



In this issue:

1. Vernita Kennen, Branch President message
2. Holiday Auction Brunch acknowledgements
3. January meeting changes – Your actions are requested.
4. November minutes, pending approval
5. Interest Groups; Book Club and a **special invitation to Gourmet Group**
6. Recollections of Northeast Metro, 40 years of remembrances – Your input is requested, read on-
Joan started a wonderful piece about our branch history from the 40th Anniversary Celebration in November. We would like to include this piece as part of our history in the branch Web pages. Please email to Doris any additional remembrances you'd like added or any corrections to the piece Joan started. Your input will truly help this be a branch effort to record our history. To protect privacy full names will not be used in the posting. If you are interested in helping with the final compilation, please contact Doris.

President's Potpourri

TIS THE SEASON FOR GIFTS

We, as the NorthEast Metro branch received any number of gifts before Christmas this year. Our recent 40th anniversary celebration was a time to remember the gifts shared by our charter members, our former members, and those who are current members of the branch. What a party we had.

We appreciated the gifts of those who worked on the many projects that were of benefit to not only our own members but to the community and our scholarship recipients. We valued the gifts of friendship shared through the years; some that evening had not seen others for a long time while still others had never met before.

We talked of the gifts of time that members have shared through these 40 years. Women have shared time in research and preparation of "Voices and Echoes", in preparation of each issue of the *Itanyan*, each report of a secretary or treasurer, each program, every bylaws revision, each holiday brunch, and many more. The gift of hospitality is something we enjoy each time we meet; the décor and food for the party made it special.

The gift of laughter brings joy to all. Who can forget how we laughed at the speaker invited to share with us about Alzheimer's who forgot to appear at the meeting! Or Joni sharing that the woman she talked with in Blowing Rock, TN who wondered what sort of name White Bear Lake was! Bless Joni; tact is a gift, too.

And, a final gift for us! AAUW has decided (and just now let us know) that while the first seven articles in our bylaws must use the word "affiliate", we can continue to use the word "branch" in the other bylaw articles and in our standing rules as well as policies and procedures. We certainly aren't too old to change at 40 years, but aren't you glad we don't have to?

Holiday blessings to you all and thank you for sharing your gifts through AAUW.

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Branch President

ANNUAL AUCTION BRUNCH

The Annual Auction/Brunch was held on December 3 at the Hillcrest Country Club. The room looked festive with a Christmas tree and red napkins on white table cloths. The more than 50 guests attending had a huge selection of items to bid on for the Silent Auction.

Many thanks to those who made the day run smoothly. LouAnn did a wonderful job as the M.C.. Joni, Clara and her daughter Katie made the name-tags and they assembled them along with the brunch selection and the auction number cards in packets. Vernita greeted arriving guests and gave them their

packets. Janet B., Jan F. and Joan monitored the auction tables as they were closed. Linda collected the money for the items sold at the close of the auction. She will publish the auction results in the January Itanyan.

And many thanks goes to all those who brought items for the auction.

Sincerely from Nancy and Christine, Holiday Auction Brunch Co-chairs

January 9, 2017 program updates

Update your calendars for our first program of the year on January 9, 2017, the time and place have changed. We will be meeting at the White Bear Lake Branch of the Ramsey County Library system at 1:30 p.m. on the subject of *For the Technologically Challenged*.

We are tapping into the library system to help us learn bits and pieces about common symbols found on our tablets (such as iPads or Kindles), Smartphones, and apps found on the devices. Hanna Frey, an AmeriCorp person, currently working in the Ramsey County Library System, will be our speaker. Her job is to work with people in ESL (English as a second language) programs to help them learn about using computers and technology.

When our branch goal of learning how to use technology through an annual program was explained, the Ramsey County Library system manager, Jason Lyons, felt Hanna would be a good fit to help us learn more about technology. Her skill set is not only on the hand held devices but also on computers in general.

If you think you'll attend but don't have a tablet or Smartphone, please email Doris *immediately* to reserve a device from the library so all attendees have a device to follow along.

If you think you'll attend but have technology questions not related to hand held devices, email your questions to Doris so Hanna can prepare to hopefully address them.

*Submitted by Doris Morrison, Communications Chairperson
working with Janet Brownell, Co-Program Vice President*

Branch meeting Minutes

November 14, 2016 **minutes** can be viewed in the Members Only section of <http://nemetromn.aauw.net> November minutes were emailed to all members 11.28.16 and will go through the approval process at the January meeting.

Submitted by Joan, Co-Secretary

Interest Groups

Book Club

Tuesday, December 27 at 10 a.m. at the home of Linda Ruggles

Discussion of the book *Paper Towns* by John Green

Everyone is welcome. Please let the hostess know if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

A Man Called Ove by Federic Backman

Home of LouAnn Hoppe

Gourmet Group

Gourmet Club will meet on the evening of January 1 2017 at the home of Ted and Janet Brownell to celebrate the New Year. The theme is "Jolly Olde English Holiday". Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Please make reservations with Dick and Donna Wen by Dec. 15, so that recipes may be picked and food assignments sent out. What do you think the recipe committee will come up with—"Bangers & Mash"? Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding? Steak and kidney pie ? Trifle? A full scale "Downton Abbey" feast? Plowboy sandwiches? We hope to see you there.

Recollections; 40th Anniversary Celebration for Northeast Metro (MN) Branch

Below you will find the program notes/coverage for the 40th Anniversary:
Program—40th Birthday Celebration

After the conclusion of our business meeting, Joni cut and served the delicious anniversary cake. The coffee table was beautifully decorated in ruby red, including a center piece of lovely red roses. Thank you again to the anniversary committee, Linda, LouAnn, Joni, Janet, and Clara, for all they have done to make this celebration a success.

President Vernita opened the program with a welcome to members and guests to the 40th anniversary celebration of the founding of our branch. She promised an evening in which, through table talks and member presentation, we would all share in looking at our many accomplishments during those forty years. LouAnn had sent 93 invitations to past members, and she shared the responses of some who could not come. There were four guests in attendance: Linda A., charter member; Leah Marie, charter member; Karen F., past member; and Barb Wolfe, guest of a member.

Vernita then introduced Jan F., a charter member and first president of the Branch who gave us the history of the organization of the then White Bear Lake Branch of AAUW. One afternoon in early 1976 Jan, Linda A., and Carolyn O. were skiing, three young women with young children who were looking for AAUW without the long night drive into St. Paul and from this afternoon discussion grew the WBL Branch of AAUW. The organizational meeting was held in November 1976, and in January 1977 the branch was formally chartered with 37 members, four of whom—Jan F., Clara G., Christine J., and Louise S.—are still branch members. As the membership grew (at one point to 100 members) spreading out to other communities, the name was changed to Northeast Metro Branch.

Jan then introduced Linda A., the organizer and first editor of The Itanyan, our award-winning newsletter. Linda spoke of some of our history as recorded in the early Itanyans, a Native American word Linda chose for the title of this publication. She also compared the publishing and distribution of these early issues (typewriter and post office) with the computer driven issues of today.

Some of the other histories we discussed:

Someone asked when our first holiday brunch was started. Linda R. replied that our auction fund raiser was first organized in 1984 and held annually in December since then as a Holiday Brunch and Auction, first with an actual auctioneer and later as the Silent Auction which we have now. Linda also recalled several locations we have used in the past. The funds from the auction support our Century College Scholarship, also begun in 1984, as well as other of our projects.

Joni shared an article published in a 1980's Minnesota Pine issue concerning an AAUW Educational Foundation Grant for topic implementation in Taking Hold of Technology awarded to Virginia S. in 1982. Virginia was a member of White Bear Lake Branch. The work she did on this grant may well have led to the technology in place in AAUW today.

LouAnn brought up the Voices and Echoes project which grew from An Important American Woman presentation at every meeting. Interviews of historically important women (impersonated by branch members) were filmed at a local TV studio. Study and discussion questions were developed for each interview, making them suitable for use in schools and other organizations. The Branch received a grant of \$4,000 for this important project. Rachel Carson was the first production, completed in 1991.

Louise S. was not able to attend, but sent a letter about our ESL program at Century College. The program, started in 1984,—a busy year for the branch!—grew to perhaps 25 volunteers on a coordinated schedule supervised by Louise—who also taught in the program! The volunteer teachers and their students often became quite close, planning off-campus activities together.

Doris reminded us of Title IX and our influence on gender equity in 1993, especially in athletics in White Bear Lake schools. A task force met once a month during the school year to review all aspects of Title IX in the White Bear school district. At one point the district suggested making cheerleading a contact sport! A final suggestion we made was that, if the district deleted football or hockey from their program,

they would be in compliance. After consideration, the district added girls' hockey. Doris also spoke about the bullying issues we addressed.

Other highlights of discussion:

- The auto dealer lighting issue
- The Gourmet group, organized 30 years ago to learn about other countries, cultures, and foods
- Book Group organized in 1977
- Investments Club—Joyce gave a thorough explanation of this activity which was organized in 1982 and is still functioning with many of the same members, although not as part of our branch because of AAUW restrictions.

In closing Vernita summarized this review of accomplishments of a relatively small group by saying we should be proud of these things we have done and also inspired by them for future growth of which we are capable.

LouAnn reminded guests and officers to take roses from the centerpiece, and it was time for hugs and personal remembrances.

Submitted by Joan, Co-Secretary and proud Branch member

<p>AAUW Northeast metro (MN) Branch</p> <p><i>AAUW has been empowering women since 1881</i></p>	<p>AAUW Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>AAUW 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.</p>
<p>For more information about AAUW check out our web sites</p>	<p>http://www.aauw.org/ - AAUW national level</p> <p>http://aauw-mn.aauw.net/ - AAUW-MN state level</p> <p>http://nometro-mn.aauw.net/ - our local northeast metro MN branch</p>