

# The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



## Equal Rights Amendment: Advocacy and Activism

Thank you ❤️

As of 12/31/22, EOF Funds Chair, Kate Baldwin, had received \$5,245 from 44 **generous contributors**: an average of \$119.20 apiece!! Our 2023 scholarship winners will be so grateful.



As women and as AAUW members, we must act now to push for successful passage of the ERA to both the Minnesota and the U.S. Constitutions. In the early 1920s, Alice Paul and other suffragists first drafted the National Amendment; 100 years later, we must be the ones to finally help move the ERA over the finish line. Show your support by e-mail or by letter to our Minnesota Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, for the national ERA and to your state representatives for the state ERA. To find your representatives and their emails, input your address here [LCC-GIS \(mn.gov\)](http://LCC-GIS (mn.gov)). Use the facts below when you write your letter or when others ask you, “Why the ERA? Isn’t the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment enough?”

### Talking Points: State Equal Rights Amendment

*“Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied by this state or any of its cities, counties, or other political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin.”*

\* The ERA is a way to ensure legal equality, with no qualifiers to ensure legal equality for all people of Minnesota \* Passing the ERA would ensure all people protections under our state constitution \* Minnesota is part of a minority of states that still do not recognize gender equality in their state constitutions \* There is a gender and race wage gap in Minnesota \* The ERA can help close the large racial disparities in Minnesota \* Minnesotans should be given the opportunity to vote on whether or not to add equality into our state constitution.

### Talking Points: National Equal Rights Amendment

*“BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it urges the Congress of the United States to pass House Resolution 891, resolving that the requirements have been met to ratify the ERA and that it shall now be known as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.”*

\* The fact that there is no formal guarantee of sex equality in our Constitution is a glaring omission that must be rectified \* All constitutional requirements specified in Article V have been met \* Never in the history of the United States has an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, having completed all requirements set out by Article V of the same constitution, been stopped by an arbitrary time limit \* Women are disproportionately disadvantaged economically, educationally, and employment benefits and security. The ERA can help us close these gaps.

**I urge you to be part of this moment when support surges for the ERA.  
Thanks! Jackie Falk, Duluth Branch Public Policy Liaison**

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## February Fireside Chat and May Annual Meeting Information

**Fireside Chat: The “Daughter Series,” Sunday, February 26, 2023, at 3 pm, via Zoom**

We continue the popular “Daughter Series” with a presentation from Sarah Bosch, Duluth member Nancy Aldridge’s daughter, who teaches in the St. Paul School District. Sarah is very conscious about including women and underrepresented minorities in her lesson plans for multi racial and ethnic groups of students. Zoom link will be sent later.

**Annual Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023, Kitchi Gammi Club**

Save the Date for our annual meeting at the Kitchi Gammi Club. Enjoy a wonderful dinner and listen to our featured speaker, Dr. Melissa Walls. Dr. Walls is Director of the Center for Indigenous Health, Great Lakes Hub (Duluth), and an Associate Professor in the International Health Department at Johns Hopkins University. Details forthcoming.



*Branch members at the tour of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, October 2022, led by member Courtney Edwards, who works there.*

## AAUW Duluth Officers, 2022-2024

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## 2022 Sonia Kovalsky Day a Huge Success!

Sonia Kovalsky Day was held in-person at UW-Superior on November 9, 2022. Over 150 girls in grades 9-12 from 15 schools attended. SK Day is designed to increase participation in STEM subjects. AAUW helped fund several sessions, and branch members helped with registration.



## Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Events 2023



The branch is a longtime co-sponsor of events every January organized by the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA) and other groups during Human Trafficking Awareness month. The Duluth branch sponsorship comes from the Dr. Jane Maddy Memorial Fund.

For a full list of local activities, go to this link <https://linktr.ee/duluthmtraffickingawareness>



## Focus Group Details, Winter 2022-Spring 2023

### The Lunch Bunch

Contact: Bonnie Edwards, [bkedwards@gmail.com](mailto:bkedwards@gmail.com)

1st Tuesday of the month usually at 1 pm

### Roundtable

Contact: Dawn Conlan, [conlan518@gmail.com](mailto:conlan518@gmail.com)

3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm

### Zeitgeist Afternoons

Contact: Geiger Yount, [geigman@aol.com](mailto:geigman@aol.com)

Contact Geiger for current film viewing options at Zinema or elsewhere.

### Sampler

Contact: Lou Anne Siefert,

[lasiefert@charter.net](mailto:lasiefert@charter.net)

4th Tuesday of the month

### Book Club

Contact: Angela George, [angela8744@msn.com](mailto:angela8744@msn.com)

3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm (In-person or Zoom; no meetings July, August, and December).

Upcoming readings: 1/16/23, *The Vanishing Half*, Brit Bennett; 2/20/23, *American by Day*, Derek Miller; 3/20/23, *The Wolf's Trail*, Thomas Peacock; 4/ 17/23, *Under a Flaming Sky*, Daniel Brown.

Contact Angela for in-person meeting venues.

## A Note from Natalie Miller, Winner of the MN Young Women for Equity Award

Natalie was the Duluth branch's nominee for the 2022 statewide high school Young Women for Equity Award, which she won. Here is her report after her first term at Yale.

“ I’ve enjoyed each day at Yale and definitely chose the right college. This fall, I took two classes that I loved: Introduction to Microeconomics and a US history course, “What Makes An American?” I also got involved in political activism on campus and virtually campaigned for candidates at the state and federal levels. Next semester, I plan on writing for Yale’s political journal, working for a legal aid association, and perhaps joining the ballroom dance club. I am now considering a double major in economics and political science to study how systemic racism, sexism, and xenophobia affect economic inequality of marginalized groups.”

### Focus Groups Having Fun . . .



Left:  
Lunch Bunch members at Pickwick's



Right: Film Club members at Halloween event



American Association  
of University Women  
Duluth

AAUW Duluth  
The Lob Tree  
Zabelle Stodola, Editor  
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AAUW Duluth: Empowering diverse women  
through friendship, education, and advocacy

Website link:

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

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

## Four branch members attended the AAUW MN Northland Gathering at the Northland Arboretum in Baxter, October 2022

**Naomi Yaeger** went with her daughter, **Rebecca Bischoff**, and loved “learning Herstory and enjoying nature.” A key feature was hearing about social injustice from Native American and immigrant women, whose personal stories made their experiences less abstract and cerebral for the audience. In fact, Naomi voted the get-together “one of the Top 10 things I liked about 2022.” Rebecca said she especially enjoyed talking one-on-one to an immigrant woman about different gender roles in the US and her home country.

**Judy Sausen** and **Susan Spaeth** drove to Baxter and back together. Susan says, “I had never been to a gathering before so it was all a pleasant surprise. It was a beautiful sunny day at the Arboretum. No one from the same group sat at the same table, so we chatted with new people. We listened to a guest panel of Native American or Latina heritage women and heard their stories, which were very touching, emotional, and empowering. We went over issues like race, equity and cultures. This led to a bingo-like sheet with vocabulary and issues relating to Latino and Indigenous people. After a delicious lunch, we assembled again to share our own ideas. It was fun getting to know what the different branches are doing. Finally, we watched a Master Gardener create decorations.”

## Diversity Officer’s Pick: Bernardine Evaristo, *Girl, Woman, Other* (2019)

*Girl, Woman, Other* won the prestigious 2019 Booker Award, the highest prize for work in the English Language.

Here is part of what the Booker Prize judges wrote in explaining their choice, “A must-read about modern Britain and womanhood . . . An impressive, fierce novel about the lives of black British families, their struggles, pains, laughter, longings and loves . . . Her style is passionate,

razor-sharp, brimming with energy and humor. There is never a single moment of dullness in this book and the pace does not allow you to turn away from its momentum.”

Both *The New Yorker* and *The Washington Post* named it as one their Ten Best Books of the year, and former President Obama chimed in by saying it was one of his favorite books in 2019

Evaristo is the author of seven other volumes that explore aspects of the African diaspora. Her writing spans verse fiction, short fiction, poetry, essays, literary criticism, and drama. She is President of the Royal Society of Literature, Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University London, and an Honorary Fellow of St Anne’s College, Oxford. She received an OBE in 2020 and lives in London with her husband.

