

Number 20

April 2025

The Lob Tree AAUW Duluth



DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF DIANA BRAINARD

Many thanks to generous Branch members at the Winter Solstice Social who donated \$610 to the Tamarack Water Alliance in memory of Diana Brainard. The Tamarack Water Alliance seeks to preserve water quality in the Tamarack Minnesota and Mississippi River watershed.

**SAVE-THE-DATE:
AAUW ANNUAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2025
Kitchi Gammi Club, 831 E Superior St, Duluth, MN

5:30pm - Social
6:15pm - Dinner Buffet
7:00pm - Program
7:30 - Business Meeting
8:30 - Adjourn

FEATURING: Abigail Clarke-Sather PhD, Associate Professor Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (MIE), University of Minnesota Duluth
Applied Sustainable Product Innovation and Resilient Engineering (ASPIRE) Lab
"Giving new purposes to textiles for healthier people, communities, and the universe"

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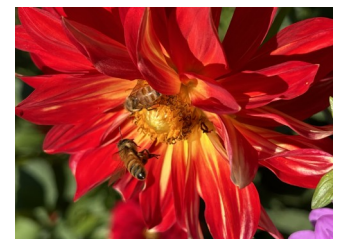
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FURTHER DETAILS FORTHCOMING ABOUT THE MEETING AND FEATURED SPEAKER, DR. ABIGAIL CLARKE-SATHER, UMD PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

AAUW MN State Meeting, April 25-26, 2025

Branch President Angela George reminds members that the registration deadline to attend the state meeting in Austin, MN, is March 31. The meeting's theme is "Cultivating Hope through History." She can forward you a registration form and further details and strongly encourages Branch members to attend so there are some delegates from Duluth. Contact Angela at Angela8744@msn.com

Photo by new Branch member Maile Topliff





NEW MEMBERS

- ♦ **Rev. Carolyn Mowchan**
- ♦ **Kymerly Poulson**
- ♦ **Maile Topliff**

AAUW Duluth Officers, 2024-2026

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STEM Representative: Vacant

College Representative:
Susana Pelayo-Woodward,
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Spotlight on New Member Maile Topliff



MAILE: Thank you, Kathy Antilla, for the wonderful introduction to AAUW and for inviting me to join this community!

As the founder of my business consulting firm, I partner with CEOs and their Boards to tackle their most challenging business problems. Together, we align strategy with key priorities, helping organizations navigate and thrive amid today's unprecedented rate of change. My roots run deep in the Northland—I grew up in Pike Lake and graduated from Proctor High School. Recently, I've returned home to be closer to my parents and

to reconnect with the magic of Lake Superior and the natural beauty of northern Minnesota. I'm a book lover with an insatiable curiosity for learning new things. Currently, I'm pouring my creativity into two writing projects that keep me energized. Photography allows me to see the world through a different lens, and traveling opens my eyes to new perspectives by connecting with others and hearing the stories that shape their lives.

Branch Positions That Need Your Help



Branch President
Angela George asks for extra help in filling these positions. No experience needed, just a willingness to help the Branch further its goals at this very challenging time.

Public Policy Liaison to focus the Branch on national AAUW's priorities, such as the ERA.
Members to join the Scholarship Fundraiser Task Force to publicize and administer the Branch's scholarships.
STEM Representative to help with and grow the Branch's STEM involvement.

Focus Group Details, Spring 2025

Focus Groups meet regularly and gather together people with similar interests in a social setting. Newcomers welcome! Join as many groups as you wish. Questions? Contact Raymone Kral, raymonekral@yahoo.com

The Lunch Bunch

Contact: Bonnie Edwards, bkedwards@gmail.com

1st Tuesday of the month usually at 1 pm.

Members and guests try new

restaurants and revisit old favorites.

Roundtable

Contact: Dawn Conlan, conlan518@gmail.com

3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm.

The group meets in the Lyric Kitchen's private room to informally discuss a timely topic or a random one submitted by members and drawn from a hat.

Zeitgeist Afternoons

Contact: Geiger Yount, geigman@aol.com

This group views an agreed-upon movie usually at the Zinema and talks about it afterwards at Zeitgeist Cafe.

Literature Discussion

Contact: Angela George, angela8744@msn.com

3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm. In person or on Zoom.

Members choose books to discuss for escape, entertainment, or edification. Contact Angela for the book list.

****NEW FOCUS GROUP****

Culture and Entertainment

Contact: Raymone Kral, raymonekral@yahoo.com

Individuals find a cultural or entertainment event they want to attend together and share the idea with the group. Dates, times, and tickets are then arranged.

AAUW MN and LWV MN Op-Ed in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

Check out this inspirational article in the *Strib* dated 3/23/25 by AAUW MN President, Kelsey Waits, and Executive Director of LWV MN, Michelle Witte, headlined "Try as the Trump administration might, it can't erase women." Click on this link [Try as the Trump administration might, it can't erase women](#) Excerpts below.

The article points out the new administration's challenges to special historical months like Women's History Month and its erasure of the contributions of BIPOC communities from the Department of Defense website. "Now," the article continues, "the federal government is going even further—banning or limiting nearly 200 terms from government materials and websites. Words that describe key aspects of the human experience—accessible, advocate, belong, Black, cultural heritage, disabilities, equal opportunity, expression, gender, indigenous community, justice, mental health, pollution, trauma, victim, vulnerable populations—are being erased. And among them? The ultimate F-word, female. . . . But we will not be erased. . . . Let's keep the F-word alive. Let's keep fighting for what is right and lighting the way for all to follow."

Literature Discussion Group Activities



April 21, 2025, at 7 pm, *The Second Life of Mirielle West* by Amanda Skenandore, Discussion Leader: Kathy Antilla, Location: Kathy Antilla's 8501 Congdon Blvd., Duluth

May 19, 2025, at 7pm, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, Discussion Leader: Gay Trachsel, Location: Gay Trachsel's 420 W. Faribault St., Duluth

June 16, 2025, at 7pm, *The Wager* by David Grann, Discussion Leader: Nancy Aldridge, Location: Nancy Aldridge's 1000 Almac Dr, Proctor, MN

For its March meeting, the group read the One Book, One Northland selection, *Where Rivers Part* by Kao Kalia Yang, about being a Hmong immigrant in Minnesota. She will be in Duluth on April 23, 2025.



American Association
of University Women
Duluth

AAUW Duluth
The Lob Tree
Zabelle Stodola, Editor

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AAUW Duluth: Empowering diverse women
through friendship, education, and advocacy

Website link:

[AAUW Duluth \(MN\) Branch](#)

See also [https://
www.facebook.com/AAUWDuluth](https://www.facebook.com/AAUWDuluth)



Twenty branch members and guests logged in to the Zoom Fireside Chat presented by arborist Louise Levy and her mother, Geiger Yount. This presentation is part of the Branch's annual Mother and Daughter Series. Louise is founder of Levy Tree Care, which is dedicated to caring for the trees that people love. Levy explained how she became interested in arboriculture and how her company has grown to serve a diverse clientele.

Zabelle's Book Pick: *The Book of Gutsy Women*, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton compile dozens of inspirational profiles of fearless women worldwide in their 2019 book *Gutsy Women: Favorite Stories of Courage and Resilience*. The Clintons divide this engaging work into eleven sections including "Explorers and Inventors," "Healers," "Advocates and Activists," and "Earth Defenders." Some profiles are by Hillary, some

by Chelsea, and others by both of them.

You will recognize certain women—Harriet Tubman, Florence Nightingale, Marie Curie, and Maya Angelou, for example. But many are not well known and, even if you have heard of them, you might be surprised at their inclusion in such a selective group: Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, disabled actor Ali Stroker, or Victoria Mxenge, the

black South African anti-apartheid activist.

In addition to the profiles of these women, the Clintons reveal how and why particular individuals and initiatives "spoke" to them. So this readable book comes across as very personal. The *Library Journal* reviewer praised *Gutsy Women* for, among other things, being "broad in scope" and likely to "appeal to a wide audience."

