



President's Message

Lisa Hedin

Welcome to 2024!! While AAUW-Hastings Branch may not make any New Year's Resolutions we do have a Strategic Plan, and this is a great time of year to check in on how what we are doing matches up with what we intended to be doing!

AAUW Hastings Branch has a Strategic Plan structured around the categories of Education, Economic Security, and Leadership. Let's look at our accomplishments to date and identify some future actions for our Branch to pursue.

Accomplishments

- Membership is holding strong! Shirley Tammen recognized as Lifetime member!
- 6 of 8 program speakers directly related to strategic categories.
- Book group continues diverse selections and participates in Hastings Reads.
- Shared program schedule and MN AAUW scholarship opportunities with Hastings High School and Feminism Club.
- Increase value of both HS Scholarships (academic achievement and technical/non-traditional field) and anticipate 2 NCCWSL scholarships.
- Increased contribution to Hastings Reads.
- Fundraising for HS scholarships and Hastings Reads exceeded early in the year!
- Integrated Zoom hybrid platform into all business meetings and programs
- Gad-Abouts out to Holiday Honky-Tonk program with lunch.

Future/Remaining Actions

- Explore opportunities to provide STEM/STEAM program.
- Submit letter to the editor related to an AAUW mission topic (i.e. ERA MN).
- Strengthen partnerships with local media outlets and organizations that align with AAUW's mission.
- Partner with AAUW MN to host annual convention
- Consider a Strategic Mission Grant program in 2024-25

Remember the world is run by those who show up. Let's remember to show up to advance gender equity and create a more economically secure world for women and girls.

Happy New Year! Continue to do good work, care for each other, and stay well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 22..... Chilli Supper, Meeting & Program
 Feb. 12 Book Club
 Feb. 12 Hastings Reads Author Speaks

HASTINGS BRANCH

Meets on Mondays
 St. Philip's Lutheran Church
 1401 15th Street West,
 Hastings, Minnesota 55033

2023-2024 PROGRAMS

September 25, 6:00 pm Salad Supper
Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force
 Senator Mary Kunesh

October 23, 7:00 pm
Perspectives on Women in Law Enforcement
 Hennepin County Sheriff Dawanna S. Witt

November 27, 7:00 pm
Forecasting Minnesota's Changeable Weather
 Meteorologist Karen Filloon

December 9, 10:00 am Hastings Golf Club
Holiday Celebration

January 22, 6:00 pm Chili Supper
Book Selection Process in Dakota County Libraries
 Librarian Christy Wayne

February 26, 7:00 pm
Women's Heart Health Month – How to Survive a Heart Crisis and How to Prevent One from Happening
 Danna Elling-Schultz and Dr. Elizabeth Tuohy

March 25, 7:00 pm
Diaries of Jane Doe: Historical Perspectives on Women's Health in Dakota County

April 22, 6:00 pm Spring Social
Amelia Earhart
 Nancy Earhart Burt

May 20, 7:00 pm Book Sale
Title IX Impact on Athletes & Sports at the Collegiate Level
 Vicki Davis

Program

Danna Elleng Schultz, Mary Ellen Fox, & Becky Gartzke

Dakota County Library Purchases and Policies



Our presenter in January will be Christy Wayne. Christy is the Adult Collection Librarian for the Dakota County Library System. She is responsible for purchasing all print and digital materials for adult audiences in Dakota County.

During her presentation, Christy will explain the process that is followed, the criteria for selections, and other Dakota County Library policies.

Christy grew up in Kimball, MN. Throughout the year, but especially in December, she and her sister could often be found helping out on their family's Christmas tree farm. Christy attended the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN and earned a BA degree in Education and Social Studies. She earned her MA degree in Library Science while attending St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN.

For the past 16 years, Christy has been employed by Dakota County Library. Christy has lived in Hastings for 18 years. She and her husband are the parents of three children aged 6, 10, and 12. Much of her time away from work is devoted to supporting their children in both academics and sports (hockey, soccer, baseball, football, and figure skating). During her "free time" Christy enjoys baking, reading, gardening, and participating in a variety of outdoor activities.

Web Page

Cheryl Read

Accidentally delete your email with the latest directory?

Forget where our meeting is located this month?

Then, check the website!

Here's the link: <https://hastings-mn.aauw.net/>

Treasurer's Report

Renee Souza & Carol Tobin

What a big end of 2023 we had!

A record 71 in attendance at our Holiday Brunch, after which our giving overflowed into an extra surprise delivery to Hastings Family Service Youth Fund!

We started our month off at a very strong balance of \$19,762 and ended the year at a still quite healthy \$14,662. The AAUW Greatest Need Fund payment was made. Checks have been sent to our 2 Scholarship recipients – USC & Inver Hills Community Students for a total of \$3,000. Other expenses related to speakers, programing and visibility/membership were also paid.

We're very excited to be heading into 2024 with a continued strong financial position and key fundraising insights!

Community Volunteer Opportunity

Hastings Middle School is partnering with Communities in Schools to develop a student mentoring program. The program will take place during the school day (specifically the student's lunch period). The intent is to build student self-esteem, positive feelings about school, and connections with a caring adult. The staff member establishing this program, Alexa Kirtal, has developed similar programs at other schools she has worked at, and is excited about the opportunity here. **If you are interested in participating or learning more check out the flyer in this TWIG.**

[AAUW Mission Statement](#)

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

[AAUW Vision Statement](#)

Equity for all.

[Minnesota State Website](#)

<http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

[National Website](#)

Membership

Kathy Palmer & Jackie Rigelman

We are happy to inform you that within the next week, we will be emailing copies of the AAUW Hastings Branch Directory for 2023-24 to our members. We ask that you look at your entry in the directory to check for any inaccurate information. Please email Jackie or Kathy with any changes that need to be made to the directory.

We plan to show the Power Point of the AAUW Hastings Branch Members during the chili supper. If you have a photo of yourself that you would like included with your slide of information, please email it to Jackie or Kathy. Jackie will also be available to take photos at the January 22nd meeting. If you would like your photo included in the Power Point, please email copies of your photo by January 20th to either:

Jackie Rigelman
Kathy Palmer

iccann@comcast.net
majeski@embarqmail.com

Historian

Lisa Hedin

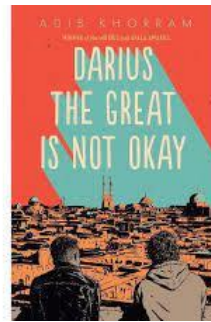
2023 Holiday Party



The Holiday Planner table
Julie Larson, Lesley Lesch, Lori Bernard, Jody Rudh, Michelle Tjomsland, and Jodi Husting

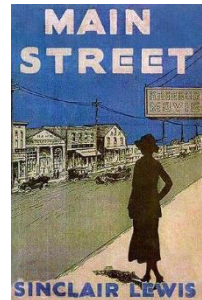
Book Club

Shirley Tammen

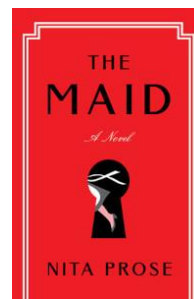


On January 8th, the AAUW Book Club had a spirited and in-depth discussion about *Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram which is the Hastings Reads main selection. Darius Kellner suffers from depression, bullying by high school jocks, and a father who always seems to be disappointed in Darius. The author will be speaking in the evening at the Hastings Arts Center on February 12th, 2024.

Flyers for the Hastings Reads events are attached at the end of the TWIG.



On Monday, February 12th at 1:30 in the Pleasant Hill Library, the book club will be discussing *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis. This satirical novel was published in 1920 and set in the small town of Gopher Prairie, Minnesota, a fictionalized version of Sauk Centre, Lewis's hometown. The novel takes place in the 1910's; it relates the life and struggles of Carol Milford Kennicott as she comes in conflict with the small-town mentality of the residents of Gopher Prairie.



On March 11th, the book club will be discussing *The Maid* by Nita Prose. A murder mystery whose main character Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skill and misreads the intentions of others.

All are welcome to join in on the discussions!

Community

Margaret Goderstad

Hastings Arts Center:

- Tuesday, January 30th, 10:30am – The Ninebark Ensemble String Trio, Chamber Music. Free coffee concert
- Friday, February 9th, 7:30pm – Concert Series – The Everett Smithson Band
- Tuesday, February 13th, 10:30am – Life & Love Songs of Clara & Robert Schumann – Melyssa Rice, Soprano and Gail Olszewski, piano. Free coffee concert

Black Dirt Theater:

Improv at the Hastings Public House on January 26th, and February 9th and 23rd.

Downtown Art Fair:

Saturday, February 3rd, 10:00am – 5:00pm. 205 East 2nd Street. Work of local artists on display and for sale

City Hall Tours:

Saturday, January 20th, 11:00am, 12:00pm and 1:00pm. Guided tours will feature the history, architecture, and art on display of this jewel of a building. It coincides with the Downtown Business Association's Yeti Ice Sculpture Celebration. Sponsored by Hastings Arts & Culture Commission in collaboration with the Pioneer Room & Hastings Area Historical Society. Admission is free but donations in the Pioneer Room appreciated.

AAUW Hastings Branch to Host the 2024 State Annual Meeting

Theme, Confluence = Inclusion, Collaboration and Empowerment

Hastings has a good venue for the State Annual Meeting with the Confluence Hotel's opening: hotel rooms, meeting space, and food service. The State Board supports our enthusiasm to host. The dates, are April 26 for the evening meal, speaker, and socializing time and April 27 for the business meeting and two or three speakers. Karen Kirkwood is the State VP of Program and she will be on board to advise us.

Now I invite you to join the planning committee. Jobs identified by previous host branches include: Publicity, Budget and Finance, Fundraiser silent auction for AAUW Funds, Speakers, Short Welcome by Mayor Mary, Details on Materials to be handed out, Convention booklet, Food choices and timing, Registration form, Pine Article, PowerPoint screen and projector, Stage and flags, Flag Ceremony by women Vets or Active Duty, etc.

Contact Pat Powers if you want to be part of the committee

By text 651-592-6259

Or email Pat.pow01@gmail.com

Already volunteering

Patty Wilson, Julie Hicks, Dorothy Sandahl, Linda Ferris, Lisa DeRoy, Betty Hoeschen, Gail Glashan, Jan Junkman and Marilyn Tennison.

Fundraising

Ceil Strauss

Generous Donations for Adopt-a-Family

Thanks to all our members who donated towards our Hastings Branch families for 2023 Adopt-a-Family. We started with one larger family and there was so much interest in making donations that we filled all the family wishes. As a result, we adopted a second larger family not long before the Holiday brunch and our members donated to that family's wishes also.

In addition to donating for two families this year, we also collected additional donations of \$320. We originally intended to use that for a last minute Adopt-a-Family request, but all the families were covered. After discussion with Hastings Family Service, we agreed to donate the cash to a new program called Empowering Youth. It gives grants to kids/families to pay for things like getting a driver's license, fees for sports and activities, pool passes, etc. Too often the cost keeps kids from participating, so this program supports the intent of youth-based contributions.

Thanks again to all our generous donors!

NCCWSL

Gail Glashan

**AAUW Hastings Branch will award
Scholarships to
NCCWSL 2024
What is NCCWSL? Who should apply?**

AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for leadership training, inspiration and networking at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

May 30–June 1, 2024

The University of Maryland, College Park (DC metro area)

Our AAUW Hastings Branch is pleased to offer two scholarships to NCCWSL 2024!

Since 2015, our branch has sent 17 college women to NCCWSL including five college women to virtual NCCWSL. We need members to help spread the word that the application process for 2024 is now open, through March 15th. If you happen to know a sophomore or junior college woman student, please encourage her to apply.

Just forward the attached NCCWSL flyer and application at the end of this Twig, –or–Email Gail at AAUW Hastings Branch to obtain an application form...

AAUWHastingsBranch@gmail.com

Information about NCCWSL 2024 can also be found on our AAUW Hastings Branch webpage—

<https://hastings-mn.aauw.net>

and at—

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/nccwsl/attend/>

Thank you AAUW Hastings Branch members!

Please know your gifts and support of women are far-reaching as noted in Thank You Notes from these past NCCWSL attendees:

‘I was privileged to attend NCCWSL 2013. Thanks to your incredible generosity, I met people from around the country and world, connected with panelists and leaders and developed an even stronger sense of confidence and purpose in my identity as a woman and change agent in the world.’ Jolena Zabel

‘Thank you for the opportunity to attend NCCWSL 2022. I will, without a doubt, use many of the skills that I learned during the 3-day conference. The sessions I chose to attend were about professionalism in the workplace, interview success, being a leader on campus, and undoubtedly my favorite, the Elect Her program sessions about elevator speeches.’ Maria Husting

‘My favorite session was the Financial Literacy panel. The women taught us how to invest and budget in order to plan for our futures and be successful.’ Molly Barker attended NCCWSL 2022

Public Policy

Pat Powers

Sandra Day O'Connor, What a Life!

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman Supreme Court Justice, passed away December 1, 2023. She was a trailblazer for all women as a student, wife, mother, and worker. She grew up on a ranch in Arizona and lived 32 miles from the nearest school so she went to live with her grandmother in El Paso. There she attended a girl's school for elementary school and graduated from Austin High School in El Paso. She went on to Stanford and graduated with a BA in Economics followed by a law degree near the top of her class and she wrote for the Law Review.

It was the 1950's. No law firm would hire a woman. She essentially took a volunteer position as deputy county attorney and shared an office with a secretary. After a few months, she earned a small salary. Her husband was drafted and sent to Germany.

She moved to Germany and worked as an attorney for the Army. When they moved back, they settled in Arizona.

They had 3 sons and she took 5 years off to raise them but during those years she became very active in republican politics. She worked on the Goldwater campaign. She then took a job as assistant Attorney General of Arizona. She was appointed to the Arizona Senate to fill a vacancy and she rose to become the majority leader. The first woman in the United States to hold that position.

She was a great negotiator. After 2 terms she left the Senate. A year later she was appointed to the Maricopa County Supreme Court. All of her history brought her to the shortlist for the Supreme Court when Ronald Reagan could appoint a new justice, the first woman on the Supreme Court. She was confirmed in a 99 to 0 vote in the Senate. She shouldered incredible responsibility to represent women. That was 1981. It wasn't until 1993 that Ruth Bader Ginsburg joined the court that she felt relief from the media. She was a conservative. She voted with William Rehnquist most of the time. As the court became more conservative, she often became the swing vote.

O'Connor knew the difficulties of being a woman with all the barriers she had overcome. She hired women as her clerks and demanded no excuses for mistakes from them. She took an interest in their lives. She brought a perspective to the court's decisions that was shaped by a woman and accepted by all. Title IX was strengthened against sex discrimination for both men and women by her decisions. She did not seek to end "Roe v. Wade" but placed some limitations without undue burden on the woman's right to abortion. She voted as the swing vote in Bush v. Gore. In 2005 she retired from the court due to her husband's health. In 2009 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

She continued to be very active in retirement. She heard cases part-time in federal courts and courts of appeal and as a visiting judge. She became the ceremonial Chancellor of the College of William and Mary, a member of the Iraq Study Group, board member of the Rockefeller Foundation, chair of the Jamestown 2007 celebration.

She taught a course at the U of Arizona in 2006. Later the University renamed their school of law the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. She was honored as a visiting fellow at Stanford. TV's Jeopardy had her video answers for a show in 2014. She created a website *Our Courts* and offered civic lessons to students and teachers. Lee H Hamilton and O'Connor co-chaired the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools. The Daily Show with Jon Stewart had her appear to promote her website. That initiative morphed into iCivics for educators of middle and high school students. She served on boards of trustees; she was a founding co-chair of the National Advisory Board at the National Institute for Civil Discourse after the Gabby Gifford shooting in Arizona.

She survived breast cancer in 1988. Her husband had Alzheimer's for 20 years until his death in 2009. Her friends and colleagues noticed her forgetfulness in 2013. She moved to assisted living and announced retirement from all public life in 2018. She passed away Dec 1, 2023 at age 93. President Biden said she was an "American Icon" dedicated to public service and the "bedrock American principle of an independent judiciary."

Diversity

Jaci Cobian

January - Intellectual Freedom and Preservation of Diverse Voices in Literature

Our upcoming January AAUW meeting includes welcoming guest speaker, Librarian Christy Wayne, who will be presenting on her topic entitled "Book Selection Process in Dakota County Libraries." This topic is one that invites each of us to recognize and acknowledge that the American Library Association plays a key role in advocating for intellectual freedom as well as the preservation of diverse voices in literature.

Preserving intellectual freedom and diverse voices in literature allows for the availability of diverse perspectives to enhance the understanding of different cultures, ideas, and experiences.

Reading a range of voices challenges readers to think critically, to ask questions, as well as question assumptions, all while gaining a greater understanding of the world around them. Diverse literature allows individuals from all backgrounds to see themselves represented which fosters a sense of belonging as well as a validation of their experiences. Such exposure promotes understanding and empathy by breaking down misconceptions and stereotypes about different cultures, identities, and perspectives. Intellectual freedom and diverse literature have educational value as they offer a more comprehensive view of history, society, and human experiences. Literature has the ability to influence societal norms and attitudes as diverse voices contribute to social dialogue that encourages acceptance and inclusivity. When readers have access to a wide variety of literature from which they make their own choices about what to read, their intellectual freedom is preserved, diverse perspectives are considered, critical thinking skills are developed, and principles of free expression are exercised - all of which contribute to a more open, informed, and well-rounded society.

Check out the following resources that you may find insightful:

1. American Library Association (ALA)
 - The ALA is a key advocate for intellectual freedom and their website offers valuable information and resources on the importance of preserving access to a wide range of materials.
2. "Freedom to Read Statement" by ALA & American Booksellers for Free Expression (ABFFE)
 - This joint statement emphasizes the value and importance of freedom of expression in today's libraries. In addition, insights are shared pertaining to the harmful effects of censorship.
3. National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC)
 - The NCAC is an organization dedicated to defending the freedom to read and their website offers various resources and case studies related to book censorship.
4. "Censorship and Literature" by John S. Simmons
 - This book explores the history and impact of censorship on literature while also shedding light on the value of preserving intellectual freedom and diverse voices.

AAUW National Election

As a member of AAUW, your voice and your vote count. This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee to open membership. In accordance with AAUW's bylaws, every AAUW member has the right to comment on this proposed change to the bylaws – and to recommend any other bylaws changes – before they are put to the membership for a vote.

Comments can be submitted until Friday, January 26 at 5:00 pm ET.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/>

Key Dates for 2024 Vote

- **January 26** | Comment period ends at 5:00 pm ET
- **April 3** | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)

- o **May 15** | Online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET and results announced online

We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Best regards,
Shannon Wolfe (AAUW National)
Managing Director and Chief of Staff

Secretary

Hannah Spaulding

AAUW Business Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2022

Location: St. Philip's Lutheran Church and

Zoom (55 in the room, 5 on zoom)

1. (7:00 pm) Call to Order/President's Message.
Call to order at 7:02.
2. (7:05 pm) Approve Meetings Minutes (Sept 26, 2022)
Motion and a Second to approve September Meeting Minutes. Betty Hoeschen motions, Patricia Todnem seconds. Motion carries.
3. (7:08 pm) Treasurer's Report (Thru Oct 2022)
Deposits included: donation for \$100, 1 shape the future payment for \$61.50, refund from national for dues for \$88.00 totaling \$249.50. Expenses included \$50.00 for hostess expenses for October presentation, \$160.58 for Zoom subscription. \$7667.25 balance to date.
4. (7:12 pm) Committee/Activity Report
 - a. Membership (Kathy Palmer & Jackie Rigelman)
Kathy: Reminder that the December brunch is the last Shape the Future event for the year – national dues will be discounted for a total of 62.50.
\$30 for the brunch, starts at @ 10:30am at the Hastings Public House, we have door prizes and music, reservations are due Mon 12/5.
 - b. Programs (Danna Elling-Schultz, Mary Ellen Fox, Becky Gartzke)
December Brunch Update - Continue as planned – we also have leftover bookmarks if anyone wants some to share

c. Fundraising Report (Ceil Strauss)

As the wine soiree was such a success, there will be no fundraising component at holiday brunch, are repeating the adopt a family event this year. Refer to the TWIG for information and signups!

d. Hospitality (Darla Kimmes)

Lois Twedt: need a few people to sign up for January for desserts and fruit (3 people total for chili supper) Also need Feb, March and May. Please sign up!

e. Public Policy (Pat Powers)

2 items: ERA MN is up in front of the legislature and AAUW is participating in rally at the capitol 1/3/23 at 11:30am. Next, nationally, AAUW is trying to get as many people as possible to do the 2 min activist – concerning the action for pregnant workers – may come up before the next senate session. Also, if you are not getting emails from AAUW, please reach out to Carol and/or National to confirm your email is updated/correct.

f. NCCWSL (Gail Glashan)

Drawing attention at the emails from AAUW – NCCWSL is returning to in-person conferences. We need your support; it's at the University of Maryland. We are budgeted for one attendee (but in the past we have been open to a second based on number of applicants). If you know of a college sophomore or junior – send them Gail's contact info to apply!

g. Book Club (Shirley Tammen)

Book groups change for December (people were having trouble finding the original book) – Hastings Reads book: "Don't Ask Me Where I'm From" by Jennifer De Leon. January book is "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus.

h. Scholarship/AAUW Funds (Marilyn Tennesen)

2 things – we gave \$1000 to national for the Greatest Needs fund, 2 \$500 donations; one in honor of Pat Giddings and \$500 in honor Lisa Hedin for her community leadership. Scholarships – we are doing two this year, one like the original, for \$2,000, and an additional for \$1,000 for a female student pursuing a trade/specialized skillset in a male-dominated field.

i. Community (Margaret Goderstad)
Coffee Concert 11/29 "Trumpet Stew"
featuring John Huth & Larry Prescott - trumpeters
from Prescott

December 2nd 7:30pm at Hastings Arts
Center – Christmas on the Prairie
December 4th – 5-8 pm HAC annual
fundraiser. Online auction and livestream
River Valley Band – 12th season – in
December doing their holiday concert and the
Hastings Middle School auditorium with the Middle
School Spiral Singers as a special guest.

December 3 & December 10th - Victorian
Holiday Tea at LeDuc

Black dirt theatre, working on she kills
monsters – dates TBD

Orange Dragon Art Gallery in Prescott
November 11th at 5:30pm

j. Diversity (Jaci Cobian)

No update tonight – everyone look at the slides
following October event!

5. (7:25 pm) Adjourn

Motion to adjourn from Glenda, Mary Ellen Fox
seconded. Adjourned @7:29pm

Upcoming Dates:

December 10 @ 10:30am – Holiday Brunch at
Hastings Public House

December Book Group – December 12, 1:30 pm at
Pleasant Hill Library – Don't Ask Me

Where I am From, Jennifer De Leon

January Board Meeting – January 2, 2023, 7:00 pm
on Zoom

January Book Group – January 9, 1:30 pm at
Pleasant Hill Library – Lessons In

Chemistry, Bonnie Garmus

January Chili Supper/Business Meeting/Program –
January 23rd, 6:00 pm/7:00 pm/7:30
pm at St Philips Lutheran Church

AAUW Hastings Board

President -----	Lisa Hedin
VPs Membership -----	Kathy Palmer Jackie Rigelman
VPs Programs -----	Danna Elling Schultz Mary Ellen Fox Becky Gartzke
Secretary -----	Hannah Spaulding
Treasurer -----	Renee Souza Carol Tobin
AAUW Funds -----	Marilyn Tennesen
Book Club -----	Shirley Tammen
Community -----	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity -----	Jaci Cobian
Gadabouts -----	Members
Historian -----	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality -----	Nancy Ahn Darla Kimmes Lois Twedt
NCCWSL -----	Gail Glashan
Newsletter -----	Linda Bindman
Public Policy -----	Pat Powers
Fundraising -----	Ceil Strauss
Web Page -----	Cheryl Read

CIS Mentoring Program

HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL



We are looking for community members to volunteer their time and become mentors at Hastings Middle School! This program was created with the goal to improve students self-esteem and encourage positive feelings toward school, as well as giving students another caring adult to connect with. Mentoring meetings will be over the students lunch and we will spend time playing games, doing activities, and building community! If you are interested in helping build positive and impactful relationships with youth in our community, please fill out the Google Form below!

If interested...

Please fill out this Google Form as soon as possible!



<https://forms.gle/nB8cWKJ7vzN6mF2P8>

Once the Google Form is filled out Alexa will reach out to you with more information and next steps.



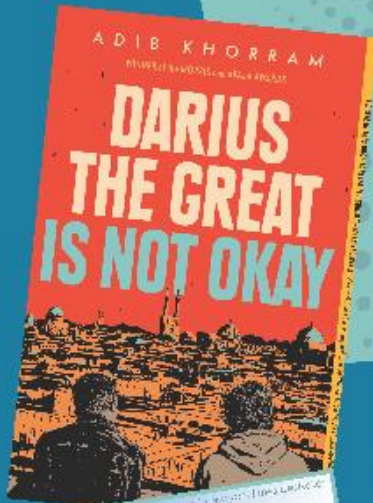
**QUESTIONS?
REACH OUT!**

Alexa Kirtal
akital@isd200.org
(612)-405-2246

Hastings Reads

2024

IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY!



DARIUS THE GREAT IS NOT OKAY

by Adib Khorram



OUT OF MY MIND

by Sharon M. Draper



LOOKING FOR HAPPY

by Ty Chapman

[HastingsReads.com](https://www.HastingsReads.com)

Hastings Reads is a community-wide reading program that seeks to encourage reading and discussion of books and the ways in which they can help us understand the lives and experiences of ourselves and others. It is sponsored by Dakota County Library, Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library, Hastings AAUW, Hastings Community Education, Hastings Public Schools, Hastings YMCA, KDWA Radio, Ruth and George Doffing Charitable Gift Fund, St. Croix Valley Foundation, THRIVE in Hastings, and many volunteers!

Hastings Middle School Book Club Once a week in February after school	Register with Community Education to join the book club, which will read and discuss <i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon Draper.
LeDuc History Book Club Thursday, February 1, 6:30-7:30 p.m. LeDuc Historic Estate	Join the LeDuc History Book Group for a lively discussion of <i>Darius the Great is Not Okay</i> by Adib Khorram.
Meditation and Yoga Classes February 6 and 7 Hastings YMCA	Join Guided Meditation on Tuesday, February 6 from 10:30-11 a.m., and yoga on Wednesday, February 7 from 5-6 p.m. These classes are free and open to the public. Bring your ID!
Boosting Stress Resilience Saturday, February 10, 10:45 - noon Hastings YMCA	Designed to support you in understanding, coping with, and even reducing stress, this empowering workshop experience--led by a national board-certified health & wellness coach--will equip you with tools to help you lead a more balanced, resilient life! You do not need to be a member of the YMCA, and no registration is required.
Author Visit: Adib Khorram Monday, February 12 during the school day at HHS 6:30-8 p.m. at Hastings Arts Center	Adib Khorram is coming to Hastings! During the school day, he will talk to HHS students about his debut and award-winning novel, <i>Darius the Great is Not Okay</i> . In the evening, he will join community members downtown to discuss the book and his work as an author. He will sign books, and copies of his book will be available for purchase.
Popcorn and a Movie Wednesday, February 14, 1:30 p.m. Tilden Senior Center	Senior citizens, join us for heartwarming family drama about a young boy trying to fit in despite a rare facial deformity. Rated PG.
Pleasant Hill Evening Book Group Wednesday, February 14, 6-7 p.m. Dakota County Pleasant Hill Library	Join the Pleasant Hill Library's Evening Book Group for a discussion of <i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon Draper. New members are welcome. Geared for adults.
Writing the Dark: Life's Difficult Subjects Tuesday, February 20, 3:30-5 p.m. Dakota County Pleasant Hill Library	Learn to weave life's difficult subjects into your creative prose or poetry in ways that honor and illuminate those experiences. Presented by The Loft. Geared for youth ages 14 and older. Register via the Dakota County Library calendar.
Hastings High School Book Discussion Wednesday, February 21, 2:45-3:30 p.m. HHS Media Center	Hastings High School students are invited to enjoy refreshments while discussing Khorram's novel and his visit to HHS!
Family Event with author Ty Chapman Friday, February 23, 6-7:30 p.m. Hastings YMCA	This event is for families with children in elementary school. Bring your young ones to the YMCA for pizza, books, and movement...with Ty Chapman, the author of <i>Looking for Happy!</i> Pizza will be served from 6-6:30, and then we'll complete fun projects and activities with the author. You do not need to be a member of the YMCA, and no registration is required.
Meet MN Author Claire Forrest Tuesday, February 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dakota County Pleasant Hill Library	Meet Minnesota author Claire Forrest as she discusses her book <i>Where You See Yourself</i> , a young-adult novel that combines a coming-of-age tale, a swoon-worthy romance, and disability representation. Geared for adults and youth ages 14 and older.
Creating Caring Communities in MN: 5 Things You Can Do Wednesday, February 28, 6-7 p.m. Dakota County Pleasant Hill Library	Presented by NAMI MN. Learn about mental illnesses, the impact of negative attitudes, and five things each of us can do to make MN a better place for people who experience mental illness. This one-hour class is for anyone interested in learning about mental illnesses and helping to change attitudes. A certificate of attendance is available for this class. Register via the Dakota County Library calendar.

All events are free! eBooks are available from the Library via the Libby app.
Books are available for purchase at the YMCA and Tilden Community Center.





AAUW Hastings Branch announces scholarships for the 2024 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders!

May 30– June 1

➤ Apply for a scholarship!



The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Hastings Branch announces this exciting opportunity for Hastings-area female sophomore or junior college students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders aka NCCWSL. The scholarships cover the cost of registration, room, board and flight! The conference is held in the DC Metro Area.

- You will join hundreds of college women from around the country for leadership training, inspiration, incredible speakers, awardees and networking. NCCWSL offers skill-building workshops and educational panels that are designed to challenge and inspire you to make an impact on your campus and in your community long after you leave the conference. This year's event will include sessions on career development, mentorship, financial literacy, racial-justice activism and more. Participants will have an opportunity to explore post-graduate programs, careers in a variety of disciplines and other opportunities for their future. Nearly 500 colleges from 48 states have sent campus leaders to NCCWSL.

Workshops are divided among the following leadership objectives.

- **Leadership development:** Develop and strengthen a leadership narrative through voice, skill set, and mind-set.
- **Professional development:** Build a professional tool kit for postgraduate life.
- **Activism:** Know the how, why, and when to take action.
- **Women's issues:** Gain a better understanding of issues and policies affecting women and of AAUW's role in empowering women.
- **Identity and diversity:** Own one's personal identity and role in increasing and supporting diverse voices.

The deadline for completed applications is Thursday, March 15, 2024.

Apply today!



Email Gail at AAUW Hastings Branch to obtain an application form...

AAUWHastingsBranch@gmail.com



Or visit the AAUW Hastings Branch website at...

<https://hastings-mn.aauw.net>

For more information about the NCCWSL visit...<https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccwsl/>



**National Conference for
College Women Student Leaders!**

Dare to be...

NCCWSL

May 30– June 1, 2024

University of Maryland, College Park (DC Metro Area)

Together, we can reach gender equality in education, economic security, and leadership. Learn more about our priority issues and how we work to achieve our mission. Equity for all.

AAUW Hastings Branch 2024 NCCWSL Scholarship Application

American Association of University Women

<https://hastings-mn.aauw.net>

First Name _____ Last Name _____

College/University _____

What will be your academic status fall 2024? ___Sophomore ___Junior ___Senior

Mailing address: Street Address, City, State, Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

Mobile phone number: _____

Name of high school attended, city, state: _____

Community Involvement and Leadership Experience...

- Please provide, in 100 words or less, your definition of leadership.
- Please describe in 100 words or less, how your background and interests will contribute to the diversity of the conference and what you personally would like to gain from this experience.
- Please attach a resume or vitae, including any extracurricular activities...
e.g. clubs, employment, memberships, internships, volunteer activities, along with conferences or training sessions in which you have participated.
- Please send your completed application by March 15, 2024, along with the above information to:
AAUW Hastings Branch NCCWSL Committee, c/o Gail Glashan, 2120 Louis Lane, Hastings, Minnesota 55033
or email completed application to: AAUWHastingsBranch@gmail.com

Applicant's Certification

I verify that the information provided in this application is correct. I agree to notify the sponsoring AAUW Hastings Branch within three business days the status of my acceptance. I agree that if awarded a scholarship, I am responsible for participating in all conference activities and providing a written report to the sponsoring AAUW branch.

I will provide full reimbursement to AAUW should I fail to participate fully, or if I am unable to attend the conference for any reason.

Applicant's signature _____

Date _____