

The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



What a great turnout for the Equinox Celebration at Hartley Nature Center! Thirty-three people attended, including three new members, and the room buzzed with good conversation and laughter.

The theme for 2024-25 events is SUSTAINABILITY. Watch your mailbox for more details.

Meet New Member Lisa Rhoads

Q: Give us some biographical information. I am Lisa Esther Rhoads. I am a third generation AAUW member. My grandmother, Esther Dahl Burg, was President of the Duluth AAUW Branch from 1924-1925. My mom, Mary Beth Brown, was a dual member of Duluth AAUW for years and of Sun Lakes, Arizona AAUW for the last 22 years. I just moved back home to Duluth after living in Colorado since 1984 where I was a member of the Fort Collins Branch.

Q: What about your professional background? I was a school teacher for forty years, and on the side, an International Baccalaureate trainer, evaluator and consultant since 2005, traveling all over the world teaching teachers. I graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Minnesota. My Master’s in Education with honors was from Regis University, Colorado, in 2005. And finally, I received my Master’s in Educational Administration in 2012 from Colorado State.

Q. How come you are now in Duluth? When the last of my four children graduated this year, I moved back to Duluth to get into mischief with my mom for the next decade. Unfortunately, my dear mom became ill and passed away on August 31, 2024. I love being back in Duluth and love living on Park Point right on the lake.

Q: Tell us about your other interests. I am a voracious reader, traveler, skier, cabin kid, and one of my goals is to swim in every body of water of the world! I am looking forward to new adventures with AAUW!



Inside this issue:

In Memoriam	1
New Member Lisa Rhoads	1
Diversity Matters	2
Haley Patel, NCCWSL 2024 Attendee	2
ERA Updates	3
Dues Information	4
One Woman Show, by Christine Coulson	4



DIANE BEAN

Diane Jeanine Bean (1929-2024) taught high school psychology and social studies. She moved to Minnesota in the 50s and raised five children here. An active branch member, her obituary describes her as “a fervent feminist.”

MARY BETH BROWN

Born in Duluth, Mary Beth (Dunder) Brown (1932-2024) retired from UMD as the Associate Alumni Director and Special Events Coordinator. While raising eight children, she was a committed volunteer and branch member who lived life to the fullest. Her mother-in-law, Esther Dahl Burg, was Duluth Branch President from 1924-25.



NEW MEMBERS

**Barb
McLean**

**Lisa
Rhoads**

**Christina
Wagner**

AAUW Duluth Officers, 2024-2026

President: Angela George,
Angela8744@msn.com

Co-Program Chairs: Katie Joseph-Johnson,
katie.joseph.johnson@gmail.com, & Bonnie Niemi,
bjniemi@gmail.com

Treasurer: Karen Moen,
Kmoen002@gmail.com

Diversity Officer: Linda LeGarde Grover,
lgrover@d.umn.edu

Educational Opportunity Funds Chair: Cary Thompson-Gilbert

Ggilb25277@aol.com

Co-Membership Chairs: Bonnie Edwards,
bkewards@gmail.com, Judy Seliga-Punyko,
judy Seliga@yahoo.com, & Wendy Williamson,
petewill64@msn.com

Communications Officer: Naomi Yaeger,
sun_dog_press@yahoo.com

Newsletter & Web Content

Editor: Zabelle Stodola,
kzstodola@ualr.edu

Focus Groups Contact: Raymone Kral,
raymonekral@yahoo.com

Public Policy Liaison: Vacant

Secretary/Historian: Rebecca Bischoff,
Rebecca.bischoff@sundogpress.com

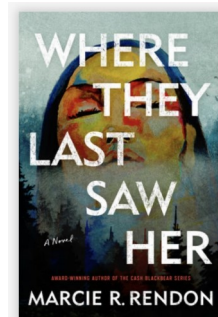
STEM Representative: Vacant

College Representative: Susana Pelayo-Woodward,
swoodwar@d.umn.edu

Diversity Matters: Linda LeGarde Grover

Each newsletter will feature a column from the Branch's Diversity Officer, Linda LeGarde Grover. For this issue, she highly recommends a novel by Marcie Rendon, whom she admires and knows well.

White Earth Ojibwe writer Marcie Rendon's new novel, *Where They Last Saw Her* (Penguin Random House, 2024), is the latest in her truer-than-true stories that share contemporary and historical life and issues in Indian Country of the upper Midwest. Set in the reservation community of Red Pine, which is near Duluth, the plot begins with a scream heard by Quill, a young mother who is out on a training run in the woods. Quill's attempts to find the victim lead to the discovery of a pattern of missing Native women and children in the Red Pine and Duluth areas in contemporary times as well as in history. The book is compelling, the characters, physical settings and most of all the cultural society of the Red Pine community are realistic and credible. This is a story told in the voice of a gifted Native writer; to read it is to accept the honor of an invitation into the indigenous world of northeastern Minnesota.



2024 Branch-Sponsored NCCWSL Attendee, Haley Patel



With the help of the Branch's College Representative at UMD, Susana Pelayo-Woodward, we were happy to sponsor outstanding UMD student **Haley Patel** to attend AAUW's 2024 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland.

Haley writes, "Overall, AAUW NCCWSL 2024 gave me the opportunity to understand more about ways to develop my leadership, professionalism, and activism skills which is going to be able to help me better serve as an outlet for the multicultural and marginalized communities at UMD."

Haley is a senior and an honors student in UMD's Department of Aerospace Engineering. She has completed several specialized internships; is currently the Vice President of the senior Design, Build, Fly capstone team; the Public Affairs Officer of Sigma Gamma Tau (the aerospace engineering honors society); and President of the South Asian Student Society. She is a two-time recipient of the ARCS Scholarship and a recent recipient of the Emergent Space Technologies Scholarship.

WOW!!

Focus Group Details, Fall 2024

Focus Groups meet regularly and gather together people with similar interests in a social setting. Newcomers welcome! Join as many groups as you wish. Questions? Contact Raymone Kral, raymonekral@yahoo.com

The Lunch Bunch

Contact: Bonnie Edwards, bkedwards@gmail.com

1st Tuesday of the month usually at 1 pm.

Members and guests try new

restaurants and revisit old favorites.

Roundtable

Contact: Dawn Conlan, conlan518@gmail.com

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

The group meets in the Lyric Kitchen's private room to informally discuss a timely topic or a random one submitted by members and drawn from a hat.

Zeitgeist Afternoons

Contact: Geiger Yount, geigman@aol.com

This group views an agreed-upon movie usually at the Zinema and talks about it afterwards at Zeitgeist Cafe.

Literature Discussion

Contact: Angela George, ange-la8744@msn.com

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

Members choose books to discuss for escape, entertainment, or edification. Contact Angela for the book list.

NEW FOCUS GROUP

Culture and Entertainment

Contact: Raymone Kral, raymonekral@yahoo.com

Individuals find a cultural or entertainment event they want to attend together and share the idea with the group. Dates, times, and tickets are then arranged.



ERA Minnesota Fall 2024 ERA Updates from Public Policy Chair, Jackie Falk

WHEN WOMEN VOTE, WE CHANGE THE CONVERSATION. Know why you are voting! What's your #1 issue? Share it with us. We are strengthened by sharing with each other. Share with others your "why." My why? I support the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, which will guarantee equal rights under the law regardless of sex. See the AAUW 2024 Voter Issue Guide <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/06/Its-My-Vote-2024-Voter-Issue-Guide-English.pdf> **LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES, WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION.** **AAUW Branch Level:** 1) passing the ERA to the Minnesota Constitution and 2) meaningfully addressing gender disparities. **AAUW State Level:** 1) promoting a strong system of public education promoting gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity and 2) addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls. 3) achieving economic security for all women. 4) guaranteeing equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, especially passage and ratification of the ERA. **AAUW National Level:** As above, but especially passage and ratification of the ERA. **JOIN THE TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST** <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Thank You, Jackie Falk!



Jackie Falk has been the Branch's intrepid Public Policy Chair for several years and has been extremely active in promoting our involvement in the #1 policy for AAUW national: passing the Equal Rights Amendment at the federal, state, and local levels. Here she is at the Summer Social held at Hartley Nature Center in September.

But now Jackie has to step back from this position.

THE BRANCH NEEDS SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER AND BUILD ON ALL JACKIE'S WORK. If you can help, please contact Branch President Angela George at angela8744@msn.com



American Association
of University Women
Duluth

AAUW Duluth
The Lob Tree
Zabelle Stodola, Editor

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)

SO WHAT DO OUR NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL DUES COVER?

AAUW is a three-tier organization operating at the national, state, and local levels, and all three divisions need to be funded. Our modest Duluth Branch annual dues of \$10 help cover some of the costs of local activities and the outlay is visible, but what about the national and state portions, where most of our money goes?

NATIONAL

Annual dues help to sustain and grow AAUW's work to advance equity for women and girls, which has taken on new urgency in the last few years. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to support AAUW's salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy, campus leadership programs, and so on. We are investing in American women all over the country with our national dues. Passage and ratification of the ERA is national's #1 priority.

STATE

State dues help keep the Duluth Branch in the loop statewide but also give us access to state programs and state funds like \$500 for our nominee Haley Patel to attend the 2024 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

COSTS

For 2024-25, dues for non-students are \$91 total (of which \$69 is tax deductible): \$72 goes to national; \$9 goes to state; and \$10 goes to the Branch.

[DID YOU KNOW THAT GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE DULUTH BRANCH TO HELP DEFRAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP COSTS?](#)

Zabelle's Book Pick: *One Woman Show*, by Christine Coulson (2024)

For centuries, novelists have written about Western society objectifying upper-class women, even if they did not use that exact terminology. But here is a recent book employing a unique technique to tell its story about such embodied representation.

The novel proceeds through a series of brief descriptive museum wall labels, beginning with its main character's birth as a new and exciting

exhibit and ending with her decline and "death" as a decorative object forever consigned to storage.

The subject of this one-woman show is Caroline Margaret Brooks Whitaker, aka Kitty, and readers follow her life as if we were walking through an exhibition of related decorative objects in a chronologically arranged set of vitrines. These descriptions are necessarily

brief, and yet they manage to convey key aspects of Kitty's biography including multiple marriages, infertility, and quirks like kleptomania.

Author Christine Coulson spent 25 years working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art writing museum descriptions, so her touch is authentic and at times slyly witty.

I highly recommend this short but unforgettable read that you can devour at a single sitting!

