

# The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



## Save the Date 2024 from the Program Committee



### Contributors to the 2024 Educational Opportunity Scholarship Fund (EOF)

Kate Baldwin, EOF Chair, thanks the 35 generous members who raised \$3,600 for the scholarship fund, averaging \$103 apiece. Late donations accepted! Email Kate at [Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:Kate.mary.baldwin@gmail.com)



### January

“The Minnesota ERA: How to Pass It.” Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 pm, ZOOM, Kelsey Waits, AAUW MN Vice President for Public Policy, and Jackie Falk, Duluth Branch Public Policy Liaison

### February

Fireside Chat. Continuing “The Daughter Series.” Date TBD, ZOOM, Celesta Brainard, daughter of Diana Brainard

### March

AAUW at the Theatre. Saturday, March 16, at 2:00 pm, IN PERSON, to see *Next to Normal* at the NorShor Theatre, followed by dinner nearby

### April

“#emBODYgram: Feminism, Fatness and Visual Representation on Instagram.” Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 pm, ZOOM, Dr. Kelly Mullen

### May

Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 14, at 5:30 pm, IN PERSON, Kitchi Gammi Club, Dr. Sarah Dooling, speaker.

### Inside this issue:

Upcoming Programs	1
January 2024 : Trafficking Awareness Month	1
Winter Social Photos	2
Latest Novel from Linda LeGarde Grover	2
ERA MN Updates	3
Lunch Bunch Photo	4
<i>The In-Between</i> , by Hadley Vlahos	4

## January 2024: Twin Ports Trafficking Awareness Month

According to PAVSA (Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault) the theme for the 2024 Twin Ports Trafficking Awareness Month “emphasizes the importance of fostering healthy, supportive relationships to build resilience and recognizes that exploitation thrives in silence, secrecy and isolation.”

**AAUW Duluth is a 2024 co-host for the range of activities and programs PAVSA has organized throughout January.** For details and registration, visit the Duluth MN Trafficking Awareness Link Tree [@duluthmntraffickingawareness](https://www.duluthmntraffickingawareness.org) | [Linktree](https://www.duluthmntraffickingawareness.org) and follow [@duluthmntraffickingawareness](https://www.duluthmntraffickingawareness.org) on FB and Instagram. Contact Mel Alvar for further details at [alvar@pavsa.org](mailto:alvar@pavsa.org)

## KUDOS

### NAOMI YAEGER

for her articles  
“Duluth Superior  
Area Foundation:  
40 Years of  
Transforming Phi-  
lanthropy” and  
“World of  
Wheels: Nostal-  
gic Indoor Fun,”  
in *Northern Wilds  
Magazine*, No-  
vember 29,  
2023.

## 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, [Di-  
anab.aka.mommy@gmail.com](mailto:Di-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:** Ray-  
mone Kral, [Kralray-  
mone2@hotmail.com](mailto:Kralray-<br/>mone2@hotmail.com)

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

**Secretary/Historian:** Rebecca  
Bischoff, [Rebec-  
ca.bischoff@sundogpress.com](mailto:Rebec-<br/>ca.bischoff@sundogpress.com)

**STEM Representative:** Vacant

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

## Photos from the Winter Social at Wussow's Café

**Far right:** Presenter and  
musician Sarah Law-  
rence, of Lyric Opera of  
the North, and her ac-  
companist

**Near right:** Branch Co-  
Program Chairs, Diana  
Brainard and Leanne  
Ventrella



## Linda LeGarde Grover's Latest Novel, *A Song over Miskwaa Rapids* (2023)

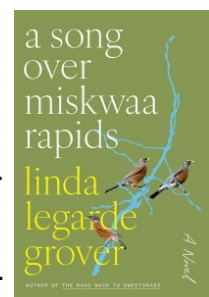
The Duluth Branch congratulates its Co-President, Linda LeGarde Grover, on the publications of her newest novel, *A Song over Miskwaa Rapids* (University of Minnesota Press, 2023).

The Book Club will feature this novel at its February 19, 2024,

Zoom meeting, which Linda Grover will attend. Branch members are also invited. Details forthcoming.

Here's how the University of Minnesota Press describes the work, “A fifty-year-old mystery converges with a present day struggle over family, land and

history” in this “intimate and complex novel” set on the fictional Anishinaabe reservation of Mozhay Point in northern Minnesota.



## 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:ange-la8744@msn.com)

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



## ERA Minnesota ERA Updates from Public Policy Chair, Jackie Falk

2023 Minnesota State Equal Rights Amendment Bill (SF 37, HF 173 )

“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.”

3 things you can do to further the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution in the coming year!

1. Know what your personal “why” is for its passage! To strengthen the work for pay equity; to preserve Title IX especially in women’s athletics; to preserve human rights. When you know why you support it, your voice will be stronger.
2. Wear your ERA button to invite conversation. If you need one, contact Jackie Falk at [jhfalk@charter.net](mailto:jhfalk@charter.net)
3. Continue to become more informed about the importance of the ERA to preserve our rights in a volatile political climate.

## Talking Points Supporting the ERA. It’s Been 100 Years: Now Is the Time

- Women do NOT have equal rights yet. In Minnesota 60% of those recently polled support the MN ERA. AAUW is one of 284 local, state, national, and international partners.
- The 14th Amendment is not definitive about applying to sex discrimination. Conservative Justice Antonin Scalia stated the Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.
- Women and people with uteruses still get fired for being pregnant. Women fight and die for our country, but we still don’t have equal rights. Too often courts turn a blind eye to rape and sexual violence. That’s why we need the ERA.
- We need a clearer, stricter judicial standard for deciding cases of sex and gender discrimination.
- Removing discrimination in the workplace constitutionally will strengthen our business economy.
- Racial and gender disparities persist. Women make on average only \$.82 for every dollar that men earn.
- We can secure the legislative gains made under our current DFL administration when the new politicians are elected.



American Association  
of University Women  
Duluth

## Lunch Bunch Members at Pickwick's

December 2023

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)



## **Diversity Officer's Pick: *The In-Between*, by Hadley Vlahos (2023)**

Hadley Vlahos, RN, works with patients in hospice care. After Vlahos qualified, she “found herself drawn to the uncanny, intense and often unexplainable emotional, physical and intellectual gray zones that come along with caring for those at the end of their lives, areas of uncertainty that she calls ‘the in-between’” (*The New York Times* magazine, 10/29/23).

When asked what people

should know about death, Vlahos replies that they should know what they want, so that hurried decisions are not made at the very end. For example: Do they want to die at home? Do they want to be an organ donor?

Vlahos’ insights suggest that despite scientific advances, the human life span cannot be indefinitely extended.

“Personally,” she says, “I’ve never met someone

100 or older who still wants to be alive.” She believes that there may be something beyond death, but it is definitely not religious, in her opinion. She reports that her patients, whether or not they are spiritual, all feel an overwhelming sense of peace as death approaches.

In addition to her book, Vlahos has engaging videos on TikTok and YouTube. See @NurseHadley.

