

Number 23
January 2026

The Lob Tree

AAUW Duluth

**Empowering diverse women through
friendship, education, and advocacy**



AAUW is cosponsoring this rally for the Minnesota ERA. After the rally, join Visibility Action in front of the MN Senate and House Chambers to urge returning legislators to support 2026 ERA Action. As fundamental rights unravel, here in Minnesota we have the chance to do something powerful. RSVP: bit.ly/rallyforequality Information forthcoming about a bus to the rally to and from Duluth.

Inside this issue:

Robotics Presentation	1
MN ERA Rally	1
Upcoming Branch Activities	1
Diversity Chair Report	2
Spotlight on New Member Lynn Anderson	2
Scholarship Committee Update	3
AAUW MN State Meeting	3

AAUW Duluth Supports STEM & High School Robotics!



Left: Piper Hamilton, Denfeld Robotics Team Captain

With the Trump administration's de-emphasis of STEM and war against DEI—which led to the cancelling of Sonia Kovalesky Day—the branch vowed to support local STEM initiatives however possible. So on November 10, a dozen branch members attended a wonderful Power Point presentation by Piper Hamilton, Captain of the Denfeld High School Robotics team, which competed in the 2025 World Championships (what a shame that more members didn't attend this impressive and informative talk).

Among other things, we learned that robotics teams at Denfeld and East do not receive funds from the school district and have to fundraise themselves. Since the branch had \$500 in its STEM fund earmarked for Sonia Kovalesky Day, which we could not use for that purpose, the board voted to donate \$150 apiece to all three local, established robotics teams at Denfeld, East, and Marshall.

See the Denfeld Robotics Team website at <https://denfeldrobotics4009.org/> and a list of spring 2026 robotics events at https://www.thebluealliance.com/events/2026?state_prov=mn



Save These Dates: Upcoming Branch Activities

Fireside Chat: Wednesday, February 11, at 7 pm, via Zoom.

Katrina Sun Breese, AAUW's Senior Director of Institutional

Advancement, will discuss AAUW's initiatives in today's

challenging environment, how we can be involved, and how our actions impact women nationwide.

Attend a Robotics Event at the DECC to support STEM: March 4-7. Details forthcoming.

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, at 5 pm, at the Kitchi Gammi Club.



January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

For a link to local resources and activities see

<https://linktr.ee/duluthmntraffickingawareness>

AAUW Duluth Officers, 2024-2026

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Diversity Chair Report by Linda LeGarde Grover

The branch very much regrets that Linda LeGarde Grover has resigned as Diversity Chair, so this will be her last report. We thank her so very much for all her contributions.

AAUW Duluth sponsored two outreach activities during the fourth quarter of 2025:

Our branch purchased several sets of coloring books and crayons for the preschool and early elementary grades children at St. Mark AME Church. The sets include fun coloring and interactive exercises to promote positive self-image for African American children and families in the areas of careers, community participation, and education. The children, with their parents and group leaders, are using these materials in both their Sunday School program and during day- and after-school activity sessions.

In collaboration with the 1854 Treaty Authority, an inter-tribal natural resource management which provided Ojibwe language and natural resource coloring pages and sets of markers, Native students in the study group classroom at Denfeld High School have been integrating their language learning as they brush up on time management and study skills. Thanks to the 1854 Treaty folks and ISD 709 American Indian Education advocate Jamie, who worked with Linda Grover to coordinate, organize and plan the implementation of the materials

Spotlight on New Member Lynn Anderson



Currently I work as a volunteer with Tamarack Water Alliance protecting clean water and our communities from the dangers

of sulfide mining. Previously I worked as a graphic designer, social worker, and board member of a Native American non-profit in Chicago.

I grew up in the diverse, progressive university neighborhood of Hyde Park in Chicago. Summers were spent at a wonderful community centered YMCA camp in northern Michigan. I learned Native American campcraft, canoeing, and led wilderness canoe trips in Ontario.

I attended Antioch College and pursued graduate degrees at the University of Cincinnati and Ohio State. I met my husband ballroom dancing

and we competed as amateur ballroom dancers for fifteen years. Before moving to Minnesota we lived in Naperville, IL, where we raised our daughter. We live on Round Lake near McGregor, property owned by my husband's great grandfather, four miles from the proposed Talon Metals/Rio Tinto high sulfide. Our daughter and extended family live in the area.

My interests include photography, hiking, writing, skiing and qigong.

Focus Group Details, Spring 2026

Focus Groups meet regularly and gather together people with similar interests in a social setting. Newcomers welcome! Join as many groups as you wish.

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, angela8744@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.

Important Update from Scholarship Committee Chair, Kathy Antilla

The Scholarship Committee is meeting regularly and welcomes input from branch members on potential changes to our present scholarship guidelines. Expect to receive an electronic poll on this topic shortly. Your responses will be an invaluable guide for the committee.

MANY THANKS to the generous members who have already sent in their scholarship donations. As you know, the committee has paused awarding scholarships this year and is banking your donation until 2027. We are also extending this year's donations deadline to May 1, 2026. So if your donation request letter got lost or the original January deadline slipped your mind, please consider making a difference to women continuing their education. The list of past recipients and their areas of study is enormously impressive, including PT, OT, Doctor of Medicine, Pharmacy, Interdisciplinary Studies, Law, Mechanical Engineering, Data Science, and Nursing. If you need another donation form, don't hesitate to email Kathy.Antilla@gmail.com or send a check to 8501 Congdon Blvd, Duluth, MN 55804. Thank you so much.



Brainerd Branch to Host MN AAUW State Meeting, April 24-25, 2026



AAUW MN State Meeting, "Growing Together—Rooted in Strength,"

April 24-25, 2026, at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort, near Brainerd

The meeting's theme, *Growing Together—Rooted in Strength*, highlights the value of collaborating and coming together to support women with higher education goals that will help them achieve greater economic security. AAUW's long history of advocating for women represents our roots, which keep growing stronger with new ideas and new members. We will hear new ideas

from our keynote speaker, Meghan Kissel, Senior Director of AAUW Policy and Member Advocacy (at left). She will focus on public policy introducing us to the "It's My Vote" initiative, in time for this mid-term election year. A panel discussion will offer the opportunity to discuss Minnesota's public policy concerns.

Direct questions about the State Meeting to Arlene Wheaton at a.wheaton1989@gmail.com or 218-232-4989.



American Association
of University Women
Duluth

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

Website link:

[AAUW Duluth \(MN\) Branch](https://aauw-duluth.org)

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

Focus Group Activities



The Film Group celebrates Halloween



Lunch Bunch members at Blackwoods in December

Zabelle's Book Pick: *There Are Rivers in the Sky*, Elif Shafak (2024)

There Are Rivers in the Sky is the latest novel from the acclaimed Turkish British writer Elif Shafak. It begins with a single molecule of water—a raindrop—that falls on three major characters separated by continents and centuries. The work journeys spatially between two great rivers, the Tigris and the Thames, and temporally between ancient Mesopotamia and 21st-century London. It focuses first on Arthur Smyth, who overcomes his humble beginnings in the 19th-century London slums to become a renowned Assyri-

ologist. Next, the book focuses on Narin, a young Yazidi girl from the ancient town of Hasankeyf near the Tigris, which is about to be flooded to make way for a dam. The third protagonist is a hydrologist, Dr. Zaleekhah Clarke, living in London in 2018, whose cultural identity and personal life are unravelling. Only a master writer and storyteller could weave these disparate strands together so successfully and movingly. The *New York Times* reviewer concludes, “With gorgeous writing

throughout . . . ‘There Are Rivers in the Sky’ explodes into a roaring journey through ecology and memory.” And a review in *The Guardian* comments on the timeliness of “a novel about the politics and preciousness of water.”

You may not have heard of Elif Shafak, but she has a remarkable pedigree as the author of 21 books which have been translated into 58 languages. The BBC chose her as one of its 100 most influential and inspiring women. See www.elifshafak.com.

