

990 NEWS

April - August
2024

American Association of University Women
St. Paul Branch



empowering women since 1881

American Association of University Women St. Paul Branch

St. Paul Branch AAUW:

Website: <http://www.aauwstpaul.org>
Questions? Email info@aauwstpaul.org

Business Office Staff (Brian Quist):
651-227-4477

Minnesota AAUW:

<http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

National Association:

Website: <http://www.aauw.org> Email: info@aauw.org

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.

Promise Statement

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that women have a fair chance.

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REMINDERS when attending meetings at the House:

Accessibility

- The first floor is wheelchair accessible.
- There are two handicapped parking spots located behind the house.
- A wheelchair-accessible ramp is at the rear of the house.

Valet parking is available at regular meetings. While not required, it is appreciated if members provide a \$2.00 - \$5.00 tip.

Parking Regulations

- Stay 20 feet from a crosswalk and 5 feet from a driveway.
- Stay 10 feet from the STOP signs.
- DO NOT park in front of the Governor's Mansion.

For the comfort of others . . .

Please remember all gatherings at the House are scent/perfume free.

AAUW St. Paul President's Message



My Dear Friends,

We are approaching April already! What a glorious time of year! I am not so sure that we will fully appreciate it as we have had some unusual April-like weather throughout the winter. Not many of us are complaining, however. Lenore Hetrick (1926-1994) commemorated April for us in her poem,

“Life Begins Again In April”

**Life begins again — in April!
How this dead earth comes to flower!
How the dry boughs wake and quicken
In this blooming, springtime hour!
Life begins again — in April!
And the bird is on the wing,
Books are flowing, breezes tender
In a rhapsody of spring.**

April is National Poetry Month. We enjoyed the poems of Ada Limón, United States Poet Laureate, in January of this year in Joy Davis's Literature Seminar. We are proud to have so many strong women leaders. Ada Limón has been named one of Time magazine's 12 Women of the Year for 2024. Limón and the other 11 women are being celebrated for being “extraordinary leaders who are working toward a more equal world.”

We are looking forward to hearing our own members share their poetry with us on April 9. It is always a fun day! Please come and listen and better yet, be a part of the readings!

We have strong ties to promoting and protecting women both in our St. Paul Branch and nationally. Our own amazing women of AAUW are working hard to make a difference for all women by supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. Members from our Branch attended the rally in February, and we are very proud of them. Together, we can reach gender equality in education, economic security, and leadership. Our mission is: Equity for All. A big thank-you to those who participated!

Our Leadership Team has very diligently tried to make your year a wonderful one. Our programs speak for themselves! There is something for everyone! When we recruit people for the Leadership Team, we look for you! Please take some time to explore what you can do to make our Branch even stronger! There are many areas that need some extra hands. YOU can help!

Thank you for your continued generosity! Your donations of books and donations to Community Outreach make an impact. We are thrilled to be able to help our community members and scholarship recipients pursue their educations. We are a “take charge and take care” group of women. We are about 305 of 170,000 AAUW members in the nation and we are making differences every day.

Enjoy the spring,
My best to all,
Carol Hanson, AAUW President 2022-24



*** TUESDAY PROGRAMS and COMMITTEE REPORTS ***

April - August 2024

April 9, 2024 -- SECOND TUESDAY

POetry Day

10:00 a.m. Member Poetry Readings

11:00 a.m. Connie Wanek, Poet



Connie Wanek was born in Wisconsin, raised in New Mexico, and lived for over a quarter century in Duluth, MN.

Her first book, *Bonfire*, won the New Voices Award and was published in 1997 by New Rivers Press. Her second, *Hartley Field*, appeared in 2002 from Holy Cow! Press. *On Speaking Terms*, her third book,

was released on January 15, 2010, by Copper Canyon Press. In 2016, the University of Nebraska Press published Wanek's *Rival Gardens: New and Selected Poems*. In 2018, Will o' the Wisp Books produced a chapbook of Ms. Wanek's poems called *Consider the Lilies: Mrs. God Poems*. Ms. Wanek collaborated with U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser on a book of poems for younger readers called *Marshmallow Clouds*, which was published in 2022 by Candlewick Books and won the prestigious CLIPPA Award in Great Britain.

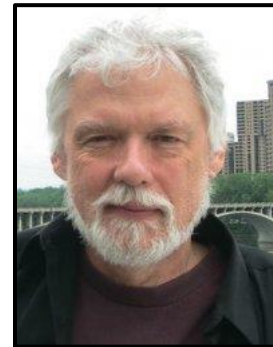
Ms. Wanek's poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Great River Review*, *Poetry East*, *Water-Stone*, and many other publications over the years. In 2006, she was named a Witter Bynner Fellow of the Library of Congress.

She also served as a co-editor with Joyce Sutphen and Thom Tammaro on the comprehensive anthology *To Sing Along the Way: Minnesota Women Poets from Pre-Territorial Days to the Present*, which appeared in 2007 from New Rivers Press and which has won several awards. In 2014 she also published a book of prose, ten stories, called *Summer Cars* with Will o' the Wisp Press. Ms. Wanek was deeply honored to receive the George Morrison Artist of the Year Award in 2009 which recognizes an individual artist whose body of work has made a significant contribution to the arts in Northeastern Minnesota. And in 2017, a wild-flower trail in Duluth's Hartley Nature Center was named in her honor.

Marla Kennedy, Poetry Day Committee

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

1:15 p.m. John Minczeski, Poet



John Minczeski is the author of five poetry collections, including *Circle Routes*, winner of the Akron Poetry Prize, and *A Letter to Serafin*. He has taught poetry in elementary and high schools throughout Minnesota and at assorted colleges in the Twin Cities area. Individual poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Banyan Review*, *The New Yorker*, *Harvard Review*, *Tampa Review*, *Louisville Review*, *Rhino*, and *North Dakota Quarterly*.

Marla Kennedy, Poetry Day Committee

To read a poem is to hear it with our eyes;
to hear it is to see it with our ears.

~Octavio Paz

*** TUESDAY PROGRAMS and COMMITTEE REPORTS ***

April - August 2024

April 16, 2024 -- THIRD TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. **Summit Avenue Readers** (webpage [HERE](#))
Discussing *The Last Green Valley* by Mark Sullivan

11:00 a.m. **The (Minnesota) State of Intellectual Freedom: Minnesota Libraries as Culture War Battlefields**
Tamara (Tami) Lee, Minnesota State Librarian



Tamara Lee (Tami) (she/hers) is the Minnesota State Librarian and Director of State Library Services and Expanded Learning Opportunities for the Minnesota Department of Education. Tami is responsible for directing the activities of State Library Services, The Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library, and the Expanded Learning Opportunities division under the Office of Teaching and Learning.

Ms. Lee is a dedicated library professional with twenty-six years of experience leading, managing, and implementing innovative and equitable library services to Minnesotans. Tami holds a Master's degree in Library Science from Dominican University/St. Catherine University.

Karen E. Sletten, Public Policy/Environmental Issues Committee

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon**



REMINDER:

All meetings at the House are fragrance and scent free. THANK YOU!

1:15 p.m. **Project REACH, a Saint Paul Public Schools Shelter and Street-Based Program Promoting Stability for Children Experiencing Homelessness**
Heather Alden, St. Paul Public Schools Social Worker



Heather Alden is a school social worker in Saint Paul Public Schools, having worked in urban education as both a teacher and school social worker for over 28 years. She is the Supervisor at Project REACH, which is a Saint Paul Public Schools shelter and street-based program that promotes school stability and academic success of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Fostering Connections is an SPPS

program that assists with the education stability of students placed in out-of-home care.

Ms. Alden received her Master's Degree in Social Work at the University of Houston, and her undergraduate degree from Hamline University. In 2011, Heather received the MSSWA MN School Social Worker of the year award. She was also named the SSWAA National School Social Worker of the year in 2012. In 2015 she received the Hamline University Alumni, "Making the World a Better Place" award. Ms. Alden has provided professional development to educators, other mental health professionals, and parents and was an adjunct faculty professor at Augsburg College. She works as a casual social worker at Children's Hospital, Minneapolis. Ms. Alden is an advocate for educational equity, increasing the access to affordable housing for families and youth mental health awareness, increased parent involvement, social emotional learning, culturally competent practice, and bullying prevention work.

Donna Román, Cultural Arts Committee

*** TUESDAY PROGRAMS and COMMITTEE REPORTS ***

April – August 2024

April 23, 2024 -- FOURTH TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. **Great Decisions** (web page [HERE](#))
Discussing **U.S.-China Trade Rivalry**

11:00 a.m. **Meet Our Scholars!**
Scholarship Trust



Please join in welcoming our newest scholarship winners at the 11:00 a.m. program. In addition, we will hear from several of our current scholarship recipients as they bring us up to date on their college experiences this year. We will also learn what some of

our past scholarship winners are doing in their present careers. Whether you attend in person or on ZOOM, you will be impressed by the young women who are supported by our efforts to advance “equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.” Four of our scholars are graduating. Next year three will be seniors, four will be juniors, and two sophomores in addition to our newest freshmen scholarship winners. We can be proud that our generous donations have helped these women a step further to fulfilling their dreams.

Barbara Waldschmidt, Scholarship Trust Committee

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon**

1:15 p.m. **Discover What Makes You Soar**
Heather Boschke, Professor, Businesswoman, Author



Heather Boschke is a strategic marketing leader, children's book author, and professor at Metro State University. As a marketing leader, Heather has over 20 years of experience that spans Fortune 20 companies to non-profit organizations. In 2021 she started her own marketing organization called Vogel Venture with the mission to help small and mid-sized organizations drive growth and engagement. The name Vogel means bird in German, which speaks to the strategic (bird's eye) approach combined with the tactical planning she brings to clients.

Ms. Boschke has been an adjunct professor at Metro State University since 2008 where she teaches an undergraduate marketing class. She started drawing birds as a creative outlet during COVID lockdown, and she used her illustrations to write and publish a children's book series called *Little Birdie Buddies*. A believer in filling up all of life's buckets, Heather is most passionate about helping people unlock the answer to this most important question: What sets your soul on fire?

Books will be available for purchase. Each book features illustrations and facts about 20 birds you can see in backyards and parks. It encourages the reader to connect with nature, learn fun bird facts, and see their own inner beauty.

Donna Román, Education and Learning Committee

*** TUESDAY PROGRAMS and COMMITTEE REPORTS ***

April - August 2024

April 30, 2024 -- FIFTH TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. Mystery Book Club
Book TBA – check their web page often [HERE](#)

11:00 a.m. Don't Just Live Your Life—Write It
Patricia Hampl, Author



Patricia Hampl's most recent book is *The Art of the Wasted Day*. Her other books include *The Florist's Daughter*, *Virgin Time*, *A Romantic Education*, *Blue Arabesque*, and *Spillville*. Four of her books have been named in the *New York Times*' annual "100 Notable Books of the Year." Ms. Hampl is also the author of two

collections of poetry. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Essays*, and most recently in *The American Scholar*. She is currently working on a collection of prose pieces titled *It's Come to This*. Ms. Hampl is Regents Professor Emerita, University of Minnesota, and serves on the permanent faculty of the Prague Summer Writing Program. She lives in St. Paul, her hometown.

A talk about the value (and annoyances) of writing as well as reading memoir. While autobiographical writing is certainly not "new," the memoir is a literary form that has taken off in recent times, fascinating as well as vexing readers. We'll consider this recent history from a personal as well as historic perspective.

Lynne Beck, Cultural Arts Committee

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

**1:15 p.m. Celtic Junction Arts Center Presents:
"Immigrants to Ambassadors: Reflecting a Modern
Multicultural Ireland Through Traditional
Arts and Culture"**
Natalie O'Shea, Co-Founder and Executive Director,
Celtic Junction Arts Center
Cormac O'Sé, Co-Founder, Celtic Junction Arts Center



Natalie O'Shea is the co-founder and executive director of Celtic Junction Arts Center, the Irish cultural center of Minnesota with its programs Eoin McKiernan Library, Irish College of MN, CJAC's Concert Series, and Irish Outreach Program. Ms. O'Shea is an active member of Irish Network, the Midwest Irish Cultural Centers association, and Network of Irish Cultural Centers of North America (NICCoNA), representing Minnesota nationally and internationally. As a speaker, she has been featured at the Irish Echo National Campfire, in the *Irish Stew* podcast, founded and hosts a Social Justice Seminar Series, and received a TOSCA award for her contributions to the Celtic Arts. Ms. O'Shea is writer and director of three annual theatrical productions, one of which has been published in the Harp and Loon Anthology. She contributes to the quarterly arts review CJAR, is an Advisory Editor for UST's *New Hibernia Review*, and writes for the *Irish Echo*. Under her leadership, Celtic Junction Arts Center won the award for Best Irish Cultural Center with Irish Central in 2018. Ms. O'Shea was honored as one of *Irish Echo's* "Arts & Culture Heroes" and as a "Rebuilder of Irish America" in 2021 and 2022.

Continued on next page . . .

*** TUESDAY PROGRAMS and COMMITTEE REPORTS ***

April - August 2024

April 30, 1:15 p.m. program, continued . . .

Cormac O'Sé was born in Dublin, Ireland, growing up in an intense study of traditional music and dance. He was cast in the original performance of Riverdance, going on to add six years touring the world with Riverdance The Show, giving more than 2,000 performances across four continents to over two million people. Mr. O'Sé became a T.C.R.G. (certified instructor with An Coimisiun Le Rinci Gaelacha, Dublin) and now lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he is Director and Founder of O'Shea Irish Dance (established 2005) and choreographer of Get Up Your Irish, Kickin' It Irish, and the Celtic Holiday Hooley. As a musician, Mr. O'Sé is in demand at major competitions and feiseanna around the world and has recorded three albums of original Irish dance music under the title "FeisTunes." Cormac produces 50-60 local events a year, specializing in Irish dance, music, and song; and produces live-streamed dance competitions around the world. Mr. O'Sé is co-founder of Celtic Junction Arts Center in St. Paul, established in 2009.

Carol Engebretson Byrne, Global Issues Committee

SPRING HISTORY THEATRE OUTING

Thursday, May 9, at 10:00 a.m.

The musical is *Blended Harmony: The Kim Loo Sisters*. These four Minnesota sisters were called "the Chinese Andrew Sisters" in the 1930s.

Thirty tickets have been reserved and the cost is \$32 each. Guests are welcome.

Sign up at the House on Tuesday or by emailing Linda Spiess.

Checks should be made out to Linda Spiess.
Deadline for signing up is Tuesday, April 9.



FROM THE BOOK ENDS

Spring Book Sale

Thursday, April 18 & Friday, April 19

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



PLEASE keep those books coming in to the House (990 Summit), as we are gearing up for our Spring Book Sale.

Book drop-off hours:

Monday	9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	AAUW program Tuesdays only
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Except for AAUW program Tuesdays, please call before you drop off:
651-227-4477

Please and thank you from The Book Ends!

Tersenia Schuett, Kathleen Flynn, Sharon Ahern, and Ann Heider



ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 7

10:45 a.m.

Details TBA

*** WEBSITE LINKS ***

Our AAUW St. Paul Branch [WEBSITE HERE](#)



TUESDAY PROGRAMS

Upcoming Events page [HERE](#)
ZOOM links for Tuesday programs:
Under Tuesday Program Details [HERE](#)
Quick Reference Calendar:
(on two pages above and Publications [HERE](#))



LUNCHEON INFORMATION

On our website [HERE](#)
Signup Genius links for luncheons found:
[Upcoming Events](#) and [Tuesday Programs Details](#)



GREAT DECISIONS

THIRD Tuesdays
Web page [HERE](#)



BOOK CLUBS

Summit Avenue Readers (SECOND Tuesdays)
Web page [HERE](#)

Mystery Book Club (FOURTH Tuesdays)
Web page [HERE](#)



JOY DAVIS'S LITERATURE SEMINAR

Hosted by Carol Hanson on select Tuesdays
1:00 p.m. Web page [HERE](#)



ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS!

Go to our Take Action! page [HERE](#)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Check for updates and learn about
our current outreach partners!
Web page [HERE](#)



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Web page [HERE](#)



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Thinking of donating a treasure to the House?
Check [HERE](#) first!



CHARITABLE GIVING

To learn more about how to give at the Branch
level, National level, through your IRA, giving a
celebratory or memorial contribution, or making
a bequest or legacy gift to AAUW, please go [HERE](#).



PLANNING AN EVENT?

Did you know our beautiful House is a venue for
weddings and other events? The St. Paul College
Club is the business name, and we are busy!
Learn more on our website [HERE](#)



BOOK ENDS

Web page [HERE](#)