

### President's Message

Dorothy Sandahl

#### Where are Women being Impacted by the Federal cuts in the last four months?

Let me count the ways:

- Economic disparities caused by eliminating programs and implementing tariffs:
  - 69% of low wage people are women and more likely to live in poverty, inc. food costs
  - 70% Solo parents are women, 16M women support 28M children, are impacted by program cuts, grants and child care.
  - Currently 60% of public-school children, 30M, qualify for free/reduced school lunch program. Funding was eliminated in the farm bills.
  - And don't forget, women's Salaries on average are 15% less than men's to begin with.
- Voting Rights
  - Real ID needed is only in 2 states or a birth certificate, plus marriage license– what if divorced and remarried. How much red tape to VOTE! And proof of residency and .... Elderly finding this data and able to vote becomes a major difficulty.
  - ERA has still not passed
  - Birth right to citizenship is being challenged. These people were born in the USA!
- Women's Right and access to health care
  - Fertility Rights and availability are becoming micro-managed by the US government
  - Choice and self-determination for birth eliminated and making contraceptives guidelines
  - U.S. has the highest maternal mortality rates in comparison of other affluent countries.
  - 2/3 of CDC division of Reproductive Health has been eliminated.
  - ¾ Division of Violence Prevention/Protection eliminated.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14. .... Book Club  
 April 26 .....Gadabouts  
 April 28 .....Spring Social, Meeting, Program  
 May 12 ..... Book Club

#### HASTINGS BRANCH

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

#### 2024-2025 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  
**Educational Strategies in Changing Classrooms**  
 Kim Allgor

May 19, 7:00 pm                      Book Sale  
**Immigrant Integration System**  
 Pat Branstad, Uniting Cultures/Uniendo Culturas

- Education/DEI
  - Because of low wages, women need grants/loans for advanced degrees being eliminated.
  - Dismantling Dept of Education impact on Title IX, children's IEP, women's rights
  - Elimination of any diversity protections, exclusion of people of color from history and no recognition of LGBTQIA people.

Just thought I would take the time to help you realize the impact on all of us.

Yes, there are so many issues...but as women, 51% of the country, we need to take action to protect and support one another.

Sights that may help you to get involved are:

AAUW listing or resources:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/in-the-news/>

Twin Cities network:

<https://indivisibletwincities.org/>

League of women Voters:

<https://www.lwvmn.org/legislative-session-2025>

And, an article about Real ID which is not only depressing and alarming:

<https://www.dhs.gov/real-id/real-id-faqs>

## **Program**

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

### **Educational Strategies in Changing Classrooms**

Young Sil Kim Allgor will be the featured speaker at the April 28 meeting of the Hastings branch of the American Association of University Women.

Born in South Korea and adopted at the age of 11 to the small MN town of Sleepy Eye, Young Sil Kim Allgor is a veteran teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing with 40 years of experience mostly in the itinerant setting. She taught students from birth to age 21 programs as the only teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing for 15 years before teaching at St Paul Public Schools with students who were primarily first and second-generation immigrants with mild/moderate hearing loss.

Allgor earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD, and Master of Arts in Instructional Design at St Mary's

University in Winona. While teaching in St. Paul, she struggled to effectively advocate for and educate her students in the inner city.

To expand her knowledge in this area she participated in Seeking Equity in Educational Diversity (SEED) programs in the Twin Cities for the past 20 years. Within the program, she discovered how students' race, culture, and identities affect their learning styles and outcomes.

Currently she is a Professional Development trainer for Education Minnesota. In her biography she notes: "I facilitate Professional development for educators in the re-licensure areas such as cultural competencies, American Indian History and Culture, Ableism, English Language learners, and Reading strategies across MN communities."

At our meeting, she will discuss her work and experiences in how race, culture and identity affect learning and educational success. Allgor's talk is free and open to the public.

## **Gadabouts**

*Sarah Kiani*

Spring is here! Do you like art and flowers?

If so join us for our spring gadabouts as we visit the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) for an amazing exhibit "Art in Bloom". This show features floral arrangements designed with inspiration by the art pieces they sit next to.

Once inside the museum, there is as much walking as you want there to be, or not. You could just do a small section and have a seat or you could walk the whole thing depending on your energy and ability.

We will be going to the museum on Saturday 4/26 leaving from St. Phillips lot in carpools 10:30-2:30. The exhibit is free but lot parking is \$25 per car in the ramp. I will be driving and can take 3-4 more people. We can divide parking costs as needed.

To register or for more information please email / call Sarah Kiani at 319-610-5711

email [Sarah@hopetreecounselingservices.com](mailto:Sarah@hopetreecounselingservices.com) to get your name on the list. Once registrations come in, I will design carpools. Please register by 4/20 for planning purposes.

See link to learn more about Art in Bloom

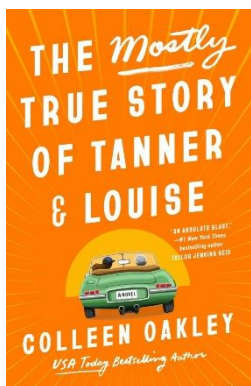
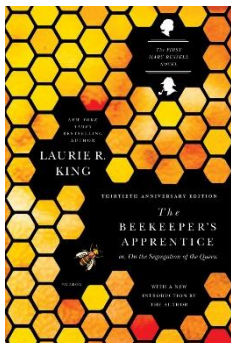
<https://new.artsmia.org/art-in-bloom/art-in-bloom-2025>

## 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 April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be discussing *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie R. King. This enjoyable mystery includes a long retired middle-aged Sherlock Holmes and a young, brilliant Mary Russell whose intellect matches his. Mary becomes Sherlock's apprentice.



The May 12<sup>th</sup> selection is *The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise* by Colleen Oakley. An unforgettable pairing of a college dropout and a not-to-be-underestimated eighty-four-year-old woman. They are on the run from the law and if they can outrun the mistakes of their past, they might just have the greatest adventure of their lives. "This story is full of tremendous heart, humor, and wit."

### **Member Book Sale:**

We will have our member book sale at our Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting. This is our fundraiser for the annual Hastings Reads programs in February. We will sell used books before and after the meeting. Any books left over will be sold at AAUW's Rivertown book sale.

More details on when and where to drop off books will be in the May TWIG. Until then, please collect the books you are ready to give away!

## Hospitality

Nancy Ahn, Darla Kimmes, & Lois Twedt

### **AAUW Spring Social, 2025**

The AAUW Spring Social is on **Monday, April 28** at the **Hastings Public House**, 2015 Westview Drive, Hastings MN 55033

**Check In: 5:30PM (Cash Bar)**

**Dinner: 6:00PM**

**Cost: \$35**

**Menu: Spring Salad and rolls, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Chicken, and Dessert**

After the business meeting, Kim Allgor, mother of AAUW member Rachel Allgor, will present a program entitled

***Identity, Culture, and You***

**Checks** should be made out to the **Hastings Public House** and may be **mailed to Nancy Ahn**, 1600 Westview Drive, Hastings, MN 55033. If you would like to drop off a payment, please call Nancy Ahn at 651-437-8325 to make arrangements.



Scan this code to pay

Making a Venmo payment is also an option. Thank you, Xilian Maceda. People can scan the QR code or search by name. Include your name/spring in the memo.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting and/or the program only, is welcome. Celebrate Spring!

**Please make your payment by April 18, 2025**

Come together to support women! Vote at our annual meeting!

"Woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman." Melinda French Gates

## Technology, Web Page & Facebook

Linda Ferris, Rachel Allgor, Susan Just, & Amelia Strauss

### **HOW MANY AAUW HASTINGS FOLLOWERS HAVE YOU ENGAGED!**

If you use Facebook and have yet to follow AAUW Hastings, please do so immediately. It's super easy:

1. Log into FB
2. Enter AAUW Hastings MN in the search box
3. Click on the Follow button.

Now for some fun. The Hastings member securing the most followers by **Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>** will win a prize. All you need to do is share the above instructions with family and friends and provide a list of those followers to [ralmferris@msn.com](mailto:ralmferris@msn.com). All lists will be confirmed and the contest winner announced at the May 19 meeting. **ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!**

#### 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

<https://www.aauw.org/>

## Community

Lesley Lesch

### Black Dirt Theater

Black Dirt Theater Improv -

<https://www.blackdirttheater.com/>

- Saturday May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at 2nd Street Depot
- Saturday May 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Hastings Public House

### Sheldon Theatre

Hailed as the "Jewel Box" of Red Wing, the Sheldon Theatre is a premier performing arts theater in Minnesota. Upcoming shows include.

<https://www.sheldontheatre.org/>

- Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 7:30 pm; Tevye in New York!
- Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 7:30 pm; Magic Carpet Ride
- Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 3:00 pm; Sheldon Theatre Brass Band Spring Concert
- Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 7:30 pm; Kathy Mattea
- Wednesday, May 7 2025 at 9:30 am; Charlotte's Web
- Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 10 am; Koo Koo
- Saturday, May 17 2025 at 7:30 pm; Tim Harmston & Mary Mack

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

- Mother's Day Tea – Saturday May 10, 2025 and Sunday May 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.  
<https://www.dakotahistory.org/events/1032-may-10-11-mother-s-day-tea-a>

### City of Hastings

- Levee Park Events – Details to follow
- Maker's Market – The City of Hastings' 2025 Music + Market is a place for area makers to sell their goods during live music performances adjacent to our historic downtown and riverfront park. We welcome artists, makers, crafters and small brands. Thursdays 6-8:30 p.m.
  - June 5, 12, 26; July 3, 10, 24, 31; Aug 7, 21, 28 and Sep 2, 11
- Make Music Day – Saturday June 21, 2025 – more details to follow

### Hastings Arts Center Concerts

216 4th Street East Hastings –

[www.hastingsartcenter.org](http://www.hastingsartcenter.org) 651-437-4320

- 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.

- Sunday April 27, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. – “Rock It Man” Dueling Piano Show  
Individual Concerts are \$25.

### **Hastings Downtown Business Association**

Hastings Historic Car Shows 2025 in Downtown Hastings 11:00 am – 4:00 p.m. The show is limited to classic cars & trucks from 1985 and older. (No motorcycles at this time). 2nd Sunday of the month

- Sunday May 18th 2025
- Sunday June 15th 2025
- Sunday July 20th 2025- Rivertown Days
- Sunday August 17th 2025
- Sunday September 21st 2025
- Sunday October 12th 2025

Hastings Rivertown Days – July 17-20, 2025 – Our “AAUW Book Sale” will be held at the Arts & Crafts Fair Saturday July 19 and Sunday July 20 – more details to follow.

### **Spring at Spring Lake Park**

Location: Spring Lake Park 8395 127th St E, Hastings, MN 55033

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/ProgramsEvents/SpecialEvents/Pages/spring-at-spring-lake-park-reserve.aspx>

Saturday, April 26 at 12 pm – 4:00 pm. Come to this event and enjoy all that Spring Lake Park Reserve has to offer. Experience views of the Mississippi River along the newly completed Mississippi River Greenway. Learn about the prairie restoration projects and the reintroduction of bison. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the park in the Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center and get to know this amazing park.

### **Carpenter Nature Center**

Location: 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings, MN 55033. <https://carpenternaturecenter.org/events/>

Public Bird Banding - Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am – 12:00 pm. Location: back patio of the Administration Building Program Fee: Free See birds up close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously, so come and go as you please.

Bird Festival – Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> between 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Attend classes that introduce you to raptors, birding, bird banding, and go on guided bird trips through the Hastings area. Learn more about when events are taking place by checking out the Event Page.

### **Fundraising**

**Ceil Strauss & Julie Larson**

#### **It's never too soon to plan ahead.....**

AAUW Hastings Presents ***oh la la!*** Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Hastings Golf Club; please join us for an enchanted evening in Paris! Be on the lookout for details which will be sent out soon!

### **Scholarships**

**Marilyn Tennesen**

On May 19th, we will award four Hastings High School seniors with a total of \$8000 in scholarships: Two \$2,500 for 4-year degrees, and two \$1500 for 2-year degrees. That's a first for our chapter!

Our AAUW has been supporting young women through scholarships since 1971, awarding one \$200 scholarship. In 1974, we awarded \$250, by 1981 we awarded \$500. Then in 1989 we increased to \$600, 1992 to \$1000, 1994 to \$1300, and 1995 to \$1500. In 2006 we increased the award to \$2000, and in 2015 to \$2500.

In 2023, we began awarding two types of scholarships: one for a 4-year degree, and one for a 2-year degree. Last year we awarded 3 scholarships, with two of them for the 2-year degree. Now in 2025, we are awarding four scholarships. We can be proud of our Hastings legacy.

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Renee Souza**

Our pot of gold at the beginning of March was filled with \$12,364 and at the end of the March rainbow ended with a balance of \$12,915. All of which was due to our busy Membership team capturing additional dues.

There were no additional income or expenses to report. Our primary focus over the past month—and continuing into this one—has been finalizing the 2025–2026 budget, which will soon be presented to the membership. This upcoming budget represents a meaningful shift from previous years, shaped by the insights we've gained through the growth and success of our recent major conference. These lessons have helped us better align with both state and national budgeting strategies.

We look forward to sharing it with you soon!

After covering expenses, we closed the month with a solid \$12,500 and are excited to continue our membership drive in the months ahead!

## **Communications Team**

**Julie Hicks**

We joined the Hastings Chamber of Commerce this past week and will include our information and events on their website. Join fellow Chamber members for “Lunch Mob” lunch the third Wednesday of the month at a different member restaurant! These events are a perfect opportunity to connect with like-minded business representatives in a casual environment. We are welcome to attend. For April, it is on Wednesday April 16, 2025 at 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM at Culvers. There will be good food and conversation with other Chamber members. You pay for your own lunch.

## **Diversity**

**Lisa Hedin**

April is Autism Awareness month in the United States.

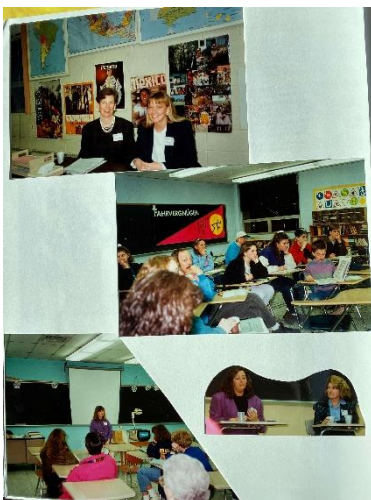
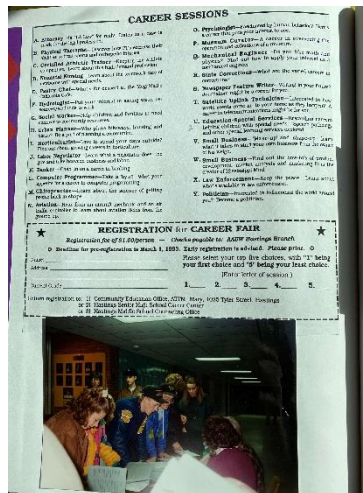
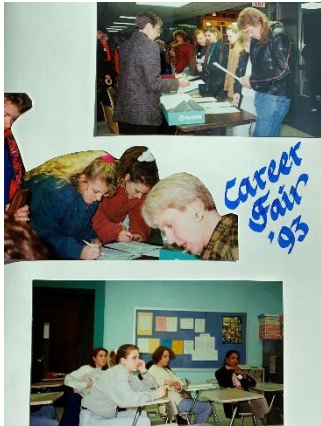
Autism is characterized by the American Psychiatric Association as “Persistent differences in communication, interpersonal relationships, and social interactions across different environments.”. This can look like: non-verbal or atypical speech patterns, trouble understanding non-verbal communication, or difficulty maintaining typical back-and-forth conversational style. Additionally, “Restricted and repetitive behaviors, patterns, activities and interests.”. This can look like: repetitive sounds, phrases or movements, preference for sameness and difficulty with transition, or significant sensitivity to stimuli (sounds and light).

Since 1965 the Autism Society of America and their affiliates have connected people to resources through education, advocacy and community programming. In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution highlighting the need to raise public awareness of autism and designated April 2<sup>nd</sup> as World Autism Awareness Day. Check out the UN website for a couple interesting videos about Korean artists breaking barriers and a young American film-maker Benjamin Rosloff, as well as resources on the UN's inclusion strategy. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/autism-day>

Including autistic voices in discussions of healthcare, education, employment and urban development promotes accessibility, equity and innovation in multiple sectors.

Sources: Autism Society and United Nations websites.

## Past partnerships between AAUW and Hastings Public Schools!



AAUW Hastings Branch - General Membership  
Business Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Location: St. Philip's  
Lutheran Church and Zoom

1. President's Message: D. Sandahl  
March 25 is Equal Pay Day. Kelsey Waites and Michelle Witte wrote a powerful editorial in the Star Tribune (<https://www.startribune.com/try-as-the-trump-administration-might-it-cant-erase-women/601242634>).

Donate to AAUW's Greatest Needs fund to support AAUW National activities that promote women's equality.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** L. Hedin  
Beginning of March checking balance = \$12,870. Balances and expenses are on target for this year's budget. The 2025-2026 budget proposal will be discussed at the April Board Meeting, then presented to the general membership in May. AAUW National has proposed a \$2 increase in national dues each for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 budgets.

a) Nominating Committee – nominations for committee positions:  
Co-Treasurer: Pam Onnen and Xilian Maceda

Programs: Pam Peterson, Barb Hollenbeck, Mona Roach  
Community: Leslie Lesch  
DEI: Jody Husting

April outing is to Art in Bloom at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts on April 27. Contact Sarah K. for more information.

c) Technology – L. Ferris

Our new Facebook page is up and running. Committee members can show you how to follow our page. An upcoming

contest will award prizes to members who generate the most followers.

- d) Membership – J. Rudh  
We currently have 120 members. 3 members are expired and 3 are in the grace period. Programs – D. Elling Schultz  
Spring Social and annual membership meeting is April 28.  
May 19 meeting will include the members' book sale.
- e) Hospitality – N. Ahn  
Spring Social on April 28 at the Hastings Golf course. This is our branch annual meeting – we must have a quorum present to conduct our business meeting.  
Cost is \$35 per person. Please register by April 18. Checks can be made out to Hastings Public House; payment via Venmo is also available. A flyer with details is available at tonight's meeting.  
Schedule: Arrival and check-in 5:30-6:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Presentation by Kim Allgor on Identity Culture and You at 6:45 p.m.
- f) Public Policy – P. Powers  
Contact Pat to donate items for our branch's State Convention silent auction baskets.
- g) NCCWSL – G. Glashan  
Deadline for applications is April 1. We have not received any applications yet.
- h) Book Club – C. Toppin  
Discussion of *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie King is on April 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Library. The May meeting book is *The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise* by Colleen Oakley.  
We received a thank you from Hastings Reads for our donation.
- i) Scholarship – M. Tennessen  
We will be notified of our scholarship recipients' names shortly before Senior Awards Night on May 19.
- j) Historian/School Liaison – L. Hedin  
Send Lisa images of any and all events, meetings, activities, etc. we participate in. Mock Interview volunteer opportunity on April 24 at Hastings High School. We still need a few volunteers. Contact Lisa to if you can participate.

Hastings School Board will vote on eliminating its DEI Policy 100 at the March 26 Board meeting. Please email School Board members to express your views on this. The Board is also accepting letters of interest from people who would like to fill Jenny Wiederholt-Pine's position.

- k) DEI – J. Husting presented an activity at the beginning of tonight's meeting.
- l) Fundraising – J. Rudh  
2025 Wine Soirée is scheduled for Sept. 15 at the Hastings Public House. This year's theme will be *Ooh La La, an Evening in Paris*. Tickets will be \$85, \$75 if you register before Sept. 1.
- 5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 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
Treasurer/Finance -----	Renee Souza
Book Club & Hastings Reads ----	Linda Bindman
Communication -----	Linda Bindman
	Julie Hicks
Community -----	Lesley Lesch
Diversity -----	Jody Husting
Fundraising -----	Ceil Strauss
	Julie Larson
Funds & HS Scholarships -----	Marilyn Tennessen
Gadabouts -----	Sarah Kiani
Historian/School Liaison -----	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality -----	Nancy Ahn
	Darla Kimmes
	Lois Twedt
NCCWSL -----	Gail Glashan
Public Policy -----	Pat Powers
Technology -----	Linda Ferris
	Susan Just
	Rachel Allgor
	Amelia Strauss