

The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



Fireside Chats February 2022



Annual Scholarship Fundraiser

Generous AAUW Duluth members and guests donated over \$3,000 towards 2022 scholarships !

Holiday Donations to Life House

Generous AAUW members and guests gave hundreds of dollars for holiday gifts to at-risk youth at Life House.

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Please Join Us for our Annual AAUW Virtual
Fireside Chats
The Daughter Series!



This year we are pleased to welcome the daughters of two of our members!



Thursday, February 10
7:00 pm

Starr Brainard
Farmer & Owner of Saltless Sea
Urban Farm
Daughter of Diana Brainard

"A Long Journey Home"

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/Fireside-Starr>
Meeting ID: 845 1182 1720
Passcode: 261642



Sunday, February 13
3:00 pm

Alicia Williamson*
Chief Editor at Quotabelle,
a feminist media brand
Daughter of Wendy Williamson

"Signed & Unsealed: Uncovering
Lost Voices in Women's Letters"

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/Fireside-Alicia>
Meeting ID: 849 7526 5174
Passcode: 668564

*Joining us from Durham, England

This year the Program Committee is delighted to announce Fireside Chats: The Daughter Series featuring Zoom presentations by Starr Brainard, the daughter of Program Co-Chair Diana Brainard, and Alicia Williamson, the daughter of ex-President and current Co-Membership Chair Wendy Williamson. Here's further information about Starr and Alicia.

Starr Brainard

Starr graduated from American University with a BA in Environmental Studies (2014). In 2015, she worked for the Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the American University in Cairo and interned in Canada on a Fulbright Scholarship in 2016. She's now Land Stewardship Coordinator for the Duluth Community Garden Program. She also owns Saltless Sea Urban Farm and sells her produce locally.

Alicia Williamson

Alicia has a PhD in Literature & Women's Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. She joined the startup Quotabelle when she moved to England in 2014 and has served as the feminist media brand's chief editor ever since, co-authoring six books. Her latest, *Signed & Sealed*, is a quirky anthology of quotes from letters that help to illuminate the little known lives of women who served as partners, patrons, muses, mentors, and relatives.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Katie Joseph - Johnson graduated with a Master of Public Health from the University of Nebraska in 2018.

AAUW Duluth Officers

President: Kate Baldwin,
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Human Trafficking Awareness Activities, January 2022



The branch is a longtime co-sponsor of events every January during Human Trafficking Awareness month organized by the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA) and other groups.

Register for the upcoming free Zoom presentation “Sex Trafficking in Our Community: Myth vs Fact” on January 24, 10-11:30 am, and see other activities at pavsa.org.

New Branch Website at <https://duluth-mnmn.aauw.net>

Zabelle Stodola and Naomi Yaeger have populated the new branch website. It will be regularly updated with information and photographs, so please use it! To give a taste of Duluth to all website visitors, there is a rotating banner of iconic images such as Glensheen, Enger Tower, the Water Protector mural at AICHO, and the Aerial Lift Bridge. The website's main headings are Home, About Us, Join Us, Activities, Scholarships, Members, and Newsletter and Photo Archive. Also included on the site are highlights of the branch's history from its beginnings over a century ago to the 1980s, newsletters, forms, as well as branch bylaws.



Focus Group News and Activities Spring 2022

The Lunch Bunch

Contact: Bonnie Edwards,
bkedwards@gmail.com

1st Tuesday of the month

On hold for January and February 2022. Covid permitting, the group hopes to resume lunch outings in March.

Roundtable (Zoom)

Contact: Dawn Conlan, conlan518@gmail.com

3rd Tuesday at 5:30 pm

A random topic is chosen for friendly discussion each meeting.

Zeitgeist Afternoons, now Zoom Happy Hour

Contact: Geiger Yount,
geigman@aol.com

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 4 pm for discussion of films

The group sees films individually but uses Zoom for discussion. Film summaries and upcoming film titles are provided in advance. A few group viewings take place in member homes. Contact Geiger for details as schedule may change.

Sampler

Contact: Lou Anne Siefert,
lasiefert@charter.net

This eclectic group hopes to resume in the New Year.

Book Club

Contact: Angela George,
angela8744@msn.com

3rd Monday at 7 pm

One person per meeting leads discussion. January, February, and March meetings will be held on Zoom.

Membership Matters



AAUW Duluth is thriving despite the pandemic. The branch is 83 members strong including ten honorary Life Members!! A particularly warm welcome to new members in 2021 and many thanks to their branch mentors: **Laurie Beth Burg** (Mentor, Nancy Sivertson); **Courtney Edwards** (Mentor, Sara Socha); **Jackie Falk** (Mentor, Geiger Yount); **Becky Grams** (Mentor, Angela George); **Katie Joseph-Johnson** (Mentor, Wendy Williamson); **Geri Ohman** (Mentor, Bonnie Edwards); **Eileen Rathbun** (Mentor, Zabelle Stodola).

Membership Co-chairs Bonnie Edwards and Wendy Williamson held a new member brunch on November 6, 2021 (see photo of Courtney Edwards at left and mentor, Sara Socha, at right), and hope to meet other new members for coffee in January.

More Branch News

Information about YOU: Changed jobs? Been promoted? Done something exciting?

Send information to Zabelle so she can put it in the next newsletter, kzstodola@ualr.edu

Start Smart Workshops: In 2021, the branch concluded a three-year arrangement with UMD to run Start Smart workshops. Start Smart is national AAUW's initiative to take women through discussion and role-playing so they learn how to negotiate salaries for a new job. The last workshop offered at UMD was in November 2021, as requested by an instructor there. Invitations to attend were also extended through the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and the Women's Resource & Action Center at UMD.

2022-23 Membership Directories: Thanks to Bonnie Edwards and Wendy Williamson for compiling the new member directory, which will be available in February.

Photo: Members of the Film Group got together at Halloween.





American Association of University Women Duluth

AAUW Duluth
The Lob Tree
Zabelle Stodola, Editor
kzstodola@ualr.edu

AAUW Duluth: Empowering women through friendship, education, and advocacy

New website link:
[AAUW Duluth \(MN\) Branch](#)

See also <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWDuluth>



Dr. Dorothy Anway Memorial Scholarship Donations Invited

For the fourth year, the family and friends of Dr. Dorothy Anway—longtime Duluth branch treasurer—are offering a scholarship in her memory to one female international student majoring in mathematics and/or computer science at the University of Wisconsin – Superior. To donate to this scholarship, please make your check payable to “AAUW Duluth Branch” and send it **before February 28, 2022** to Marilyn Toscano, AAUW Duluth Branch Educational Opportunities Fund Chair, 24 Garden Street, Duluth, MN 55812. Thank you.

In Memoriam: bell hooks, 1952-2021

The black feminist author and activist bell hooks was born Gloria Jean Watkins in Kentucky. Educated as a child in the segregated South, she developed an early passion for reading and went on to graduate from Stanford with a degree in English. She obtained her MA in 1976 and her PhD in 1983.

In 1978 she published her first book, the

poetry collection *And There We Wept*, adopting the pen name she kept for the rest of her life, “bell hooks.” It memorialized her maternal great-grandmother, Bell Blair Hooks, whom she took after. But hooks insisted that her own name be all in lower case letters to emphasize, as she said, the “substance of books, not who I am.”

She published widely but is best known for her ground-breaking 1981 volume *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*, which argued that womanhood could not be reduced to a single experience. A truly inclusive feminism had to factor in race and class.

(Information from the obituary for bell hooks in *The New York Times*, Dec. 18, 2021, B11.)

