

Number 12

April 2023

# The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



## Annual Meeting, May 16, 2023, at the Kitch



Naomi Yaeger and Wendy Williamson color coordinating with the 2022-23 branch directory, which members should have received recently.

AAUW ANNUAL MEETING  
Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 5:00 pm

Join us at the Kitchi Gammi Club  
831 E. Superior Street, Duluth MN

Guest Speaker  
**Dr. Melissa Walls**  
"Lessons for Well-Being from  
Indigenous Health Research"



Dr. Walls serves as Director of the Center for Indigenous Health's Great Lakes Hub and as Associate Professor of American Health in the Department of International Health at Johns Hopkins University. She has been working on health equity research projects with Tribal Nations in the Great Lakes region of the US and Canada since 2002.

**\$35/person payable at the door, includes:**

- Hors D'oeuvres\*
- Charter Buffet\* of:
- Garden Salad
- Fresh Seasonal Fruit
- Roasted Red Potatoes with Fresh Herbs
- Baked Lake Superior Whitefish
- Sliced Pork Loin
- Seasonal Vegetable
- Assorted Warm Rolls
- By the Glass Wine Available

RSVP by May 5, 2023 to

[dianabakamommy@gmail.com](mailto:dianabakamommy@gmail.com) or [leanne.ventrella@gmail.com](mailto:leanne.ventrella@gmail.com)

\*Vegetarian, Vegan & Dairy Free options within hors d'oeuvres & buffet / Gluten Free plates available

You and your guests are invited to the annual meeting at the Kitchi Gammi Club on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. \$35 per person.

RSVP by May 5, 2023 to [dianabakamommy@gmail.com](mailto:dianabakamommy@gmail.com) or [leanne.ventrella@gmail.com](mailto:leanne.ventrella@gmail.com)

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## Save the Date! Northland Gathering in Duluth, Oct. 7, 2023

The Duluth branch is hosting the 2023 Northland Gathering, which brings together six branches from the Northland each fall to socialize and exchange ideas. It will be held on Saturday, October 7, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Coppertop Church. In keeping with the panoramic vista from this location, the organizing committee chose "View from the Top: Women Leaders" as its theme.

Highlights include a welcome from Mayor Emily Larson, an after-lunch presentation from award-winning author and branch co-president Linda LeGarde Grover, as well as two panels with women leaders in a variety of fields such as local government, law, environmentalism, science, academia, and ministry. Lunch will be provided by a woman-owned local business. For further information, contact branch co-president Angela George, [Angela8744@msn.com](mailto:Angela8744@msn.com)



*New  
Member,  
Amy  
Bernier  
Harrison*

## AAUW Duluth Officers, 2022-2024

**Co-Presidents:** Angela George,  
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Linda LeGarde Grover,  
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**Co-Program Chairs:** Leanne  
Ventrella,  
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& Diana Brainard, [Di-anab.aka.mommy@gmail.com](mailto:Di-anab.aka.mommy@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Karen Moen,  
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**Educational Opportunity Funds  
Chair:** Kate Baldwin,  
[Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com)

**Co-Membership Chairs:** Wendy  
Williamson,  
[petewill64@msn.com](mailto:petewill64@msn.com) &  
Bonnie Edwards,  
[bkedwards@gmail.com](mailto:bkedwards@gmail.com)

**Communications Officer:**  
Naomi Yaeger,  
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**Newsletter & Diversity Officer:**  
Zabelle Stodola,  
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**Focus Groups Contact:** Ray-  
mone Kral, [Kralray-  
mone2@hotmail.com](mailto:Kralray-mone2@hotmail.com)

**Public Policy Officer:** Jackie  
Falk, [jhfalk@charter.net](mailto:jhfalk@charter.net)

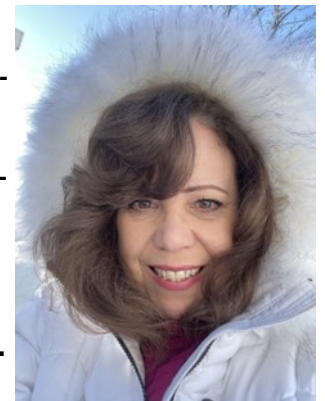
**Secretary/Historian:** Vacant

**STEM Representative:**  
Bethany Kubik,  
[Bethany.kubik@gmail.com](mailto:Bethany.kubik@gmail.com)

**College Representative:**  
Susana Pelayo-Woodward,  
[swoodwar@d.umn.edu](mailto:swoodwar@d.umn.edu)

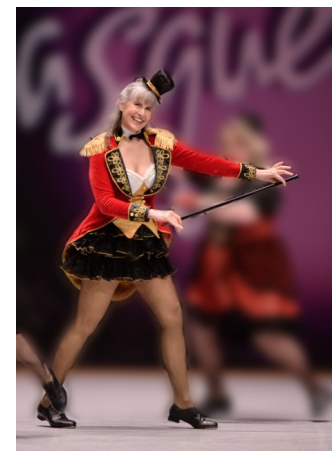
## Named Gift Honoree: Bonnie Edwards

Bonnie Edwards has a Doctorate of Business Communication and taught for 30 years in the Minnesota Community College System. After retirement, she became an assistant professor in the School of Business at UMD. She is a long-time member of, and officer in, AAUW. She initially joined the Virginia branch and rose to serve two terms as its president. When she moved to Duluth, she reached out to our branch and immediately became involved first as Public Policy chair and later as Membership co-chair. Outside work and AAUW, her main activities concern music. She took sixteen years of classical piano lessons, sang for years in church choirs, and was a charter member of Resounding Praise Handbell Choir in Virginia. She does a great deal of volunteer work and is currently president of the Miller Creek Condo Association Board of Directors.



## Named Gift Honoree: Diana Brainard

A retired Senior Business Analyst with an MBA and BFA from Texas Christian University, Diana Brainard's first love is dancing! She danced professionally for a few years after college. The photo shows her in a more recent performance at a local dance competition. She was first drawn to AAUW when her daughter Starr won a scholarship from the St. Paul branch, but Diana didn't join AAUW until she retired to Duluth in 2015. Since 2020, she has been an energetic program co-chair for AAUW Duluth. She enjoys the branch programs she helps to organize as well as Zeitgeist Afternoons and the Book Club focus groups. She helps Starr with her business, Saltless Sea Farm, takes tap and jazz dance classes, and cares for three dogs.



## Focus Group Details, Winter 2022-Spring 2023

### The Lunch Bunch

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

1st Wednesday 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.

### Book Club

Contact: Angela George, [ange-la8744@msn.com](mailto:ange-la8744@msn.com)

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

Upcoming reading 4/ 17/23, *Under a*

*Flaming Sky*, Daniel Brown. The group will also meet on 5/15 and 6/19 at 7 pm. Readings TBA. Meetings will resume in September with a new reading list.

Contact Angela for more information.

## 2023 Scholarship Application Information

Applications are invited for the AAUW Duluth Mission Scholarship for Post-Baccalaureate Study. In keeping with AAUW national's motto, the Duluth branch also "advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy." [Please invite eligible women to apply.](#)

Applications are due no later than June 1, 2023. This competitive one-time post-baccalaureate scholarship is open to women who

- hold a bachelor's degree and have been accepted for post-baccalaureate study
- live (or have lived) within 50 miles of the Duluth/Superior area for at least 8 of the past 13 years.

The application, resume, narrative, and enrollment verification form, as well as further details, can be found on the branch website at <https://duluth-mn.aauw.net>

For further information, contact Educational Opportunities Funds chair, Kate Baldwin, at [Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com)



### Left:

Nancy Aldridge and daughter Sarah Bosch, February Fireside Chat, 2023

### Right:

Roundtable Focus Group members at Lyric Kitchen, March 2023





American Association of University Women Duluth

AAUW Duluth  
The Lob Tree  
Zabelle Stodola, Editor  
[kzstodola@ualr.edu](mailto:kzstodola@ualr.edu)

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

Website link:

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

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



### MN EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT BILL SF0037

“Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended by adding a specific guarantee that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged 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?”

JOIN US ON THE PATH FORWARD TO PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION	
The bill for the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced!	SF0037- January 5, 2023 HF0173 - January 9, 2023
Committees in process of completing their reviews	SF0037 – March 9, 2023 HF0173 – March 28, 2023
<b>Floor Vote: If a bill passes in all required committees, it goes to all members of the chamber for debate and a floor vote. This process can occur simultaneously in both chambers</b>	<b>NOW: We need to lobby not just our legislators but all legislators for support of the ERA's passage</b>
Passing the Bill: If needed, conflicting language is resolved by a conference committee then re-submitted for a floor vote	Continue lobbying legislators and reach out to family and friends for support now for November 2024 election
Ratification by Statewide Ballot Measure on November 5, 2024	The challenge here is that if a voter does not mark Yes or No on the question posed, it is counted as a No vote
When ratified, the ERA is effective January 1, 2025.	We will celebrate, and future generations will be written into and protected by our state Constitution.

## Diversity Officer’s Pick: C. M. Surrisi, *The Bones of Birka* (2023)

In the late nineteenth century, the most significant Viking tomb ever, “Bj 581,” was excavated on the Swedish island of Birka. Inside, archeologists found a collection of weapons and a game board used for battle strategy. These contents revealed that the grave belonged to an important warrior who was assumed to be male. But in 2017, DNA testing confirmed that the body was female, leading to controversy and

challenging established assumptions about gender roles and the gender spectrum during the Viking Age. The osteologists (people who study bones) and other scientists making the radical claim of a female Viking warrior were women.

Minnesota-based author C. M Surrisi interviewed these Swedish women scientists—plus their critics—for her Young Adult book *The Bones of*

*Birka: Unraveling the Mystery of a Female Viking Warrior.*

Surrisi hopes to draw attention to “gender archeology,” that is, how contemporary biases (e.g., sexism) affect interpretations of the past. A grave full of weapons does not necessarily mean that its occupant was male any more than one full of cooking utensils means its occupant was female. Unbiased science must prove it.

