Our Mission: To honor women and girls, empowering them through education, service and leadership development.

**President’s Message**

Spring has official sprung! Remember to attend the spring banquet this month to support the Branch by renewing your membership. Thank you to our outgoing officers for their leadership and service! This is the time of year when our calendars are bursting with AAUW -related activity. Laura, chair of the Used Book Sale, reports that sorting and pricing for this year’s sale are still ongoing and we are in need of cashiers for the sale itself. Our deepest thanks are extended to all who participate over the years in this signature event for the branch.

~Courtney Wyant, President

**2016-2017 Officer Slate**

The following members have been nominated to the elected positions below and will be voted upon at our May gathering:

Co-Presidents: Jill Maxfield & Catherine Haslag

Programming Co-Chairs: Marijo Alexander & Sue Grove

Treasure: Position OPEN

Secretary: Peggy Benzkoffer

**May Program**

This year's spring banquet will be held at the Austin Country Club on May 10.  Social time begins at 5:30 PM, dinner starts at 6pm.  Anyone attending needs to RSVP and pay for their meal by May 3.  When you arrive at the country club, please check in with us.  You will be given a place card indicating if you ordered the chicken, fish, or pork so the wait staff will be more easily able to serve us.

There will be an open bar.  Please bring cash or check to pay for your drinks.  Please contact Catherine Haslag at [cshaslag@gmail.com](mailto:cshaslag@gmail.com) if you have any questions.  We look forward to seeing you on May 10.

Jill Maxfield and Catherine Haslag, Programs Co-Chairs

**Small Groups**

**Great Decisions**

Great Decisions will meet on May 23, at 1:00 PM in Room C110 at Riverland. The topic is:

**Migration**

As a record number of migrants cross the Mediterranean Sea to find refuge in Europe, the continent is struggling to come up with an adequate response. Although Europe’s refugees are largely fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and parts of Africa, their struggle is hardly unique. Today, with the number of displaced people is at an all-time high, a number of world powers find themselves facing a difficult question: How can they balance border security with humanitarian concerns? More importantly, what can they do to resolve these crises so as to limit the number of displaced persons?

**AM Book Group**

*The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins is Morning Book Group’s selection for May. We will meet May 19th at Perkins at 9 AM. Lois McConnell will lead discussion.

**PM Book Group**

Evening book group will be at the home of Dorothy Krob (2203 W. Oakland Ave.) on May 17th at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. In June we will meet to make book selections for the 2016-2017 year.

**First Friday**

Our AAUW Used Book Sale is on Friday, May 6th. Therefore, we will NOT have our First Friday Lunch on that date. Since we don’t meet in the summer, Dorothy will be in contact with members in the fall for our next First Friday Lunch!

**Travel Group**

The Travel Club is traveling to Owatonna on Tuesday, May 17th to tour the Minnesota State Orphanage, enjoy lunch, and then tour the Owatonna Bank Building.  We will leave Austin at 9:00 A.M.  Our tour of the Orphanage begins at 10:00 A.M. where we will listen to a presentation, watch a film taken in the 1930’s, and tour the Main Museum and Cottage.  If the weather is nice, we will also walk the grounds where there are six audio stations.  This is the only Orphanage Museum in the U.S.   We will then go to the downtown area where we will have different choices for lunch including a Chocolate Shop, a Bagel Bakery, and others.    
    At 1:30 P.M., we will receive a guided tour of Owatonna’s unique bank building.  Please let me know ASAP if this is of interest to you and you think you would like to join us.  We do need to have our final count in by the first week of May. DedaRae Graber

**Public Policy**

Evelyn Guentzel

As we close out the 2015-2016 year for Austin Branch of AAUW, I have been perusing the website to review the issues of the year. I encourage all the members to take some time to do the same. The issues are many and varied, and at the national level AAUW’s efforts for women of all ages continue to keep us in the forefront when it comes to building awareness of important concerns—locally, nationally, and legislatively. Here is the list of AAUW’s programs designed to build awareness to empower women:

—RESEARCH: Analyze gender equity issues in education and the workplace

—CAMPUS LEADERSHIP: Help shape the lives of the next generation of women leaders; promote safe campuses for women

—STEM EDUCATION: Leveling the playing field for girls and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

—PUBLIC POLICY: Advocate for policies that advance equity for women and girls

—CASE SUPPORT:  Support challenges to sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace; example—Lily Ledbetter.

—EDUCATIONAL FUNDING: Provide educational and lifelong learning opportunities for women; promote financial literacy curriculum to control educational debt

—GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: Respond to the global development needs of women, helping them contribute to the economic and social development of their countries

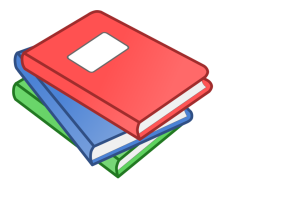
—MEMBER LEADERSHIP: Provide leadership development opportunities to AAUW members; Strong, skilled member leaders make AAUW more powerful, locally and globally. That’s why AAUW is building a comprehensive set of tools and trainings that will help member leaders be better advocates in their AAUW roles and beyond.

—SALARY NEGOTIATION: Through AAUW Start Smart and AAUW Work Smart, fight to close the pay gap, one workshop at a time; Women working full time in  the United States typically are paid just 79 percent of what white men are paid, a gap of 21 percent — and it’s even worse for women of color.

Have a great summer!

**Save the Date!**

We will host our AAUW Tour of Homes on October 2nd.  Jill Maxfield will chair the event.  We will need people to be the chair for each house and then, of course, workers on the day. We have one house so far.  If members know of any potential houses they should contact Sue Grove at 433-5464.

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**Spring Used Book Sale**

It is now time to sort and set up for the book sale.  The room is set up so all we need now is your help! You can come for an hour or maybe more, every little bit helps.

The work schedule for the sale is full on Friday, BUT there are several openings for workers on Saturday.  The schedule is set up in two hour slots, beginning at 9:30 and going until 5:30.  We need at least three helpers on each shift and a few extras could be used at the end for the bag sale. This is a huge fund raising event for AAUW and we need everyone to help out.

Send Laura an email to let her know when you can help at [viola212.lt@gmail.com](mailto:viola212.lt@gmail.com)

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| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | |
| **March 26 – April 25, 2016** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Period: 3/26/16 - 4/25/16** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | **$5,522.61** |
|  |  |  |
| **Income:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Income:** | **$ -** | $5,522.61 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Disbursements:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| AAUW Banner | 33.39 |  |
| Dues Paid | 33.50 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$66.89** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing Balance 4/25/16** |  | **$5,455.72** |

*Mission Statement*: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

*Vision Statement:* AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

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AAUW Southern Highlights

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