



Faribault Branch Communiqué

AAUW Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



President's Message for April 2025

A little Haiku for poetry month:



A Morning
By Arun Bahadur Gurung

Bees nudged the flowers
Babies peeped out of the nest
One fine crisp morning.

This sounded like spring to me.
I'm looking forward to our April meeting and hearing more poetry.

At the April meeting be prepared to sign up for the May picnic. Note the picnic will be on the 3rd Monday because of Memorial Day.

Please be thinking of which position you would like to fill, on the board, in September. The present board would like your input. I know for sure the President position will be open, along with that of a co-president.

Our delegates to the State Convention are: Pat Rice, Karen Rasmussen, Pauline Schreiber, and JoEllen Schulz.

I will also be attending as your president.

Mary Niermann- Branch President

April Branch Meeting
Monday, April 28
Rice County Historical Society



In honor of *Poetry Month*, we will have local poet and retired teacher, Larry Gavin, as our speaker. Larry is also a guest columnist in the Faribault Daily News. He will talk to us about writing poetry and will read some of his poems.

Our business meeting will start at 2:00 pm and Larry Gavin will speak at 2:30.

*Be sure to sign up for the **Spring Picnic** at this meeting.

The Spring picnic will again be catered by Arna Farmer. The cost will be \$20 a plate. The menu will be chicken salad or egg salad on croissant, a vegetable pasta salad, a green salad with dressing, fruit, and a special dessert for our 100th Anniversary.

It will be 6 p.m. Monday, May 19 at Pat Umbreit's house on Roberds Lake.

A sign up for the spring picnic will be at the April meeting and members can pay then. For those not able to be at the April meeting, a final sign up date for the spring picnic will be on Monday, May 12 at noon.

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Membership



April brings signs of Spring and our continued dedication as AAUW members to keep promoting and supporting women to set high goals in our government offices! At this time, we need to give women opportunities through our AAUW commitment.

Keep being informed on *education, diversity and gender equity* for girls and women. AAUW remains steadfast in its commitment to higher education. In response, we have launched two new funds: the Public Policy Fund and the Defend Higher Education Fund. If we as members are looking to take more action to protect higher education, please write to members of our Minnesota Congress.

We have such informative and enjoyable monthly programs. Consider inviting a guest to attend with you at our next (April) meeting. Just an invitation, might be all it takes to encourage someone to become a new member!

Remember it's only \$55.00 for the first year A.A.U.W. membership.

Please contact Kathy Larson - Membership Vice-President
1 - 507 - 332 - 2525 kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com

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Treasurer's Report

Our checking balance is \$14,311.13.

An agreement was drawn up by the Rice County Historical Society and our affiliate that they will sell 25 maps for \$5 and we'll split the purchase price. I have a check for \$62.50 from RCHS to deposit.

Karen Rasmussen

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BOOK CLUB NEWS

We met in March at the Nook and Cranny to discuss *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly B. Bradley. This young adult novel told the story of two abused English children during WWII who were sent to live in the country and were paired to be taken care of by a reluctant, single woman. Yet another good discussion that covered so many topics.

April is Poetry Month! Once again, we will share readings of poems to enlighten and delight us.



A LIMERICK ABOUT BOOKS

Books to the ceiling,
Books to the sky,
My pile of books is a mile high.
How I love them! How I need them!
I'll have a long beard by the time I read them.

Arnold Lobel

We will meet again at the Nook and Cranny for our April meeting. We are back to the **2 PM time slot** on *Thursday, April 17*.

Barb

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AAUW Socials



Hi Members,

Will anyone who has not yet sent in their birthday date to me, please do so. I arrange special birthday lunches, four times a year. We like to honor each person's birthday, even if you can't attend the lunch for your birthday month.

Thank you,

Sue Olson

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Tri-Branch Luncheon

Thanks to Karen Rasmussen for some pictures from yesterday's (April 12) Tri-Branch Luncheon at the Owatonna Art Center. She and I are adding a few notes from the event. Sixteen members and a guest attended from Faribault. It was fun to see our long-time member, Shelly Rockman, who lives in Owatonna and was helping to greet guests. Karen wanted to get us all together for a group photo, but in the bustling dining room that would have been akin to herding cats. The Art Center is such a great venue and yesterday with the large stained-glass windows and fresh flowers everywhere, it looked stunning. They had real silver for eating (including 3 forks) and a silver teapot at each table, sat on a piece of Somali fabric and held a bouquet of fresh flowers. One of the carafes on the table had a yellow ribbon which indicated it was Somali tea, a sweet tea much like our chai tea. I thought cloves was the dominant spice, some thought cardamon. I don't know why we didn't ask the three Somali women at the next table. An opportunity for communication lost.

It was fun to visit with people from Owatonna and Northfield, but we were so sad to hear that the Northfield Branch is disbanding. They too just celebrated their 100-year anniversary and felt grateful to have reached that landmark.

Dr Hudda Ibrahim, St. Cloud, our warm and dynamic speaker shared so much information on Somalia and its people (culture, religion, language, etc.) plus the experiences of recent Somali immigrants to Minnesota. The greatest number of Somalis in the US live in Minnesota. She told about The Dine and Dialogue program that she and her husband started in St Cloud to help people in the community get to know their Somali neighbors. You can Google

YouTube Dr Hudda Ibrahim and watch the video that we saw at the luncheon. Her book "From Somalia to Snow" is available for \$20.



Karen and Liz



Gloria Olson (right) introducing our March speaker, Delane James, Buckham Memorial Library's director. She spoke on the history of book banning from the 1600's until today. In recent years, "the American Library Association (ALA) has documented record-breaking numbers of unique titles challenged in public and school libraries". We were especially interested in hearing about the procedures that Buckham Library has put into place to address a request for having a book banned. When Delane speaks – we listen and threats to our libraries should send alarm bells ringing!

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Faribault AAUW Branch Meeting

MARCH 24, 2025 MINUTES

The Faribault Branch of AAUW held its March business meeting at 2 p.m. in the Carlander Program Room at the Rice County Historical Society. President Mary Niermann greeted members and brought the meeting to order. Niermann's first order of business was approval of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the February meeting. Both were included in the emailed monthly newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, she deemed both approved as written.

Next on the agenda was electing delegates to the April 25-26 State AAUW Convention in Austin. A motion was made and seconded to elect Karen Rasmussen, Pat Rice, JoEllen Schultz and Pauline Schreiber as delegates. The motion passed. Liz Hartman and Mary Niermann are thinking of going, and if they do, would be assigned alternate delegates.

Pauline Schreiber brought an envelope addressed to Owatonna AAUW for the April 12 Tri-Branch Luncheon. She collected money from five individuals. At the March 20 AAUW Book Club, Barb Dubbels collected nine checks. A number of members have sent in checks on their own so Faribault AAUW should have a good showing at the event that will be held at the Owatonna Art Center with Torey's Restaurant catering the food. The speaker is Hudda Ibrahim, a St. Cloud City Council member and educator at St. Cloud Technical and Community College. She has written the book, "From Somalia to Snow."

Niermann asked about the "Women in History Month" article published in the Faribault Daily News. Schreiber wrote the first one on the founding of Faribault AAUW 100 years ago and general history about National AAUW which ran March 6; Kathryn Speudla interviewed 50-year member Pat Rice and her article ran March 13; Pat Rice interviewed 50-year member Liz Hartman and her article ran

March 20; Gloria Olson wrote the fourth article on Faribault AAUW local scholarships that should run before March is over.

A National AAUW webinar on fundraising is scheduled for April 1. AAUW Funds V.P. Liz Harman and Membership V.P. Kathy Larson, with the help of Karen Rasmussen, handled an interview, providing information on Faribault AAUW's fundraising, that will be part of the webinar.

Hartman collected items for the Branch's wine basket for the silent auction at the Austin State Convention.

SPRING PICNIC

Niermann asked about the Spring Picnic. Schreiber reported that Arna Farmer will be catering it again. She asked if members wanted a change in the menu and if they would be willing to pay \$20 a piece for the meal. Members liked the past menu and said they would be willing to pay \$20 a piece. The event begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 19. Pat Umbreit will again be hosting the event at her Roberds Lake home. A sign-up sheet for the event will be at the April 24 meeting. The program for the April meeting will be local poet, Larry Gavin.

Niermann ended the meeting by reciting AAUW's mission, diversity statement, vision statement and promise.

PROGRAM

Speaker for the afternoon was Delane James, Buckham Memorial Library's director. She spoke on the history of book banning from the 1600's until today. There is a state law that disallows public libraries from banning, removing or restricting material based on messages, ideas or opinions it conveys.

SUBMITTED

BY SECRETARY PAULINE SCHREIBER

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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.