

President's Message

Dorothy Sandahl

Wow! Such a beautiful fall we are experiencing and along with that AAUW is just as marvelous as we are moving along in so many directions.

We heard from Jodi Husting about the STEM program from the Works Museum of Minnesota, She Engineers! Well, we scraped together a quick proposal to AAUW National for some money to bring this together. And we are now just waiting to hear; we are contacting the STEM leaders at the schools to see if we can bring this together in the Spring. We'll need lots of volunteers to help so look for more info to come.

In addition, we are looking at our structure with Peggy Horsch heading up the by-laws and creating an outline for the future. Where is there a place to use your gifts in the organization? Think about that and let us know so we can enable you to grow and participate.

Membership is looking at new ways to attract membership but the best one of all is to invite your friends and neighbors, best people to be around. There is a new program for Colleges to become members that we are looking into also. If you have a person to contact, let us know so we can reach out.

Treasurer Pam Onnen is working with Xillian Maceda to share some of those responsibilities so the burden isn't too heavy on one person. Changes abound!

If you are looking for some exciting things to do around town, check out Lesley Lesch Community Events...she is striving to pump it up with new ideas.

And don't forget to go to Spiral Coop this month to support AAUW fund raising and thank them for sponsoring us.

Fall is a great time of year for energy, rebirth and moving forward with new exciting directions. Join in the fun; no idea is too small and all ideas are welcomed!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 13 Book Club
Oct. 25 Gadabouts
Oct. 27 Meeting & Program
Nov. 10 Book Club

HASTINGS BRANCH

Meets on Mondays

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

1401 15th Street West,

Hastings, Minnesota 55033

2025-2026 PROGRAMS

September 22, 6:00 pm **Salad Supper**
Inclusion Benefits All
Basma Ibrahim DeVries, Ph.D

October 27, 7:00 pm
Cancer Legal Care
Meghan Scully, Managing Attorney

November 24, 7:00 pm
Guatemala Dentistry, Common Hope
Kelly Marthaler

December 6, 10:00 am
Holiday Celebration at the Hastings Golf Club

January 26, 6:00 pm **Chili Supper**
Immigrant Integration System
Pat Branstad

February 23, 7:00 pm
Cases, Trends & Insights
Kathryn Keena, Dakota County Attorney

March 23, 7:00 pm
Women's Health
Dr. Mona Roach

April 27, 6:00 pm **Spring Social & Annual**
Tourism in Hastings **Meeting at Hastings**
Golf Club
Kristy Barse, Hastings Area Chamber of
Commerce President

May 18, 7:00 pm **Book Sale**
Hope Tree Counseling Services
Sarah Kiani, M.A.

Program

Barb Hollenbeck

Cancer Legal Care



Meghan Scully is an attorney at Cancer Legal Care, where she assists clients in navigating the Social Security Administration's disability programs.

Meghan's legal career has focused on access and eligibility for government benefit programs.

Prior to joining Cancer Legal Care, she worked for a civil legal services provider managing several Medical Legal Partnerships. These unique collaborations between attorneys and health care professionals use legal advocacy to address barriers to individual and community health and well-being.

Meghan has taught poverty law and clinical courses at Mitchell Hamline School of Law and the University of Minnesota Law School.

When not advocating for her clients, Meghan can be found keeping up with her amazing kids (ages 8 and 12), singing along to Broadway musicals, tending to her family's garden, puzzling, and cheering for the Minnesota Lynx. She is a 2001 graduate of Hastings High School.

Membership

Linda Ferris & Jody Rudh

AAUW National now offers you the option to renew your membership online! It's super easy! Follow the step-by-step instructions outlined in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vXUvq-1JY4>

Treasurer's Report

Pam Onnen

Our Hastings Branch began September 2025 with a beginning balance of \$12,066.57.

Deposits to our account during September included:

Collected Dues: Renewals/New Members \$903

another **\$176** Paid to Hastings Chapter from State and National, AAUW

Our Hastings Branch **Fundraising** earned a **whopping \$15,829** from the successful Oh La La Wine Soiree event.

Expenses for September were **\$805** paid to State AAUW and National AAUW for member renewal fees.

Our ending balance for the end of September is \$28,169.57

Gadabouts

Sarah Kiani

A Fall Gadabouts event:

Meet us on **October 25 at 11 AM** with a warm beverage in hand and your walking shoes on as we visit the bison right in our backyard here in Hastings. This magnificent herd has been established in Spring Lake Park on natural restored Prairie. Bison roamed this area for a millennia before the takeover of the wildlands.

There should still be some colorful leaves hanging on the trees, please dress for the weather we will gather/ park at the bison viewing area.

This is a free event. See attached map and link to description of the bison herd please RSVP to Sarah@hopetreecounselingservices.com just so we have an idea of how many people will be coming.

If lost or need help on the day of please text or call Sarah at 319-610-5711

We will meet where Fischer runs off of hwy 55 down towards Spring Lake reserve between area three and four on the map where the interpretive sign is. It is right next to the archery range for reference.

MAP

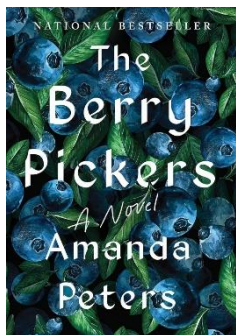
<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/parksTrails/SpringLake/Documents/BisonLocationMapP7.pdf>

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/parksTrails/SpringLake/Pages/bison-prairie.aspx>

Book Club

Linda Bindman, Ann Johnson, & Cindy Toppin

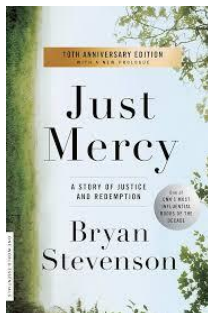
The book club meets the second Monday of the month at the Pleasant Hill Library at 1:30pm in the Old Mill Ruins room. Please join us, all are welcome!!



On Oct. 13 we will be discussing *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. *The Berry Pickers* is a heartbreaking, riveting tale of Indigenous family separation. We follow an Indigenous Mi'kmaq family in Nova Scotia who travels every summer to Maine to pick blueberries as migrant workers.

In the summer of 1962, 4-year-old Ruthie, the youngest of the family's five children, disappears from the fields. The last to see her is the second youngest, 6-year-old Joe, who takes the loss especially hard and carries his guilt in the years to come.

For Nov. 10, we will be discussing *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. This book is a memoir about Stevenson's career as a lawyer and his work for poor clients, largely focusing on his efforts to overturn the wrongful conviction of Walter McMillian for the murder of Ronda Morrison. Stevenson began working on the case in the 1980s, while McMillian was on death row.



Fundraising

Julie Larson & Ceil Strauss



**AAUW Members
please shop and
round-up your
purchase at**

**Spiral Natural Foods Co-op in Hastings in
October and help fund scholarships!**

**We have partnered with Spiral Foods as their
October Round-Up Partner.** When you check out, please tell them you want to round-up your purchase (to the nearest dollar) and the funds will go to our AAUW branch for scholarships. Spiral Natural Foods is located at 1250 S Frontage Road in Hastings at the corner of Hwy 55 and Westview Drive.

It is simple, easy and a great way for us to gain additional funds for our scholarships!

Wine Soirée Summary

Our 5th annual Wine Soirée at The Hastings Public House Thursday September 18, 2025 was an Oh, la la! "Extraordinary Evening in Paris" and a huge success raising \$9,000+ for Hastings High School Girls' Scholarships with over 110 people in attendance.

Fun was had by all enjoying French wines, food and bidding on fabulous Raffle Baskets donated by over 20 local businesses and members. The final event was a "Dessert Dash" with delectable desserts donated by local bakeries raising over \$3,000. What a great event!

Thank you to the planning committee, The Hastings Public House and all who helped with, contributed to and attended to make this wonderful evening such a success!



Diversity

Jodi Husting

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Submitted by Lisa Hedin

Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated on the second Monday in October, which is October 13 in 2025. There is a long history to the establishment of this holiday, which is a national, but not federal, holiday.

- Dr. Arthur Caswell Parker, a member of the Seneca Nation, was an early proponent of establishing a day to honor Indigenous peoples. He convinced the Boy Scouts of America to observe a day for "First Americans" from 1912 to 1915.
- In 1914, Rev. Red Fox James, campaigned for a national holiday to honor Indigenous peoples, traveling more than 4,000 miles on horseback to seek support from state governors. On December 14, 1915, he presented endorsements from 24 governors to President Woodrow Wilson at the White House.
- New York was one of the first states to officially proclaim this observance on May 13, 1916.
- In 1990, South Dakota became the first state to replace Columbus Day (the second Monday in October) with Native Americans' Day as an official state holiday.
- In 1992, Berkeley, California, became the first city to officially observe Indigenous Peoples' Day officially.
- In 2023, Minnesota officially recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day as the second Monday in October. A public school may be in session on this holiday with the following requirement. "On Indigenous Peoples Day, at least one hour of the school program must be devoted to observance of the day." Per MN Statute 120A.42.

The First Annual Hastings Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration will be held October 12 from 11 am – 4 pm at 121 Tyler Street. It will be a day of celebration, culture and community.

Want to venture further afield? Indigenous Peoples Day Powwow on October 13 from 3-7 pm

at Minneapolis American Indian Center (1530 E Franklin Ave Minneapolis, MN).

Sources: Almanac.com, Culture Language Arts Network on Facebook and MN government website

Public Policy

Pat Powers

AAUW sent the following email out this week. From the national website, AAUW org, you can take action on the issues that AAUW presents. Go there and Take Action. Sign up for future email notifications on AAUW action items.

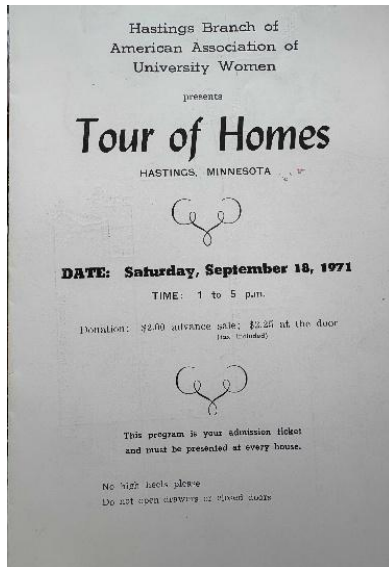
"Are you tired of the constant headlines about new attacks on education and democracy? Me too. That's exactly why AAUW is taking action — and why your voice still matters.

- **AAUW is showing up at the Supreme Court (Oct 15).** CEO Gloria L. Blackwell will stand with our members and partners as the Court hears a redistricting case that could weaken the Voting Rights Act. Follow along on our social channels or [listen to live audio of oral arguments](#).
- **Join No Kings Day (Oct 18).** Across the country, AAUW members are rallying for education, economic opportunity, civil rights, and a healthy democracy. [Click here for AAUW's toolkit and find an event near you.](#)
- **Fight misinformation-driven voter suppression.** America First Legal Foundation is pressuring the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to adopt a tactic built on misinformation that would undermine voter registration and disenfranchise women, students, people of color, and low-income and rural voters. [Submit your comment to the EAC to reject these barriers and protect fair elections.](#)

There's a way for every member and advocate to get engaged — pick the action(s) that fit your capacity and community.

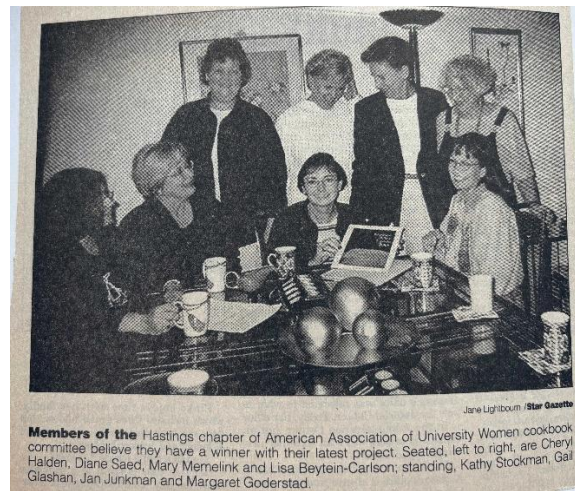
Historian Lisa Hedin

Capturing historical fundraising efforts:

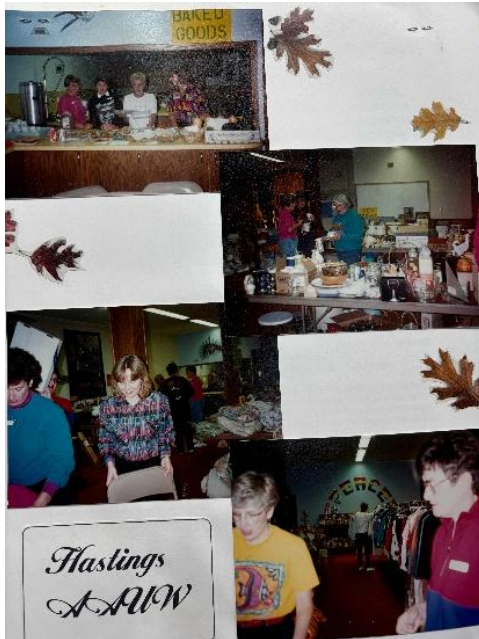


1971 House Tours
Note "No high heels please".

2001 Cookbook team and Journal Article.



1994
Garage and
Bake Sale.



Women Who Cook, Too! AAUW cookbook features good food and more

► The Hastings chapter of AAUW worked for months to produce a cookbook, which can be ordered now.

By Jane Lightbourn
Star Gazette staff writer

The Hastings chapter of the American Association of University Women has held house tours, drawings and garage sales to raise funds for its scholarship program.

The group's latest effort combines the talents of its members, takes some of their favorite recipes and brings them together into a cookbook, "Women Who Cook, Too!"

"In the fall, we were brainstorming about different ideas," Mary Memelink, chapter president, said. "Someone suggested a cookbook. We already have our gourmet group, so it seemed a good tie-in."

"Plus, we wanted something that could involve more of our members. We got that."

The membership gave its approval, and the planning and work began. Gail Glashan, Kathy Stockman and Marcia Van Vleet were co-editors. Other committees and their chairs were: proof-reading, Mary Ellen Olson and Pat Schultz; marketing and advertising, Margaret Goderstad and Jan Johnson; quotations and wisdom, Cheryl Halden; receiving and distribution, Jan Junkman and Becky Ward; layout and design, Lisa Beytejn-Carlson and Karen Egeberg; and recipe coordinators, Susan Hendrickson and Diane Saed.

"At first, we talked to Lori (Thrush) at the Senior Center, because they had just put out a cookbook," Junkman said. "Her help was instrumental in our success."

"With our cookbook, we tried to make it more special — classy, but simple," Glashan said.

The committee involved the chapter's 100 members by asking them to submit recipes for the cookbook. Each could submit up to 10 recipes.

The response was overwhelming, Glashan said, with about 80 submitted recipes within a three-week period.

"We had such a good base in our group," Saed

said. "Our members are interested in cooking and entertaining. The cooperation and enthusiasm was great. And we did it in a short period of time."

Recipes were not the only items submitted for the cookbook. A section of the book, "Quotations and Wisdom," contains familiar and not-so-familiar quotations. They include quotes from famous people and those not well-known.

One is from Hazel Jacobsen-Thiel, of Hastings, and summarizes part of her philosophy: "When you want to accomplish something, feed the guests very well first."

From Eleanor Roosevelt: "A woman is like a tea bag — only in hot water do you realize how strong she is."

"What was amazing was the balance in the recipes we received," Saed said. "We just had to fill in a few areas."

The recipe categories are appetizers and beverages, breads and brunches, soups and salads, entrees, accompaniments, desserts, cookies and candies, and dining with friends.

In March Hendrickson and Saed started the process of putting the recipes into categories, organizing the sections, and proofreading all recipes. Each recipe was read numerous times to avoid error.

More than 600 recipes are included in the book, which is being published by Morris Publishing of Kearney, Neb., a company that specializes in cookbooks. The cover was designed by Beytejn-Carlson.

The title was Saed and Halden's idea.

"It takes in the idea that women are many-faceted," Goderstad said. "Women are doing lots of other things now."

"Women have many careers," Glashan said.

"The cookbook will give us some more visibility," Beytejn-Carlson said. "We want to be more out in the community to let others know what AAUW is all about."

The committee expects to see a proof of the cookbook about July 1. After checking it for errors, it will be sent back to the publishers.

The 1,000 copies of the cookbook are expected back from the publishers by September and will be available at Hastings businesses. They can be ordered for \$18 each by calling Junkman at 437-6447.

“With our cookbook, we tried to make it more special — classy, but simple”

Gail Glashan
AAUW member

Community

Lesley Lesch

Enjoy Hastings Fall Fun!

<https://www.visithastingsmn.org/fall/>

Hastings Downtown Business Association - **<https://hastingsdba.com/>**

- **Downtown Hastings Halloween Candy Crawl!**
Sunday Oct. 26th, 2025 from 2pm-5pm
Back by popular demand is the Downtown Hastings Halloween Candy Crawl! Come in your best costume and trick-or-treat through Downtown Hastings businesses! What can you look forward to; DJ, Trick-or-Treating at Downtown businesses, Bounce House: Sponsored by Hastings Public House & Golf Club, Mini Golf, Hot Chocolate, Balloon Art at The Studio Downtown, Cotton Candy at Lock and Dam Eatery, Trunk-or-Treat on Sibley Street, Pumpkin decorating at 2nd Street Depot \$. This year for the Halloween Candy Crawl we will be collecting these items for Hastings Family Service.
- **Holiday Hoopla & Small Business Saturday**
Saturday Nov 29th, 2025.
More details to come.

Dakota County Historical Society – Le Duc Historic Estate

- Candlelight Tours of LeDuc – a haunting good time! October 18th and 19th at 7, 8, 9 pm. Fees: \$15 Regular Admission, \$10 Discounted Admission for Seniors, DCHS members, and Veterans
- Victorian Holiday Tea at LeDuc – Saturday, December 6 and 13th at 2 pm - \$40. per person, \$35. Members.
- LeDuc Woodland Winter Walk – A Free Winter Solstice Walk – Saturday, December 20th

Learn more at <https://www.dakotahistory.org/leduc-events>

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- The First Annual Hastings Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration will be held October 12 from 11 am – 4 pm at 121 Tyler Street. It will be a day of celebration, culture and community.
- Want to venture further afield? Indigenous Peoples Day Powwow on October 13 from 3-7 pm at Minneapolis American Indian Center (1530 E Franklin Ave Minneapolis, MN).

Carpenter Nature Center 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings, MN 55033

- **Apple Festival**
October 11th & 12th, 2025 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Celebrate the harvest at Carpenter Nature Center's annual Apple Festival! This event is free and is held rain (or snow) or shine. Enjoy pick-your-own apples, hayrides (weather permitting), cider-making demonstrations, live music, live animal programs, children's activities, apple brats grilled by the Hastings Lions, baked goods, and more! Learn about the animals of the St. Croix River Valley in our Visitor Center, and take a hike with your family on the trails!
- **Minnesota Campus Public Bird Banding**
October 24 @ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
See birds up close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously, so come and go as you please. Donations of bird seed and suet are appreciated in place of a program fee.
- **Minnesota Campus Bird Hike**
November 1 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Pre-registration required – Call 651-437-4359
Program Fee: \$5 per person or FREE for 'Friends of CNC,' SCVBC and students. Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides available or bring your own.

Hastings Arts Center Concerts

216 4th Street East Hastings –

<https://www.hastingsartscenter.org/> 651-437-4320

- **FREE 2025-2026 COFFEE CONCERT SCHEDULE**
(All FREE Concerts are on Tuesdays at 10:30am at HAC – confirm location)

November 4, 2025: Artu Duo--Ruth

Marshall, cellist & Garret Ross, pianist
 December 16, 2025: Hannah Flowers, harp
 January 20, 2026: Sarah Lockwood-
 violin/viola & Gail Olszewski-piano
 February 3, 2026: OboeBass duo
 March 10, 2026: Jennifer Eckes presenting
 Broadway highlights
 April 7, 2026: Amos Lucidi, pianist
 May 19, 2026: The Paper Clips, trombone
 quartet

- Main Event Concerts at St. Phillips Church
 – confirm location

Friday, October 25 at 7:30 pm. An Evening
 with the Jonah Walt Jazz Quartet.
 Saturday, November 15 at 7:00 pm. Rue &
 Sabien
 Saturday, November 29 at 7:00 pm.
 Christmas on the Prairie with special guest,
 Kevin Kling.

Sheldon Theatre

The Sheldon Theatre is a premier performing arts
 theater in Red Wing. Check out their upcoming
 holiday lineup. <https://www.sheldonthatre.org/>

Secretary Becky Arenivar

AAUW Hastings Branch - General Membership
 Business Meeting Minutes
 September 22, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Location: St.
 Philip's Lutheran Church and Zoom

Our annual Salad Supper preceded the business
 meeting. Dr. Kristine Wehrkamp Herman,
 Superintendent of Hastings Public School District,
 spoke about the District's Strategic Plan.
 Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by D.
 Sandahl.

Attendance: approximately 45

1. President's Message: D. Sandahl
 Thank you to board members for helping
 update our branch's Strategic Plan, now
 available on our website. Members are
 encouraged to give feedback.

Our By-Laws need to be updated by June
 2026 to align them with AAUW National. We
 need a couple of additional members to work
 on this. Contact Dorothy to learn more.

2. May 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes:
 J. Hicks moved to approve; M. Tjomsland
 seconded; minutes approved unanimously by
 voice vote.
3. Treasurer's Report: P. Onnen
 Beginning of July bank balance = \$12,000; end
 of July bank balance = \$13,000. Proceeds
 from Wine Soirée have not been included in
 the bank balance yet.
 A new form to record and request
 reimbursement of expenses will be available at
 the October membership meeting.
4. Committee/Activity Reports
 - a) Membership – L. Ferris and J. Rudh
 4 new members joined at the meet and
 greet in early September. Our total
 membership is 120. Reminders were
 emailed to members who need to renew in
 September.
 - b) Technology – L. Ferris
 Wine Soirée pictures are on our Facebook
 page. We will tag businesses who
 donated goods/services in our photos; our
 photos will then appear on those
 businesses' pages.
 - c) Fundraising – M. Tjomsland
 Wine Soirée: 110 attendees; \$560 was
 donated by people who couldn't attend in
 person; > 34 local businesses donated
 items; > 13 bakeries donated desserts;
 Dessert Dash netted \$3,400; total
 estimated proceeds minus estimated
 expenses = \$9500.
 - d) Hospitality – D. Kimmes, N. Ahn
 A sign-up sheet to provide snacks/treats at
 future membership meetings is available
 tonight with 3 volunteer slots for each
 meeting. Please provide your email when
 you sign up, so Darla can send you a
 reminder.
 Thank you to everyone who provided food
 for tonight's Salad Supper.
 - e) Book Club – C. Toppin
 Cindy recommends the September book,
Dinners With Ruth by Nina Totenberg, to
 everyone. The book club enjoyed reading
 and discussing it.
 Meetings are held on the second Monday

of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Library. October 13 will feature *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. The November book will be *Just Mercy: a Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.

- f) Communications – J. Hicks
During October, AAUW Hastings will be the recipient of Spiral Natural Foods' round-up program. Shop and round-up to support our branch. Spiral Foods is located at the southeast corner of Westview Drive and Highway 55, with access to the parking lot from South Frontage Road.

- g) Diversity – J. Husting
September 30 is Orange Shirt Day, aka National Truth and Reconciliation Day, commemorating the Indian residential school experience. Wear an orange shirt to affirm your support of reconciliation and of the enduring truth that every child matters.
Girls and STEM – Jodi will contact elementary schools about AAUW Hastings hosting a She Engineers (The Works Museum) event. We will apply for a state grant to fund materials and call for members to help at the event.

- h) Gad-about – S. Kiani
Email Sarah Kiani
(Sarah@hopetreecounselingservices.com)
to register for an event or for more information.

- Saturday, Oct. 25 from 11:00-12:30, meet up at the bison viewing area in Spring Lake Park. No reservation needed. See the bison, take a walk, bring your favorite fall drink to keep warm.

- December 13 we will attend the Victorian Tea at the Historic Leduc House.

5. Adjournment: P. Powers moved to adjourn; C. Toppin seconded. Adjournment was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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/>

AAUW Hastings Board

President -----	Dorothy Sandahl
VPs Membership -----	Linda Ferris
	Jody Rudh
VP Programs -----	Barb Hollenbeck
Secretary -----	Becky Arenivar
Treasurer -----	Pam Onnen
Book Club -----	Linda Bindman
Community -----	Lesley Lesch
Diversity -----	Jodi Husting
Fundraising -----	Julie Larson
	Ceil Strauss
Funds & HS Scholarships -----	Marilyn Tennesen
Gadabouts -----	Sarah Kiani
Historian/School Liaison -----	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality -----	Nancy Ahn
	Darla Kimmes
	Lois Twedt
NCCWSL -----	Gail Glashan
Public Communication -----	Julie Hicks
Public Policy -----	Pat Powers
Technology -----	Linda Ferris
TWIG -----	Linda Bindman