

Welcome



Karen S and Susan P welcome you.

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From Our President

As we bid farewell to another dynamic term, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've embarked upon together. From the outset, we committed ourselves to fostering an environment of change, embracing flexibility, and exercising the virtue of patience. As your president, I could not be prouder of what we have achieved.



****Change: A Catalyst for Growth****

Our willingness to embrace change has been nothing short of inspirational. We have gone from owners of a house and business to renters. From revamping our outreach programs to adapting to the virtual landscape, we've proven that change is not just inevitable but an opportunity for growth. Our archives have been stored at the Hennepin County Central Library and an oral history was created. Whether it was navigating the intricacies of virtual meetings, creating a new strategic plan, or reinventing our fundraising strategies, each shift has propelled us forward.



****Flexibility: The Cornerstone of Resilience****

Flexibility has been our secret weapon in the face of challenges. We have been like acrobats gracefully adapting to unforeseen circumstances, turning obstacles into steppingstones. Who would have thought that our annual gala, held at a new venue, would be so fun and successful? Our flexibility has not only sustained us but has made us more resilient and resourceful than ever before.



****Patience: A Virtue the Binds Us Together****

In a world of instant gratification, our collective patience has been the glue that binds our Minneapolis branch. We have tackled uncertainties, juggled priorities, and weathered storms together. Patience has not only been a virtue but a beacon guiding us through uncharted waters. As we have waited for the return to normalcy, we have discovered that our strength lies in our ability to endure and adapt.



****Celebrating Successes, Big and Small****

Let us take a moment to celebrate every success, big and small, that we have achieved this term. Whether it's the impactful projects we've undertaken, the bonds we've strengthened, or the positive impact we've had on our community, each achievement is a testament to our collective dedication. As we eagerly anticipate the start of a

new term, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the spirit of change, flexibility, and patience. Our journey is far from over, and the best is yet to come!

Thank you for being the driving force behind the Minneapolis branch of AAUW. Your commitment to our mission is what makes our organization thrive.

Here's to a fantastic term filled with growth, resilience, and enduring camaraderie!

Warm regards,
Ann Vanvick
President, Minneapolis Branch AAUW



The Tech Committee joined long-time member Esther Fabes for a grand farewell as she prepared to relocate near her daughter.

Officers of the Branch

2023-2024

President	Ann Vanvick
Membership Co-Vice Presidents	Victor Barela Rae Cornelius
Program 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, 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.

Business Meetings

Second Monday of each month

11:45 a.m. on Zoom

Membership

March is an excellent time of year to encourage membership in AAUW. Beginning March 15, new members receive 15 months of membership at the regular 12-month rate of \$327.00. This membership is good through June 30, 2025. We want to share AAUW's fine mission, great programs, friendly lunches and new friendships with as many people as possible – both women and men are welcome.

Rae Cornelius and Victor Barela
Membership Cochairs



Gracious hostesses Sheila Lind and Shari Parsons at a Gala High Tea Party in January.

Development

ADVANCE OUR MISSION WITH AAUW MINNEAPOLIS GIFT PROGRAMS

Legacy, or planned giving, is a way for you to help ensure that the AAUW mission of working for equity for women and girls and for our branch, lives on after you are gone.

Please consider designating AAUW Minneapolis Branch in your will or other planned giving. There are many ways to do this now and for the future including Wills, Trusts, Donor Advised Funds, Required Minimum Distributions, Qualified Charitable Distributions or as a beneficiary of an IRA or insurance policy.

Consult your attorney or financial planner for additional information. Since AAUW Minneapolis is a 501(c)(3) organization, giving to our branch is tax deductible. Contact the office or Development Committee if you have questions or would like to talk to someone about this.

Nell Wegmann,
Development Chair



Scholarship

This year our AAUW branch is giving support to 13 women graduates of Minneapolis Public High Schools as they pursue their college degrees at 10 different universities across the country. It is exciting to support these scholars as they make this significant journey into adulthood and careers.

Our AAUW Minneapolis Branch Scholarship program is one way we foster the AAUW mission of education and equality for women and girls. It is through the generous contributions of you, our members, that we can assist these deserving young women.



Scholarship board members hosted a brunch for the scholars on December 28, 2023.

AAUW Funds

I want to thank members for supporting AAUW Funds. Donations came in with the ASK letter in December and many more were made online.

Thank you for generously supporting our national organization for the research, lobbying, And other important work they do.

A new task has been assigned to the AAUW Funds Committee. Every year, National AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for leadership training, inspiration, and networking. For years, AAUW Minneapolis Branch has sent a student to NCCWSL – the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders – when we could find an interested student. Last spring, our board designated \$30,000, part of a generous bequest from late member Ardis Niemann Noonan, to be used to send young women to NCCWSL. The AAUW Funds Committee was charged with the task of encouraging young women to attend this conference. The committee met to discuss whom to send to University of Maryland, College Park, May 30 – June 1, for this exciting opportunity. It was decided that the conference would be offered to our scholars first, then other young women connected to AAUW Minneapolis Branch. The funds would pay for registration, lodging, airfare and would reimburse for certain other expenses, with receipts. We want to make

this affordable for anyone who wants to attend. In addition, this year we applied for and got a \$1,000 grant from AAUW MN to help send a student. We hope to have a few women attend supported by the Minneapolis Branch. You can learn more about NCCWSL at aauw.org.

Shari Parsons
AAUW Funds Chair

Out and About with AAUW

The Out & About with AAUW Committee is continuing to plan fun outings for every month from now through the summer! Check the Monday newsletter for specifics as things get finalized.

In March, we will tour **The Museum of Russian Art**.

On April 18th we will tour **Landmark Center** in downtown St Paul. This could include visiting the Schubert Museum and the Gallery of Wooden Art and enjoying a noon piano concert in one of the courtrooms!

In June we are planning a visit to the **Mayo Clinic**, so stay tuned!

Contact Susan Tasa or Pat Deckas Becerra for details or suggestions.

Program Topics

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

Focus Day

- April 29: International Day – Haiti



Monday Literature Discussions

Fiction

March *Demon*
Copperhead

By Barbara Kingsolver

April

Breath, Eyes, Memory

By Edwidge Danticat

Nonfiction

April

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

By David Grann

Schedule Meetings at the Gale

Committees or other member groups may meet in the library any day of the week from 9:00 on; however days when Office Manager Sharon is working in the office, normally Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, are best.

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.
Nonfiction discussions and Hot Topics alternate monthly.

Book Discussions

Fiction: Julie Ollila

Heritage Room

Nonfiction: DeDe Scanlon

Founders Room

The lists of books selected for this year are on page 13 of this Bulletin. Discussion of the book is facilitated by a branch member.

Great Decisions

Presidents' Hall

Leaders: Ruth Andersen and Marilyn Listvan

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

Hot Topics

Founders Room

Leader: Lil Lindsey

Join us for lively, interactive discussions on newsworthy events.

Lunch Policy

RESERVATIONS

Lunch reservations MUST be made or cancelled before noon on the Wednesday before the Monday meeting. If you do not cancel your reservation, you are expected to pay for that meal, as the branch must pay for the meal.

1. Online system: <https://signup.com/go/XBwepOa>
Be sure to click on SAVE at the end
(See more SignUp detail on page 20)

OR

2. Send an email to: office@aauwmpls.org

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

CHECK IN

General Seating and Guests: There are two clearly marked “Check-in and Pay” tables (main floor near elevator and lower level opposite the elevator). Payment accepted at the check-in tables before 9:30 and 10:45 sessions. **If you arrive later than 10:45 a.m., please check in at the second-floor office.**

President’s Table: Check in on the main floor.

Same-Day Registration: To make a same-day reservation, 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 morning if there is availability. **There will be an extremely limited number of same-day reservations.**

PAYMENT

Cash is accepted at the check-in tables.

Credit cards are accepted in the second-floor office.

Checks are no longer accepted.

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 reservation: \$25

TABLE RESERVATIONS

Lunch tables for Monday may be reserved only if you have guests. Table reservations can only be made at the Arrangements Table in the main floor hallway before 9:30 a.m. on the Monday of your reservation.

Alternative meals: Please request a form for alternative meals from Office Manager Sharon Rauenhurst at 612-870-1661. 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 to your meal request. If you have made a reservation for a special meal, that will be your meal. Please do not switch meals.

Detailed Instructions for Lunch Reservations

1. Click on **Lunch Reservations** in the weekly branch newsletter.
2. Find the **date** you would like to attend and click the **green sign-up button**.
3. Enter your **email address** (your reminders will come to that email). Click **Continue**.
4. Check that the email address you entered is correct. **If wrong:** Click **Back**. **If correct:** Click **Confirm**.
5. Reserve for yourself: put **1** in “**# of Spots**” box.
6. To add a guest. Click **Save and Add Another Person**. Put **1** in “**# of Spots**” box and fill in the guest’s name and information. (You can use your own phone number and email.) Repeat for additional guests.
7. When you are done reserving, click **Save And Done**
8. If you see a series of ads, click on the X in upper right corner to close.
9. The list of dates will appear. Repeat steps 5-7 for additional dates you want to reserve.
10. When you are done, **click on the blue “SAVE” button at the very top of the form.**
11. You will see a list of your reservation dates with the option to print and/or add to your calendar.
12. Cancellation: cancel in SignUp or contact the office office@aauwmpls.org or (612) 870-1661 (by noon Wednesday).
13. You will get a reminder email on Tuesday prior to your reservation date.

14. If you do not get the emailed reminder: A. Check in your spam/trash folder. B. Go to SignUp and sign up if you are not on the list. C. If you are on the SignUp list, please check with the office – Sharon will help you.
15. **If you forget to cancel, you are responsible for paying for the meal.**

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 AAUW Minneapolis website: minneapolis-mn.aauw.net. If you have a speaker, check the presenter's packet for snow day instructions.

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

Professional and Casual Business Clothing Drive - Plus Children April 22, 2024

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. Please bring **spring** through **fall** clothing for **men and women**.

Clothing for children, from infants to teenage boys and girls, is also being collected due to the increased needs of families.

On Monday, **April 22**, *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 contact Denny Scharlemann at (612) 741-2216.

Guest Policy

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

Reservations: When making a meal reservation for a guest, (either online or by email) state your membership status and that of your guest.

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 luncheon table with your guest, make the reservation at the Arrangements Table on the main floor that morning.

**“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it
is like wrapping a present
and not giving it.”**

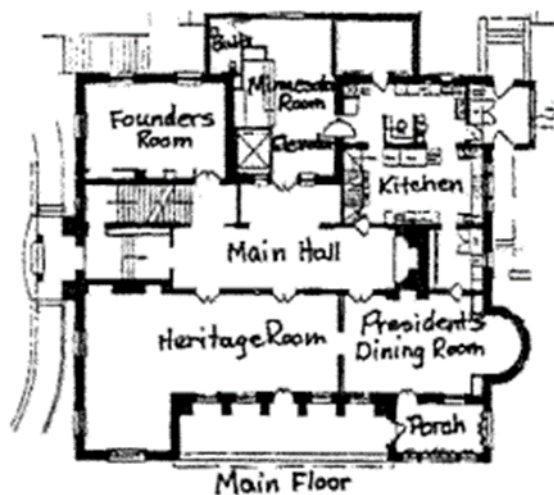
William Arthur Ward

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.
- Leave the two front rows in the Presidents' Hall on the west side for those with walkers or wheelchairs.
- Leave 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 toward the back 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.

Gale Mansion Floor Plan



Note: the AAUW library is located in the Association Room.

MONDAY PROGRAMS

March 4, 2024

9:30 – 10:30 Science and Technology

Update on LGBTQ+ Issues

Kat Rohn, Executive Director, Outfront
Minnesota

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) identities and issues are at the forefront of cultural conversations in the United States. In 2023, as states around the country passed book bans and restrictions on medical care for transgender youth, Minnesota advanced progressive legislation protecting LGBTQ+ communities. Rohn will provide an overview of the current landscape, terminology, and best practices around these topics, while exploring how a culture that welcomes and includes LGBTQ+ identities advances equity for all of us.
Presenter: Carol Sheldon

10:45 – 11:45 Public Policy

Hunger in Minnesota Is Not a Myth: Challenges and Opportunities to Fix It

Matthew Ayres, Executive Director, Joyce
Uptown Food Shelf

We think of food scarcity as an urban problem.

This is simultaneously truth and myth. Urban disadvantaged people experience food scarcity and often live in food deserts, yet hunger is statewide and acute in rural communities. Solving food scarcity is linked to education, housing, and access to living-wage jobs. Multi-pronged approaches are needed with the participation of communities, governments, nonprofits, corporations, and advocates.
Presenter: Glenna Case

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Education

Minnesota 2023 Teacher of the Year

Michael Houston, Math Teacher, Harding High School, St. Paul Public Schools

Nationally, Black men make up only two percent of teachers in U.S. public schools. Houston is the 59th educator and second African American male to receive this award in our state. His education journey will emphasize how important it is for young people to see themselves represented among their teachers.

Presenter: Linda Lewis

March 11, 2024

9:30 – 10:30 Empowering Women

Inspired to Lead

Sharon Sayles Belton, Former Mayor, City of Minneapolis

Sayles Belton will share reflections of life – changing events and relationships both social and political that contributed to her election as the first woman and first African American to be elected Mayor of the City of Minneapolis. She will highlight how she leveraged her position to advance the roles of women in government and the principles of the common good.

Presenter: Patty Phillips

10:45 – 11:45 The Arts

Here and the Hereafter

Joan Soranno, Architect, FAIA Design Principal, HGA

The Garden Mausoleum at Lakewood Cemetery, designed by Soranno, is a beloved addition to a treasured landmark. Its beautiful materials and luminous spaces for contemplation and remembrance, and its relationship to the landscape, result from an intentional design ethos that seeks to inspire. Soranno will also describe the process by which she and husband

John Cook designed their new home on Lake of the Isles during the COVID pandemic.

Presenter: Kate Johnson

11:45 Announcements
BUSINESS MEETING
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Environment

Sustainable Forest Management

Nels B. Huse and John Awonohopay

The Menominee Tribal Enterprises, Neopit, WI, has been successfully managing their tribal forest for over 160 years, as reported in *The New York Times*. They have done such an excellent job environmentally and financially that they now have more pristine timber to cut than loggers who can cut it. They will share the secrets to their success and the challenges they face.

Presenter: Nell Wegmann



On January 15, 2023, our speaker explained participatory research in which community members co-conduct research alongside academic researchers. She spoke of research being done on autism.

March 18, 2024

9:30 – 10:30 Literary Pursuits

A Writer's World

Marcie R. Rendon, Author, Poet, Playwright,
Consultant

As a citizen of the White Earth Nation, Rendon was chosen to receive the McKnight Distinguished Artist Award and selected as one of *Oprah Magazine's* 31 Native American authors "to read right now." She is the creative mind behind the Raving Native Theater and received the Loft's Spoken Word Immersion Fellowship for her work with incarcerated women. Her debut novel, *Murder on the Red River*, was discussed by our Mystery Readers Zoom Group.

Presenter: Mary Moriarty

10:45 – 11:45 Health

**Adolescent Depression, Anxiety and Risk of
Suicide**

Charles Lewis, MD, Assistant Professor,
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences, U of M Medical School

In February 2023, the CDC released a report of a significant increase in adolescent depression and anxiety over the past 10 years. In April, *The New York Times* reported an increased risk of violent

deaths in young people, including suicide. Lewis will discuss these trends, possible contributing factors, and options for treatment and solutions.
Presenter: Jennifer Olson

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Equity and Inclusion

Can Minneapolis End Homelessness?

Caroline Hood, President and CEO of RS EDEN

For the last 50 years, RS EDEN has provided safe, affordable, and supportive housing in Minneapolis. Hood will share stories of how folks end up unhoused and how this is being addressed on a citywide level. She will also explain how advocacy can help solve this heartbreaking situation in Minneapolis that disproportionately impacts our BIPOC and LGBTQ+ residents.

Presenter: Laura Murphy

March 25, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 MONDAY INTEREST GROUPS

Please see the Bulletin **page 14**

BEADING

Dining Room

Leader: Ann Vanvick

Ann Vanvick 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.

FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION

Heritage Room

Demon Copperhead
by Barbara Kingsolver

Discussion Leader: Lynn Hjelmeland

This is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a trailer in Appalachia with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. This Pulitzer Prize winning novel is a recasting of the classic novel *David*

Copperfield by Charles Dickens. It is a riveting and ultimately hopeful read.

10:45 – 11:45 The Arts

We Have Such a Talented and Creative Membership!

Shari Parsons, Arts Committee Chair

Be prepared to be awed by the talents of our members once again. This program will showcase the creativity of Minneapolis Branch AAUW members who have a variety of talents, skills and artistic abilities. Enjoy!

Presenter: Shari Parsons

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Long-Range Planning

**Presentation of Strategic Plan 2024 for
AAUW Minneapolis Branch**

Sheila Lind, Chair, Long-Range Planning

The Long-Range Planning Committee has developed a preliminary strategic plan for the Minneapolis Branch. Each area of the plan will be discussed, with comments invited from members. The plan represents input from branch member discussions and surveys, along with

goals from the national and MN AAUW strategic plans.



Members enjoyed the Gala Mystery Dinner Party. Which of these innocent-looking people is actually a **murderer**???

April 1, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 Equity Inclusion

American Indians and the American Dream

Kasey Keeler, Author, Assistant Professor,
School of Human Ecology and American Indian
and Indigenous Studies, UW-Madison

In her book, *American Indians and the American Dream*, Keeler, a member of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and Citizen of Potawatomi Nation, illustrates a revolutionary view about American Indian people's ability to pursue home ownership across Minneapolis/St. Paul. Born and raised in the Twin Cities, Keeler pushes readers to consider the growing number of suburban Indians who exist outside the reservation.

Presenter: Lil Lindsey

10:45 – 11:45 Education

**Against All Odds: One Haitian Woman's
Success Story**

M. Jacqueline Regis, Retired Hennepin County
District Court Judge, Current Statewide Senior
Judge

The *Daughter of L'Arsenal* is the story of one Haitian woman overcoming overwhelming odds to rise from abject poverty to American

prominence. In this moving memoir of love and driven determination, Regis tells the story of her struggle from an impoverished childhood in Haiti to a prestigious legal career in Minnesota.

Presenter: Glenna Case

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Empowering Women

***Hudson Bay Bound: Two Women, One Dog,
Two Thousand Miles to the Arctic***

Natalie Warren, Author, Scholar, and Speaker
on Environmental Issues

Join Warren on her journey to become one of the first two women to paddle over 2,000 miles (about twice the distance from Florida to New York City) from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay. She describes wildlife encounters, fierce weather, struggles in an enduring friendship, and a polar bear sighting. What can water teach us about interconnectivity, resilience, reciprocity, and hope? Learn to feel, know, and breathe in the complex world around you.

Presenter: Nell Wegmann

April 8, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 Health

Buoyancy

Jeannie Piekos

It was a call no one would want. She answered, and her life changed with a word: *cancer*.

Diagnosed with a rare, aggressive uterine cancer, Piekos, writer, poet and arts activist, authored poems, journal entries and CaringBridge posts that eventually became her award-winning memoir, *Buoyancy*. Piekos will share that journey from life-threatening diagnosis through debilitating treatments and into a transformed self, striving to find self-acceptance, and hopefully, recovery.

Presenter: DeDe Scanlon

10:45 – 11:45 Education

What Does Artificial Intelligence (AI) Have to Do with Me? How is AI Being Used in Schools and the Everyday World?

Dr. Jesse Rude, Asst. Professor, Macalester College

What is artificial intelligence? How can we use it for good, and how can it be misused? What about

its use in the classroom? We need to know and understand how it is affecting business, hospitals, schools, and everyday life. Rude is a data scientist and educator who deals with AI issues. As a professor and member of Macalester's Working Group on AI, he is helping students grapple with the ever-evolving opportunities and challenges related to AI.

Presenter: Becky Farber

11:45 Announcements
BUSINESS MEETING
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 The Arts

Women's Work From Around the World

Mary Anne Wise, Co-founder of Cultural Cloth

Wise will take you on a journey into the homes of marginalized artisans in developing countries to see their struggles and artistic triumphs. These encounters inspired Wise and her business partner to open Cultural Cloth in Maiden Rock, WI, a destination for textiles where they sell the work of these artisans. They also co-founded the nonprofit Multicolores in Guatemala and wrote an award-winning book about artisan development work.

Presenter: Pamela Diamond

April 15, 2024

9:30 – 10:30 Science and Technology

Apollo: Why We Went to the Moon

David Jones, Guest Speaker on Historical Topics

Enjoy a look at humankind's greatest technological achievement. July of 1969 will be remembered for centuries to come as the first time that humankind ventured beyond the earth's boundaries and explored a new world. There were many forces, political, social and fiscal, at work that led us to the moon. This historical talk will explore some of those forces.

Presenter: Marilyn Listvan

10:45 – 11:45 Empowering Women

The Exceptions: The Fight for Women in Science

Kate Zernike, Author, National Correspondent for *The New York Times*

From the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who broke the story, this is the inspiring account of the sixteen female scientists who forced MIT to publicly admit it had been discriminating against its female faculty, sparking a nationwide reckoning with the pervasive sexism in science.

Zernike will tell us what their story teaches us about the progress of women in academia and beyond.

Presenter: Lil Lindsey

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Public Policy

Voices at the Table: From Political Candidate to Board Chair

Irene Fernando, Hennepin County
Commissioner, District 2

Fernando is the first Filipino American and youngest woman to win a seat on the Hennepin County Board. She is also the youngest elected board chair, and the first woman of color to serve on the Hennepin County Board. She will speak about her experience in local politics and tell us how the county sets priorities, makes decisions, and advances solutions to local problems.

Presenter: Ellen Hughes

**“Wherever there is a human being,
there is an opportunity for
kindness.”**

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

April 22, 2024

**8:30 – 9:30 Professional and Casual Business
Clothing and Children's Clothing Drive**

**9:30 to 10:30 MONDAY INTEREST
GROUPS**

Please see the Bulletin **page 14.**

Nonfiction Book Discussion Founders Room

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

Discussion Leader: Leslie Kreofsky

From the author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, this is a page-turning story of shipwreck, survival, and savagery, culminating in a court martial that reveals a shocking truth. The powerful narrative reveals the deeper meaning of the events on The Wager, showing that it was not only the captain and crew who ended up on trial, but the very idea of empire.

Literature Book Discussion Heritage Room

Breath, Eyes, Memory
by Edwidge Danticat

Discussion Leader: Glenna Case

This novel reveals the traditions, suffering, and

wisdom of Haitians. Through Sophie Caco's eyes, we experience the wonder, terror, and heartache of a life divided between New York and Haiti. In New York she learns things no child should know. In Haiti she experiences the supernatural and political violence. The novel celebrates the enduring strength and power of Haitian women.

Great Decisions

Presidents' Hall

Pandemic Preparedness

Leaders: Ruth Andersen, Marilyn Listvan

Looking back at the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international policies. Although this pandemic seems to have waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics? Will countries cooperate and will a consensus emerge on how to manage global health challenges? Should we back away from having national policies in view of resistance to vaccinations in the U.S. within our states and locally?

10:45 – 11:45 Education

Literacy Leadership

Dr. Katie Pikel, Executive Director of Educational Leadership, University of Minnesota

The implementation of the READ Act (Reading

to Ensure Academic Development) is one of the most significant and sweeping legislative changes leaders will undertake in the foreseeable future. Pekel will provide an overview of the policy, describe what brought us to this point, and share recent results from a statewide survey of school principals' thoughts on this and other legislative changes.

Presenter: Sharon Rowe

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Environment

Water Quality and Farming for the Future

Laura Schreiber, Organizer, Policy Department,
Land Stewardship Project

Amanda Koehler, Manager, Policy Department,
Land Stewardship Project

Water quality versus agriculture has been a repeated focus of the news in Minnesota in recent months. Learn about Land Stewardship Project's programmatic and policy organizing to create a just and sustainable farm and food system that improves water quality, builds healthy soil, increases the number of farmers stewarding the land, and sustains thriving rural communities.

Presenter: Diana Kamp

April 29, 2024
INTERNATIONAL DAY - HAITI

9:15 – 9:30

Introduction to Haiti

Welcome to Haiti. We will delve into its unique history and turbulent present. In addition we will learn about Haitian fair-trade products and view Haitian art. History will be examined through the Haitian experience. We will learn about sustainable development versus colonial legacy aid. Lunch will be Haitian cuisine prepared by a Haitian chef. An interactive cultural program will introduce us to Haitian song and dance.

9:30 – 10:30

A History Through Haitian Eyes

Francois O. Ecclesiaste, J.D., Associate, Robins Kaplan LLP

Haitians created the first Black-led republic and independent Caribbean state when they revolted against their French colonial, slaveholding masters. Despite natural disasters, dictatorships, international meddling, invasions, and assassinations, Haitians maintain a fiercely independent spirit and commitment to freedom. Ecclesiaste will guide us through their history. Presenter: Glenna Case

10:45 – 11:45

Haiti: Development Opportunities and Barriers

Neil Van Dine, Country Director for Haiti
Outreach

Once one of the wealthiest colonies in the world, Haiti is now the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. Over 50% of people live below the poverty line. Haiti has endured natural disasters, foreign interventions, dictatorships, and political instability. Yet a vision and method for Haiti to rise above its tragedies and become a developed country exists. Van Dine will discuss the issues and show a path.

Presenter: Glenna Case

11:45 Announcements
Haitian Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15

Shine to the World Through Art: A Haitian Way

Djenane Saint Juste, Founder and Artistic
Director of Afoutayi Haitian Dance, Music and
Arts

Born and raised in Haiti, Saint Juste is an
accomplished professional dancer, singer,

choreographer, educator, folklorist, and author. She will immerse us in the heritage and vibrant presence of today's Haitian arts and culture. Her engaging, interactive presentation will bring understanding, laughter, and joy to all.

Presenter: Carole Clemens

Djenane Saint Juste



May 6, 2024

9:30 – 10:30 Empowering Women

Empowering Women On and Off the Field

Andrea Yoch, Chair and Co-Founder,
Minnesota Aurora

Jessica Poole, President and COO, Minnesota
Aurora

Women continue to face challenges breaking into sports. Minnesota Aurora was created to help women break down the barriers on and off the field while upholding a set of values representative of a diverse community that makes sure everyone is welcome. Yoch and Poole will talk about their unique paths to Minnesota Aurora, the success the team has already experienced, and what is next for Aurora and women's sports.

Presenter: Nell Wegmann

10:45 – 11:45 Education

**University/Tribal Relations: Moving from
Exclusion and Exploitation to Partnership**

Karen Diver, Director, Business Development,
Native American Advancement Initiatives

Native Americans have historically been underrepresented in the student body, faculty and

staff in higher education. Yet for many land grant institutions, their founding and wealth was created by the theft of Tribal lands. By acknowledging the past, there is hope in creating a shared future that builds on trust, equity and understanding.

Presenter: Lora Opsahl

11:45 Announcements
Luncheon

1:15 – 2:15 Public Policy

**Building Coalitions to Promote Health
Equity: Health and Healing from
a Native Perspective**

**Dr. Lisa Martin, PhD, RN, PHN, AHN-BC,
FAAN, U of M School of Nursing**

Martin is a member of the Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. She will discuss the process of building coalitions in medical services for Native populations using the Native perspective for healing. Native tribes have their own unique perspectives regarding health, healing and medicine. Martin will bring her thoughts about improving medical care to tribal members while increasing better health outcomes within those communities.

Presenter: Nan Beman

May 13, 2024

Awards and Closing Day

8:45 – 9:45 Coffee, Tea and Treats

President's Dining Room

9:45 – 10:45 SPECIAL PROGRAM

Presidents' Hall

**Exploring the Future of the Minnesota
Landscape Arboretum**

Andrew Gapinski, Executive Director,
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Join us for an enlightening talk as Gapinski shares insights into the exciting developments and innovations taking place at the Arb. His vision and leadership promise to bring a fresh perspective to this renowned botanical treasure. Discover the latest projects, initiatives, and future plans that will undoubtedly enhance your experience at the Arb. This is a unique opportunity to connect with the driving force behind one of Minnesota's natural gems.

Presenter: Ann Vanvick

10:45 – 11:00 Break

**11:00 – 12:00 Annual Meeting
with Awards and Recognition**

Review the past year, thank outgoing leaders for their work and welcome incoming officers. New scholars will be introduced.

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch

1:15 to 2:15

Books to Enrich Your Summer

Sue Zumberge, Owner, SubText Books

Zumberge will offer suggestions for a multitude of engaging books to enhance your summer reading – truly a book-lover's book fest! As you may know, Zumberge has been coming to AAUW for several years with excellent suggestions for summer reading. SubText Books, an independent bookstore, is in downtown St. Paul.

Membership Data Updates

Winter (cont.)

Ruth Christenson has a change of address*
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