gently used casual and career clothing and accessories including ties, belts, shoes, and purses. They will be used to help build a wardrobe for someone entering or re-entering the workforce or returning to school. **Fall through Winter** clothing for **men and women** is appreciated. Clothing for **children** from infants to teen age boys and girls is also being collected due to the increased needs of families. Backpacks for students are also needed.

On Monday, October 2, *From Me To You* representatives will be in front of the Gale Mansion between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m.

You will be able to drive up and park briefly while volunteers help unload your donations. If you have any questions, please call me at 612-741-2216.

Denny Scharlemann, Community Outreach
Committee



Officers of the Branch

2023-2024

President	Ann Vanvick
Membership Co-Vice Presidents	Victor Barela Rae Cornelius
Program Development Vice President	Leslie Swenson
Marketing Vice President	Judy Romlin
Development Vice President	Nell Wegmann
Treasurer	Laura King
Secretary for Recording	Jennifer Johnson
Director at Large	Veronica Johnson

Board of Directors

2023-2024 Meeting Dates

9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Officers, Directors, Program Development Assistants, Topic Chairs, and Chairs of Standing Committees have a vote. All members are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Closing and Awards Day is the last meeting of the year on Monday, May 13, 2024.

What is a Nick Whistle?

NCCWSL (pronounced Nick Whistle), AAUW's yearly National Conference for College Student Leaders, is designed to inspire and educate women about finding their power as they move into the world. This year, funds from former AAUW Minneapolis President Ardis Niemann's estate gift were set aside to provide opportunities for young women to attend the three-day leadership training program at the University of Maryland. AAUW MN also provides some support.

This is the first time Minneapolis AAUW could offer this conference to two of our own scholarship students with costs fully covered. They are Erika Patino, who is entering her third year at the U of M's Carlson School of Management, and Mia Jennings, who is starting her sophomore year at the Carlson School. Scholarship Board member Laura Murphy made all the arrangements for the young women to attend this wonderful event last spring.

Mia Jennings' Reflections

“Erika and I were nervous as we’d only met each other once before and we didn’t know what exactly to expect from this experience. We had trouble getting into our room on the first day, but it eventually got fixed and we were able to bowl and make new friends that night. The next day we met more amazing people at each session and later explored Washington D.C. with them! On our second to last day, we attended a lot of insightful workshops and we got to meet the Women of Distinction.

On Saturday we had the opportunity to meet Minda Harts and get signed copies of her book! After our experience, I can confidently say that we were met by such a welcoming, kind, and safe environment. I left NCCWSL 2023 feeling inspired and incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have met and learned from so many amazing activists, changemakers, and leaders. I can't wait to continue to connect with our new friends through Instagram and the guest speakers through LinkedIn! We couldn't have asked for a better and more

fulfilling experience. Looking forward, we will continue to step into our power as not only women, but people who can change the world for the better.”



FIRST ROW, MIA IS 2ND AND ERIKA IS 4TH FROM LEFT

Erika Patino's Reflections

“Attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) was an incredible experience. Being surrounded by remarkable women of various industries and careers, hearing about their experiences, and how exactly they achieved their success, was very inspiring and motivational. My favorite part of the conference was attending the

Women of Distinction awards ceremony because I was able to learn about each recipient's background, the obstacles they faced, and the steps they took to overcome each obstacle and achieve their goals. At the Women of Distinction awards I really enjoyed being able to converse with them and get to know them better. By the end of the ceremony, I felt very empowered and eager to begin my professional career. Throughout the span of the conference, I had the opportunity to attend various speaker sessions where I was able to hear about different women's experiences in different careers and I was able to receive advice from each speaker during their presentations. One piece of advice that really stuck with me was that you should always aim high and never limit yourself. No matter what career you are in, you must try your best to 'get a seat at the table.' And if it looks like there are no more seats at the 'table' you pull one up. There are times when you will need to make your own opportunities. Understanding that, and having the confidence to do that, will allow me to conquer many of the obstacles I will encounter."

Ginny Craig, Scholarship Board President

Nominating Committee

Leadership Opportunities!

Each fall in accordance with the Minneapolis Branch AAUW Bylaws, the Nominating Committee begins to seek a slate of officers for the following year. The positions to be filled for the 2024-2026 terms are the following:

- President
- Program Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Director at Large (one-year term)

The slate of officers will be announced at the February business meeting and voted upon at the March business meeting. The committee meets weekly in the fall until the candidates are narrowed to a final slate. Our committee welcomes suggestions for each position; please note that you may also volunteer yourself. The responsibilities of each position are detailed in the bylaws, or you can contact one of our members.

Diane Boruff	612-578-6444
Rita Britton	651-238-6614
Vickie Dunn	952-930-3431
Susie Erickson	612-866-5720
Jennifer Johnson	612-377-6084
Shari Parsons	612-718-0846
Lois Petersen	952-926-9422
Barb Swanson	612-432-4862

Thank you for participating in and supporting our branch's excellent leadership.

Diane Boruff, Nominating Committee Chair



The Library Has Moved!

Yes, with the help of Library Committee members, the Library has moved to the second floor. We are now in the Association Room, which is adjacent to the elevator. Our new space is very pleasant and I am reluctant to say, “cozy.” PLEASE COME UP AND SEE US.

I want to thank all the members who voted to retain our Library. I believe it is an asset for our members.

Everything will remain the same regarding checking out books. There will be no fines for overdue books; we are grateful when they return. We enthusiastically accept your book donations either to add to our collection or to sell to members.

We will continue to sell used books and jigsaw puzzles.

I repeat, PLEASE COME UP AND SEE US!

Judy Vermeland-Wendt, Library Chair



Save the Dates

No meeting on September 25

September 27, Out and About,
Summit Avenue Tour

October 2, Professional Clothing
Drive

October 25, Out and About,
African American Museum
and Somali Museum

November 11, Gala,
Travel on the AAUW Scholar
“Ship” at Westminster
Presbyterian Church
(underground parking)

December 11, Holiday Lights

Monday Literature

October ***Horse***

Geraldine Brooks

November ***The Four Winds***

Kristin Hannah

January ***The Dictionary of Lost Words***

Pip Williams

February ***Lessons in Chemistry***

Bonnie Garmus

March ***Demon Copperhead***

Barbara Kingsolver

April ***Breath, Eyes, Memory***

Edwidge Danticat



Monday Nonfiction Books

November ***The Last Slave Ship: The True Story of How Clotilda Was Found, Her Descendants and an Extraordinary Reckoning***
Ben Raines

February ***The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America***
John Wood Street

April ***The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder***
David Grann



Interest Groups

Fourth Mondays at 9:30 a.m.

Interest Groups meet the fourth Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Great Decisions and Travel alternate monthly. Fiction book discussions meet monthly and nonfiction discussions will alternate monthly with Hot Topics.

Book Discussions

Room

Fiction: Julie Ollila

Heritage

Nonfiction: DeDe Scanlon

Founders

The list of books selected for this year are on pages 18 and 19 of this Bulletin. Discussion of the book is facilitated by a branch member.

Great Decisions

Presidents' Hall

Leader: Ruth Andersen

Great Decisions topics are the most critical issues that define the year ahead for global policy makers. With the quickly changing world, we choose to explore topics of current concern with input from videos and discussion.

Hot Topics

Founders

Leader: Lil Lindsey

Join us for lively, interactive discussions on newsworthy events and more.

Share Unused Toiletries

Traveling? Free items from your dentist? Freebies from cosmetic purchases? Bring your new toiletries, dental products, and paper grocery bags with handles, and place them in the specially marked boxes in the coat room. For those with little, it means so much.

Lil Lindsey

Bulletin Deadline Dates

October 4, 2023, for the December, January, February issue.

January 3, 2024, for the March, April, May issue.



Mitten Collection

We will collect gloves, mittens, hats and socks for the children of two Minneapolis elementary schools again this year. Bring your donations on Mondays in October and November. Look for the mitten box.

Courtesy Requests

To make the AAUW meeting time a good experience for ALL, please:

- Check to see that your cell phone and all other electronic devices are silent .
- Reserve the two front rows in the Presidents' Hall on the west side for those with walkers or wheelchairs.
- Reserve the last rows for hostesses who need to leave early.
- Leave seats open near the aisles and in the back for those who come late.
- Refrain from talking and whispering as soon as a speaker reaches the podium and during the presentation.
- Be sensitive to distractions caused by bags or containers.
- When asking a question, stand, if you are able, and say your name.
- If you are unable to hear the speaker, please move closer to the front or raise your hand and politely tell the speaker.
- Refrain from unnecessary/lengthy comments.
- Wear only a moderate amount of fragrance or none at all. Some of our members are very allergic to fragrances.
- Sit at least four rows from the front if you do needlework or puzzles.
- At lunch, all seats are open.
- Remember that the excellent wait staff appreciate a sincere *thank you* when they serve your meal.

Member Artwork Program

March 25, 2024

Members: Share Your Talents!

Contribute to the Members' Art/Talent/Craft program scheduled for March 25, 2024. We have a very talented membership, and The Arts Committee wants to showcase the variety. Please submit up to eight photos of your art. Include a brief description, include the media used and any fun facts about it in a word document. For example, Sharon Larson makes incredible pine needle baskets. She might say where she collects the pine needles, what kind of tree they are from, how long it takes to make a basket, and maybe why she started making them. She would send a few photos of the different baskets.

A PowerPoint presentation will be made to show off our MEMBERS' talents.

Please email up to eight photos, in jpgs form, and a Word script to Shari Parsons, parsons.shari@gmail.com by January 15, 2024. Please put "Member Talent" on the subject line. Questions? Email or call me – 612.718.0846

Shari Parsons, The Arts Committee Chair

Out & About with AAUW

After organizing three fascinating outings this summer to the Mdewakanton Dakota Indian Center in June, a historical walking tour of Minnehaha Falls in July, and a walking tour in August of downtown St Paul's former gangsterland haunts, the committee is planning more monthly outings this fall:

- On Wednesday, September 27th at 10:00 for \$16, we will take a 90-minute, 1.5-mile walking tour of Summit Avenue, ending with a visit inside the James J. Hill House. Reservations are due by September 13th, so bring cash on AAUW's Opening Day, or contact Donna Hackler at 612-749-6916, or Pat Deckas Becerra at 952-929-1428.
- On Wednesday, October 25th at 10:00, we will tour the Minnesota African American Museum at 1256 Penn Avenue N. at no cost. Then we will break for lunch at an ethnic restaurant nearby, and at 1:00, for

\$7, tour the Somali Museum at 1516 E. Lake Street. Contact Glenna Case with questions.

- In late November or December, we will tour the Swedish Institute and the Norway House to see their holiday displays. Date and time to be determined. Contact Susan Tasa, Jennifer Olson or Lori Miske with questions.

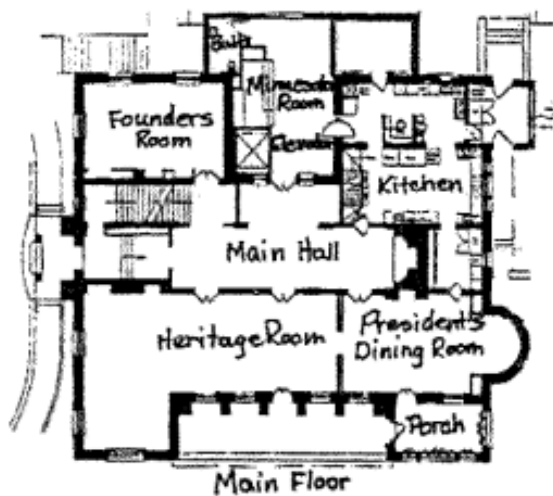


**JULY 2023 OUT AND ABOUT WITH AAUW AT
MINNEHAHA FALLS**

Schedule Meetings at the Gale

Committees or other member groups may schedule meetings at the Gale on days when our office manager Sharon is working in the office – usually Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The library would be available for your use.

Gale Mansion Floor Plan



Lunch Policy

Reservations

If you want to stay for lunch you **MUST** register in advance.

Reserve your lunch before noon on the Wednesday before a meeting.

Sign up using the online system:

<https://signup.com/go/XBwepOa>

Be sure to click on SAVE before exiting the system.

OR

Send an email to:

office@aauwmpis.org

You will receive an email on Tuesday with the list of people who have reserved.

If you need **to cancel your reservation**, do so before noon on the Wednesday before the meeting using the same methods as listed above. If you make a meal reservation but are unable to stay for lunch and have **not cancelled your reservation, you are expected to pay for that meal, as the meal was prepared for you.**

Pay at the Gale. There are two clearly marked “Check-in and Pay” tables (Main Floor near elevator and lower level near restrooms).

Payment for **President’s Table seating, Guests, or Same Day Registration** can only be done at the main floor table. To make a same day reservation, you may put your name on the list at the main floor check-in table as soon as you arrive at the Gale. You will be informed later that day if there is availability. **There will be a very limited number of same day reservations.**

If you arrive later than 10:45 a.m., please check in at the second-floor office.

Checks are no longer accepted. Cash will be accepted at the check-in tables, and credit card payments will be processed in the second-floor office. At the time of payment, you will receive a wrist band which will signify to the servers that you have paid for lunch.

Pricing

- Monday luncheon: \$20
- Late reservations: \$25

Table reservations:

Lunch tables for Monday may be reserved only if you have guests. Table reservations may NOT be made by phone. Table reservations can be made at the Arrangements Table in the first-floor hallway before 9:30 a.m. on the Monday of your reservation.

Meal information: It will not be possible for members to bring their own meals to the house. The ability to purchase healthy meals at a reasonable cost depends largely on volume. If you require a special diet, indicate that request when making your meal reservation. If you have made a reservation for a special meal, that will be your meal. Please do not switch meals.

Alternative meals: Please request a form for alternative meals from Sharon Rauenhurst at 612-870-1661 or at the Arrangements Table. Please help the staff by providing suggestions of food items which will work for you.

On the day of the meal, pick up your special diet card at the check-In table on the lower floor. Display this card at your table and alert the server as to your meal request.

SignUp Instructions

What to expect when you use Signup: After opening the page by clicking on the link, select the first date you would like to attend and click the green sign-up button.

You will be prompted for your email address. This is the email address the system uses to send your reminders to. After confirming your email address, the system will ask for participant information. When you have filled that in, press the Save and done button.

This will bring you back to the full list and kick off a series of ads. Feel free to say No Thanks to all of them. :)

Once you have closed the ads, the full list of dates will be there. Select the next date you would like to reserve; your participant information will show up already filled in – select save and done. Repeat for as many days as you would like.

To add a guest, you can either change the number and add their name to the comments or add a participant by using the appropriate button.

Once you have signed up for all the dates you would like, **do not forget to hit the BLUE SAVE button at the top of the form.** This will then give you an option to print your dates or add them to your calendar.

You will get a reminder email on Tuesday of the week prior to your reservation. If for some reason you are unable to attend, you can cancel your reservation in SignUp or contact the office (by noon Wednesday) to cancel: office@aaauwmpls.org or (612) 870-1661. If you do not get the emailed reminder, you have probably not signed up. (Check to see if it is in your spam folder.) You can go on to SignUp and check, and if you have not reserved your spot, do it then. If you did reserve your spot, please check with the office and Sharon will try to figure out why you did not get the reminder. If you forget to cancel you are responsible for paying for the meal.

Guest Policy

Prospective members and guests may attend up to three meetings each program year.

Prospective members and guests must register at the Membership Table in the lower level. Guests will receive name tags and be recognized during the meeting.

Table Reservations: To reserve a noon luncheon table with your guest, reservations must be made in person on Monday morning at the Arrangements Table on the first floor.



Bad Weather Closing of AAUW:

Check your email or call 612-870-1661 for a recorded message. Bad weather closings will also be announced on the home screen of this website.



Opening Day

8:45 – 9:30

Dining Room

September 11, 2023

Welcome Back Coffee and Tea Time

Welcome back to a new and exciting year. Note the earlier start time so you can meet and greet old and new friends and enjoy cookies and beverages served by our dedicated Coffee Committee.

9:30 – 10:30

***The AAUW Minneapolis Oral History Project**

Kim Heikkila, Ph.D., President of Spotlight Oral History

AAUW Minneapolis has a long history of engaging educated women. From its early years at 310 Groveland, when it was known as the Minneapolis College Women's Club, to its long and loving ownership of the Gale Mansion, AAUW Minneapolis has advanced the cause of equity and education for women. In the spring of 2022, as the historic

sale of the Gale loomed, a team of women decided it was time to capture the recent history of the organization. Thus was the AAUW Minneapolis Oral History Project born. Come hear the stories of some of the amazing women who have shaped AAUW Minneapolis over the last four decades.

***This project has been financed in part by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.**

Presenter: Ann Vanvick

10:45 – 11:45

Welcome & Preview of the 2023-24 Year

President Ann Vanvick will welcome us to another exciting and enriching year. Program Vice President Leslie Swenson will introduce the Topic, Focus Day and International Day chairs who will give you a preview of the exciting year to come. We will update you on Fourth Monday Interest Group programs and have reports from our Membership and Gala chairs.

Presenter: Leslie Swenson

Recognition of Past Presidents

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 **Cafesjian Art Trust**

Andy Schlauch, Executive Director of the
Cafesjian Art Trust (CAT)

Founder Gerard L. Cafesjian's passion for art – particularly the medium of glass- inspired him to assemble one of the world's finest collections of contemporary glass sculpture, including works by Chihuly, Joan Miro, Georges Braque and others. Schlauch will talk about the CAT museum, the Chihuly exhibit, the current highlights of the collection and the upcoming "Fooling the Eye" exhibit.

Presenter: Leslie Swenson

September 18, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 Health

Misdiagnosed. Addicted. Cured.

Nikki Jessop, Motivational Speaker

Jessop takes you through hospital hallways, places she frequented beginning at the age of six. She went through decades of chronic illness, surgeries, pain and depression and as a child spent some time in the crisis center and had poor school attendance. Jessop shares her story and messages of hope and is sure to inspire you to live a life of trust, gratitude, and acceptance.

Presenter: Lil Lindsey

10:45 – 11:45 Environment

The SPRUCE Experiment

Dr. Paul J. Hanson, Project Coordinator,
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

The US Department of Energy's Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Changing Environment (SPRUCES) experiment is located in northern Minnesota. SPRUCES is a large-scale manipulation designed to allow researchers to study the response of peatlands to warming and elevated atmospheric CO₂ treatments in a high-carbon ecosystem. The study includes observations of vegetation, microbial community, and ecosystem function

responses to a wide range of future warming scenarios.

Presenter: Veronica Johnson

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15: Education

A Look at the Dakota Language Nest and Outdoor Classrooms

Sheila Williams Ridge, Director of the
University of Minnesota Child Development
Laboratory School

Ridge is noted for being influential in nature-based learning for early childhood education touting the lasting developmental benefits of a relationship between children and nature. Using that and the exploration of the Dakota Language program, she will explore how these innovations help meet children's developmental needs as well as foster a sense of community and place for young people in Minnesota.

Presenter: Lora Opsahl

No meeting September 25



October 2, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 Science and Technology

The Wonders of Hyperbaric Medicine

Dr. Thomas Masters, Physician, HCMC
Department of Emergency Medicine,
Division of Hyperbaric Medicine

Numerous health benefits, even lifesaving, can be attributed to hyperbaric medicine. Hyperbaric medicine is medical treatment in which an ambient pressure greater than sea level atmospheric pressure is a necessary component. While treatment for only thirteen health scenarios is approved by the FDA, internationally over one hundred conditions may be helped with this treatment. Learn about this often-overlooked treatment center at HCMC.

Presenter: Lil Lindsey

10:45 – 11:45 The Arts

Conscious Seeing

Judy Olausen, Portrait Photographer

Leonardo da Vinci once said, “People look without seeing...” We think we see everything, but studies have proven that we see what we expect to see and are informed by our past experiences. Olausen will use her work and experience to help us see with more discernment. After all, the greatest joy is to find a new way of seeing something familiar, something that we look at every day but don’t really appreciate or notice.

Presenter: Ginny Wheeler

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Literary Pursuits

***The Home Stretch: North of 80 — One
Day at a Time***

Dave Nimmer, Retired University of St.
Thomas Journalism Professor, Minneapolis
Star Reporter and Managing Editor, and
WCCO TV Reporter

Thirty years ago, Nimmer won the
Minnesota Book Award with a personal
narrative. Now he is older, slower, slightly
battered, and hopefully stronger with a new
personal narrative - The Home Stretch. He
has lost friends, chased dreams and learned
life lessons. A passionate, funny storyteller,
he will tell you the stories he has written to
help him understand where he has been and
where he is headed.

Presenter: Gini Hickman

October 9, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 Equity and Inclusion

Culture Wars in the Classroom

Deborah Appleman, Hollis L. Caswell
Professor of Educational Studies at Carleton
College

Teaching has rarely been so stressful a profession, as challenges to educational materials, texts and methods arise from both ends of the political spectrum. Consensus in the classroom is no easier to achieve than it is in American society generally. Join Appleman for a look at our fractious learning environments—how did they get this way and what are their implications for our shared future as Americans.

Presenter: Lil Lindsey

10:45 – 11:45 Public Policy

Our Water, Environment and Politics

Arne Carlson, Former Minnesota Governor

Minnesota's "land of sky-blue waters" provides more than recreation and major

economic benefit; humans need potable water. Certain practices have already lowered water quality. New threats include proposed agriculture, business and mining projects. State government should protect water, but recent administrations have not/are not. Concerned groups and individuals including Carlson are working to expose the money affecting state policies.

Presenter: Jan Heinig Mosman

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Health

Biophilia and the Importance of Animal Kinship

Tanya K. Bailey, Animal-Assisted Interactions Program Director, Boynton Health, University of Minnesota

People have long found comfort and support by interacting and sharing their lives with animals, yet only in the later part of the 20th century did human healthcare providers, researchers, and educators start to recognize that these interactions were deeply therapeutic for the body, mind, and soul. She

will explore the importance of this kinship across the human lifespan.

Presenter: Norma Schuh

October 16, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 Literary Pursuits

Health: Our Planet's and Our Own

Ranae Hanson, Author

In her award-winning book, *Watershed, Attending to Body and Earth in Distress*, Hanson explores the concept of caring for our strained earth as well as we care for our bodies in a medical crisis. She will help us discover how the health of our bodies and the world are inextricably linked, and tending to this shared distress can create a new feeling of well-being.

Presenter: Vicki Dunn

10:45 – 11:45 Long Range Planning
Committee

**What Will the Minneapolis Branch Look
Like in Ten Years?**

**Sheila Lind, AAUW Long Range Planning
Committee Chair**

Let your voices be heard! Today we will have the opportunity for members to share ideas and visions for the future of the Minneapolis AAUW Branch. We will see a video from the vice president of the national AAUW board, Malinda Gaul, discussing the future of AAUW. Then we will break into small groups to talk about **our** branch.

Presenter: Sheila Lind

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Empowering Women

**American Women and the Fight for
Equality**

Elizabeth Griffith, Historian

Griffith combines research and riveting narrative to describe the political and social struggle for equal rights by American women after they secured suffrage. Her book, *Formidable: American Women and the Fight for Equality: 1920-2020*, broadens the lens to credit the role of black woman

and other diverse leaders. Griffith looks at the role of race, class, and religion in our country's goal of equal rights for all.

Presenter: Lil Lindsey

October 23, 2023

9:30 - 10:30 Monday Interest Groups
Please see the Bulletin [page 21](#)

Fiction Book Discussion Heritage Room

***Horse* by Geraldine Brooks**

Discussion Leader: DeDe Scanlon

Brooks' novel focuses on two young black men, and shuttles between the present day and the 19th century world of horse racing. The author uses a true story of a nineteenth century racehorse, Lexington, whose skeleton is in the Smithsonian, blending the antebellum south with present day America. The story interweaves art, dramatic turns of events, and romance.

Travel

Presidents' Hall

Morocco: A Unique and Exotic Mix of Cultures

Leader: Kate Johnson

Morocco offers medinas brimming with color and the scents of a thousand spices, soaring mountains and desert dunes, Berber villagers who welcome visitors, and traditional music at every turn. Here is a modern, Muslim kingdom that has embraced tourism on its own terms.

Beading

Dining Room

Leader: Ann Vanvick

Ann will assist you in making a one-of-a-kind beaded name tag (or glasses/mask holder) for yourself at the low price of \$5. Or you can make one to be sold to raise funds for our branch.

Hot Topics

Founders Room

Leader: Lil Lindsey

Join us for a lively interactive discussion on newsworthy events and more.

10:45 – 11:45 Environment

We Are All the Climate Generation

Denise Fosse, Senior Director of
Development, Communication, &
Marketing, Climate Generation

Are you concerned about the impact of climate change on the world? Do you find yourself experiencing climate anxiety? If so, you are part of the Climate Generation. Join Fosse in learning about the history of climate change from science to a movement seeking climate justice. You will also learn about the Climate Generation directly from a young person whose generation is acutely affected by climate change.

Presenter: Diana Kamp

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Public Policy

**Nonvoter to Activist to AAUW MN Public
Policy Vice President**

Kelsey Waits, AAUW MN Public Policy
VP

A member asked, “How do I get my granddaughter interested in politics and voting?” Waits speaks from personal experience as to what may spark interest, as well as the opportunities to get involved and become a voter and an activist. She has young children who need her to be an activist for them. She found AAUW advocates for issues she cares about and supports.

Presenter: Veronica Johnson

October 30, 2023

Focus Day: Minnesota’s Great Outdoors

9:30 – 10:30

Minnesota State Parks for Everyone

Linda Radimecky, Interpretive Park
Naturalist

There are 75 Minnesota state parks and recreation areas ready for you to explore. Go camping, take a nature hike, pack a picnic. Your adventure awaits. These are special places, each one with a unique story or feature. And there are many hidden gems

that most of us have never heard of just waiting for discovery. Radimecky will help us learn about these great resources.

Presenter: Carrie D'Andrea

10:45 – 11:45

Is This the End of Night?

Paul Bogard: Author, Professor, Hamline University

A starry night is one of nature's most magical wonders. Yet most of us no longer experience true darkness. In this talk, based on his book *The End of Night*, Bogard seeks to restore our awareness of dark night skies and explain their influence on everything from science to art. Discover what we have lost, what we still have, what we might regain, and simple ways to reduce the brightness of our nights.

Presenter: Rita Britton

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15

***A Love Affair with Birds:
The Life of Thomas Sadler Roberts***

Sue Leaf, Minnesota Author

Did you ever wonder who the Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary at Lake Harriet was named for?

Leaf's talk covers the life of Dr. T. S. Roberts and how he developed a passion for birds, nurtured it through his teen years, college and a medical career, eventually to become the first ornithologist at the University of Minnesota and the guiding light of the Bell Museum.

Presenter: Julie Ollila

November 6, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 Public Policy

**Gaps in Services for Children and Youth
at Hennepin County District Court**

Judge Tanya M. Bransford, Criminal
Court Judge, Fourth Judicial District

We know children and youth in Hennepin County are often in the news for criminal

behavior, child abuse, neglect cases, and for missing mental health services. How is Hennepin County District Court responding to these needs? What services are missing? Have the holes in services increased over the last three years? Judge Bransford gives her views as a judge in Hennepin County since 1994, managing a caseload of juvenile cases.

Presenter: Nan Beman

10:45 – 11:45 Health

The Minnesota Experiment: The Biology of Human Starvation

Scott Crow, MD, Vice President for Psychiatry and Chief Research Officer, Accanto Health

Toward the end of WWII, experts in nutrition and starvation became very concerned about how to refeed the millions of starving people around the world after the war was over. Crow, an expert in treating eating disorders, will tell us about the Minnesota Human Starvation Experiment that was held to address this issue at the University of Minnesota Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene from 1944 to 1955.

Presenter: Carrie D'Andrea

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Equity and Inclusion

The Journey of the First-Generation Immigrant Child

Fartun Nur, Author and Housing Portfolio
Director

Leaving behind one's homeland and its culture in search of better opportunities is always a difficult journey. The experience is shaped by a multitude of factors, including cultural adjustments, discrimination, and many socioeconomic hurdles. An immigrant is a testament to the human spirit's resilience in the pursuit of a better future. Learn about the journey of this first-generation immigrant.

Presenter: Kay Kessel

November 11, 2023

GALA
WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

November 13, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 Science and Technology

**Robotics Programs: More than Just
Robots**

Cheryl Moeller, Executive Director of High
Tech Kids

High Tech Kids delivers fun, hands-on
STEM programs that inspire Minnesota
youth to build confidence and thrive as the
next generation of innovators. This program
will give us an overview of High Tech Kids

and explain how and why Minnesota is a leader in robotics programs nationwide. Moeller will share the results of the ninth year of a ten-year study on the effect of robotics programs on girls and their completion of STEM degrees in college.

Presenter: Carol Sheldon

10:45 – 11:45 Empowering Women

My Career Journey – Facing Forward

Mary Anne Potts, Director of Content Program, Indigo

Potts, as a woman journalist, found sharing stories of the world's best climbers, skiers, and surfers very exciting. But food shortages during the pandemic led our speaker to Indigo, a technology provider to farmers to create sustainable agriculture. Harnessing nature to help farmers feed the planet was a mission she could get behind. We will hear Potts' story and how Indigo is helping the planet.

Presenter: Bonnie Dyer Featherstone

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Education

Cultivating the Next Generation of Leaders

Sara Dziuk, President and CEO, Junior Achievement North

Junior Achievement (JA) North prepares young people with the skills and mindset to build thriving communities. Dziuk will share how Junior Achievement's programming addresses the skills, wealth, and opportunity gaps our communities are facing. Learn how JA is the solution through its guiding principles and transformative educational experiences.

Presenter: Becky Farber

November 20, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 Environment Committee

Whooping Cranes in the Eastern Migratory Population (Zoom Presentation)

Stephanie M. Schmidt, Outreach
Coordinator for the International Crane
Foundation

Whooping cranes, once near extinct, returned to the eastern United States in 2001 following a collaborative reintroduction program led by the International Crane Foundation. Following this presentation, you will be able to identify whooping cranes, understand their current and historic threats, and know the ins and outs of the work being done to protect cranes throughout their flyways.

Presenter: Leslie Swenson

10:45 – 11:45 Literary Pursuits

**Why Young Adults? And Why (How)
Writing Over a Lifetime?**

Gary Eldon Peter, Author

Winner of the 2023 Minnesota Book Award for Young Adult Literature for his novel, *The Complicated Calculus (and Cows) of Carl Paulsen*, Peter will talk about the challenges and rewards that the genre presents. He will discuss his thirty-year writing journey from being a beginning

writer, to having two published books later in life, and staying motivated to keep at it over the long haul.

Presenter: Sheila Lind

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Arts

**Finding My Voice:
An Actor Becomes an Advocate**

Sue Scott, Actor, Voiceover Artist and
Podcast Creator/Producer

Scott is a veteran stage and voiceover actor, who for 24 years was the female cast member on *A Prairie Home Companion*. After *PHC* ended, Scott returned to stage in a variety of theater roles, but since 2019 has become thoroughly immersed as an advocate, creating and producing the live show and podcast, *Island of Discarded Women*.

Presenter: Cathryn Kennedy

November 27, 2023

9:30 to 10:30 Monday Interest Groups
Please see the Bulletin page 21.

Non-Fiction Book Discussion Founders
Room

The Last Slave Ship: by Ben Raines

Discussion Leader: Lynn Hjelmeland

This is the true story of the last ship to carry enslaved people to America and the remarkable town its survivors founded after emancipation. This story is told by the journalist who found the remains of the ship in 2019.

Fiction Book Discussion Heritage Room

The Four Winds: by Kristin Hannah

Discussion Leader: Sheila Lind

The Four Winds brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it, the harsh realities that divided us as a nation, and the enduring battle between the haves and have-nots. This book is a testament of hope, resilience, and strength of

the human spirit to survive adversity as personified by the indomitable spirit of one woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

Great Decisions

Presidents' Hall

Climate Migration

Leaders: Ruth Andersen, Marilyn Listvan

Across the world, global warming and geophysical hazards such as earthquakes and other forms of environmental degradation undermine people's ability to survive and thrive in their home settings. Climate migration results when people are faced with threats or difficulties. Examples of countries experiencing migration due to rising seas, floods, fires and drought include Cuba, Pakistan, Caribbean Islands, Pacific Islands, Nicaragua and Central American countries, the central African continent, and many others.

10:45 – 11:45 Equity and Inclusion

The Original Minnesotans

Tadd Johnson, University of Minnesota
Regent

Johnson will provide each of us a template and cultural framework to illustrate a variety of aspects with respect to Native American history. He will help us understand those who came long before our ancestors arrived on its shore. As a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in the public, private, and academic arena. Recently he became the first Native member of the University's Board of Regents. Johnson offers a perspective that no other regent before has been able to do.

Presenter: Becky Farber

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Empowering Women

Emerge Mothers Academy: The Power of Alumnae

Becca Erickson, Founder and Director of
Emerge Mothers Academy

The founding director of Emerge Mothers Academy (EMA), Erickson is revolutionizing the experience of being a

mom-led household in the Twin Cities. Erickson will present an overview of EMA services and the power of women lifting each other up, including through start-up businesses. Sa'rai Doram, an alumna of EMA who was the recipient of a MicroLoan grant, will join her.

Presenter: Donna Clark



**CAROL SHELDON AND
SPEAKER CLAY CARTER
NOVEMBER 2022**

Notes