**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Feb. 10. …….………………...……. Book Club**

**Feb. 18 ……… Hastings Reads Author speaks**

**Feb. 19 …… Community Collaboration Event**

**Feb. 24 ...………………...Meeting & Program**

**March 10 …………………………. Book Club**

**HASTINGS BRANCH**

**Meets on Mondays**

**St. Philip’s Lutheran Church**

**1401 15th Street West,**

**Hastings, Minnesota 55033**

**2023-2024 PROGRAMS**

**September 23, 6:00 pm Salad Supper**

**Braver Angels**

**JoAnn Ward**

**October 28, 7:00 pm**

**Therapy Dogs: Biophilia and the Importance of Animal Kinship**

**Tanya Bailey & Maureen Kleckner**

**November 25, 7:00 pm**

**Women’s Work: Minnesota women’s contribution to the paid and unpaid economy**

**Christina Ewig, Univ of Minnesota Center for Women and Gender Public Policy**

**December 7, 10:00 am**

**Holiday Celebration at the Public House**

**January 27, 6:00 pm Chili Supper**

**Title IX: How has Title IX changed collegiate sports and games**

**Vicki Davis**

**February 24, 7:00 pm**

**Astronomy is for Everyone**

**Alex Grenbaum**

**March 24, 7:00 pm**

**The State of Dakota County**

**Dakota County Attorney Kathryn Keena**

**April 28, 6:00 pm Spring Social**

**Identity Culture and You**

**Kim Allgor**

**May 19, 7:00 pm Book Sale**

**Immigrant Integration System**

**Pat Branstad, Uniting Cultures/Uniendo Culturas**

**President’s Message**

***Dorothy Sandahl***

Ready, Set, Action….

AAUW is made up of women who know how to get things done. So, Jump in with both feet! Don’t sit on the sidelines but find a team, issue, project and go for it. Some comments from new members on teams discuss how energized they are being involved. We almost lost a member because they weren’t involved but found a place to use their skills. We are all human. We want to be asked! But sometimes we don’t know who to ask, so each of us has to put on our Big Pants, and say I would like to do this….. So contact team leaders, call the President (651-442-6770) and find a place to use the gifts you have to improve our Branch. We want you and welcome your insight!

Another area we can all be ‘in action” is through Invitation for others to join our Hastings membership. Instead of scrambling to figure out what to say, we can all create our two-minute elevator speech. And I just happened to put an outline of that material in the TWIG this week. We will be opening our February meeting asking you to share your ‘speech’ and help others to become comfortable sharing. It is always easier once you see someone else do it. And repeating it helps us remember what to do. So, let’s all step up, create your 2m speech and have some fun!

As always, it is an honor to be your president and work with such awesome ladies! Stay warm, read a good book and enjoy a wonderful winter, whatever the weather!

**Two Minute Elevator Speech – AAUW**

AAUW grows through your personal, relational invitation to friends, family and strangers that might be looking for a place to be accepted and use positive energy to grow.

The American Association of University Women or AAUW is a perfect place for women that are seeking their highest potential.

A simple way to invite someone is have a ‘two minute’ speech prepared that includes who AAUW is, what our branch does and why you enjoy being a member. You can take any two items from each section and have a short paragraph to share with potential new members. Help us grow our Branch with your message.

AAUW Facts: I belong to a national organization;

* 1881, Oldest women’s organization focusing on women’s issues
* Nonpartisan, non-profit with focus on Education, economic, political, social
* 170,000 strong fighting for change
* Advance equity for women/girls through advocacy, education, research
* Creating materials to enable women/girls to reach highest potential

Branch Facts: Our branch in Hastings include:

* Our branch is a leader, with much wisdom, and knows how to get things done.
* Scholarships advanced studies in college and Vocational training
* Leadership scholarship to national events
* Educational programs monthly to gain current issues, approach/knowledge
* Opportunities to lead projects in a supportive community
* Our community of 100 members who want to learn/advocate for women’s rights
* We continue to promote literature in groups, community wide and sales

Personal reasons to join AAUW: I belong to AAUW because

* Group of women that discuss and take action for women’s rights
* I am seen as intelligent, contributing, and accepted/supported by a community
* Exciting to be around women that read, discuss books and current events

Example: American Association of University Women, AAUW is one of the oldest, action oriented women’s groups in the U.S. We not only work for equity for women but teach, research and promote the highest potential as individuals. Our branch in Hastings is especially proud of our scholarships, educational programs and reading networks. I am so proud to be one of our 100 members as we gather for education, fundraising and discussions. And…we are so fun to be around!

**Program**

***Danna Elling Schultz, Mary Ellen Fox & Becky Gartzke***

"Astronomy is for Everyone"

A person standing in front of a machine

Description automatically generatedOur presenter for the February 24, 2025, meeting is Alexandra Greenbaum. Alexandra will describe what it means to be an astronomer and what an astronomy career looks like. She will discuss her journey into the field and highlight efforts to make the field more accessible to more people. Alexandra will share some anecdotes of her experience and challenges.  
  
Alexandra grew up in Bronx, NY where you can pick out Orion's belt in the night sky, and not much else. She was a big fan of the planetarium show at the American Museum of Natural History and a collector of newspaper and magazine clippings of the colorful nebulae and galaxies imaged by the Hubble Space Telescope.

In college, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Alexandra studied Mechanical Engineering and Physics and went on to get her PhD in Physics and Astronomy at Johns Hopkins University. At Johns Hopkins she focused on an optical imaging technique on ground- and space-based telescopes for studying planetary systems. Alexandra was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Michigan, where she continued her work in high resolution and high contrast imaging of stars and planets. She also helped develop department-wide efforts for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Later she joined the technical staff at Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, MA where she worked on projects related to guidance and navigation.

Currently Alexandra is a staff scientist at the California Institute of Technology supporting the next big NASA Astrophysics mission: the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope.

**Membership**

***Linda Ferris & Jody Rudh***

Welcome new members Sharon Anderson and Kelly Sorg! Super happy to have you onboard! Some other exciting Membership news includes the board approval to designate our monthly chapter meetings as "Shape the Future" events. This means new members joining at a future monthly meeting will receive the discounted membership rate of $67.00 (National $36.00, AAUW MN $9.00, Hastings Branch $22.00). Be sure to bring a friend to a future meeting!

Although most members are scheduled for membership renewal in the summer/fall timeframe, we do have a few coming due in January.  A gentle reminder to all, membership renewal is available online by following the steps below:

1. Go To: [**My.AAUW.org**](http://my.aauw.org/)
2. Login or create a new account (you will create a new account only if you have not used this tool in the past)
3. Once you officially log in, your Membership *Personal Snapshot* will be presented.
4. In the left margin scroll to or click on "*My Membership*s"
5. Once in "*My Membership*s" Click the **RENEW** button, confirm all data is accurate on this page and select **NEXT**
6. You are now in "*Online Management.*" Confirm the **National**radio button is selected and click **NEXT**
7. Would you like to add Branch or State Membership, select **Yes**and**NEXT**
8. Scroll down and select the **MN6049-Hastings Branch Dues** checkbox, select **NEXT**
9. Under Primary Branch The Hastings branch should now appear by default, select **NEXT**
10. Under state membership, confirm MN has been selected by default and select **NEXT**
11. Select the **Yes** or **No** radio button as to whether or not you which to make a donation to the Greatest Needs Fund and then click **NEXT**
12. At this point you will see a summary of our membership. Total payment should equal $103.00. If you have yet to enter a credit card for payment this is where you will do so. Once your credit card information has been entered you can select **SUBMIT** to finalize your payment

Should you have questions, feel free to stop by the membership desk during a monthly chapter meeting. Thanks. Jodi and Linda

**Gadabouts**

***Sarah Kiani***

We will be encouraging attendance and making connections at the Hastings Arts Center Coffee Concerts. These are free concerts and optional meet up at Froth and Cork afterwards for members to have a light lunch or coffee together. Supporting the wonderful work of the Hastings Arts Center and Sarah Lockwood is a great thing to do as AAUW Hastings members.

We would like to invite you to start this new tradition by attending the concert on 2/25 Tuesday with Amy Nan on Harp! Doors open 10:00 am for coffee and the concert starts at 10:30am. The Hastings Arts Center is located at 216 4th St. E. There is ample street and lot parking right across the street and the entrance is handicap accessible. Here's the link for more info:

<https://www.hastingsartscenter.org/concerts.html>

We look forward to getting out and about with you all in Gadabouts.

**Technology & Web Page**

***Linda Ferris***

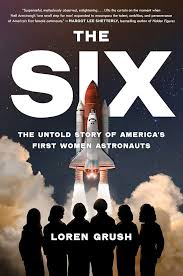
Introducing the AAUW Hastings Technology Team — Linda Ferris, Rachel Allgor, Susan Just, Amelia Strauss and Patty Wilson.

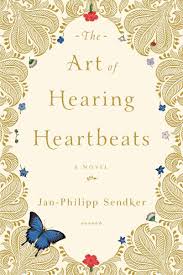
Be sure to check out [Hastings AAUW updated Website](https://hastings-mn.aauw.net/) as we would love to hear your thoughts and feedback. Please email comments to Linda @ [ralmferris@msn.com](mailto:ralmferris@msn.com).

**Book Club**

***Ann Johnson, Cindy Toppin, & Linda Bindman***

The book club meets the second Monday of the month at the Pleasant Hill Library at 1:30pm in the Old Mill Ruins room. Please join us, all are welcome!!

 On February 10th, we will discuss *The Six: The Untold Story of America’s First Women Astronauts* by Loren Grush. This book is nonfiction and tells the story of America’s first six women astronauts. These extraordinary women each made history going to orbit aboard NASA’s Space Shuttle while enduring claustrophobic and sexist media attention. The book describes their rigorous survival training and preparing for years for the opportunity to go into space.

On March 10th, our selection is *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker. This novel is about a successful NY lawyer who suddenly disappears without a trace. His family finds a love letter he wrote many years ago to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father’s past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the reader’s belief in the power of love to move mountains.

**2025 Hastings Reads**

Hastings celebrates the work of Kao Kalia Yang, the Star Tribune’s 2024 Artist of the Year and winner of many awards.

The theme for this year is, ***Kalia Writes, Hastings Reads***. All three books were written by Kao Kalia Yang.

The Hastings Reads Flyer and list of upcoming activities is attached at the end of the TWIG.

**Historian**

***Lisa Hedin***

Our growth in scholarships!

A person wearing face masks and standing at a podium

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2021: Kaya Felt and Glenda Schnirring

A person holding a certificate and smiling

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2022: Kyra Smallidge and Glenda Schnirring

A group of women holding certificates

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2023: Marilyn Tennessen, Emma Hagen, Evie Sellars and Natalie Letourneau,

A group of girls holding certificates

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2024, Marilyn Tennessen, Zoffia Gutwein, Rya Gubin, Mikayla Schuster, Natalie Letourneau

**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**](http://aauw-mn.aauw.net)

**National Website**

[**https://www.aauw.org/**](https://www.aauw.org/)

**Community**

***Julie Hicks***

**Black Dirt Theater**

**Black Dirt Theater Improv**

* Saturday March 1, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Hastings Public House
* Saturday March 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at American Legion
* Saturday April 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at The Confluence Hotel
* Saturday May 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at 2nd Street Depot
* Saturday May 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Hastings Public House

**Black Dirt Theater presents “Nunsense”**

**Musical Dinner Theater Production**

Purchase tickets at [www.blackdirttheater.com](http://www.blackdirttheater.com) or

call 651-300-9567

* February 14 at 8 pm, Feb 15 at 7 pm, Feb 16 at 2 pm, Feb 21 at 8 pm, & Feb 22 at 7pm at Hastings Arts Center at 216 4th St. East, Hastings
* Catered by Hastings Public House

**Dakota County Historical Society – Le Duc Historic Estate**

* Valentine’s Tea both Friday February 14 and Saturday February 15 at 2:00 p.m. More information at 651-438-8480 or [www.dakotahistory.org/events/1033-feb-14-15-valentine-s-day-tea-at-leduc](http://www.dakotahistory.org/events/1033-feb-14-15-valentine-s-day-tea-at-leduc)

**Hastings Art Center Concerts**

216 4th Street East Hastings – [www.hastingsartcenter.org](http://www.hastingsartcenter.org) 651-437-4320

* Tuesday February 25th at 10:30 a.m. – **Amy Nam – Harp**
* Tuesday March 4th at 10:30 a.m. – **Lux String Quartet**
* Friday March 28th at 7:30 p.m. – **Metro Brass presents “Movie Magic”** with special guest Reed Grimm
* Tuesday April 8 at 10:30 a.m. – **Featuring Spencer Johnson Historian with musicians Erik Pearson and Sarah Lockwood**
* Saturday-April 12th at 7:00 p.m. – **Brass Lassie** – a bold trad band based in the Twin Cities of St. Paul/Minneapolis, combines traditional tunes, songs and style with dazzling modern horn lines, sparking their own genre of eclectic, remarkable music
* Tuesday May 6th at 10:30 a.m. – **Artu Duo – Ruth Marshal – cello and Garret Ross - piano**
* Saturday-May 17th at 7:00 p.m. – **Jenny Klukken**, **marimbist and her Jazz Combo**. Classically-trained, jazz and world music crossover artist, genre-blending performer and composer. A great concert to close our 10th concert season!

**Hastings Concert Association Concerts**

Held at Hastings Middle School Auditorium – 1000 11th St. W.

* Saturday February 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. **“Letters from Home”** – USO Style Show with high energy singing and tap dancing
* Monday March 24, 2025at 7:00 p.m. – **Jeremy Stolle** – No More Talk of Darkness
* Sunday April 27, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. – **“Rock It Man” Dueling Piano Show**

Individual Concerts are $25

Allied Concert Services, Inc. [http://www.alliedconcertservices.com](http://www.alliedconcertservices.com/) ; [1-763-559-8019](tel:+17635598019)

**Hastings Downtown Business Association**

* Saturday February 15, 2025 **Frozen Mulligan** from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Nine-hole mini golf course around downtown Hastings, MN. ⛳️❄️
* **Winter Creators Market** at The Studio Downtown at 205 2nd St. E, on Saturday, February 22nd, from 11 am to 3 pm! Shop from a variety of talented local creators and discover unique, handmade treasures. From art and crafts to home goods and more, enjoy this free admission event.

**Diversity**

***Lisa Hedin***

You may know that February is designated as **Black History Month**, but do you know how and when it started?

During the summer of 1915 the state of Illinois sponsored a celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation. University of Chicago and Harvard alumni Carter G Woodson attended along with thousands of negro citizens. At this event Dr. Woodson and 4 others founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ANSLH) with the goal of raising awareness of African American contributions to civilization. This association announced the first Negro History Week in 1925, which was celebrated during a week in February 1926 that held both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass’ birthdays.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Since then, each American president has issued Black History Month proclamations. The renamed Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) remains strong through today. Check out their website <https://asalh.org/> for more information.

**International Day of Women and Girls in Science** will be recognized on 11 February.  On 20 December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on science, technology and innovation for development, in which it recognized that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women and girls of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Diversity in research expands the pool of talented researchers, bringing in fresh perspectives, talent and creativity. This Day is a reminder that women and girls play a critical role in science and technology communities and that their participation should be strengthened.

**Women and Girls in STEM** will be celebrated on 8 February from 11am-3pm at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Go here to register <https://new.smm.org/us/celebration-days/women-and-girls-in-stem> .

On 26 November 2007 the United Nations General Assembly declared that going forward 20 February will be celebrated as the **World Day of Social Justice**. The General Assembly recognized that social justice is indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security among nations and that, in turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security, or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Sources: Library of Congress Black History Month website, ASAHL website, United Nations Website, Science Museum of Minnesota website

**Hastings Public Schools Community Collaboration Event - February 19th at 6pm:** Mark your calendars. The next community collaboration event is scheduled for February 19th at 6pm in the high school lecture hall.  In addition to several informational topics, time will be dedicated to gaining additional feedback regarding the development of the district’s strategic plan. Remember the world is run by those who show up! So, show up!

**Secretary**

***Becky Arenivar***

AAUW Hastings Branch ‐ General Membership Business Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Location: St. Philip's Lutheran Church and Zoom

Attendance: 50-55

1. Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m. by D. Sandahl.
2. November 2024 Meeting Minutes: P. Powers moved to approve; M. Tjomsland seconded. Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.
3. Treasurer's Report: L. Hedin, D. Sandahl  
   Prudent Reserves: a proposal will be made at the next AAUW Hastings Board of Directors meeting to set $10,000 as our prudent reserves amount. This amount is equal to two years of operating costs.
4. President’s Report:  
   Dorothy met with Kelsey Waits, AAUW Minnesota President, to discuss the visibility of branches in their communities. Ideas discussed include: 1) distribute our program schedule to local public places; 2) create a “Communications, Marketing and Visibility” team for our branch (our by-laws include a communications function); 3) a call to all members to promote our visibility through conversations with community members.
5. Committee Reports:
   1. Public Policy – P. Powers  
      There is uncertainty about changing federal government policies, especially regarding policies connected to AAUW’s public policy priorities. It is important for members to stay informed about developments on both national and state levels.   
      Minnesota AAUW will be updating and printing new Public Policy Priorities brochures for 2025-2026.
   2. Technology Team – L. Ferris  
      Current projects: 1) Our new website has been finalized. The team is soliciting testimonials from previous scholarship recipients to post on the website.   
      2) Our Facebook page is live. To follow, search for AAUW Hastings on Facebook.

* 1. Fundraising: C. Strauss  
     AAUW Hastings adopted three families in December 2024 as part of Project Share (Hastings Family Service).   
     Julie Larson is gathering information on how to attain 501(c)3 status.
  2. Hospitality: Thank you to everyone who brought food for the Chili Supper.
  3. NCCWSL: G. Glashan  
     AAUW Hastings will notify members as soon as a date for the 2025 conference is announced.
  4. Book Club: L. Bindman  
     The book club meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Pleasant Hill Library. Kao Kalia Yang, author of the book discussed at January’s meeting will speak at the Hastings Arts Center on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. as part of Hastings Reads.
  5. Membership: J. Rudh  
     Three guests have joined us for tonight’s meeting and program.
  6. Scholarship: M. Peterson  
     Members who have volunteered to help read and evaluate 2025 scholarship applications will get called when we receive the applications.
  7. Gadabouts: S. Kiani  
     Next outing is to the Minnesota History Center on Friday, Feb. 7 to see “Girlhood (It’s Complicated)” a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian. There will be an option to have lunch at Cafe Latte. Please contact Sarah Kiani for ticket and transportation information ([Sarah@hopetreecouncilingservices.com](mailto:Sarah@hopetreecouncilingservices.com)).  
     Possible outings for spring include Art in Bloom at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (April 24-27), a theater play, or other event.   
     The next Coffee Concert at the Hastings Arts Center is “Winter Light” with harpist Amy Lam, on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 10:30 a.m.

1. Adjournment: G. Schnirring moved to adjourn; B. Arenivar seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

**AAUW Hastings Board**

President ---------------- Dorothy Sandahl

VPs Membership ------ Linda Ferris

Jody Rudh

VPs Programs ---------- Danna Elling Schultz

Mary Ellen Fox

Becky Gartzke

Secretary --------------- Becky Arenivar

Treasurers --------------- Renee Souza

Carol Tobin

AAUW Funds --------- Marilyn Tennessen

Book Club -------------- Ann Johnson

Cindy Toppin

Linda Bindman

Community ------------ Julie Hicks

Diversity ---------------- Members

Gadabouts ---------------- Sarah Kiani

Historian ---------------- Lisa Hedin

Hospitality -------------- Nancy Ahn

Darla Kimmes

Lois Twedt

NCCWSL --------------- Gail Glashan

Newsletter -------------- Linda Bindman

Public Policy ----------- Pat Powers

Fundraising ------------- Ceil Strauss

Julie Larson

Web Page --------------- Linda Ferris

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