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AAUW

March 2021
BIRMINGHAM BRANCH BULLETIN
Birmingham, Michigan - Since 1920
birmingham-mi.aauw.net

SAVE THE DATE

Wed., March 10: 10 am: Branch Board meeting via Zoom.

Wed., March 24: 4-5 pm: Equal Pay Day Event via Zoom - sponsored by AAUWMI and Michigan Women's Commission. More info to follow.

Wed., April 14: 1 pm, Zoom membership meeting. Topic: River Rouge Recovery.

April 7 - May 17: Electronic open voting period for AAUW proposed membership amendment, resolutions, and Directors. (see timeline below)

- April 7 - voting opens
- April 16 - last day to ask for a paper ballot
- April 30 - last day for postmark on returning a paper ballot
- May 17 - Voting ends at 5 pm EST



BIRMINGHAM BRANCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

via Zoom

1 pm, Wednesday March 10, 2021



Speaker: Dr. Emily Spunaugle, Assistant Professor of Humanities and Rare Books Librarian at Oakland University.

Topic: For centuries, women writers were considered to be dangerous at the most, or inappropriate at the least. Dr. Spunaugle is the co-director of a project that researches women who could only write letters, journals, and in the margins of books.

Suggested reading: *The Awakening*, Chopin

A Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting.



UPDATED

AAUW Directory of Recommended Services

now on our website:

birmingham-mi.aauw.net

Please check the updated directory and let me know if anything needs to be corrected or deleted.

My intent is to edit and publish quarterly. We need your help in keeping the directory useful and current.

We can't do it without you!

Irene Sharpe
248-538-5133



Members of the AAUW Birmingham Branch Board at their Feb.10 meeting.

AAUW Bulletin

Vol. 48, Issue 7, March 2021

The AAUW Birmingham Affiliate Bulletin is published monthly, September through June, for the members of the Affiliate.

AAUW Birmingham Affiliate Board

Branch President:	
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Vice President-Program:	
Kathy Stasys	248-644-1481
Vice President-Membership:	
Katie Wiese	248- 842-8684
Recording Secretary:	
Janet Stenger	248-642-6907
Corresponding Secretary:	
Rita Dates	248-882-2919
Treasurer:	
Sue Longstreet	248-390-7700
Dues Treasurer:	
Sharon McKenna	313-570-2013
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Lynn Hipp	248-420-4615
Linda Kevorkian	248-219-1915
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Sharon McKenna	313-570-2013
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Bulletin copy deadline is the 20th of the previous month. Send copy and/or corrections to:
marionmuma@gmail.com

AAUW of Michigan info: aauwmi.org



PRESIDENT'S LETTER - MARCH 2021

We are still scrambling to find young women to attend the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Thanks to your generosity, the foundation has the money to assist them in this endeavor. If you have any possible contacts, relatives, or neighbors, etc., please ask them to go the website aauw.org/NCCWSL to look over the event or ask them to contact me.

You will find information about the foundation on pg. 3 of this bulletin. We are trying to make you more aware of this partnership that is dedicated to funding and supporting our branch.

Hopefully, we will soon be back to a somewhat more normal schedule. We will still have to be creative in keeping our members safe and informed of the opportunities available. Sharon recently sent out an enquiry about your attitude concerning meeting in person in May at an outdoor venue. The response has been largely positive and hopeful. We will keep you informed of this possibility. Stay tuned!

This week I received letters from the OCC chancellor and another from the OCC Foundation Board president. Both letters thanked us for our continued support. I would like to share these words from one of these letters:

"Student success hinges on many factors, the most important of which is opportunity. Your scholarship provides that opportunity to our students. You are giving more than financial assistance – you are giving hope. Scholarship recipients are able to pursue their educational goals with renewed vigor and determination. Their minds can rest easier with a lightened financial burden, and they can focus on the most important aspect of their education – learning."

Because of our work, these students and others from Lawrence Tech and Walsh can sleep a bit easier and have more reassurance that they will be successful in their educational goals. It is through programs like these that we find ways to keep working on our mission.

Our activities next year will include Explorathon and Level Up. Although we will not have a book sale, we are looking for ways of sharing books with children and families that may not have the means to buy books. And, of course, we will be funding scholarships for young women.

I would encourage you to consider participating in the many webcasts and Zoom conferences that you are invited to from AAUW. I have been on a few of them. They are always very professional, enlightening, and enjoyable. They are also particularly good about following their timelines. They are also posted on the aauw.org website after the event. If you are not getting these emails, there may be something wrong with your information at national. Please, check once more your directory information that was sent to you recently from Sharon.

It is time for us to renew our membership. The renewal form and information about dues is found on page 8 and page 3, respectively. I am hopeful to see all of you as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, we will have to do with online events – discussions, social groups and meetings.



Sally

Foundation Board Meeting Highlights



Branch Board Meeting Highlights

February 10, 2021

January 27, 2021:

- ◇ Sally Doty shared information from the book, *Turning Doubters into Donors*, by Tom Ahern.
- ◇ Joan Hanpeter will create a fundraising action plan for the foundation.
- ◇ The board agreed to join the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. Rita Dates and Eileen Hitz will attend the monthly meetings.

February 17, 2021:

- ◇ Corrine Vincent from AAUW Northville/Novi Branch spoke about their branch's financial structure.
- ◇ Joan Hanpeter presented a Fundraising Action Plan that was approved.
- ◇ A motion was approved to revise the wording of the foundation's Mission Statement to: *To work together with the AAUW Birmingham Branch to promote and support education and to create programs and opportunities that help women and girls reach their full potential.*
- ◇ A motion was approved to change the name of the Fundraising Committee to Financial Development Committee.
- ◇ Sally Doty, as an Ex Officio Officer, agreed to serve as treasurer for another two-year term.

Treasurer Sue Longstreet reported that as of January 31, 2021, the total assets and net assets of the branch were \$29,158.49.

President Sally Doty reported that:

- ⇒ the AAUW Annual meeting will be held on April 24. Electronic voting will be conducted April 7 - 17.
- ⇒ Branch election of officers will be conducted and the 21-22 annual budget will be presented at the May 12 annual branch meeting.
- ◇ Colette Stager is investigating the possibility of an outdoor Annual Luncheon in May. She reported that Pine Lake will apply our current deposit to the May 2022 luncheon. Linda Kevorkian will make arrangements for an Each One Bring One in September, and Colette has reserved places for the October and November luncheons.
- ◇ Sharon McKenna hopes to have a final report of the nominating committee by the March board meeting.
- ◇ Sharon McKenna will be sending out the recent new updates to the directory to members.
- ◇ There was a discussion about the upcoming AAUW national voting on eliminating membership restrictions. (see pg. 5).

AAUW BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION BOARD:

President:	
Patty Orlowski	248-641-3892
Recording Secretary:	
Karen Boyk	248-608-2918
Corresponding Secretary:	
Eileen Hitz	248-642-7325
Treasurer:	
Sally Doty	248-909-4583
Board members:	
Rita Dates	248-882-2919
Joan Hanpeter	248-960-1737
Sue Longstreet	248-390-7700
Diane Schrift	248-648-6161

AAUW DUES INCREASE

At its October 16, 2020, meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual Member dues for the next three years. The **dues will rise next year by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022**, \$5 for FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.

This decision wasn't made lightly. Recognizing that many members might be experiencing challenges in these uncertain times, the initial adjustment is the smallest – only an additional 25 cents per month – a small price to pay to continue the AAUW mission to

IN MEMORIAM

With sadness, we inform you of the death of Pam Burke on Tuesday, February 9, 2021



TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

In memory of **Pam Burke**
from Barbara Moorehouse

STUDY / INTEREST GROUP CALENDAR - March 2021

AAUW & SOCIAL ISSUES

Community Outreach **No Program Scheduled**

International Relations **10 am, Mon., Mar., 1**
Topic: Bolivia & Paraguay. We will meet via Zoom.

Public Policy **3:30 pm, Thurs., Mar. 11**
(Please note time change)

Topic: "School to Prison Pipeline," speaker Rodd Monts from ACLU. Hostess: Karen Linnell, 248-594-9871. We will meet via Zoom.

The Breakfast Bunch **10 am, Tues., Mar. 23**
Program: Cindy Eggleton, Co-founder & CEO of Brilliant Detroit, will present via Zoom.

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Art Matters
No tours/events planned for 2021. There are many online sights, virtual tours and art chats to keep us engaged and informed. Detroit - websites for the DIA, Mocad & Charles Wright Museum. Also, Many US museums: New York, LA, Washington, Chicago. And, museums in Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Africa, Asia, Australia, London.

Artistic Endeavors **No Program Scheduled**
Meetings will return in the spring, in person and outside. Hope to see you then! Call or email Colette Stager for questions or to share any art projects you've been working on.

Modern Art **12:30 pm, Thurs., Mar. 18**
Program: Kathleen Norton's presentation on a sampling of women artists. We will meet via Zoom. Contact Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com, for info.

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres **1:30 pm, Thurs., Mar. 18**
Topic: *Sea Wife*, Amity Gaige. We will meet via Zoom. For info, please call Elizabeth Snyder, 248-642-1475.

Beyond Adelante! **1 pm, Tues., Mar. 2**
Topic: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, Kim Michele Richardson. We will meet via Zoom. For info, please call Linda Schnorbus, 248-723-5008.

Contemporary Books **12:30 pm, Mon., Mar. 15**
Topic: *Girl, Woman, Other*, Bernadine Evarasito. We will meet via Zoom. Contact Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com, for info.

Morning After Readers **10 am, Mon., Mar. 8**
Topic: *The Girl with the Louding Voice* Abi Dare. We will meet via Zoom.

Mystery Book Club **1 pm, Wed., Mar. 24**
Topic: *Lady in the Lake*, Laura Lippman. At this point, we are not sure how we will meet. Please contact Joan Birnie, jlb03bps@gmail.com for info.

Northside Books **1 pm, Mon., Mar. 22**
Topic: *Talking to Strangers: What we Should Know About the People We Don't Know*, Malcolm Gladwell. We will meet via Zoom.

Political Inquiry **10 am, Wed., Mar. 17**
Topic: *A Generation of Psychopaths*, Bruce Cannon Gibney. We will meet via Zoom.

Potpourri **1 pm, Wed., Mar. 24**
Topic: *The Pioneers*, David McCullough. We will meet via Zoom.

Thurs. Morning Readers **10 am, Thurs., Mar. 18**
Topic: *The Book of Longings*, Sue Monk Kidd. We will meet via Zoom.

HOME & GARDEN

Cooking Light **10 am Thurs., Mar. 18**
We will hold a Zoom meeting each month to visit; members may share a recipe. Call Kathy Fredrickson, 248-930-1974, for info.

Green Thumb **1 pm, Tues., Mar. 16**
Program: Fall Blooming Bulbs. Presenter, Catherine Anderson Wegert. We will meet via Zoom.

Let's Cook **No Program Scheduled**

Needleworks **No Program Scheduled**

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas **No Program Scheduled**

Theater Goers
We will not be meeting until the theaters open.

Two Thumbs Up
We will not be meeting until the movie theaters open.

JUST FOR FUN

Canasta **No Program Scheduled**

Mah Jongg:
Games are temporarily suspended.

Bridge:
Games are temporarily suspended.

CONTACTS

Kay Norton for bridge - 248-737-0648. Lynn Hipp for calendar changes - 248-420-4615. Information due by the 20th of the Month. Study/Interest Group Membership – call Chair listed In the AAUW Directory, pages 8-10.



Lynn Hipp

If you are having problems setting up the Zoom connection for your study group, you can call on an expert for assistance. If you have a PC platform (Windows, etc.), call Katie Wiese at 248-737-6850. If you have a MAC platform, call Patty Orlowski, at 248-227-3380.

Women LEADERS



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Equitable representation of women in leadership - a key AAUW focus area.

Did you know??

- ◆ Women are underrepresented in leadership positions across all sectors of the economy and American society, not just in businesses and politics.
- ◆ Women make up 75% of jobs in the nonprofit, education and philanthropic sectors, but women hold far less than 75% of leadership positions in these organizations.
- ◆ Only 22% of non-profits with budgets of \$50 million or more have women CEO's.
- ◆ Only 30% of College Presidents or members of Boards of Directors are women
- ◆ Women make up only 6% of CEO's of Fortune 500 companies

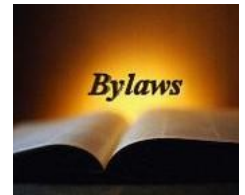
AAUW is dedicated helping women succeed and gain leadership opportunities in the workforce by changing federal and state laws, encouraging employers to adopt leadership and pay equity practices and training women to advocate for themselves.

Take a look at this webpage: <https://www.aauw.org/issues/leadership>. At this website you can:

- ◆ Read the AAUW report *Barriers and Bias*
- ◆ Learn about the type of legislation needed to help raise the number of women leaders
- ◆ Take a test to find out if YOU are biased against women leaders

Karen Boyk, AAUW Funds

THOUGHTS ON THE PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS



Proposed Membership Requirement – an amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership.

As I'm sure you are aware, I have been lobbying for this change for some time. We are an organization working to break down barriers for women. It seems incongruous that we have one in our own structure. Our original mission of making sure that women had access to higher education has been met. Women outnumber men in institutions of higher learning. With today's high costs of a 4-year degree skyrocketing and with the creation of many technical and entrepreneurial niches in society, the value of this type of degree is not what it was - even a short time ago. We would like to have a more diverse and younger base. This change would encourage that.

Times have changed. Younger feminists care about our mission but don't join us because they see us as an exclusionary or elitist organization, one that hasn't evolved into modern thinking about equity and inclusion

Another argument for this change is that corporations and foundations prefer to work with and/or fund organizations that adhere to their diversity, inclusion, and equity policies and practices. We lose out on dollars that could help us move forward with our mission and vision which puts a bigger burden on our members to contribute to AAUW.

AAUW is unique due to our breadth of programming, research, policy and advocacy, fellowships & grants, and most importantly, a grassroots membership that can be mobilized to fight for what we believe in. This powerful grassroots network should be open to all who want to join the fight as we know the work ahead is at the municipal, state, and federal levels.

As far as the oft-cited problem with our name – professionals can take care of that. Our name has not been descriptive of our membership for some time. We have male members and members who have not matriculated at universities.

So, what I'm urging you to do is to give this proposal your thoughtful consideration and then vote whichever way you decide. You won't have a say if you don't vote.



Sally Doty

USED BOOK SALE GRATITUDE



Two people played very significant roles in our used book sales. They were so important that without them we would have needed even more volunteers, space and muscle!

How would we have transported all the rejected books to SOCCRA without **WILL STEPHENSON!** We would have needed an army of cars filled to the gills with books traveling to the recycle site twice a week to get the job done. It makes me tired to think of it. We send a huge thank you to Will (Kitty Stephenson's son) for the use of his time and truck for helping with setup, tear down, and the many trips to recycling centers. He never complained and willingly completed whatever job we asked him to do. In addition to being very strong, he was kind, mannerly and friendly to all of us. A big AAUW hug to Will!

The other savior is **PEGGY JOHN.** She willingly for many years allowed us to use one half of her garage to store the book barrels, metal bookcases, signs, boards, "specials" boxes, kitchen supplies, cardboard tubes, carts and other items that I have probably forgotten. Even now she is storing our metal wagons and a flatbed cart. Considering Peg is the daughter-in-law of a charter member, a long-time member herself, and a continued supporter of all we do makes her a cherished part of the branch. (In addition, she houses all of the branch archives in her basement!) Thank you, Peggy, for your willing cooperation and support over all these many years. You always say "sure" whenever we have asked. A big AAUW hug to Peggy!

Over the years many have allowed box storage in basements and garages: Charlotte Mahrt, Lana Klingensmith, Leslie Freeburg, Pamela Pyke, Kathy Wentz and any others whose names I may have unintentionally omitted. Considering the members who collected from book barrels, helped sort, volunteered at the sale, picked up books from donors' homes, worked in the kitchen, donated food, helped with setup and tear down, the numbers total hundreds! Many thanks to all who helped make the used book sales successful. It definitely "took a village."

Carol Pyke, for the Book Sale Committee

Did You Know? Women's History Month started as Women's History Week



Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week.

Subsequent Presidents continued to proclaim a National Women's History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme. The theme for Women's History Month in 2021 captures the spirit of these challenging times. Since many of the women's suffrage centennial celebrations originally scheduled for 2020 were curtailed, the National Women's History Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to **"Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced."**

HELP AAUW BIRMINGHAM BRANCH MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Would you like to make a difference this year in assisting in the AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation's ("foundation") fundraising efforts for its educational missions? Well, here's how you can assist in both your spring cleaning/house cleaning efforts as well as making a big difference for the foundation.

As many of you know, the foundation has an ongoing program to sell various donated items on eBay, Amazon and other on-line and local sale facilitators. The net proceeds of all such sales are used by the foundation to support several of its educational missions. Last year, through the generous donations of several of our members, the foundation raised over \$1,400.00. This year, the foundation would like to sell even more under this program to help make up for lost revenue due to the Covid-19 cancelation of the annual book sale. So, ladies, in your spring cleaning or other cleanup endeavors, let's all find some more wonderful lightly used treasures to donate to the foundation.



Please note that items that sell rapidly include collectibles, camera equipment, musical instruments, vintage equipment, silver and many other items. Please contact Roberta (contact information below) for additional information as to the types of items that can maximize your donation. All donations should be in workable condition and have an approximate value of \$40 or more. A tax receipt will be provided upon request.

It's easy to donate! Just call Roberta Russ at 248-363-8533 or 313-909-8315 (if no answer, please leave a message) or email russroberta2009@comcast.net.

Roberta will do the rest and make a contactless pickup at your home. You don't have to do anything other than put the items in a box or other packaging on your porch or other convenient location for pickup at the agreed upon time.

Here's your chance to make a real difference! A special thank you to all members who donated items under this program last year, you did make a difference.



**Mardi Gras Virtual
Happy Hour
on Tuesday,
February 16th,
included
hand made and
vintage masks,
games,
choice beverages,
and lots of laughter.
Thanks to
Katie Wiese
for the creative
activity planning.**



AAUW 2021-2022 DUES RENEWAL INFORMATION

(Or renew online at www.aauw.org)

Member, Birmingham Branch \$91

**Assoc. \$62; State \$12, plus Branch \$17

**\$59.00 of the \$62.00 AAUW dues are deductible as a charitable contribution for IRS purposes.

Paid Life Member - \$29 (State & Branch)

Student Affiliate - \$19 (State & Branch)

Dual Member - \$17

(State & national dues paid to another branch)

Honorary Life Member - 0

Please complete form below exactly as you wish it to be printed in the directory and indicate any changes including phone number or email address.

AAUW 2021-22 BIRMINGHAM DUES RENEWAL FORM

now on our website - birmingham-mi.aauw.net

PLEASE PRINT

Your Name _____

Check the appropriate box:

_____ **All MY INFORMATION IS CORRECT** or

_____ **MAKE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTORY**

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone(s) Home _____ Cell _____ 1

Make checks payable to AAUW-Birmingham Branch and send with the completed form to:

Sharon McKenna, PO Box 573, Farmington, MI, 48332