

LAW OF POLK COUNTY, INC.

THE BRIEF

SUMMER/FALL 2011

PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Dear LAW Friends,

I am so thrilled to be your President again! LAW of Polk County, Inc. is approaching its 90th year! Lets make this year bigger and better! We have many fun social and philanthropic events planned for the upcoming year. I hope to see new and old friends get involved. Be looking for an exciting event in February 2012 with proceeds going to this years recipient! We will be working on the details over the coming months.

This years recipient is Lutheran Services in Iowa, refugee program. We will be working closely with the elderly refugees who often feel very isolated when they have been brought from their country. According to International Law, refugees are people that are forced to leave their home because of persecution based on race, ethnicity, religion, social group, or political opinion. They often have to live in refugee camps for years before being located to the US. They don't have a choice about where they get to go either. LSI has a knitting and weaving program that gets them together for social outings and helps them to create friendships. We will be working closely with, Jill Stuecker, who is the LSI director of refugee services. We have already had a garage sale at Lynne Updegraff's home which raised close to \$1100 going toward the pro-

gram! If you have any questions or want to get involved please contact our Service Project Chair, Kristen Osborn at 480-5694 or bkosborn@msn.com or our Targeted Needs Chair Deanne Gummert at 289-0047 or gummerts@mchsi.com.

Our VP for Membership this year is Val Witt. She has scheduled a new member get together on August 26. Look for her article in this Brief. Please contact her about any potential new members at valrwitt@msn.com.

Please remember to RSVP and send in your payment for September Dinner. The Gortz Haus will welcome us with delicious food and a wonderful relaxing evening with friends. Also a great tour of the art gallery. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

To keep in contact with LAW activities go to our website, www.lawpolkcounty.com. Feel free to contact me for any reason at 440-0385 or tedandapril1@yahoo.com. I would love to hear from you! I look forward to seeing you all at the September Dinner!

Sincerely,

April Poulsen
2011-2012 LAW President

LAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011

President

April Poulsen

President-Elect

Karen Leibold

VP for Membership

Val Witt

Secretary

Amy Snyder

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Darlene Brickman

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Liz Brennan

May Wine Dinner

**Denise McAfee
Ellen Hansing
Kathy Poetting**

Nominating

Juli Margolin

Philanthropy

Liz Hodgson

Communications

Lynne Updegraff

Scholarship

Barb Norton

Service Project

Kristen Osborn

Targeted Needs

Deanne Gummert

FALL 2011 LAW MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	MEETING	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, August 23	Board	7 pm	Lynne Updegraff's 1740 NW 103rd St Clive
Thursday, September 1	General	6:30 pm	Gortz Haus 408 East 1st St Grimes
Tuesday, September 27	Board	7 pm	Ellen Hansing 4038 Green View Dr Urbandale
Thursday, October 6	General	7 pm	Jodi Jannes 4400 SW 33rd St Des Moines
Tuesday, October 25	Board	7 pm	Liz Brennan 804 38th St West Des Moines
Thursday, November 3	General	7 pm	Davis Brown Law Offices 215 10th St Suite 1300 Des Moines
Tuesday, November 22	Board	7 pm	Val Witt 4342 Oakwood Lane West Des Moines
Thursday, December 1	General	6:30 pm	April Poulsen 1218 32nd St West Des Moines

 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - FALL 2011

September 1 6:30 pm Dinner at Gortz Haus

Gortz Haus
408 East 1st Street, Grimes

Please come kick off the new LAW year at the Gortz Haus in Grimes. The Görtz Haus Gallery is located in an elegant landmark stone building that served as the home of St. Peter Lutheran Church from 1937 to 2001. This beautiful structure now is home to a fabulous new bistro, art gallery, frame shoppe, and floral shoppe. Original works of art, jewelry, gifts, home decor, and beautiful flower arrangements enhance a fine dining experience in the heart of Grimes. Reservations are due by August 24. Please indicate your dinner selection, pasta with meatballs and marinara or pasta with chicken alfredo, along with your reservation. Salad and dessert are included. Dinner will be \$20.

October 6 7 pm Tallgrass Coop

At the home of Jodi Jannes
4400 SW 33rd Street, Des Moines

A new grocery store is coming to Valley Junction – the Tallgrass Grocery Coop. Come learn about eating local and the other educational opportunities that will be offered by this new coop.

November 3 7 pm Creative Memories

At the Davis Brown Law Offices
215 10th Street, Suite 1300, Des Moines

We all know about scrapbooking, but do you know about digital scrapbooking? Beth Steffensen is ready to teach us! Come learn how you can create a whole book without all those fancy scissors, papers and borders. Just point and click your way to a creative, memorable scrapbook.

December 1 6:30 pm, Holiday Party with Spouses

At the home of April Poulsen
1218 32nd Street, West Des Moines

Let's celebrate the Holiday season together at this traditional gathering of LAW members and their spouses.

January 5 Girls Night Out

Fleur Movie Theater
4545 Fleur Drive, Des Moines

Named "Des Moines' Best Movie Theater" by the *Des Moines Register*, The Fleur Theater offers movies and munchies. Watch for an announcement of what movie we will be seeing. We will meet for some snacks and enjoy a movie together – just what is needed after a festive New Year!

February 4 TBA, Silent Auction

Plans are still being made for our annual Silent Auction. If you would like to be part of the committee planning this fun event, please contact Kristen Osborn. Let's make it the most successful silent auction yet – bring your friends to help raise money for Refugee Services.

March 1 7 pm Vintage Eye Candy

At the home of Karen Leibold
1550 NW 75th Street, Clive

You are invited into Karen's home to look into the past through her collection of buttons. Her treasures will make you smile as you discover shapes, colors and textures that will delight you! What a sweet treat!

April 5 7 pm Philanthropy Presentation by our New Service Project Recipient

At the home of Val Witt
4342 Oakwood Lane, West Des Moines

The April meeting has always been reserved for our new Service Project Recipient to make a presentation. Who will it be for 2012-13? Come to this meeting to find out!

May 3 May Wine Dinner

Often the most popular event of the year, please mark your calendars for the 2012 May Wine Dinner. Your personal invitation will let you know of the location and the menu. You don't want to miss this chance to meet up with past and present LAW members.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP REPORT

LAW of Polk County continually seeks out individuals who want to make a difference in the Des Moines community through our philanthropic endeavors. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining LAW, please contact me at 223-1885 or email me at valrwittt@msn.com with names and contact information. Also, we would like to welcome back former members who haven't been active in awhile.

There will be a social for new members on August 26th at 5:30PM at my home, 4342 Oakwood Lane, West Des Moines.

Please watch for other membership activities to be announced throughout the year.

Val Witt

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The 2011 Cristine Swanson Wilson Scholarship was awarded to Drake University student Rachel Parker. Rachel was among a large deserving group of candidates who all fit the qualifications of having a commitment to public service while being a non-traditional law student. Rachel's public service began early on when she volunteered as a Girl Scout collecting donations for a food pantry. In college at Simpson she participated with her sorority in donation drives for food and clothing and assisted with underprivileged children through reading and mentoring programs. After college she worked at Principal Financial Group and led her department for two years during the United Way campaign. Thus far at Drake, she has joined the National Association of Consumer Advocates and the Drake Law School Association of Child Advocates. She also volunteers at church and her son's school. Rachel is a non-traditional student because she is married, has two young sons and returned to school after working for several years. She is passionate about using her

education in helping to inform the public about their rights as consumers here in Iowa. Therefore, we are very pleased to award Rachel the \$2,000 Cristine Swanson Wilson Scholarship.

Our scholarship fund is administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, and it currently has a balance over \$55,000 which allows us to sustain a \$2,000 scholarship yearly. A portion of your annual dues is a tax-deductible donation that supports the scholarship fund, but we welcome all additional donations that keep this scholarship fund growing even in hard economic times. I look forward to continuing my role chairing the scholarship committee this coming year.

Barb Norton

Scholarship Chair

PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE

LAW of Polk County has a long history of supporting charities in Polk County that help women and children. The Philanthropic Committee is charged with the responsibility of choosing a group to receive funds raised in 2011-2012. The committee also discusses and decides possible fundraisers for the following year. If you would like to help choose next year's recipient and decide on our fundraising efforts, please come to the Philanthropic Committee meetings. Meetings will be held in January and will be announced in the winter issue of

the Brief as well as through e-mail. Finally, if you know of a worthy group interested in applying to be our recipient, please notify me. A copy of the grant form can be found on our website www.lawpolkcounty.com.

Liz Hodgson liz_hodgson@yahoo.com or 979-5833.

COURTESY UPDATE

We had a wonderful New Mothers' brunch in April at the Des Moines Art Center. Since then Amy and BJ Miller have had a baby boy, born July 1, Liam James Miller. Mom, Dad, and son Lincoln are all very excited. Liam has received his LAW of Polk County cross-stitched bib

Liam James Miller



7 lbs. 10 oz.
born at 7:44pm July 1st,
21 inches long

Farewell to a Loyal Member Margaret Swanson

September 12, 1919 – March 16,
2011

Margaret B. Swanson was a beloved member of the community and of Law of Polk County. The Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship, for women law students, was established by the membership of LAW of Polk County in honor of Margaret's daughter, also a member of LAW, who died after many years in a coma caused by a tragic automobile accident.

Margaret volunteered her talents and provided leadership to dozens of organizations. Her work was instrumental in the development of the Moingona Girl Scouts, Orchard Place, Civic Center, Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, Botanical Center, Young Women's Resource Center, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Iowa Methodist Health Foundation, Iowa Health Systems Foundation, Calvin Community Foundation, Des Moines Public School's Literacy Support Group, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, League of Attorney Wives, Friendship Force, Union Park Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Advisory Board and the Science Center of Iowa. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Grand View College, named to the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame, recognized as a national Woman of Influence by Delta, Delta, Delta; and named as a top woman leader by the Des Moines Register. Margaret gave us this counsel: "Don't mourn for me. I have had a wonderful life, great experiences, a devoted family and many friends, plus good health. You learn from tragedies as well as good times."

Please add my email address, darbrick@msn.com to your contact list and email me with any news about yourself or any LAW of Polk County members so that I can send congratulations, get well cards, or notes of sympathy from LAW and share the news with all our LAW friends.

Jessica Pray, 18, was recently crowned Miss Iowa 2011 in Davenport.



She will compete at the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas in January, 2012. Jessica is a 2010 graduate of Johnston High School, and just completed her freshman year at the University of Iowa, majoring in Vocal Performance and Theater Arts. Her platform is Saving Lives Through the Gift of Blood Donation.

Jessica Pray, daughter of Past LAW President, Rita Pray, was named Miss Iowa 2011. She won the swimsuit, talent and evening gown competitions. Congratulations to Jessica from LAW.

Your Courtesy-Historian Chair
Darlene Brickman

NOMINATING UPDATE

Elections were held at the May Wine Dinner for the three non-board positions for the Nominating Committee. Those elected and agreeing to serve this year are Heidi Puckett, Amy Updegraff, and Jen Pietila. Thank You, Ladies!! These three members, along with the President-Elect, Karen Leibold; VP for Membership, Amber Mikkelsen; and Nominating Chair, Juli Margolin will be responsible for proposing the execu-

tive board for the year 2012-2013. All committee members need to attend one Board Meeting before January 2012.

If you are interested in an executive position (President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer or Vice President for Membership) for the 2012-2013 board please contact one of the people listed above. Thank you to the Nominating Committee members for their willingness to serve on the Nominating Committee.

MAY WINE DINNER

The May Wine Dinner Committee is beginning to plan for the 2012 event! We would love to have input from you. We will gladly consider locations, caterers, and ideas and suggestions for this annual end of year gathering. Also, each of you is welcome to join our committee, please contact us.

2012 Committee Chairs

Denise McAfee, Ellen Hansing & Kathy Poetting

SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

Thank you to all of our members and friends for another great year of supporting our community and the Free Store through another successful Garage Sale and Silent Auction. Together these events raised \$4,600.00 for the Free Store. Way to go! A big Thank You to Lynne Updegraff for donating her home for our garage sale this year. About \$1,000.00 was raised through the garage sale and it couldn't have been done without all of your donations and time with the sale. If you would like to donate your home for our garage sale next year, please let me know and start saving your items now.

This year, our recipient is Refugee Services for Lutheran Services in Iowa. Lutheran Services of Iowa's Refugee Services in Des Moines helps individuals who cannot return to their home country build self-sufficiency for their new lives here in Iowa. Many individuals of refugee status have seen war, brutal violence and the loss of family and friends and are forced to leave their home country with no choice in where they are resettled.

We know that we will be having a fundraiser on February 4th to raise funds for Lutheran Services of Iowa's Refugee Services, so please mark this date in your calendars

now. However, we are still in the deciding stages for what kind of fundraiser to have. The silent auctions in the past have been successful and to have another one is still a good option, but we also have some fun and different ideas being thrown around that we are considering. So please watch your mail and email for updates on our fundraiser-to-be.

I would LOVE to have YOU on the silent auction committee. If that sounds like fun and you have some good ideas on raising funds for our recipient, please email me at bkbosborn@msn.com or give me a call at [515-480-5694](tel:515-480-5694).
Kristen Osborn

LUTHERAN SERVICES OF IOWA-2011 RECIPIENT

This year's recipient is Lutheran Services in Iowa. LSI works with refugees in Des Moines, and has asked LAW to help with a program in which older refugee women meet not only to knit and craft but also provides an opportunity for the women to get out of their homes and learn about their new community. The program was started due to the fact that the older refugee women are hesitant to leave their homes in their new country due to cultural and language barriers. The funds raised by LAW will go to purchasing knitting and crafting materials for the program. Also watch for opportunities for LAW members to provide materials throughout the year.

TARGETED NEEDS

LAW of Polk County, Inc. is excited to support Lutheran Services of Iowa and their refugee program as our Targeted Needs recipient for 2011-2012.

"The Des Moines refugee community is very diverse. In recent years, people of refugee status have arrived mainly from Iraq, Burma, Nepal, and Burundi. LSI has a rich history in refugee services, and today we are the only agency in Des Moines with a primary focus to provide extended support services for the refugee community."

They provide services to their clients through three core areas assisting elderly individuals, helping people overcome barriers to employment, and improving access to community resources.

Jill Stuecker, Director of Refugee Lutheran Services in Iowa, has provided a list of needs/ideas that LAW can help provide throughout the upcoming year. Notebooks (to provide to clients for participation in English classes)

- Pencils (for English classes)
- crayons/coloring books (for the kids during English classes)
- dry erase markers (for classrooms)
- Kleenex (for classrooms)

- paper towels (for break room during English classes)
- tea bags(for breaks during English classes)
- Sugar (for breaks during English classes...families from Burma, Bhutan, and Eritea won't drink tea without sugar so they go through a lot)
- Bus tokens, which provide transportation for the clients to get to and from English classes, are the biggest need at this time.

I anticipate collecting these several times throughout the LAW year. I will provide more information about that later.

Throughout our year I will send out through e-mail and/or our Brief the item(s) to be collected.

LSI's refugee services in Des Moines help individuals build self-sufficiency for their new lives here in Iowa. Let's show them LAW supports and welcomes our new neighbors!

Deanne Gummert

gummerts@mchsi.com

Targeted Needs Chairperson 2011-2012

FUTURE PLANNING UPDATE

Get involved in the future of our great organization by attending the Future Planning meeting. Anyone, from "vintage" members to new members, are welcome. Topics will include future activities and ways to increase membership and participation. This is the time to share all your great ideas on speakers, fundraisers, and small interest groups that you would like to see formed. It is also an opportunity to get to know some LAW members in a casual setting. You could even call a few "vintage" members and turn it into a reunion!

We will meet at the home of President-Elect Karen Leibold Thursday, October 20, 2011. The time is tentatively set for 7:00pm. Daytime is an option too if there is interest. Another session will be held in January/February. You may attend either or both sessions. Come brainstorm and be a part of the future of LAW!

Karen Leibold , President-Elect

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Book Club meets at 7:00 pm the second Thursday of the month at Panera Bread restaurant, 4150 Westown Pkwy Ste 202, West Des Moines. The descriptions of the books are a montage of phrases from various reviews.

September 8

Dreams of Joy by Lisa See

Dreams of Joy picks up the story of sisters Pearl and May where *Shanghai Girls* left off. While *Shanghai Girls* followed the sisters from their time as models in the glittering "Paris of Asia" to their escape from the Japanese invasion and their new life in Los Angeles, its sequel sends Pearl back to Shanghai twenty years later in pursuit of Joy, who had gone to find her true father. With him, Joy took part in Mao's Great Leap Forward in the Green Dragon commune. But the dream of a communist paradise is soon overshadowed by hunger as the government's bizarre agricultural mandates create famine. At the same time, Pearl is trapped in Shanghai by travel restrictions. It is a story of resilience, independent spirits and love between mothers and daughters.

October 13

The Paris Wife: A Novel by Paula McLain

It is a story of Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley in a remarkable period of time written as if related by Hadley. Through her eyes and voice, we experience Paris of the Lost Generation and drink tea with Gertrude Stein and champagne with Fitzgerald and Zelda. We run with the bulls in Pamplona and spend winters in alpine chalets. And we see, through her love for him, the young writer becoming the Hemingway of legend.

November 10

The House of Tomorrow by Peter Bognanni

"Some exciting news to report – last weekend Des Moines native and Hoover grad Peter Bognanni was the recipient of the L.A. Times' Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction for *The House of Tomorrow*. This was my favorite book last year (I don't even have one yet for this year!), and if I haven't put a copy into your hands yet – well, come on over! Congratulations to Peter!"—Commentary by Alice Meyer in the Beaverdale Books newsletter

January 12

A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick

He placed an advertisement in a Chicago newspaper for "a reliable wife." She responded, saying that she was "a simple, honest woman." She was, of course, anything but honest, and the only simple thing about her was her single-minded determination to marry this man and then kill him, slowly and carefully, leaving her a wealthy widow, able to take care of the one she truly loved. What Catherine Land did not realize was that the enigmatic and lonely Ralph Truitt had a plan of his own. And what neither anticipated was that they would fall so completely in love. Filled with unforgettable characters, and shimmering with color and atmosphere, *A Reliable Wife* is an enthralling tale of love and madness, of longing and murder. No twentieth-century American writer has captured the popular imagination as much as Ernest Hemingway. This novel tells his story from a unique point of view — that of his first wife, Hadley. Through her eyes and voice, we experience Paris of the Lost Generation and meet fascinating characters such as Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and Gerald and Sara Murphy. The city and its inhabitants provide a vivid backdrop to this engrossing and wrenching story of love and betrayal that is made all the more poignant knowing that, in the end, Hemingway would write of his first wife, "I wish I had died before I loved anyone but her."

2011-2012 LAW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: PO Box 65502, West Des Moines, IA 50265

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Spouse's Firm or Business: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail: _____

New address

New phone number

New e-mail.

I would like to receive the LAW Brief (newsletter) via email instead of a printed copy.

Contact me via e-mail to remind me of upcoming meetings & events.

I would like a phone call to remind me about LAW events.

I would like to be contacted to serve on a committee this year.

Committee: _____

I would like to host a General Meeting

I would bring treats to a General Meeting

Payment of dues offers entrance to the Holiday Party and all General Meetings. You will receive The Brief and a directory of all members. You will also be part of an organization that promotes women and children in Iowa through our Service Projects and Scholarship.

2010-2011 LAW FEES

\$40Yearly Dues \$ _____
(Dues include a \$5 tax-deductible donation to Scholarship Fund.)

\$10Student Dues \$10 \$ _____
(If you are a spouse of a Law student, use this lower membership fee.)

\$20September Gortz Haus \$ _____

\$ _____Additional Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make check payable to: LAW of Polk County
Mail to: PO Box 65502, West Des Moines, IA 50265



LAW OF POLK COUNTY, INC.

PO Box 65502
West Des Moines, IA 50265



The mission of LAW is
to enrich the greater
Des Moines community
and our membership
through philanthropy
and fellowship.

