

# The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



## CAROL BAILEY

*Carol Marie (Morse) Bailey (1930-2024) was Branch President from 1988 to 1990 and was active with the Branch until she moved to Texas. She taught physical education and health at several Jr High Schools in Duluth.*

## GUDRUN HOIVIK

*Born in Norway, Gudrun Hoivik (1927-2024) first came to Duluth in 1950. She graduated from UMD in 1971 as a mature student. A longtime member of First Lutheran, she was active with many women's groups, including AAUW.*

### Spotlight on Member and Branch Secretary Rebecca Bischoff



**Q: Tell us about your horse, Fancy Pants** I've always loved horses and it's been a lifelong dream to have my own. While I was volunteering at North Country Ride in 2020, I met Fancy Pants. He was too young and inexperienced to be a therapy horse, but as a volunteer I was able to spend time with him. I fell in love with his sweet and goofy personality. In 2021, Fancy Pants' owner was moving to Montana and couldn't take him, so I was able to buy him. I've been taking jumping lessons for ten years and was hoping Fancy Pants would like to jump. After a year of training, I took him over his first jump. He got really excited to try something new. We went to our first horse show in June 2023. He did really well, and we are continuing to show.

**Q: What are your other interests?** I enjoy dancing and lead a Zumba Fitness class once a week at the Center for Personal Fitness. I'm a foster for Puppa's Pals, a non-profit that provides temporary foster placement of pets for folks experiencing crisis locally. I'm currently fostering a pitbull. I care about environmental issues and am on the board of Ecolibrium3.

**Q: You own an old house, right?** Three years ago my partner, Matt, and I purchased a 1904 house in the Lincoln Park neighborhood and are slowly restoring it. I really care about being sustainable and using environmentally friendly materials, so I've been looking into how to restore woodwork and windows, what products are more environmentally friendly to use, and how to make the house more energy efficient. We're also trying to honor the house's history and be as period appropriate as possible. Our work was recognized with a 2024 award from the Duluth Preservation Alliance.

**Q: Tell us about your job** I work in the lab at American Engineering Testing and test construction materials including aggregate, soils and concrete to make sure the materials meet construction specifications or help engineers determine how to best build on sites.

#### Inside this issue:

Upcoming Program	1
Spotlight on Rebecca Bischoff	1
Diversity Matters	2
2024 Scholarship Winner	2
ERA MN Updates	3
Special Lunch Bunch Event	4
The Friend, by Sigrid Nunez	4

## Summer Social Coming up at Hartley Nature Center, 9/19/24



### Save the Date:

- The Summer Social (Equinox Celebration)
- Hartley Nature Center
- Thursday, September 19, 2024, 5:30-7 pm
- A variety of salads will be available from the Whole Foods Coop, \$20 pp
- Hear about focus groups, an ERA update, and other good stuff, and bring a guest or two.

**FURTHER DETAILS FORTHCOMING!**



## AAUW Duluth Officers, 2024-2026

### NEW MEMBERS

**Sarah  
Dooling**

**Carol  
Johnson**

**Shannon  
Smith**

**President:** Angela George,  
[Angela8744@msn.com](mailto:Angela8744@msn.com)

**Co-Program Chairs:** Katie Joseph-Johnson,  
[katie.joseph.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:katie.joseph.johnson@gmail.com), & Bonnie Niemi,  
[bjniemi@gmail.com](mailto:bjniemi@gmail.com)

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

**Diversity Officer:** Linda LeGarde Grover,  
[lgrover@d.umn.edu](mailto:lgrover@d.umn.edu)

**Educational Opportunity Funds Chair:** Cary Thompson-Gilbert

[Ggilb25277@aol.com](mailto:Ggilb25277@aol.com)

**Co-Membership Chairs:** Bonnie Edwards,  
[bkewards@gmail.com](mailto:bkewards@gmail.com), Judy Seliga-Punyko,  
[judy Seliga@yahoo.com](mailto:judy Seliga@yahoo.com), & Wendy Williamson,  
[petewill64@msn.com](mailto:petewill64@msn.com)

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

**Newsletter & Web Content Editor:** Zabelle Stodola,  
[kzstodola@ualr.edu](mailto:kzstodola@ualr.edu)

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

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

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

**STEM Representative:** Vacant

## Diversity Matters: Linda LeGarde Grover

**Below is the inaugural column from the Branch's new Diversity Officer, Linda LeGarde Grover:**

I recently watched "Mrs. America" (FX Hulu, 2020), which is a 9-part series about the 1970s movement to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and the backlash against the ERA led by Phyllis Schlafly, founder of the Eagle Forum. Both camps were well represented with news footage and fictionalized behind-the-scenes interactions of both the ERA supporters and those who opposed it (and their reasons). Watching was experiencing a snapshot of history interwoven with the present.



The series included Shirley Chisholm's run for the Democratic 1972 presidential nomination, which intersected with the women's liberation movement and the ERA. I was able to meet Ms. Chisholm and shake her hand not long before the convention. She took her time as she thanked me for being there as she gently squeezed my hand; I felt awed, encouraged, and hopeful. And I remember her smile.

Netflix has recently (March 2024) released a biographical film, *Shirley*, that focuses upon Ms. Chisholm's presidential nomination run. The film is an hour and 57 minutes in length. I will want to see this. Might there be a watch party in the Duluth Branch's future?

## 2024 Branch Post-Baccalaureate Scholarship Winner

Many congratulations to **Stephanie Nelson**, of Superior, who will use funds from the scholarship towards a Master of Science in Education at UWS.

She's currently a Social Studies teacher at Cloquet High School where, as she says, she influences "the thoughts and devel-

opment of hundreds of students." In addition to her social studies teaching, she coaches the high school girls volleyball team, which she calls "an incredibly demanding and rewarding experience" as well as a "huge responsibility." She explains, "It isn't just about teaching girls about the sport

of volleyball. I serve as a role model and mentor [and] I am hopeful that the skills the girls on my team learn help them to be strong and independent women."

She's passionate about also advancing her own education!

## Focus Group Details, Fall 2023

### The Lunch Bunch

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

**1st Tuesday 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 Latest ERA Updates from Public Policy Chair, Jackie Falk

We ended the 2024 legislative session exhausted and a bit bruised but satisfied that, with our allied partners, we accomplished a lot. We came much closer to the finish line than ever before, even though time ran out for a final vote in the Senate. However, we are a resilient bunch and are already launching plans for the next session. The attention Minnesota (and other states pursuing constitutional amendments) bring to bear on the critical importance of states' actions post-Dobbs is crucial. Our biggest accomplishment was passing an inclusive ERA through both the MN House and Senate in the same biennium, albeit with some differing language. In 2023 the ERA passed through the Senate 43 -23 using the Nevada language. In 2024 ERA passed through the House with robust and inclusive language that included reproductive language. We greatly expanded our coalition of state players, which we continue to build on. We are working to persuade allied organizations to list the ERA as their top legislative priority. The ERA received unprecedented press coverage statewide and nationally. Minnesota's major publication's editorial board came out publicly and said the voters should decide. On a grassroots level, we experienced huge growth in the numbers of activists who were too large and too loud to ignore. Thank you, Branch members, for sending messages to legislators and attending rallies!



**LEFT:** Urban Ecologist Dr. Sarah Dooling, keynote speaker at the Branch annual meeting, May 2024

**RIGHT:** Branch members at the annual meeting at the Kitchi Gammi Club, May 2024





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>

## AAUW Lunch Bunch Enjoys Victorian Elegance at Gayle Gilmore’s Home, July 2024

Eleven AAUW Lunch Bunch members enjoyed a delightful meal at the Victorian home of Gayle Gilmore, a lifelong AAUW member.

The group typically gathers at restaurants, but this special invitation to Gayle’s 1898 Hunter’s Park neighborhood house was a true treat. She graciously let members explore her home, showcasing each room decorated in authentic Victorian style. Gayle served a delicious meal on a beautifully decorated table. The meal sparked spirited conversation, making for a memorable July afternoon.

Text and photos by Naomi Yaeger

**NEAR RIGHT:**  
Hostess Gayle Gilmore



**FAR RIGHT:**  
Members enjoying lunch



## Zabelle’s Book Pick: *The Friend*, by Sigrid Nunez (2018)

The *Wall Street Journal* describes this slim volume as “a beautiful book. . . . A world of insight into death, grief, art, and love,” while the NPR reviewer judged it to be “a penetrating, moving meditation on loss, comfort, memory.”

Sigrid Nunez’s book won the 2018 National Book Award for Fiction and stayed on the *New York Times* bestseller list for weeks.

Whatever your notions of

friendship, this novel is likely to dislodge them because in this case the friend is not a person , , , but a dog.

You might think that such a story is bound to be sentimental and cliched, but you’d be wrong. It’s witty, wry, and anything but lightweight.

To pique your interest, here is an excerpt from the publisher’s blurb: “When a woman unexpectedly loses her life-

long best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the mute suffering of the dog, a huge Great Dane traumatized by the inexplicable disappearance of its master.”

Sigrid Nunez’s fiction and non-fiction have garnered countless top literary awards. Her latest novel is *The Vulnerables* (2023).

