

October Branch Meeting

Mihku Paul--an Indigenous writer, visual artist, and storyteller--has taught creative writing at the University of New



England and currently facilitates cultural workshops for Native women and youth with Gedakina, a New England non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening Indigenous communities.

A Maliseet member of the Kingsclear First Nation in New Brunswick, Canada, Mihku was born and raised along the Penobscot River in Maine and received a traditional education from her grandfather, a Maliseet trapper and river guide and veteran of World War II. She attended primarily white public schools in Old Town and was the first in her family to graduate from high school. She attended college, spending time at three different campuses of the University of Maine, receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Communications in 1993. She

completed her Master's of Fine Arts at the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast program in 2010.

Look Twice: The Waponahki in Image & Verse was her first multimedia installation and was displayed at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor in the spring of 2010. It was also shown at the Glickman Library at USM. Mihku's first book of poetry, *20th Century PowWow Playland* was published in 2012, followed by other publications including *Song for Machigonne* and *The Compass and the Rose*.

Mihku will speak about the healing value of narratives, and how creativity can help one reclaim identity and a sense of self. She believes this is especially important for people dealing with trauma, marginalized people, children, and women. While important for everyone, Mihku will speak through the lens of her own difficult start in life and the struggles she continues to face as a woman and as a mixed-blood Amerindian.

October Branch Meeting

Guest Speaker, Mihku Paul

From Where I Stand

Wednesday, October 16, 7 p.m.

Highland Green Community
Center

7 Evergreen Circle

Topsham

Refreshments

Message from Our Leadership Team

Sophie Whitehouse

Hello everyone. I am sure many of you are finally happy to enjoy fall in Maine, with its beautiful colors, apple pies, pumpkins and mums. It was wonderful to see you at our September meeting and meet our scholarship recipients. Our October event will take place at the Highland Green Community Center. It will feature Mihku Paul, a Native American Maliseet poet, writer, visual artist and activist. Ms. Paul lives in Portland but grew up along the Penobscot River. Her poems and articles have been widely published and she participated in an exhibit at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor several years ago. This event is open to the public so feel free to bring a friend to listen to Ms Paul's presentation.

We have lined up some wonderful programs for this year, all in different places since we could not get the Curtis Library for most branch meetings. All events, dates and place are in the directory for your convenience as well as in our monthly newsletter. Mark your calendar also for our Greens Event, which will take place at the Curtis Library on December 11th.

*And, if you enjoyed April's branch meeting on the Franco Immigration to Maine with Rachel Desgrosseilliers, check out the Out to Lunch Bunch trip to Lewiston on page 2.

Wishing you all the best during this harvest season.

Directions to Highland Green

Highland Green Community Center
 7 Evergreen Circle
 Topsham, ME 04086



Take 295N to exit 31 to Topsham, take a right at the exit light, you will be on route 196...if you are coming from the North, take exit 31a.

Follow Route 196, go straight until you cross 201, continue straight and the road narrows to one lane.

Turn left at next light, Village Dr., there is a left turn lane and the sign for Highland Green.

Follow drive past the Wild Duck pub on the left and the Community Center on the right.

From the North, take Rt 1 South to the Rt 196 exit, go straight at the first light. Turn right at the second light. Go to the Community Center.

Out to Lunch Bunch Trip to Lewiston

Betty Fitzjarrald

The Out To Lunch Bunch invites you to join them on an adventure to visit the LA Museum, Lewiston. We will depart from Brunswick at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30th. Car pooling to be arranged.

The museum, which is located in the historic Bates Mill complex, presents the story of work and community in the Lewiston area during the 20th century when textiles and footwear were the major products.

There will be a guided tour of around one and a half hours. \$4.00 admission charge.

At the conclusion of the tour, we will enjoy lunch at Fishbones American Grill which is located nearby.

Please call or email Betty Fitzjarrald if you are interested in joining the OTLB. 442-9780 or bfitz831@gmail.com

Knitting Group

Debbie Schall

We will gather on Friday, October 11 at 1 p.m. for our next knitting session. The weather is starting to turn and those winter projects are itching to be started. For new project ideas, check out Mother of Purl's website for their *Knit Down to Christmas Program* which features a simple project each week from Sept. 14 through Dec. 14.

FMI contact me at dmschall@comcast.net or 725-7693.

Calendar

- October 10 **Book Group**, Thornton Oaks Library, 2 p.m., Discussion of *American Nation* by Colin Woodard, led by Frances Caswell
- October 11 **Knitting Group**, Home of Debbie Schall, 1 p.m.
- October 16 **Branch Meeting**, Highland Green Community Center, 7 Evergreen Circle, Topsham, 7 p.m.
- October 22 **Board Meeting**, Seminar Room, Curtis Library, 2 p.m.
- October 30 **Out to Lunch Bunch Trip to Lewiston**, 10 a.m.
- November 13 **Book Group**, *Educated* by Tara Westover

Book List for AAUW Book Group 2019-20

- October 9 *American Nation* by Colin Woodard
- November 13 *Educated* by Tara Westover
- January 8 *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
- February 12 *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan
- March 11 *Foreign Correspondence* by Geraldine Brooks
- April 8 *After the Eclipse* by Sarah Perry
- May 13 *The Road We Traveled* by Jane Kirkpatrick
- October 14 *The Pioneers* by David McCullough

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month in the Thornton Oaks library at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information contact Judith Johanson at 725-6102 or jjwhimbrel@comcast.net

Membership News

Joanne Bollinger

Greetings to all our steadfast members,

I wish I could have been with you at the first meeting of the year, but I was in Traverse City, MI doing a radio interview that morning. Teleportation not yet being available, it was impossible to join you!

My gratitude to Helene Maraghy for taking everyone's renewals over the spring and summer and especially for handling the significant duty of producing the directories. If you weren't at the September meeting to pick yours up, I'll have yours in the mail or delivered personally in the next week.

With 8 previous members moving on in various ways, we are now at a paid membership of 47. This is a notable drop from our high of over 70 just a few years ago. But the reasons are understandable: young women are not "joiners" of such groups as AAUW these days, while those who are older but still working have their busy lives as well. And let's face it, we are all moving forward in years! However, we have target groups in our area that could help us remain vibrant and for whom we have much to offer:

the newly retired and the folks constantly moving into retirement/"over 55" communities.

By pointing out AAUW's broad mission of "empowerment and equity for women", including pay equity, legal support for female victims of harassment or other gender issues, our leadership programs for college women, educational grants and fellowships — and so much more — you would be making it clear that our organization embraces women around the country and the world. At the same time, in our local group, we enjoy excellent speakers and programs, have a number of social opportunities and provide scholarships to non-traditional students.

Find out what inspires and concerns those new women you meet. Think of ways that AAUW might match their priorities with our mission and local activities. I can provide literature to any of you who would be willing to approach such prospective women. Just shoot me an email or even better, call me! I'd love to talk.

While I do love my Lake Superior summers, it's also good to be back in Maine for the best season of the year! Hope to see everyone at our upcoming meetings — they look fascinating!

jojobollinger371@gmail.com or 207-751-3364
