



November 2023
 Birmingham Branch Bulletin
 Birmingham-mi.aauw.net
 Vol 53 Issue 3 November 2023



Dates to Remember

- Wed. Nov. 1** - Big Families of Michigan wrapping
- Wed. Nov. 8** - Branch Board Meeting and Luncheon, Forest Lake Country Club
- Thurs. Nov. 9** - Chamber Music Detroit *Aeolus Quartet & Friends play Mozart.* 2 PM. Northbrook Presb. Church, Bev. Hills
- Thurs. Nov 30** - Native American Women's Equal Pay Day
- Thurs. Nov. 30** - Big Families of Michigan wrapping
- Wed. Dec. 13** - Branch Board Meeting and Holiday luncheon at The Iroquois Club
- Wed. Jan 10** - Board and Branch Meeting on ZOOM
- Wed. Feb. 14** - Board and Branch Meeting on ZOOM
- Fri.-Sat. May 10-11, 2024** - AAUW MI Annual Meeting and Convention, Detroit Marriott, Livonia, MI

Birmingham Branch Board Meeting Minutes summary for October 11, 2023

- We cannot be a legal 501(C) (4) organization without a recording secretary.
- 10 new members joined! We are now at 164 paid members.
- Only paid members of the AAUW Branch can participate in study groups.
- Katie Wiese is looking for Ambassadors to mentor new members. New Member Mingle is scheduled for early November.
- Deadline for Bulletin submissions is the 20th of each month. The upgrade to the professional version of Canva was approved; easier reading for members.

November Luncheon

November 8, 2023

Forest Lake Country Club
 1401 Club Drive
 Bloomfield Township
 Social Hour - 11:30 - 12 noon
 Lunch at 12 Noon

Speaker: Ruth Bergman; Director of Education and Katie Chaka-Parks; Manager of Adult Education at Zekelman Holocaust Center will speak about rescuers and aggressors of prisoners and aspects of the Holocaust experience unique to women.

Please send your check for \$30, by Wednesday, November 1, to:
 Christine Dagenais
 1668 Trading Post Lane
 Bloomfield Township, MI 48302
 VALET PARKING IS INCLUDED IN YOUR \$30 LUNCHEON CHARGE.

Menu
 Cobb Salad (diced grilled chicken, crisp bacon, avocado, tomato, chopped. boiled egg, blue cheese, choice of dressing
 Vegetarian and Lactose Free option is available.

Hostesses: Modern Art

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON DONATION

Our donation for November is a gift item for an adult to support Bound Together Shopping Day. Please bring new or gently used items that the children can choose to give to the important people in their lives - parents, grandparents, guardians.
 "Each year AAUW is what makes Shopping Day possible for our kids, and given how much this event is anticipated, we could not be more grateful."

Happy Thanksgiving



STUDY GROUP CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2023

Community Outreach. No Program Planned

International Relations 10:00 am, Mon., Nov. 6
Topic: Government of India
Hostess: Sue Winiwiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Public Policy 1:30 pm, Thurs., Nov. 9
Topic: Discussion the School Board Project and
Libraries – Public and School
Hostess: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net

The Breakfast Bunch No Program Planned

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art. 11:00 am, Thurs., Nov. 16
Topic: "A Walk Through the DIA Modern Art Gallery"
Bloomfield Township Senior Center
Contact: Cheryl Cross, ckcfmc@gmail.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres. 1:00 pm, Tues., Nov. 14
Topic: *When Books Went to War*, Molly Guptill Manning
Contact: Julie Reising, jereising@gmail.com

Beyond Adelante 1:00 pm, Tues., Nov. 7
Topic: *Poverty, by America*, Matthew Desmond
Hostess: Linda Barclay, barclay1610@gmail.com

Contemporary Books 12:30 pm, Mon., Nov. 20
Topic: *Mad Honey*, Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan
Hostess: Janet Stenger, jstenger1950@gmail.com

Morning After Readers 10:00 am, Mon., Nov. 13
Topic: *The Lioness*, Chris Bohjalian
Hostess: Sue Mitchell, susangene@sbcglobal.net

Mystery Book Club No Program Planned

Potpourri via Zoom 1:00 pm, Wed., Nov. 29
Topic: *Shadow Divers*, Robert Kurson
Hostess: Joan Hanpeter, hanpeter@aol.com

Thurs. Morning Readers 10:00 am, Thurs., Nov. 16
Topic: *Remarkable Bright Creatures*, Shelby Van Pelt
Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb. 12:30 pm, Tues., Nov. 16
Topic: 2024 planning and potluck lunch
Hostess: Gloria Freeland, gfreeland@gmail.com

Let's Cook. 12 noon, Tues., Nov. 28
Contact: Nancy Moses, nmoses1949@aol.com

Needleworks. 11:00 am, Wed., Nov. 15
Contact: Kathy Stasys, kstasys@hotmail.com

ON THE TOWN

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

Theater Goers 2:00 pm, Sun., Dec. 17
A Christmas Carol, Meadowbrook, Rochester, \$39.
Reservation Deadline: Friday, November 17

Two Thumbs Up Time TBD, Thurs., Nov. 2
Hostess: Kathy Conner, katconn@hotmail.com

JUST FOR FUN

Canasta 1:00 pm, each Monday
Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Mah Jongg 2:00 pm, Wed., Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Bloomfield Township Library. Beginners are welcome.
Contact: Py Wolfe, jimnpy@comcast.net

Bridge
2nd Friday: 10:30 am, Nov. 10, Village Club
Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098
4th Friday: 10:30 am, Nov. 24, Village Club
Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178



For calendar changes contact:
Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013
sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com
Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915
evorkianlk@gmail.com

Information is due by the 17th
of the month.





President's Message – November 2023

November is the month for Thanksgiving and the beginning of the holiday season for many people. Numerous volunteer opportunities allow us to show our gratitude. Whether it is working with kids at Bound Together, processing food donations at Forgotten Harvest or wrapping holiday gifts for foster kids at Big Family of Michigan, you can make a difference in someone's life.

As an organization, we are committed to offering our time and donations to help people. Don't wait to be asked. Find out when volunteers are needed. Call someone who is already going. Ask how you can participate. Start with the monthly bulletin and website. Come to a meeting. Read the emails.

After a few years of waiting until it is safe to be in larger groups, we fall short of the previous level of branch member involvement. The community outreach committee arranged for members to help at the Forgotten Harvest warehouse. When we finished our shift, the team leader met with us to share his thanks. He spoke about how fortunate he felt that he could give back to people in need after once being on the receiving end.

The November bulletin is filled with opportunities for you to participate. Please make time in your schedule to represent the Birmingham AAUW Branch.

At the October luncheon, I appealed to attendees to consider taking on the role of recording secretary for the board. We must fill this position as we are in violation as a non-profit organization. Please call me to discuss this opportunity to join the board. We will meet in person in November and December then March through June. January and February will be on ZOOM. You can partner with someone and "job-share" if it makes it easier for you.

Are you interested in STEM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**ath) activities for young teens? We are setting up a committee to look at options for the direction that best suits the members of our branch. Don't hesitate to become involved. Schools and young girls need the support of organizations like ours with the State and National AAUW organizations offering resources.

See you at the November Luncheon at Forest Lake Country Club on November 8.

Jean

*in
loving
memory*

A reminder that a donation to the Foundation is a lovely way memorialize a member or the family of a member.

Checks should be made out to AAUW-Birmingham-Branch Foundation and mailed to Cindi Hopkins, 3190 Chestnut Run Dr., Bloomfield Hills MI 48302.

The Foundation would like to thank those that have made donations recently:

On behalf of Sammy Reider (Barby Reider's husband) from Contemporary Books, Sally Doty

On behalf of Lana Klingensmith from Uma Bedi, Sally Doty, Julie Blair, Nancy O'Connor, Barbara Gash, Jean Ivory and Norma Darr.

On behalf of Anita Munday (mother of Susan Mundy) from Jean Ivory

On behalf of Dr. Eve Reider (Barby Reider's daughter) from Contemporary Books and Sally Doty

Thanks to all of you for these gifts to the Foundation.

Cindi



Meadowbrook Theatre, Rochester
Sunday, December 17, 2pm
Tickets: \$39
Reservation Deadline:
Friday, November 17



Everyone's favorite holiday classic captivates audiences for the 41st year with the tale of a mean-spirited miser and the ghosts that haunt him.

Send checks, payable to Susan Winowiecki, to:
2957 Courville Drive
Bloomfield Hills 48302

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Directory

The most current membership information for the Birmingham Branch is available on our website. It is password protected; the password was sent to the members in an email last month and announced at last month's luncheon. You can contact a board member or another member if you have forgotten it. You are also able to download a printable directory of member information.

Membership Renewals

Thank you to everyone for their patience with the new membership renewal process. There have been a few issues with the online system, but they are being worked out. Thank you to Sharon McKenna, Dues Treasurer, for the many hours she has spent updating membership information and keeping the directory up to date.



AAUW Ambassadors

Every Birmingham Branch member is an Ambassador for the sisterhood of AAUW. You've invited your friends to AAUW events and invited them to join our Branch. During the last year, we have welcomed: Gail Abraham, Lucy Benham, Cheryl Cross, Lorrie D'Angelo, Beverly Dinsmore, Joan Head, Carolyn Herman, Patti Kommel, Maria Nielson-Harris, Sharon Pugh, Sarah Saltzman, Cam Takach, and Colleen Zematis.

In addition to inviting friends to join the Birmingham Branch of AAUW, we need to make sure that we create a welcoming and inclusive environment after they join. When I joined AAUW several years ago, I was welcomed and invited to join several groups. We want to make sure that every new member has the same experience. Research on groups shows that personal contact is the key to retaining members. It is important to make sure that new members find the groups that are of interest to them and feel welcome at luncheons and at group events. There are so many warm and friendly women in our branch, and we hope you will volunteer to be an ambassador for the Birmingham Branch.

Ambassador Responsibilities:

- Call your new member and find out her interests. Guide her in finding several special interest groups that may be of interest to her. If you are a member of one of these groups, offer to take her to a meeting. Answer any general questions that she has about our Branch.
- Call the new member, and make sure she has information on the monthly luncheon. If she plans on attending, offer to sit with her and introduce her to other members.
- For the Zoom membership meetings, call and explain the meeting format. Make sure she has all the information she needs to attend the on-line meeting.
- Reach out after a few months and inquire as to how she is doing. Answer any questions about the Branch. This year, you may also wish to explain the purpose of the Lavish Lunch and invite her and a friend to attend. Not only will new members feel welcomed, but you will also make new friends and be part of the supportive sisterhood of Women. Please contact Katie Wiese katie.wiese@att.net or (248) 842-8684 if you would like to participate.

AAUW Volunteers



Cathy Hurley, Camela Takach and
Jean Ivory (taking pictures)



Gail Abraham, Kathy Norton, Jane DuBay,
Mary Samulski and Joan Birnie

On Tuesday afternoon, October 17th, these ladies represented the Birmingham Branch at Forgotten Harvest. They sorted and packaged 18,680 pounds of food which will serve nearly 19,000 people. Many people work at Forgotten Harvest regularly, but they need volunteers every day to assist the workers with the process. The organization adheres to strict FDA standards and the volunteers are expected to comply as well. Operating out of a large new warehouse in Oak Park, Forgotten Harvest receives donations from local grocery stores and from the farm in Fenton they manage.

Volunteer Again! We would love to have your help again! Next time consider asking a friend or family member to come help too. **Donate!** For every dollar donated Forgotten Harvest is able to provide **four meals** to someone in need! Every dollar makes an impact.

- Online: <https://www.forgottenharvest.org/donate/>
- Mail: 15000 West Eight Mile, Oak Park, MI 48237
- Call: 248-967-1500

As always **Thank You** for all you do to support our mission!

The Rescue Team

AAUW Gives

Lillian Gallaher initially saw school as a “prison system”. Now she is the Birmingham AAUW Scholar recipient for 2023. Lillian, a 2023 graduate of Groves High School, attends Albion College and is pursuing a pre-med curriculum in Biochemistry while playing Women’s Basketball. At this point, she is interested in psychiatry, but she admits she may find other interests. She says of herself, “I strive to obtain as much knowledge as I possibly can from every person I meet”. A special friend helped her realize that school is not a prison and learning is wonderful. Lillian now learns to learn not just to achieve. At Groves she became an honor student, achieving over a GPA of 4.0 with Honors and Advanced Placement classes. In high school she was part of the Women’s Basketball team, track team, National Honor Society, Green Club, Science Olympiad and GSA. Lillian lost her mother at age 10 to neurofibromatosis; her dad is not involved in her life. She lives with her aunt in Birmingham. Her track coach writes, “to be so accomplished yet come from such a difficult childhood is not only rare but should be lauded. I tell her over and over— You are made for doing great things.” **Lillian Gallaher is our well-deserving 2023 Scholar recipient.**

Eileen Hitz



Who doesn't like to wrap Christmas presents for kids?! Sign up to wrap holiday gifts for foster kids at Big Family of Michigan. They were thrilled to receive our first delivery of close to 500 pillowcases you helped make. Children's gifts will go into pillowcases. Thank you to so many of you who contributed pillowcases. Toys and games are always welcome so if you would like to donate, bring it with you when you attend one of the two sessions. Let us know if you need a pickup. **Call**

Cathy Hurley (248-867-3906) or Jean Ivory (248-252-2581) to sign up.

SCHEDULED DATES

November 1st 9-11:30 AM

November 30th 9-11:30 AM

23500 Pare St., St. Clair Shores, MI

586-415-6968



Bound Together Shopping Day

AAUW has been the leading supporter of Bound Together's much-loved annual Shopping Day for its children. Each November, Bound Together builds a "department store" of generously donated items allowing students to choose gifts for their special grown-ups. Items are wrapped and delivered to families at our annual Christmas Party.

We can be a great solution for your unused items or re-giftable presents.

Bring your finds to the November AAUW Luncheon.

If you prefer, drop them off at 4204 Fieldbrook Road in West Bloomfield or deliver to All Saints
M,W,F at 171 West Pike, Pontiac.

Need another option? Call Michelle at 248-875-5768.

Deadline for receipt is November 29th.

Nothing surpasses watching our students choose that special gift for the people they love. The joy of giving is truly powerful. Thank you for making that possible for our kids.

Michele Wogaman

Executive Director, Bound Together



Refuge for Nations

The Breakfast Bunch visited Refuge for Nations in Dearborn in October. Refuge for Nations is a nonprofit social enterprise committed to empowering refugee women across Metro Detroit by providing English as a Second Language classes and job training. They also assist in navigating a very different country, finding housing and accessing services.

Cynthia Khan, founder of Refuge for Nations, led us on an interesting and informative tour of their facility. We visited two ESL classes and the Introduction to Sewing class. Many of the women at this facility had spouses who were drivers for the US military in Afghanistan or worked for the military as a liaison to women. Others fled the conflict in Yemen.

Many have children in diapers; the Breakfast Bunch was able to donate six large boxes of diapers to the program. Thank you to all who contributed.

We were moved by the women's stories, and we left very thankful to be women in America. Of course, no trip to Dearborn is complete without a tasty Middle Eastern Lunch and where we enjoyed talking with Refuge for Nations volunteers at Cedar Land.



Cindi Hopkins, Cam Takach, Cindy Clement, Cynthia Khan,, Katie Wiese, Patty Orlowski



Sewing Class students pictured with volunteer instructor, Julia, standing between Patty and Cam.

Women First International Fund

The Women First International Fund provides crucial grants to women's organizations; it is critically important work. Not only are women and girls directly impacted by their grantmaking, but also others associated with their organizations. Properly utilized and deployed, philanthropy creates a ripple effect through an organization, a community, a geographic region, a country, the globe. Women First ensures their grantee partner organizations are equipped with funding as well as the tools to learn how best to leverage the funding to ensure transformational, long-term success. Simply put, Women First believe that women understand their own community's needs better than any outside organization. AAUW has chosen to sponsor one of the Women First International Fund groups. It is an honor to support their work.

Linda Schnorbus

Midwest AAUW Conference

Sally Doty, Linda Kevorkian and Jean Ivory attended the first Midwest AAUW conference in St. Louis, MO from October 19-21. Gloria Blackwell, CEO of AAUW, was among the keynote speakers. Attendees learned about national and state events and shared best practices with local branches. Congratulations to the AAUW of Missouri for hosting 165 AAUW members from more than ten states. Job well done!

Top Left: N'Kenge Gonzales (DEI for AAUW - MI), Jean Ivory (Birmingham AAUW), Barb Duran (Program co-director AAUW - MI), Carol Arnosky (Midland AAUW), Linda Kevorkian (Program co-director AAUW - MI and Birmingham Branch) and Sally Doty (Treasurer AAUW - MI and Birmingham Branch). Missing from picture is Sheila Blair (President AAUW - MI).

Top Right: Gloria Blackwell, CEO AAUW

Bottom Left: The St. Louis Arch

Bottom Right: Celebrate AAUW - Midwest AAUW Conference.

