Southern Highlights



**Volume 12 Number 3** **November 2013**

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**\_\_\_\_ Shaping the World One Woman at a Time\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_**

 **Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove, Co-Presidents**

## Co-President’s Thoughts

Wow! What a fantastic start for Austin’s AAUW Branch this year! Welcome to all the new members and, of course, all the loyal returning members. To have fifty plus at our October meeting and tour of I.J. Holton Intermediate School really made me smile!

Be sure to take advantage of our small group activities including the book groups, Great Decisions, and Saturday mornings at the Coffee House on Main. Our new membership directory gives a good overview of all that is going on. Plus, we are always open to new ideas for small groups. Mahjong anyone?! Stay tuned for a “Newish Members Group”. I would like to have an informal gathering or two or three to introduce newish members to some of AAUW’s initiatives accompanied by wine and cheese. (Interested “oldish” members would definitely be welcome too.)

The November meeting should be equally interesting because we will get to know more about Austin’s newest population, the Karen from the former Burma (Myanmar). Many of you may have seen the article in the Herald about the new Asian store, Lucky Brothers, on Oakland Avenue. The owners are from Myanmar. We will also be able to see the remodeling that has taken place at the Welcome Center and learn a bit about their mission.

Invite friends to any of our activities. We need to share the mission of AAUW with everyone.

Sue Grove

Co-President

## October Program

Our November 12th meeting will be held at the Austin Welcome Center, 316 N. Main Street.  Jake Vela will be giving a presentation on the Karen/Burmese people who have become a part of the community in Austin.  Social hour will begin at 6:30 PM, with the presentation and tour of the Welcome Center to begin at 7 PM.

### Small Groups

These groups are open to any member wishing to attend.

**Morning Book Group**

Our November meeting will be at 9 AM on the 21st at Gymocha. We will be discussing *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. There will be no December book group. Our read for the January 16th meeting will be *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg. We are a small group and would love to have more members join us!

**Evening Book Group**

We will be discussing *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver on Monday, November 4th at 7 PM at the home of Judy Pesonen. Please RSVP to Judy at rpesonen@smig.net. On December 2nd we will discuss *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn.


##### Travel Group

The AAUW Travel Club will meet at Marsha Kuehne's home on Thursday, November 14th at 2:00 P.M. Marsha will share her travel experiences from her trip to the Normandy and Brittany areas of France.  We look forward to learning more about this beautiful area. We hope you are able to join us.  Please either email (drgraber@charter.net) or call (433-7897) before Wednesday, Nov. 13th to let DedaRae know if you can attend.  Thank you very much!

**Great Decisions**

Great Decisions will meet Wednesday, October 30th at 1:00 pm in C108, Austin East to discuss  Chapter 7. The topic for November is "THREAT ASSESSMENT." Date and time are to be announced.  Evelyn is currently ordering copies of next year's book. If you are interested and have not participated before, let Evelyn know. 2014 topics will be: Defense Technology; Israel and the US, Turkey’s Challenges, Islamic Awakening, Energy Independence, Food and Climate, China’s Foreign Policy, and U.S. Trade Policy.

**First Friday**

First Friday Luncheon will be at The Old Mill at 11:30 AM on Friday, November 1st.  Contact Dorothy Krob at sdkrob@live.com if you would like to attend.

**Knitting/ Handiwork Group**

We will begin meeting every Saturday at 9:30 AM at the Coffee House on Main. Everyone is welcome to join even if you just want to enjoy a cup of coffee!

**Name Tags Needed!**

As many of you may have noticed, new name tags have been created for use at general meetings to help us with putting a name with a face. If you happened to take your name tag home with you from the October general meeting please remember to bring it back the next meeting. Several of them went missing. We would like them turned in at the end of each meeting so we can reuse them. Thanks!

**Author Event At the Library**

On Friday, November 22nd at 5 PM, author Beatrice Ojakangas will be having a book signing event at the Austin Public Library. Beatrice Ojakangas is the author of more than a dozen cookbooks, including The Great Scandinavian Baking Book (1999) and Scandinavian Feasts (2001), both published by the University of Minnesota Press. Her articles have been published in Bon Appétit, Gourmet, Cooking Light, Cuisine, and Redbook, and she has appeared on television's Baking with Julia Child and Martha Stewart's Living. She lives in Duluth, Minnesota. Book signing will include some Scandinavian Samples from her collection of cookbooks.

**Public Policy**

Evelyn Guentzel - Chair

National AAUW’s action, advocacies, and research projects are impressive and we need to build more awareness of them, and perhaps engage in some actions of our own in Austin Branch. This month some of these initiatives will be highlighted.

ACTION

* Charity Navigator, a large and reputable rating agency has identified AAUW as the recipient of the coveted Four Star rating for efficiently applying its donations designed to achieve their mission.
* November 2-16 interested members will volunteer to spend time with AAUW fellows and grantees in India to learn about the roles that women play there.
* January 4-12 members will be returning to Cuba where they are learning about women’s issues, challenges, and opportunities. They will go to Havana and other cities.
* A state-based organizer pilot program will send six field organizers to six key regions to coordinate grassroots activities. More later as the program develops.
* In accordance with Title IX, a group of current students and recent graduates have launched a website to guide students in their efforts to end sexual assault and to improve campus climates at colleges. Check out KNOW YOUR TITLE IX.
* AAUW college campus leadership programs include The National Student Advisory Council, Campus Action Project, Elect Her-Campus Women Win, and National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Check the website.
* The newest pilot program, STEM, will involve 10 branches or states in a one-day gathering that is based on a branch program developed by an AAUW branch in Buffalo, NY. We could bring a STEM camp to Austin area in 2014. Tech Trek is another successful STEM project which began through AAUW in California.
* Give a free membership gift to a new college graduate by filling out a form online at <http://listsrv.aauw.org/t/82252/3265097/1682/111/>.
* Know any women scholars interested in grassroots projects? AAUW is awarding 3.7 million in fellowships. Deadlines and eligibility requirements are online. Learn more about the 125th year of fellows and grantees getting started this academic year.
* AAUW participated in National Voter Registration Day in August. Austin branch could facilitate such a project, perhaps on the Riverland campus.
* Recruit your alma mater to become a college/university partner. AAUW has a step-by-step guide.

ADVOCACY

* AAUW was asked to stand with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and House Democrats to support an economic agenda for women and families. This agenda promotes equal pay, paid leave, and affordable child care. This initiative/rally has been held in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Texas.
* Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations, spoke about the need for pay equity in Madison, Wisconsin at the “Fighting Bob Fest” She also met with members in Madison and Milwaukee.

BOOKS AND……..

* Tiscareno-Sato, Graciela. *Good Night, Captain Mama*. A bilingual children’s book.
* Wiseman, Rosalind. *Masterminds and Wingmen: Helping Our Boys Cope with Schoolyard Power, Locker-Room Tests, Girlfriends, and the New Rules of Boy World,* and *Queen Bees and Wannabes.* The latter was the inspiration for the film **Mean Girls**.
* AAUW iAdelante! Book of the Month Club. Submissions come from members, branches, and states.“diverse and fascinating books for you to dive into.”

**AAUW Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 8, 2013**

AAUW Board met at the I. J. Holton Intermediate School. Secretary’s report was approved. There was no Treasurer’s report. Board members were referred to the newsletter. An annual review of the Treasurer’s books was done by Sue and Marijo who found record books complete.

Catherine Lemons reported that the branch currently has 66 members. The new member event in September was very successful. Thanks to Catherine for the new membership directory and new nametags for members.

Carla reported a schedule change for January and March of 2014. January’s member meeting will be Kathryn Colescot Burke, a national park ranger. Sandy Anderson from Mower County Refreshed will speak at the March meeting.

Sue reported that the AAUW House Tour brought in an estimated gross income of $3195. A discussion took place regarding the best time of year for the next house tour.

Sue reported that we have been invited to host the 2015 AAUW State Convention in Austin. If we decide to host the event, Marijo and Sue have offered to be co-chairs.

Marie has updated our website. Sue encouraged everyone to visit the new website – <http://austin-mn.aauw.net/>

A discussion took place about creating a Mission Statement for our branch, as a way to “brand” our branch. The Board will continue this discussion with the goal of completing the Mission Statement by May 2014.

Peggy gave a Women’s History Month update. She and Carolyn Bogott will meet with teacher Lisa Saunders soon, and are looking into the possibility of using local women to speak about Title IX.

New Business: Kathy will have a sign-up sheet to enlist callers for the monthly meetings. Peggy mentioned that there may be a couple of members needing rides to the monthly meetings. Sue and Peggy will look into rides for these members. Sue reported that the State has a “Leader on Loan” program to provide speakers or assistance for the local branches.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Monson, Secretary

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| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** |
| **October, 2013** |
|  |  |  |
| **Period: 10/1/13-10/31/13** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | **$5,478.16** |
|  |  |  |
| **Income:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Dues Received |  260.00  |  |
| House Tour Ticket Sales |  3,270.00  |  |
| Scholarship Donation |  40.00  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Income:** |  **$3,570.00**  | $9,048.16 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Disbursements:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| House Tour Tickets |  120.00  |  |
| House Tour Gifts |  100.00  |  |
| National Dues |  196.00  |  |
| State Dues |  54.00  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$470.00** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing Balance 10/31/13** |  | **$8,578.16** |

**HOUSE TOUR SUMMARY**

**Tickets Sold = 233**

**Total Income = $3535**

**Expenses = $220**

**Net Profit = $3315**

*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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