

Open the following link to review the information on future meetings and gatherings in our branch internet **CALENDAR - <https://nemetro-mn.aauw.net/calendar/>**

P.S. While you are in the **CALENDAR** open the **MEMBERS ONLY** tab to view the minutes from the September 19, 2020 business meeting and the August 24, 2020 board meeting. Both sets of minutes are pending needing approval at their next respective meetings. The password can be found on the second page of our Branch Directory.

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Attendees enjoyed the Gathering on October 8 as expressed so thoughtfully below ...

October 10, 2020

Dear Leah Marie,

A very special "Thank you!" for the lovely afternoon you arranged for us. I am sure you could tell that we all needed friends to talk to, share things with, or just listen to. It was such a beautiful day to be outside, and to share it with friends rather than a book or a walk with the dog was truly a gift.

Blessings and be safe,

Joan

Gathering in late October or early November

Weather/email Alert; if we have a good weather day in the next couple weeks, Leah Marie has volunteered to host a second **Gathering** in her backyard. If our weather forecasters predict a nice day start watching your emails for an impromptu invitation. A request to RSVP will be included with the invite so Leah Marie can plan for chairs.

Alternative Gathering

If a second Gathering in person at Leah Marie's is impossible, Doris will set up a **Zoom Gathering** in mid-November. The only thought thus far is for you to have your favorite beverage in hand. For the fun of it, would you like to play a game of Farkle on Zoom? What do you think? (Drop me an email yeah or nah.) To play, you would need directions which I can email, six dice and a bowl, plate, or tray in which to shake your dice.

Submitted by Doris

Honoring Century Foundation scholarship recipients

Linda and Doris have volunteered to attend the virtual Ceremony being given by the Century Foundation on October 28, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM via Zoom.

With the invitation we were notified that our recipient of the *2020-2021 AAUW Northeast Metro Branch Scholarship* is attending and we received a thank you note from her. We have not been notified of the plans for the recipient of the *AAUW Northeast Metro Branch-Nancy Jo Hendrickson Legacy Scholarship*.

Thus far we still do not know if we can announce the names of the recipients in our public records found in our web pages under the **NEWSLETTER** tab (Itanyans) or the tab **ABOUT, SCHOLARSHIPS**. In the past when we interviewed recipients for articles, the individual's permission to publicize their names were given. There are no plans to interview or write articles going forward. This leaves a gap in our web pages where we honor recipients by describing their individual stories. If you have any insight on how other organizations handle announcing or recording recipients please speak with Doris.

Inquiry from AAUW-MN

Joan received an email from Pat Powers, a representative of AAUW-MN, who was checking in to see how our branch is doing. She provided, via email, Pat with a brief summary of our branch restructuring explaining we no longer have the role of president. The role of president was replaced with an administrator and this year co-administrators. She also discussed in her email response to Pat our activities in past months of using Zoom to have our business and board meetings and our most recent *Gathering* where we met in a member's backyard to socialize while following social distancing, fully masked for casual conversation. Pat responded to Joan with a nice *Thank you note* expressing interest in the ideas we have used.

It has been a common practice for AAUW-MN to have members of their board check in with the leaders of Minnesota branches in an effort to keep in touch. If you recall our past branch president, Barb Liukkonen, was a recent past AAUW-MN board contact for our branch.

Think about it

As the winter season approaches with COVID-19 going full blast, I hope we as a group of friends can find ways to help each other through the upcoming months. I am hearing the experts express concern over the feelings of isolation most of us will go through as this pandemic drags on. Loneliness can strike anyone even when there is someone else in the household. As a group of friends, how do we face this dilemma? How do we help each other?

Submitted by Doris