



Sept. Oct., 2017 St. Paul American Association of University Women-

## Hospitality Update Lunch Pay Changes



Hooray! Your AAUW luncheons this year can be paid for with a credit card. Visa is the only card that will be accepted.

A 50 cent processing charge will be added for a total of **\$20.50** for your lunch if you use Visa.

Remember, your lunch price, paid by cash or check this year will be **\$20.00**.

There are a few other changes this year regarding lunches:

You will not be able to pay for lunches in advance.

You will not be able to pay later, as you do have three options (cash, check, and credit) of payment on the day of your lunch.

If you are unable to make lunch and have made a reservation you must cancel by 9AM on Tuesday or you will be charged the full amount of the lunch.

Permanent luncheon reservations are still available by signing up at the hospitality table or calling College Club Catering to arrange. Remember to cancel your reservation if unable to attend or you will be charged the full amount of the luncheon.

We look forward to meeting and greeting each of you this year. Please volunteer to hostess or serve wine at our meetings. It is fun and a great way to become better acquainted!

**Please call Sue Talley at 612-849-0066 or Becky Davidson at 952-300-8903 or Linda Miller at 651-324-1456 to volunteer.**

Let us know when you will be willing to help us out!

Thank you,

Sue, Becky, and Linda  
(Hospitality Chairpersons)



## A Delightful August Tea



Eighty-seven members and guests attended the delightful afternoon tea on Wednesday,



August 9th. The doors opened at 1:30 PM with piano music by Jim Andrews, singing led by Mary Schwab, tea party quizzes and a history exhibit of our AAUW branch. After the tea had been served, we listened to Jayne Becker who shared information and delightful stories

about *Fashion and Frills: Victorian Elegance and Style*.

There were many new faces in attendance along with many lovely hats! The flowers, arranged by Diane Glynn and Joanne Wang, were beautiful and the programs, designed by Doreen Nystedt, were lovely.



The food, prepared by Chef Christophe Bellanger, was fabulous and everyone loved the tea! Some lucky ladies even went home with a delightful door prize!

The annual August Tea is organized by the Ways and Means Committee to raise money for the Scholarship Trust and the AAUW Funds. This year there was a profit of approximately \$1,100.00. Thank you to the ladies who attended and to the committee members who worked hard to ensure the success of this event!

*Kathy Andrews, Ways and Means Chair*



***Today, our Page 2 consists of an article reprinted from the AAUW.org website. AAUW is involved in much more than our Tuesday meetings, as you know. What you may not know is how much is being accomplished and fought for on our behalf by our staff in D.C.***

***For more, check out our Association website at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) There you'll be able to use the links identified below.***

## ***Women Hold Majority of College Degrees and Debt — and Take Longer to Pay It Off***

WASHINGTON — A new American Association of University Women (AAUW) report, [Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans](#), estimates that women hold almost two-thirds (\$833 billion) of the country's \$1.3-trillion [student debt](#) while men hold \$477 billion. The research shows that those with the scarcest resources bear the brunt of student debt in the United States.

"It's encouraging that women are enrolling in college more than ever before, but at the same time they are taking on larger amounts of debt to pay for their dreams," said Kevin Miller, Ph.D., the senior researcher for AAUW. "Because of factors like the gender pay gap, debt that could be manageable ends up becoming unmanageable, particularly for women."

More than half of graduating U.S. college students have financed some or all of their education with [student loans](#). Women now earn 57 percent of bachelor's degrees from U.S. colleges and universities, and AAUW estimates that women take on average two years longer to pay off their student debt than men do. Black women take on more student debt than do members of any other group and ultimately struggle the most to pay it off.

"Women face a catch-22: go to college and take on [student loan debt](#) but get a higher paying job or, alternatively, forgo college and avoid the debt, but be locked out of higher-wage careers. We need to do better," said Miller. Following graduation, women repay their loans more slowly than do men, in part because of the [gender pay gap](#). Women with college degrees working full time make 26 percent less than their male peers, which leaves women with less income on average to devote to [debt repayment](#). And thanks to student debt, women are more likely than men to experience financial difficulties: Thirty-four percent of all women, 42 percent of Hispanic women, and 57 percent of black women who were repaying student loans said they had been unable to meet essential expenses within the past year.

"This isn't just a student problem, it's a gender inequity problem and it impacts us all," said Anne Hedgepeth, senior government relations manager at AAUW. "As a nation, we rely on women to add to and strengthen our economy. That can't happen under mountains of student debt."

AAUW advocates [safeguarding and expanding Pell Grants for low-income students](#) as well as providing nontraditional students with the resources they need, such as [on-campus child care](#), to successfully complete college degrees. Solutions to the student debt problem should also include supporting income-driven repayment approaches that reflect borrowers' realities. And our support for students should address the additional costs students face beyond tuition: books, supplies, and housing, to name a few. Congress can take leaps toward closing the gender pay gap and bolstering women's economic security by passing legislation like the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) and the [Pay Equity for All Act](#).

"The status quo is untenable for women with student debt," said Hedgepeth. "Imagine if there are cuts to Pell or to other [financial aid programs](#). Women's \$833-billion problem could become even worse. The solutions are diverse, and they tackle the challenges students face before and after attending college. It's time for policy makers, institutions of higher education, and us as a nation to commit to fixing this problem for women and for *all* student borrowers."

## Days for Girls Project

On May 2 our First Tuesday speaker was a very enthusiastic Judy Johnson who described the non-profit Days for Girls organization, [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org) and the hygiene kits they have developed to be sewn by volunteers and distributed to girls in over 20 countries to provide them with a safe and sanitary way to manage their menstrual periods. Energized by her presentation, thirty members showed immediate interest in getting involved and on August 10 sixteen attended a group training and work session. Judy arrived with all the supplies needed to begin work on the kits and soon had everyone in the room busily cutting, sewing, ironing and attaching snaps.



At 2:15 on Tuesday, September 19 interested members are invited to a meeting to discuss the next step in organizing small groups to continue the work. Judy has also agreed to return in 2018 to direct more large group sessions.

If you want to join us and are not on the email list, let Carol LeDuc know to add your name to receive future communications.

[jandcleduc@comcast.net](mailto:jandcleduc@comcast.net)

## *A New Year Begins—*



### *for members and our staff!*

You can't tell by their smiling faces, but our staff, including the 3 shown above, were wildly busy on this past Tuesday, the opening day for our AAUW Program year. Shown above, left to right, are Office Assistant, Bora Kisongo, and Event Coordinators Rebecca Davis and Kelsey Knudsen. I had a chat with them a week ago, and they tell me that they look forward to our Tuesday meetings return, love the whole process, are impressed by our programs and what we do! I thought this was amazing, figuring that maybe we just brought more work for a staff that's in the midst of a very busy wedding/events season!

At any rate, I believe them, a delightful and hard working staff that has booked 69 weddings for this fiscal year, and are still hoping to get that 70th event, which is their yearly goal.

Tuesday was a very impressive and busy day, when the staff, which also included Chef Christophe, Manager Brian, as well as servers and more, served a record 155 noon lunches when somehow, we were overbooked! Besides all the many lunch reservations, there were many folks who came without reservations, just to see the programs, which of course, added to the possible chaos.

Thanks to all of our great staff and to our member volunteers and guests for working together to make the day a success!



## Scholarship Trust Alumnae Update

Starr Brainerd, 2010 Scholar, from Central High School and a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C. in Environmental Studies wrote of her adventures.

Following college commencement, she studied at American University in Cairo (Egypt) at the Research Institute for Sustainable Environment. Starr supported sustainable development projects including water irrigated community parks, an education exhibit on water usage, and designed and researched green roofs and compost in Cairo neighborhoods.

In 2016 she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship with Fulbright Canada where she researched organic and urban agriculture for food security and applied her knowledge to urban farming and composting. She recently became the Land Stewardship Coordinator of the Duluth Minnesota Community Garden Program supervising 20 organic gardens. She promotes permaculture and has led volunteers to plant trees in Alberta and Washington, D.C.

Thank you, with your continued support of the Scholarship Trust, our scholars, like Starr, benefit our global environment.

*Kim Blair, Alumnae Liaison*

## History Corner

The year was 1927. Shreve and Doris Archer bought our clubhouse at 990 Summit Avenue where they raised their children. Their eldest daughter Helen was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade with neighbor Coco Irvine at St. Paul Academy. They walked to and from school together and on occasion stopped for an ice cream on the way home. Coco and her sister donated their family home next door to serve as the Governor's Mansion. This December, The History Theatre presents "Coco's Diary: A Christmas Gift to Remember". The Diary highlights some fun and interesting occurrences of Coco and Helen, through no fault of their own.

See [historytheatre.com](http://historytheatre.com) for tickets.

## Scholarship Trust Report

I was reviewing our list of current scholars and saw that our six seniors attend the following schools: Mount Holyoke College, MA; Panoma College, CA; University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill; Brown University, RI and two are at Saint Catherine's University. I am always amazed by our talented young women who go to school all over the country. They also serve internships, attend workshops, perform social justice work in foreign lands. I am so proud that our Scholarship Trust contributes to the support of their education and helps enable their achievements. They send us notes updating us on their doings and always include statements of their deep appreciation and say that they don't know if they could have achieved these opportunities without our contributions.

I want to take this opportunity at the beginning of our new year to thank all of you who have made donations to the Scholarship Trust. It is you who make our work and their opportunities possible. I would like to make a special note of thanks to the members of the Book Sale Committee who recently honored May Cederberg, a long time Committee member, with a special contribution marking her 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

*Judith Devine, Chair*

## Opening Doors Networking Pilot Update

As many of you know, we have had a pilot program for networking, Opening Doors. We had two events last spring and have determined that networking meetings benefit mostly working women and do not benefit most of our membership. For that reason, the committee has decided to terminate the pilot.

The committee would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to explore networking as a potential branch benefit!

*Pam Steuart, Project Chair*

The **Timely Report** is published bimonthly from Sept. - May. It is distributed only via email, with some hard copies available at Tuesday meetings. All are invited to submit articles or photos that are relevant to the branch, preferably articles no longer than 150 words. Send articles or questions to Carol Sheggeby at [csheggeby@gmail.com](mailto:csheggeby@gmail.com) or Mary Schrankler [schrankler101@comcast.net](mailto:schrankler101@comcast.net)

### **AAUW websites:**

St. Paul: <http://aauwstpaul.org>

MN: <http://aauwmn.net>

Association : <http://www.aauw.org>