



Faribault Branch Communiqué

AAUW advances equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

January 2024



President's Message

Happy Winter everyone, as I write this we are without snow. But predictions say it's coming. I have enjoyed the nice long walks I've been able to take with no ice to worry about. I hope our AAUW members are also enjoying the weather and relaxing after a busy holiday season. Please remember our social monthly get together at Janna's the third Saturday, January 20, 10:30 a.m. and our upcoming meeting January 22, at 2:00 p.m. at Rice County Historical Museum. We hope to see everyone there.

As Walt Disney reminds us "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." So let's go forth with our courage and dreams in 2024.

Submitted by Co Presidents Carmen Tripp and Mary Niermann

Christmas Party Picture, December 18, 2023

Our Christmas Party was once again held in the Cathedral Cloister. However, a couple changes were made. We met at noon rather than in the evening and the ladies of the church prepared and served a delicious meal of a variety of quiches and a choice of pies rather than our having a potluck meal. Barb Dubbels provided entertainment by giving a very interesting, fun, and informative presentation of the Christmas Story written in "politically correct" style. She kept us in the "Christmas Spirit" with smiles and laughter.



Pauline Schreiber provided a Christmas Trivia game which was enthusiastically participated in. The party was a tremendous success. Thanks to all who brought peanut butter for the Community Cafe.



Program

Nort Johnson, President and CEO of the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, will tell us about what's happening in town these days. Bring your questions! *Submitted by Julie Olson*



A message from May Bottke

Thank you so much for all of the Birthday greetings you sent me!! That was so thoughtful of you!!! I will treasure your notes and your friendship!!!
Love, May Bottke



Secretary's Report

December minutes

Faribault AAUW Branch members met at 12:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour for a Christmas Brunch Party. The women of the Cathedral Guild served the 26 members attending a delicious meal of quiche, salad, roll and choice of apple or pecan pie. Members paid \$12 each for the meal and the Branch gave the Cathedral Guild a tip for the wonderful service and food.

A short business meeting was held by Co-President Carmen Tripp. She announced the Hastings' AAUW Branch would be hosting a statewide convention April 26 and 27. She hoped many members would consider attending. Hastings is close enough that members could drive back and forth and not have to stay over.

A program for the Tri-Branch Luncheon is being worked on by Barb Dubbels. The event will be 11:30 a.m. April 26 at the Faribault Golf Club.

Carmen Tripp announced the Branch's November silent auction brought in \$341 and was "the best ever." The money will be used for a "Miscellaneous Fund" for such things as memorials for members who pass away or other unbudgeted items that come up during the year.

Kathy Larson mentioned the tree the Branch voted to plant in memory of Joan Koonmen, who had passed away earlier this year. Pat Rice said that she and Pauline Schreiber would be talking with Faribault Park and Recreation Director Paul Peanasky in the New Year and will discuss a location for the tree planting. It will occur in the spring.

Carmen Tripp adjourned the meeting so that a short program could begin.

The program: Barb Dubbels read a "Politically Correct" story about Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, a very humorous tale. Pauline Schreiber gave a Christmas trivia quiz. Those attending separated into two groups and shouted out the answers. The member who shouted the correct answer first won a point for her team. At the end, Branch members sang the "12 Days of a Minnesota Christmas," for which Barb Dubbels had copied the words for members and passed out sheets. A fun time was had by all. *Submitted by Secretary Pauline Schreiber*



Social Time

Our January coffee and treats will be held at Janna's on Saturday, the 20th at 10:30. Thanks, *Sue Olson*



Membership

January 2024 is the start of a NEW YEAR for our Faribault A.A.U.W. Branch! It will be our 99th. YEAR to continue our MISSION: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy."

Some exciting news about our National A.A.U.W.'s commitment to transparency and accountability: We are proud to announce that AAUW is a four-star rated charity according to CHARITY NAVIGATOR. This four-star rating is a prestigious recognition that reflects AAUW's steadfast commitment to fiscal responsibility and organizational effectiveness!

Our Faribault Branch has raised thousands of dollars over the years through our fundraisers to give many women of our community financial support by awarding scholarships. We have also contributed financial support to the national funds for women's' rights. I am so PROUD of all our Faribault Members for the many years of supporting WOMEN and GIRLS!!

Now that our monthly meetings are during the afternoon, maybe a relative or friend would consider joining our Faribault AAUW Branch? **Please advocate for ALL WOMEN & GIRLS by inviting someone to join our Faribault A.A.U.W. Branch.** Let's work together to increase our current membership of 50 Ladies to even a larger number!

**Remember we can accomplish so much more, when we work together!
New Membership is only \$55.00. Renewal Membership: \$86.00.**

Contact Kathy Larson for information : 332-2525
kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com

Thank You.

Submitted by Kathy Larson - Membership Vice President

An Excellent Message

The following letter was submitted by Susan Stout and was published in the Faribault Daily News Opinion section. With Susan's permission, we are submitting it for you.

Love the Hallmark Movies but Live in the Real World

Over the last two weeks, I have watched five Hallmark Christmas movies. They are all very much alike featuring a picturesque rural community with great little coffee shops and businesses that are all thriving. The decorations are awesome. The people in these movies are, for the most part, without much of a care in the world except maybe how to have a great Christmas pageant or the best tree lighting ceremony. I know these movies are not supposed to be realistic but rather uplifting. Watching these movies should put a smile on your face, after all, they have happy endings, happy beginnings, and happy messages of love throughout. I wouldn't have watched five of these if they didn't make me smile.

The problem is, this is not anything like real life. In the real world, there is crisis and heartache. People live in poverty, through no fault of their own, and real suffering is endured. Here in Rice County, over 7,000 people are living in poverty. According to the Minnesota Homeless Survey, it is estimated that there are about 589 people who are homeless on any given night in Rice County. This occurs even during the most brutal time of the year - a Minnesota winter. At Ruth's House, we serve women and children who have been physically and mentally abused by those who should be there to help and support them. We see those who have endured unimaginable trauma and yet they keep going and working to make a better and safer life. We provide safe housing and support for up to 9 families each night.

My intention is not to make you feel guilty for watching a sweet Hallmark movie this holiday season but rather to point out the need to focus attention on helping those in need in our real world here in Rice County. It is not too late to donate to the food shelf, help serve meals to the needy, support Ruth's House and other non-profit organizations working 365 days a year to help those in need in our community, or give to someone you know who is in need and make our community a little more like a Hallmark community where everyone is cared for.

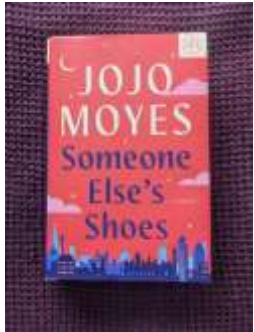
Thank you Susan!!

Here are the email addresses of Ruth's House and to the Food Shelf in case you might want to contribute to them.

<https://ruthshousemn.org/>

<https://communityactioncenter.org/food-access/>

I will put the links as another attachment to this Newsletter.



Book Club

"In the case of good books, the point is not how many you can get through, but how many get through to you". *Mortimer J. Adler*

Covid reared its ugly head again and we were forced to cancel December's luncheon. January's book is *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes. We meet on Thursday, January 18 at 2:00 pm at Barb Dubbels'. *Submitted by Bab Dubbels*



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reports year end balance of \$15,304.97

The Faribault AAUW Branch Newsletter is published from September to May during our program year. The Editors are Emily Nesvold and Liz Hartman. Because of different operating systems and formats, articles other than Google Docs, should be submitted within the text of an email, not as an attachment. Items should be sent by the 10th of the month to either Emily enesvold@gmail.com or Liz ethartmanariz@gmail.com on alternating months. A reminder email will always be sent out.