

The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



Annual Meeting, May 17, 2022

**AAUW Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:00**

We are pleased to be gathering at
Black Woods Duluth, 2525 London Road

In addition to our Business Meeting...

**Special Guest, Branch Member & Award Winning Author
Linda LeGarde Grover**



**“E.W. Bohannon, My Grandmother and Me: An American
Indian Boarding School Family and the American Dream”**

Linda will share how a painting of a former Dean of Education at the Duluth Teacher’s
College intersects with her family’s educational experiences and introduce the history
and purposes of the Indian boarding school era.

\$30/person (payable that evening) includes:

- Dinner Salad
- Choice of entree*:
- Chicken Breast Champagne Pasta; Black Woods Meatloaf;
- Lobster & Shrimp Flatbread
- Sweet Treats & Coffee Bar
- Cash Bar Available

RSVP by May 1, 2022 to

leanne.ventrella@gmail.com or dianab.aka.mommy@gmail.com

**Advance entrée selection not necessary. Special dietary needs contact
Diana Brainard or Leanne Ventrella*

**Latest CDC Covid guidelines
re masking, etc. will be followed**

Thank
you

**To these retiring branch
officers for all their work:**

- Kate Baldwin, President**
- Rebecca Bischoff, Secretary/Historian**
- Donna Kirk, Treasurer**
- Karen Moen, STEM**
- Marilyn Toscano, Educational Opportunity Funds**

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting	1
Named Gift Honorees	2
Officers Contact List	2
Young Women for Equity Branch Applicants	3
Focus Group Information 2021-22	3
Branch Scholarship Application Reminder	4
Book: <i>The Beekeeper of Aleppo</i> , by Christy Lefteri	4

Members and guests are invited to the branch’s first in-person annual meeting since 2019, featuring dinner, keynote speaker, and (brief) business meeting.

Where: Black Woods Duluth

When: Tuesday, May 17, 2022, beginning at 6 pm

Cost: \$30 payable at the door

RSVP: By May 1, 2022 to

Leanne Ventrella,
Leanne.ventrella@gmail.com or Diana Brainard, Dianab.aka.mommy@gmail.com

Please invite guests and prospective members for a taste of AAUW Duluth!

2022-2023 dues are payable at the annual meeting (check, cash, or square).

See more details on the

invitation above and on the website.

The keynote speaker is award-winning writer and incoming branch Co-President, Linda LeGarde Grover. She is Professor Emerita, UMD Department of American Indian Studies, and the author, most recently, of *In the Night of Memory and Gichigami Hearts*.





Zabelle Stodola (L) and Eileen Rathbun (R) joined other Lunch Bunch members at Tavern on the Hill, March 2022.

AAUW Duluth Officers, 2020-2022

President: Kate Baldwin,
Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com

Program: Leanne Ventrella,
Leanne.ventrella@gmail.com
& Diana Brainard, Di-anab.aka.mommy@gmail.com

Treasurer: Donna Kirk,
dkirk2@uwsuper.edu

Communications: Naomi Yaeger,
sun_dog_press@yahoo.com

Membership: Wendy William-son, petewill64@msn.com & Bonnie Edwards,
bkedwards@gmail.com

Educational Opportunity Funds: Marilyn Toscano,
mtoscano@uwsuper.edu

Newsletter & Diversity: Zabelle Stodola,
kzstodola@ualr.edu

Public Policy: To be filled

Secretary/Historian: Rebecca Bischoff, Rebecca.bischoff@sundogpress.com

STEM: Karen Moen,
Kmoen002@gmail.com

College Representative: Susana Pelayo-Woodward,
swoodwar@d.umn.edu

Named Gift Honoree 2022: Rebecca Bischoff



The branch honors Rebecca Bischoff and Raymone Kral for their community service and contributions to AAUW.

Rebecca served as branch Secretary/Historian from 2018-2022 and was on the scholarship selection committee. She says she likes “being part of a group that is about women supporting women.”

A lab technician at American Engineering Testing, in her spare time she volunteers at North Country Ride, a therapeutic horseback riding stable in Esko. She is active in the Duluth Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program, on the LWV Natural Resources Committee, and in the Sierra Club. Last year, Rebecca fulfilled one of her dreams by acquiring a horse, “Fancy Pants,” and also bought a historic house in Lincoln Park.

Named Gift Honoree 2022: Raymone Kral

Raymone has worked as a youth minister and teacher, but after witnessing a friend receive help through therapy, she settled on a 20-year career as a psychologist. She first joined AAUW to expand her circle of relationships. Raymone quickly got connected with Created Here, the branch’s annual fundraiser, and for several years chaired the silent auction, which is a lot of work. In July 2022, she will chair the branch’s Focus Groups and she has served on the Nominating Committee.

Her other activities include: 15-year member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, currently serving as a District Commander of the Marine Safety Unit, which became her family of friends. Now that she is retired, she also loves reading, making wine, traveling, and computer games.



Focus Group News and Activities Spring 2022

The Lunch Bunch

Contact: Bonnie Edwards, bkedwards@gmail.com

1st Tuesday of the month

The group resumed 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

Exact dates are fluid based on Zinema schedule. For Zinema film titles and screening schedule, see <https://zeitgeiststarts.com/>

zinema2/

Conversation is in the Café, usually following a matinee. Focus films and dates are arranged via group emails. Newly interested members are welcome to engage.

Sampler

Contact: Lou Anne Siefert, lasiefert@charter.net

This eclectic group hopes to resume in 2022 .

Book Club

Contact: Angela George, angela8744@msn.com

3rd Monday at 7 pm

One person per meeting leads discussion. January, February, and March meetings were held on Zoom. Contact Angela for current details on book list and in-person meetings.

Branch Nominees for 2022 AAUW MN Young Women for Equity Awards

AAUW Minnesota gives two annual Young Women for Equity awards, one at the high school level (\$500) and the second at the college level (\$1,000), to recognize and reward young women whose projects, activities, and leadership address equity issues. The Duluth branch is proud to sponsor two outstanding applicants.

High School level: NATALIE MILLER, a senior at East High School, won 1st place at National History Day for her 2020 Senior paper, "Too Strong for a Woman: How Bernice Sandler Created Title IX to Break Barriers for Female Faculty in Higher Education." She's won a Yale Book Award, a Youth Civic Engagement Scholarship, and is a 2021 AP Scholar. She plans to study next year at Yale and then attend law school.

College level: LAITZIA YANG, a UMD Biology major/Early Childhood Studies minor, is the current UMD Student Association Director of Equity and Inclusion. Her accomplishments include work with the Women's Resource and Action Center on the upcoming event "Remembering Our Stories," which addresses sexual violence and survivor empowerment, and the Antiracist Literacy Advisory Board. Her research with the latter focuses on representations of women and children as well as underrepresented populations, and her responsibilities in this initiative include a Praxis project on curriculum and course offerings to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Photos from Recent Events



At left: Becky Grams (R) and Angela George (L) at a new member meeting in January.

At right: Screenshot at February Fireside Chat





American Association
of University Women
Duluth

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

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

New website link:

[AAUW Duluth \(MN\) Branch](#)

See also [https://
www.facebook.com/AAUWDuluth](https://www.facebook.com/AAUWDuluth)

Application for Branch Scholarships 2022

Please help publicize this scholarship opportunity. The full application form is on the branch website, [AAUW Duluth \(MN\) Branch](#)

This one-time scholarship is open to women who

- hold a bachelor’s degree, and
- live (or have lived) within 50 miles of the Duluth/ Superior area for at least 8 of the past 13 years.

Only applications for post-baccalaureate degrees will be considered. Several scholarships for \$1,000 will be awarded.

Applicants must complete an application form, re-sume, and narrative, and provide an enrollment verification form and mail them together to:

AAUW Scholarship Selection Committee
24 Garden Street
Duluth, MN 55812

Application deadline is June 1, 2022

Recipients will be notified by August 1, 2022.

Christy Lefteri, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* (2019)

Millions of Ukrainian refugees provide the latest horrific spotlight on war and displacement. But statistics and news reports cannot get at the heart of what it FEELS like to be a refugee. Paradoxically, fiction may be the best way to do so.

Christy Lefteri, the child of Cypriot refugees who resettled in England and a volunteer at a refugee cen-

ter in Athens in 2016 and 2017, has written such a book. A best-seller, it has received many awards including the 2020 Aspen Words Literary Prize, cosponsored with National Public Radio, which is given for a work of fiction illuminating “a vital contemporary issue.”

The Beekeeper of Aleppo tells the story of Nuri Ibrahim, a bee-

keeper, and his artist wife, Afra, who are forced to flee their happy life in Aleppo, Syria. Traumatized by war and personal tragedy, they embark on a dangerous journey through Turkey and Greece to an uncertain future in Britain. The (London) *Observer* review concluded, “It’s impossible not to be moved.” Put it on your reading list.

