



AAUW
 September, 2023
BIRMINGHAM BRANCH BULLETIN
 Birmingham, Michigan - Since 1920
birmingham-mi.aauw.net



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Kroger Community Rewards program donates to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. There is no cost involved, and the Branch Foundation benefits from your grocery shopping. If you do not have a Rewards card, they are easy to get when you check out at Kroger. To link your Kroger Shopper's Card to AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation use this link:

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Whenever you use your KrogerPlus card to purchase items at Kroger, AAUW will receive a donation. Remember the donations to AAUW do not effect your gas points.



Each One Bring One Meeting
 Wednesday, September 13 at 10:00 am
Northbrook Presbyterian Church
 22055 W 14 Mile Road in Beverly Hills.
 (14 Mile Road and Lahser Road)

Bring a friend and join your AAUW members to kick off an enriching year of Birmingham Branch activities.

- * Find out about Birmingham Branch Plans for 2023/2024
- * Find out about Birmingham Branch Accomplishments
- * Find out about Study and Interest Groups

A light breakfast will be provided.

AAUW Bulletin

Vol. 51, Issue 1, September, 2023

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

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SEPTEMBER 2023

Greetings to all of the members of the Birmingham AAUW. Summer is winding down and that means we will be thinking about and planning for the 2023-24 year. There have been some changes on the board and with some of our activities that I would like to share with you.

First, we lost a long-time member and supporter when Lana Klingensmith passed away. Lana participated in a number of interest groups and fund-raising activities. She was a friend to all who knew her. There was a private service held in August but if you would like to send a card or donation to the family you may send them to:

Jason Klingensmith (Lana's son) and family 632 Pilgrim Ave., Birmingham, MI 48009

Donations honoring Lana may be sent to the AAUW Birmingham Branch, Foundation, Cindi Hopkins 3190 Chestnut Run Drive, Bloomfield Hills MI 48302. Lana will be missed for her commitment to AAUW and the friendship she shared with us.

Please set aside Wednesday, September 13 for Each One Bring One, our annual start for the calendar year to be held at Northbrook Presbyterian Church at 22055 W. Lahser Rd, Beverly Hills 48025. The event will be held from 10AM – NOON with light refreshments. This will be an opportunity for you to bring an interested friend and hear about the activities planned for this year. You will have the opportunity to join a study group and meet other AAUW members.

Kathleen Norton is the new program director, and she has speakers lined up for the whole year. Michele Wogaman is the new Corresponding Secretary. Cathy Hurley will serve as the Education Equity representative. Patty Orłowski will be the new editor for the monthly newsletter and Kathy Conner is the membership directory editor. We are currently looking to fill the positions of Recording Secretary, Bylaws and Policy chair, and Menus/Venues chair. We would like to thank Cindy Clement, Rita Dates, Cynthia Longhway, Colette Stager, and Joanne Brown for their many years of service to the branch.

As you know from being involved in other organizations, it takes many hands to keep things going. Please consider taking on a committee chair position. A good way to know what is going on is to become actively involved. Please consider this and talk to any board member about your interest.

Last year we began a "Pillowcase Project" and I have been collecting finished pillowcases over the summer. We still have a long way to go to reach our goal so please ask how you can help. We will have a table set up at EOBO for you to find more information. (Some people have donated purchased pillowcases because they don't sew and that's perfectly ok.) The pillowcases will be used to wrap gifts for the foster kids of Michigan serviced by Big Families of Michigan. They put smiles on many faces, and you can, too.

At long last we have an opportunity to get back into STEM with a program at Bound Together called Enhancement Mondays. More information will be shared at EOBO so you can see how to become involved. Local school districts also hold STEM Clubs after school, and we have opportunities there as well.

The Branch Board met at the beginning of the summer to discuss ways to make changes that will benefit our branch as a whole. Many good ideas were discussed but we need YOU to make it happen. We know that you are interested in promoting better lives for women through education, scholarships and opportunities so let's get together and make it happen. There are organizations around us that depend on the generosity of people like you to bring necessary resources to their community. Some of our interest groups, such as Public Policy, Education based groups, and Community Outreach, help our members to see the need for what we can do.

Enjoy these final days of summer. I look forward to seeing all of you at our meetings this year starting with EACH ONE BRING ONE at Northbrook Presbyterian Church, 22055 Lahser Rd., Beverly Hills on Wednesday, September 13 from 10 AM – NOON.

Jean

STUDY GROUP CALENDER - MAY 2023

AAUW & SOCIAL ISSUES

Community Outreach **No Program Planned**

International Relations **No Program Planned**
Contact: Cheryl Van Zetten, 248-761-5069

Public Policy **via Zoom 2:30 pm, Thurs., Sept. 14**
Topic: *Ranked Choice Voting*, presented by
Ron Zimmerman. See page 5
Contact: Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

The Breakfast Bunch **No Program Planned**
Contact: Patty Orlowski, 248-641-3892

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art **12:00 noon, Thurs., Sept. 28**
Topic: "Modern Art Show & Tell" and discussion
"What is Contemporary Art" led by Julie Blair
Contact: Kathy Norton,
kathleennorton45@yahoo.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres **1:00 pm, Tues., Sept. 19**
Topic: *Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill*,
Sonia Purcell
Hostess: Leona Gates, lech2gates@gmail,
248-644-1446

Beyond Adelante **1:00 pm, Tues., Sept. 5**
Topic: *The Adventures of Huckleberry*, Mark Twain
Hostess: Linda Schnorbus, 248-723-5008

Contemporary Books **12:30 pm, Mon., Sept. 18**
Topic: *The Secret Life of Sunflowers*, Marta Molnar
and Dana Marton
Hostess: Vivian Norton, 248-682-8060

Morning After Readers **10:00 am, Mon., Sept. 11**
Topic: *Lessons in Chemistry*, Bonnie Garmus
Hostess: Sue McKinnon, 248-494-3808

Mystery Book Club **1:00 pm, Wed., Sept. 27**
Topic: *Killing of Innocents*, Deborah Crombie
Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Potpourri **1:00 pm, Wed., Sept. 27**
Topic: *The Secret Life of Sunflowers*, Marta Molnar
Hostess: Joan Antos, 248-514-1055

Thurs. Morning Readers **10:00 am, Thurs., Sept. 21**
Topic: *My Dear Hamilton: A Novel of Eliza Schuyler*
Hamilton, Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie
Hostess: Louise Juntunen, (734) 904-9623 (C)

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb **12:30 pm, Tues., Sept. 19**
Topic: "Dividing Perennials" presented by Catherine
Anderson
Contact: Laura Schartman, lschartman@gmail.com

Let's Cook **12 noon, Tues., Sept. 26**
Contact: Nancy Moses, nmoses1949@aol.com

Needleworks **11:00 am, Wed., Sept. 20**
Contact: Kathy Stasys, kstasys@hotmail.com

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas **No Program Planned**
Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

Theater Goers **No Program Planned**
Contact: Sue Winowiecki, 248-635-0462

Two Thumbs Up **Time TBD, Thurs., Sept. 7**
Hostess: Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com

JUST FOR FUN

Canasta **1:00 pm, each Monday**
Contact: Sue Winowiecki, 248-635-0462

Mah Jongg **2:00 pm, Wed., Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27**
Meet at the Bloomfield Township Library.
Beginners are always welcome.
Contact: Py Wolfe, 248-824-0076

Bridge:
Contact: Bev Pintar, bpintar@comcast.net

2nd Friday: **10:30 am, Sept. 15, Village Club**
Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098

4th Friday: **10:30 am, Sept. 29, Village Club**
Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178



Linda Kevorkian

CONTACT

information due by the 17th . For
calendar changes contact:
Linda Kevorkian, 248.219.1915
evorkianlk@gmail.com
or Sharon McKenna, 313.570.2013
sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com



Sharon McKenna



BIRMINGHAM BRANCH MEETING

The branch held a meeting on June 12, 2023, to discuss plans for the next year and beyond. Due to changes in carrying out the activities we have participated in in the past, the board discussed how we can make changes to meet the needs of the membership.

The board is looking at ways to reorganize current positions and make it possible for members to participate in branch activities. For instance, we are looking at forming a communications team by bringing the newsletter, website, and social media together with a common source for dates, news, and contact information.

There is still a need to have more people involved in community outreach programs which is what promotes our mission for advancing equity for women and girls. We can accomplish this with having speakers who enlighten us to the needs of our community, providing scholarships and opportunities to donate our time to the communities that we live in.

This year we have an opportunity to get back into STEM activities through Enrichment Mondays at Bound Together and, hopefully, other schools as well. To find out more, come to Each One Bring One on Wednesday, September 13 at Northbrook Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills.

MEMBERSHIP. . .



We have a problem with the Post Office Box where you mail your membership checks. We apologize for the concern and inconvenience that this may have caused you.

Although you mailed your check to the correct address, the Post Office is returning them to the sender. Many members had the checks they mailed in May and June returned, two months later, in August. We even had some 2022 checks that went missing, returned over a year later. Yikes!!

There is a link to renew your membership online at <https://www.aauw.org/membership/>. It is a quick and easy way to renew.

If you prefer, you may mail your membership renewal to:

AAUW-Birmingham
17156 Wiltshire
Southfield, Mi 48076

Or bring your check to Each One Bring One on September 13.

Thanks for your patience and understanding!

COMMITTEE TO VISIT OAKLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Public Policy study group has established a committee to develop a plan to observe monthly Oakland County school board meetings. The concern is certain school boards have members that are sympathetic to Moms for Liberty that supports banning books, curriculum and materials they find unAmerican.

AAUW members will be asked to volunteer to watch board meetings monthly via YouTube making in-person visits unnecessary. The League of Women Voters has a similar project in place so we can share impressions. There are 28 school districts in Oakland County and they all have televised meetings. Between the LWV and AAUW Birmingham members we may be able to cover most of them.

If you are willing to observe a school board meeting, please let me know and you will be contacted regarding an assignment and procedures.

CAROL PYKE, 248-225-6698

cpyke@comcast.net

I can be reached by phone, text or email. Thank you to all for your willingness to help.

PUBLIC POLICY GROUP

This is an announcement and invitation to our members from the Public Policy Group.



The presentation will be on September 14th at 2:30 via [ZOOM](#). All members and friends are welcome to join us.

- ◆ *Kinder, gentler political campaigns?*
- ◆ *More issue-based conversations, less name calling?*
- ◆ *Less extreme (right or left) candidates winning the primary?*
- ◆ *More consensus?*
- ◆ *These could happen if we had Ranked Choice Voting!*

In Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), voters rank candidates by preference on their ballot, marking their first, second and third choice for each office. If a candidate wins an outright majority of first-preference votes, she will be declared the winner. But if no candidate wins a majority of first choice votes, the first-preference votes is eliminated. The second and third choice preferences of those who voted for the failed candidate are then distributed to the remaining candidates. A new tally is made to determine whether any candidate has now won a majority of the adjusted voters. This process is repeated until a candidate wins a majority of votes cast.



Ranked Choice Voting is used in Alaska & Maine (for both federal and state elections) and in Hawaii for certain elections. In 15 states, some localities use RCV in municipal elections. In Michigan, RCV has been implemented in Eastpointe, adopted in Ferndale and under consideration in Royal Oak. Five states have banned use of RCV in statewide and local elections.

Our presenter will be Ron Zimmerman, a member of the Board of Directors of Rank MI Vote, an advocacy group promoting ranked choice voting in the state of Michigan. RankMiVote.org.



Ron Zimmerman

This presentation will be recorded and added to the [AAUWMI YouTube](#) channel for the benefit of anyone who cannot attend the live event.

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MEMBER MINGLE



You are invited to join your AAUW Friends, Branch Board and Foundation Board at a Member Mingle on Thursday, September 21 beginning at 4:00 at the home of Katie Wiese.

We'll provide the food and drinks; you provide the fun! If you like, bring a bottle of wine to share.

RSVP to Katie at (248)842-8684 or katie.wiese@att.net

Address of Event:
4184 Wendell Road, West Bloomfield MI 48323
(West of Orchard Lake Road, East of Middlebelt,
North of Lone Pine and South of Long Lake)

MODERN ART

Birmingham Branch Modern Art Club met on August 24. We had a Zoom meeting with Linda Moore, author of the book *Attribution*. This was followed by a group discussion of the book and a luncheon hosted by Pam Craig. We had a great time.



Kathy Norton and Pamela Craig



From left to right, Karen Brant, Mary Ann Riedle, Uma Bedi, Julie Blair, Jackie Werner, Mary Ann Mehlhope

Michigan's Women's EQUALITY DAY Celebration

Local AAUW branches were joined by many area organizations such as League of Women Voters, NAACP, Women's Native American Organization, ERA, Coalition of Labor Union Women/Metro Detroit, International Federation of Business Professional Women, International League for Peace and Freedom/Metro Detroit, Michigan ACE Women's Network; NOW; Women's Zonta International and National Council of Jewish Women.

Laura Callow provided some historical background and an update on the Equal Rights Amendment. Laura has dedicated much of her life to working for women's civil rights. She helped form Michigan ERAmerica



(Left) Mickey Edell, President of AAUW Southeast Consortium and President of Plymouth-Canton AAUW Branch

(Right) Laura Callow of Livonia AAUW Branch and League of Women Voter

coalition and was the voice for various aspects of the ERA on 'Point of View' on WJR radio in Detroit from 1977-1986. Among her achievements and awards, Laura was named Susan B. Anthony Award from U-M Dearborn in 2008.



Meghan Kissell AAUW National

Meghan Kissell came from Washington, DC to talk about what she does as the Public Policy Chair for AAUW National and Senior Director, Policy, and Member Advocacy.

Communications strategy and grassroots organizing are two of her areas of expertise. Meghan also spoke of the importance of pushing for ERA legislation.

Although the amendment has passed, it has not been confirmed by both houses. She stated that until that's done, the amendment is vulnerable to change as evidenced by recent controversies in many states.

Laurie Pohutsky was the keynote speaker. She is the Michigan House of Representative for the 17th District and is Speaker Pro Tempore serving her third term.

Ms. Pohutsky has a BS degree in microbiology from Michigan State University. She shared her strong support for environmental issues, paying attention to the confirmation of the ERA amendment.



Laurie Pohutsky (D) Livonia



Sheila Blair, AAUW MI President



(Left to right) Sally Doty, Jean Ivory, Rita Brown (NOW MI), Gerrie Barclay, Sheila Blair AAUW MI President, Linda Kevorkian, Katie Wiese and Marcia O'Reilly