

SAVE THE DATE

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.

AAUW Voting Timeline:

April 7 - voting opens

April 16 - last day to request paper ballot.

April 30 - last day for postmark on returning paper ballot.

May 17 - Voting ends at 5 pm EST.



BIRMINGHAM BRANCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
 1 pm, via Zoom

Speaker: Lara Edwards, Development & Membership Coordinator of the Friends of the Rouge.

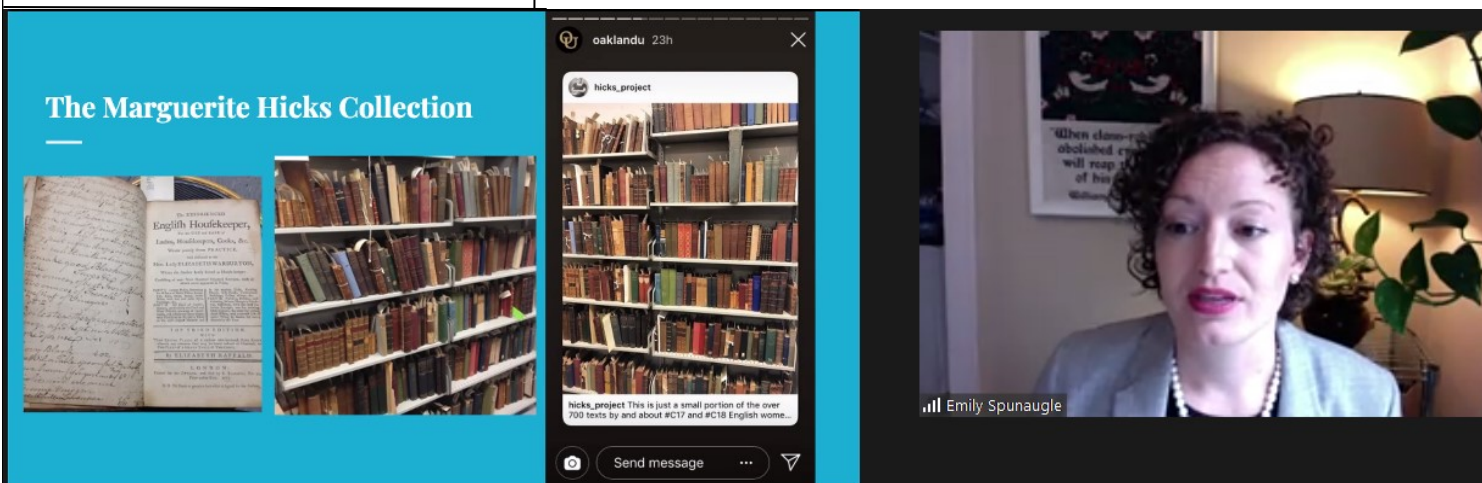
Topic: As residents of the greater Birmingham area, we are all familiar with the Rouge as it meanders through our suburban neighborhoods. The Friends of the Rouge is a nonprofit organization that "promotes restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River in SE Michigan." The group now has over 60,000 volunteers who clean the river and monitor the quality of the water. Ms. Edwards will give us an overview of their work and tips for what we can do to help keep our river healthy.

A Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting.

Quotations to Ponder:

"If one did not master one's circumstances, one was bound to be mastered by them."
 Amour Towles, *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

"I write because I want to have more than one life."
 Anne Tyler: *When We Were*



At the March 10th Birmingham Branch Membership meeting, Speaker Emily Spunaugle, Assistant Professor of Humanities and Rare Books Librarian at Oakland University, spoke to us about the Marguerite Hicks Collection Project that she co-directs.

AAUW Bulletin

Vol. 48, Issue 8, April 2021

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

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Bulletin copy deadline is the 20th of the previous month. Send copy and/or corrections to:
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AAUW of Michigan info: aauwmi.org



PRESIDENT'S LETTER - April, 2021



Looking out the window I see signs of spring – new fresh growth, energetic squirrels and really fat robins. It makes one want to go out and join in the fun. We will be able to meet again with restrictions soon, I hope. Just being with another human being and having a quiet conversation is therapeutic. Hang in there – the end is in sight.

At our last board meeting we made a wish list of things we would like to do if we had the money. Several of us are taking a grant writing class to learn who out there wants to help us move our mission. We have also talked about the need for our mission. During this pandemic, many women have put their professional goals on hold to fulfill their maternal goals. Many of them are going to have to turn to alternative options when they return, and they will in some cases need help. Many jobs out there need short-term training or education – either a community college course, an apprenticeship, or other in-house training. Most of them require materials or tuition or other costs. Perhaps we should look at these opportunities.



I have been really encouraged by the participation in Zoom presentations by study groups. One advantage of Zoom is that we aren't limited by actual space. We don't have to pick up or clean our houses. The Breakfast Bunch had an interesting speaker, Jenna Snyder, who founded Hope Against Trafficking, a two-year residential program for victims of human trafficking. The Public Policy group presented Rod Monts of the ACLU who spoke about the School to Prison Pipeline report of several years ago and brought us up to date on changes that have been made. In both cases many members attended that had not attended those particular groups in the past. If your group has a program you would like to share, send the information to Sharon McKenna. She will send out the announcement and the Zoom link.

We have also had several Zoom social events. The last one was for Saint Patrick's Day. Members came decked out in green. Some were wearing items they had purchased in Ireland. These events give a chance to share past experiences and to bring us up to date. I want to thank Katie Wiese for arranging these and coming up with appropriate activities. This demonstrates another feature of Zoom. Katie is in Arizona. We can all participate wherever we are – assuming our electricity and internet are working.

I would like to remind you to vote in the national AAUW election. Voting starts April 7th and closes on May 17th. If you would like to learn more about the bylaws change, there will be an AAUW MI Forum on that change on April 15th at 6:30. You should be receiving information from AAUW Michigan about it. I will also ask Sharon to forward the information to all of you as I know that some of you are not receiving the state information. We are working on that. The AAUW Michigan annual meeting is on April 24th at 10 a.m. We have nine delegates participating in this meeting. All are welcome.

I am still very hopeful that we will be able to meet in person on Wednesday, May 12th. We will be sending more information about that as we firm up the details.



Sally Doty

**Foundation Board Meeting
Highlights**
March 17, 2021



**Branch Board Meeting
Highlights**
March 10, 2021

- Karen Boyk will develop a survey to solicit input from the membership at the May branch meeting on how our fundraising monies should be spent.
- To offset the loss of revenue from the book sale, a fall fundraiser will take place. The details need to be worked out by the Financial Development Committee.
- The Foundation is officially a new member of The Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.



Branch Foundation Board at March 17 meeting.

AAUW BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION BOARD:

President:	
Patty Orłowski	248-641-3892
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Karen Boyk	248-608-2918
Corresponding Secretary:	
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Diane Schrift	248-648-6161

- Treasurer Sue Longstreet reported that on February 28, 2021, net branch assets were \$28,832.57.
- President Sally Doty reported that:
- On May 12th our membership meeting is planned as an outdoor event at the Beverly Hills Park. More information will follow.
 - Letters of thanks were received from Oakland Community College from a student who received scholarship assistance.

The foundation board is working on improving communication of its mission to branch membership and to the public. Patty Orłowski and Rita Dates are developing criteria for foundation functions including:

- Educating members on the purpose of the foundation
- Providing funding resources
- Investigating endowments
- Researching other foundations for ideas and assistance

Sharon McKenna reported that the nominating committee has found candidates for all offices except president. She further reported that an updated directory will be emailed to the membership.

Linda Kevorkian discussed plans for the new member meeting in September. She further announced that:

Each One Bring One September 8th meeting will take place at the Unitarian Church on Woodward and Lone Pine.



AAUW MISSION AND ACTION

March 18, 2021

ERA Progress: The House of Representatives voted yesterday, with bipartisan support, to remove the arbitrary deadline for ratifying the [Equal Rights Amendment](#). It's a huge leap forward toward guaranteeing constitutional equality between men and women. Stay tuned for opportunities to take action in the Senate.

Paycheck Fairness: It's not a win ... yet. But today the House of Representatives is holding a hearing to consider the Paycheck Fairness Act. This is an important step toward passage, but we need your help to keep moving forward. Access our [Activist Toolkit](#) for resources to contact Congress, write a letter to the editor, or speak out on social media.

IN MEMORIAM

AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation announces a MEMORIALS donation

*in remembrance of Lynne Geiger
from Pam Hoffman.*

STUDY / INTEREST GROUP CALENDAR - April 2021

AAUW & SOCIAL ISSUES

Community Outreach No Program Scheduled

International Relations 10 am, Mon., Apr. 5
Topic: Brazil & El Salvador. We will meet via Zoom.

Public Policy 2:30 pm, Thurs., Apr. 8
Topic: Issues with American nursing homes and reflections on the book, *Being Mortal*, Atul Gawande, via Zoom. For info, contact Carol Pyke, 248-225-6698.

The Breakfast Bunch No Program Scheduled

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Art Matters No Program Scheduled
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 11 am, Thurs., Apr. 29
Program: DIA self tour. Contact Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com, for info.

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres 1:30 pm, Thurs., Apr. 15
Topic: *The Invention of Wings*, Sue Monk Kidd. We will meet via Zoom. For info, please call Elizabeth Snyder, 248-642-1475.

Beyond Adelante! 1 pm, Tues., Apr. 6
Topic: *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge & the Teachings of Plants*, Robin W. Kimmerer. We will meet via Zoom. For info, please call Linda Schnorbus, 248-723-5008.

Contemporary Books 12:30 pm, Mon., Apr. 19
Topic: *The Giver of Stars*, Jojo Moyes. We will meet via Zoom. Contact Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com, for info.

Morning After Readers 10 am, Mon., Apr. 12
Topic: *Simon the Fiddler*, Paulette Jiles. We will meet via Zoom.

Mystery Book Club 1 pm, Wed., Apr. 28
Topic: *Tell No One*, Harlan Coben. At this point, we are not sure how we will meet. Please contact Joan Birnie, jb03bbs@gmail.com for info.

Northside Books 1 pm, Mon., Apr. 26
Topic: *The Golden Thread: The Cold War & The Mysterious Death of Dag Hammarskjold*, Ravi Somaiyar. We will meet via Zoom.

Political Inquiry No Program Scheduled

Potpourri 1 pm, Tues., Apr. 28
Topic: *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women . . .*, Rebecca Traister. We will meet via Zoom.

Thurs. Morning Readers 10 am, Thurs., Apr. 15
Topic: *Talking to Strangers*, Malcolm Gladwell. We will meet via Zoom.

HOME & GARDEN

Cooking Light 10 am Thurs., Apr. 15
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., Apr. 20
Program: Caring for Hydrangeas, Anita Goor. 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 fully open.

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

The Breakfast Bunch met on February 23rd with speaker Jenna Snyder, who founded Hope Against Trafficking, a two-year residential program for victims of human trafficking.



A recent quarterly notification from Amazon Smile informed us that it has just made a charitable donation to **AAUW-Birmingham Branch Foundation Inc**, in the amount of **\$40.08**, from qualifying purchases by branch members. If you use Amazon Prime for purchases, please select us as your charity at Amazon Smile.



Kroger Community Rewards

has notified us that for the period Nov. 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021, 21 of our members, through purchases at Kroger stores, provided a donation of

\$38.65 to AAUW Birmingham Branch (WK668)

If you shop at Kroger, and have a Kroger rewards card, please designate our branch as your charity.



Ladies' Night Out on St. Patrick's Day was a lot of fun. Some folks came dressed in their celebratory green, and Katie Wiese provided the games and challenging questions.

AAUW National Election

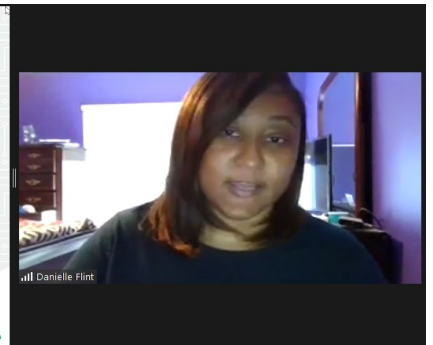
AAUW members are being asked to vote on the amended Public Policy Priorities and a bylaws amendment to eliminate degree requirements for members. The bylaws amendment proposes a change to eliminate degree requirements for members. AAUW's Open Membership Toolkit (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>) discusses the proposed changes and the rationale. AAUW of Michigan will be hosting a forum on open membership scheduled for Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. ET. More information and registration will be forthcoming.



Voting opens on April 7 and will close on May 17; however, we would suggest that you wait to vote until after the forum. We will each vote individually. The AAUW bylaws require that --submitted ballots equal in number to at least five percent of the votes entitled to be cast by members-- is the quorum required for a vote to be counted. The AAUW bylaws require that the affirmative (yes) vote of two-thirds of the votes cast are required to amend the bylaws. The Public Policy Priorities can be amended with an affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast.



“ Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.
 - George Washington Carver



Public Policy met on Thursday, March 11 via Zoom. ➡

Two speakers provided information on the report of several years ago, “School to Prison Pipeline,” and brought us up to date on changes that have been made.

Above, Rodd Monts, Michigan ACLU

Above far right, Danielle Flint, Student Advocacy Center



Women and Student Debt



College attendance may be at a record high. Yet the price tag of a college education has more than doubled over the past generation while household incomes have barely budged. Women hold almost 2/3 of the country's \$1.54-trillion student debt: \$929 billion. Women earning a bachelor's degree graduate owing an average of \$2,700 more than their male peers. Student debt is the second-highest source of household debt after housing.

Women take about two years longer than men to repay student loans. From the moment women graduate from college, most face a gender pay gap — which compounds as they age. This makes it even harder to pay off their larger share of student debt. As a result, women often put off saving for retirement, buying a home or starting a business.

AAUW supports legislation that would make college more affordable for all students and help millions of borrowers across the country pay off their student debt. We need diverse solutions to address the challenges students — especially women — face before, during and after college. Congress must pass legislation that would:

- Protect and expand Pell Grants for low-income students to reduce the amount of student loan debt they have to take on to complete a degree.
- Help to eliminate the gender pay gap, like the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- Increase funding for public colleges and universities and support efforts to move toward tuition and debt-free options for students.



For more information, and to read the AAUW report *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans*, visit the link: <https://www.aauw.org/issues/education/student-debt/#Resources>

Karen Boyk, Recording Secretary,
AAUW Funds

April showers will bring May flowers! - all we have to do is wait.



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

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