



## **AAUW FARGO-MOORHEAD BRANCH**

**OCTOBER 2013**

**Next Branch Meeting:** Monday, Oct. 21 Fryn Pan 5:30 pm Speaker: Legal Advocate Lillian Jones on Preventing Domestic Violence

**Next Book Club:** October 28, 2013

Book: *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, Katherine Boo

Leader: Marjorie Walsh

*Meetings at 7:30 p.m. Park East Lounge, One 2<sup>nd</sup> St. S., Fargo*

### **Our 2013-2014 Leadership Team**

President Joan Justesen, Laurie Wigtil President-Elect, Secretary Bobbe Shreve, Treasurer Lucia Shroeder, Membership Ruth Stefonowitz

We appreciate your willingness to serve the branch as the executive committee.

### **AAUW Executive Board Meeting**

August 19, 2013

Mtg location: 505 N Broadway

In attendance: Maureen Kelly Jonason, Joan Justesen, Ruth Stefonowicz, Laurie Wigtil, Bobbe Shreve

Joan reviewed the strategic plan and final corrections were made. Bobbe will retype the plan and the 2013-14 program and Laurie will see that they get printed. Ruth shared the latest membership with updates. The need to promote student membership was discussed and it was suggested that Carol Sibley be asked to work with this given her experience with university students.

Maureen shared a proposal by Jocie Iszler who is interested in co-sponsoring a program at Fargo Theater on October 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a question as to whether AAUW had funds for such a venture. No action taken.

The September branch meeting agenda was planned, including:

- Report on the visits to legislators in June by Joan, Bobbe, Lucia, and Pat
- Discussion of work needed to prepare for the AAUW Annual meeting to be held in Fargo on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

AAUW Annual Meeting scheduled April 25, 2014 (initial steps)

- Ruth has contacted Heidi Heitkamp as a potential keynote speaker. Her availability will depend on date of meeting.
- Discussion of her speech topic, included need to avoid being partisan. Speech topic could be "Women in Politics" or something similar.
- Laurie has checked out possible locations for the meeting, including Plains Art, Radisson, Holiday Inn, and Hilton Garden Inn. Cost of rooms is of importance.

A vote was taken and passed to move executive meetings to the Monday prior to each monthly meeting and to be held at the same place as the meeting.

### **MINUTES of the FM Branch of AAUW**

September 16, 2013

Mtg location: Fargo Fry'n Pan

The September meeting was called to order by Joan Justesen, President, at 6pm. Five guests were in attendance and were introduced.

-Minutes from May, June, and August meetings were approved

-Treasurer's report was approved with \$912.90 cash on hand as of September 1, 2013. This includes 32 paid members for the 2013-14 year. State dues to North Dakota and Minnesota have been forwarded as have dues to National AAUW.

-Announcements:

\*Noell Reinhiller has given a legacy gift in her name to AAUW. (Check

www.aauwlegacy.org for information about giving a Legacy gift.)

\*Our Branch was recognized by Minnesota AAUW as one of the top 10 branches in Minnesota, with first place in giving per capita.

\*The Women's Network will be holding a fund raising at the Fargo Theatre on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Contact [Jocie.iszler@gmail.com](mailto:Jocie.iszler@gmail.com) for information

\*Feminist First Friday meets each month. Contact Mary Markland for details.

\*A report on the Pay Equity Act activity this past summer was shared, noting that a pledge form and a cake with 23% removed to represent women's pay in comparison to men's pay, were delivered to Heidi Heitkamp, John Hoeven, and Amy Klobachar's offices.

#### -Old Business:

a) The Strategic Plan has been completed. Sign-up sheets were circulated to establish committees to work on goals that have been identified.

b) Minnesota AAUW asked that minor changes be made to the wording in the revised by-laws. A motion was made and approved to make these changes.

#### -New Business

a) The State AAUW meeting will be held in Fargo on April 25-26, 2014. Facilities for holding the annual State meeting are being investigated by Laurie Wigtil. Ruth Stefonowicz will invite Heidi Heitkamp as a potential speaker for the meeting. The FM Branch executive committee is serving as the steering committee for planning this event.

b) The Used Book Sale, chaired by Beth Anderson and Pat Schutt, is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Moorhead Center Mall. Sign-up sheets for sorting books and working the sale were circulated. Book sale guidelines were presented. A motion was made and approved to raise the price of bags of books at the end of the sale from \$3 to \$4.

Our September speaker was Ermina Altoka, a new American from Bosnia. She shared her inspiring story that resulted from her move to the United States. These events included a war that separated her from her family who were eventually killed. She apologized for the graphic descriptions, stating, "There is nothing non-graphic about war." After living in a refugee camp with her baby for four years, she moved to Fargo in 1996 and voted in her first election in 2008. She noted, "I was a kid—I had hope". She is currently working with other immigrants, helping them settle in Fargo. When asked if our group could offer any assistance, she pointed out that newcomers need help setting up apartments, getting families settled, grocery

shopping and helping them learn English by just visiting with them. Thank you, Ermina.  
Minutes submitted by Bobbe Shreve

## **BOOK SALE Nov. 1 and 2 at Moorhead Center Mall**

Don't forget that our one and only fundraiser, our used book sale, will take place Friday, Nov. 1 9am to 5pm and Sat. Nov. 2, 9am-4pm. Collection of used books begins Sat. Oct. 26, and members have filled most of the slots for sorting. Volunteers are needed for all selling shifts on Nov. 1 and 2. Shifts are 9-12, 12-3, and 3-5 Fri. and 9-12, 12-2, 2-4 and clean-up. Please contact Beth Anderson at [bethanderson3@gmail.com](mailto:bethanderson3@gmail.com) or Pat Schutt at 701-893-8889 to sign up for your preferred shift. The sign-up sheets will also be passed at the next meeting.

## MEET THE MEMBERS

Note: This column will feature one member each month, starting with the newest and working backwards to the member with the longest tenure.

By Beth Anderson

Is she an artist? An advocate for feminist issues? A teacher? A businesswoman? A political organizer? The answer is, Molly McLain is all of these. She recently joined the FM AAUW in Fall of 2013, having arrived in Fargo via Pennsylvania, Minneapolis, Jamestown, and Valley City. Born in 1983, Molly brings passion and fire to everything she's involved in.

A graduate of Valley City State University with an art major and music minor, Molly has quickly become known on the local art scene. You can see her recently-completed mosaic installation outside of Dempsey's on Broadway, which was featured in a prominent article in the *Fargo Forum*. She has done public art installations in other communities and finds they not only contribute beauty but also add a sense of civility to the neighborhood.

Molly is poised to start Trade Mosaics, a web-based business targeted at both home builders and private customers who seek custom designs of everything from backsplashes to stand-alone art pieces. She hopes to have her business up and running in the next two or three months.

Her work in teaching includes a year as resident artist at the Jamestown Art Center. There she taught K-5 art classes and ran an after-school arts program. She loves teaching and continues that role as a private teacher of piano here in Fargo-Moorhead.

Molly's political advocacy started in 2008 when she organized college students in Pennsylvania to support the Obama campaign. This role ballooned into becoming a part-time organizer of the college vote later on the Jamestown College campus. A member of the Dakota Resource Council, which is a watchdog organization that monitors what's happening on the prairie, Molly feels deeply about such regional issues as fracking. She is employed by the local Planned Parenthood group where she combines her desire for political action with a focus on reproductive freedom and women's health issues.

On the personal side, Molly is looking forward to an upcoming trip with her sweetheart to New Zealand in November. A young woman of great passion about the environment, women's issues, and the power of political action, Molly McLain is someone to watch. We may someday see her in the legislature giving her considerable energies to solving the problems of the day.

Maureen Kelly Jonason, Newsletter Editor