

# The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



**Winter Social, December 3, 2023, 3 pm, Wussow's Cafe**

## Welcome

### NEW MEMBERS


- Barbara McDonald
- Susan Pearsall
- Sarah Priest
- Connie Schwegman
- Brenda Sederberg
- Debra Warner

**AAUW Celebrates the Holiday Season!**

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**3:00 pm**  
 Wussow's Concert Café  
 324 N. Central Avenue, Duluth

**Hors d'oeuvres & Coffee**  
**\$15/person**  
 Specialty coffees, beer & wine available

**Special Musical Guest & Speaker**  
**Sarah Lawrence of Lyric Opera of the North**



Sarah will be sharing information about LOON's "Little LOON" program which brings live professional opera to young audiences in elementary schools throughout the North and entertaining us with songs.

We are encouraging gifts to support Little LOON.

Please RVSP to [dianab.aka.mommy@gmail.com](mailto:dianab.aka.mommy@gmail.com) or [leanne.ventrella@gmail.com](mailto:leanne.ventrella@gmail.com) by November 28

Bring yourself and a guest or two to the winter social on December 3, at 3 pm, at Wussow's Concert Café, 324 N. Central Avenue, in West Duluth. We'll hear about Lyric Opera of the North (LOON) and its Little LOON program from musical guest Sarah Lawrence. \$15 pp payable at the door.

RSVP by November 28 to [di-anab.aka.mommy@gmail.com](mailto:di-anab.aka.mommy@gmail.com) or [leanne.ventrella@gmail.com](mailto:leanne.ventrella@gmail.com)

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### Duluth AAUW Sponsored Talk, "United for Ukraine"



AAUW Duluth sponsored "United for Ukraine: Perspectives from Asylum Seekers and Host Families" on November 15, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church. Thirty people attended and heard from Ukrainian refugees Alevtyna Mikhailenko and her husband (center) and hosts Ann Forrest Clark (left) and Maureen Ulvi (right).

## KUDOS

**ROSE DREWES, TERESA O'GARA, TERRY TEICH, & WENDY WILLIAMSON,** Duluth branch members who all hold leadership positions with the Friends of the Duluth Public Library.

## AAUW Duluth Officers, 2022-2024

**Co-Presidents:** Angela George, [Angela8744@msn.com](mailto:Angela8744@msn.com) & Linda LeGarde Grover, [lgrover@d.umn.edu](mailto:lgrover@d.umn.edu)

**Co-Program Chairs:** Leanne Ventrella, [Leanne.ventrella@gmail.com](mailto:Leanne.ventrella@gmail.com) & Diana Brainard, [anab.aka.mommy@gmail.com](mailto:anab.aka.mommy@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Karen Moen, [Kmoen002@gmail.com](mailto:Kmoen002@gmail.com)

**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, [sun\\_dog\\_press@yahoo.com](mailto:sun_dog_press@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter & Diversity Officer:** Zabelle Stodola, [kzstodola@ualr.edu](mailto:kzstodola@ualr.edu)

**Focus Groups Contact:** Raymone Kral, [Kralraymone2@hotmail.com](mailto:Kralraymone2@hotmail.com)

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

**Secretary/Historian:** Rebecca Bischoff, [Rebecca.bischoff@sundogpress.com](mailto:Rebecca.bischoff@sundogpress.com)

**STEM Representative:**

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

## Photos from the Northland Gathering, October 2023



## Highlights from the Northland Gathering, October 2023

**Photos above L to R:** Panel moderators, Karen Keenan and Katie Joseph-Johnson; Duluth Mayor Emily Larson; Northland Gathering 2023 Planning Committee; Panel #2, Karen Keenan, Rebecca St. George, Maggie Nancarrow, and Janet Kennedy.

Almost 70 people attended the 2023 Northland Gathering at the Coppertop Church with the theme "View from the Top: Women Leaders." The branch was honored that Mayor Emily Larson welcomed participants in the morning and that branch co-president Linda LeGarde Grover gave a special presenta-

tion on indigenous feminism as the final activity. In between, women leaders from academia, local government, the ministry, law, entrepreneurship, and STEM discussed their experiences as leaders. Thanks to months of preparation, the Gathering was a big success.

## Focus Group Details, Fall 2023

### The Lunch Bunch

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

**1st Wednesday of the month usually at 1 pm.**

Members and guests meet at various local restaurants to chat and get to know each other better.

### Roundtable

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

**3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm.**

The group meets in the Lyric Kitchen's private room to discuss a random topic informally.

### Zeitgeist Afternoons

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

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

This group views an agreed-upon movie and talks about it afterwards.

### Book Club

Contact: Angela George, [ange-la8744@msn.com](mailto:angel8744@msn.com)

**3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm. In person or on Zoom. .**

## ERA Update from Public Policy Chair, Jackie Falk

“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.”

MN AAUW supports the passage of the MN Equal Rights Amendment because: 1) It will constitutionalize Minnesota's Human Rights Act, the strongest in the country, and protect it from future legislative change, and 2) It will give unquestioned legal foundation to the fight to end sexual violence against women, especially in cases of domestic violence.

To join the e-mail notice list of the Duluth branch, send an e-mail to Jackie Falk, Public Policy Liaison, [jhfalk@charter.net](mailto:jhfalk@charter.net). At this time, the primary need is to make regular contact with your state representatives.

## 2023-24 Non-Event Scholarship Fundraiser

Kate Baldwin, Educational Opportunity Funds (EOF) chair, requests generous donations for the branch's post-baccalaureate scholarships. The goal is to raise \$6,000, which averages \$75 per donor. Helping women like this year's recipient, **Marika Nigrelli**, achieve educational success is a powerful investment.

Send checks made out to "AAUW Duluth EOF" to Kate Baldwin, EOF Chair, 2210 Woodland Avenue, Duluth, MN 55803. Or contact Kate at [Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com) to pay some other way.





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](https://www.facebook.com/AAUWDuluth)

## Branch Co-President Linda LeGarde Grover Reading from Her Work at AICHO, July 2023



## Diversity Officer's Pick: *Homegoing*, by Yaa Gyasi (2016)

Yaa Gyasi was born in Ghana but raised in Huntsville, Alabama, after her parents immigrated to the USA. Her teachers encouraged her to believe that her “dream of becoming a writer was not only possible, but a foregone conclusion.”

This confidence is fully realized in *Homegoing*, (2016), which *The New York Times* reviewer called “a hypnotic debut novel.” An international bestseller, the novel won

the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize and the PEN/Hemingway award for a first novel.

*Homegoing* begins in 18th-century Ghana and follows two half sisters down six generations. Effia the Beauty marries an Englishman, and she and her son live comfortably in Cape Coast Castle. Her descendants survive centuries of warfare and colonization in Ghana. Effia does not realize that her sister, Esi, is

imprisoned in the castle’s dungeons and then shipped to America as a slave. Esi’s descendants confront plantation life, the Civil War, the Great Migration, and modern American life. The book blurb aptly states, “*Homegoing* makes history visceral, and captures . . . how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation.” You need to read this epic, lyrical, moving work.

