



APRIL 2024

Birmingham Branch Bulletin
Birmingham-mi.aauw.net
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Dates to Remember

April 3rd - May 15th @ Noon- Online voting on the Open Enrollment Amendment to the National By-laws

Wed., April 10 - Branch Board Meeting and Branch Annual Meeting at Plum Hollow Country Club

Sat., April 13th - Fashion Designer Showcase and Luncheon sponsored by AAUW Novi-Northville at Schoolcraft College 9:15 am - 1:00pm

Wed., May 8th - Branch Board Meeting and Branch Meeting at Plum Hollow Country Club

Fri. - Sat., May 10 & 11- AAUW MI Annual Meeting and Convention at Detroit Marriot in Livonia



April Luncheon April 10, 2024

**Plum Hollow Country Club
21631 Lahser Rd.**

Southfield, MI. 48033

Social Hour - 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Program: Pamela Craig, a popular speaker, will be taking us back to the Gilded Age and the murder of the century.

Please send your check for \$32.00 made payable to AAUW Birmingham Branch by Wednesday, March 27th to:

Christine Dagenais

1668 Trading Post Lane

Bloomfield Township, MI. 48302

Menu

Quiche Lorraine with ham, bacon, onion and Swiss cheese, House Salad and Fresh Fruit with Family Style Brownies.

When registering, please indicate any dietary requirements.

Valet Parking

ELECTION OF OFFICERS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

Slate of officers to serve from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026

Vice President of Membership: Cam Takach

Treasurer: Susan Wheatley

Recording Secretary: Linda Barclay

STUDY GROUP CALENDAR

APRIL 2024



International Relations 10:00 am, Mon., Apr. 15
 Topic: Religion in India
 Hostess: Linda Schnorbus, lfsrhs@comcast.net

Public Policy 2:30 pm, Thurs., Apr. 11
 Topic: TBD
 Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net

The Breakfast Bunch 10:00 am, Tues., Apr. 23
 Topic: Open Forum
 Little Daddy's, 39500 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
 Contact: Patty Orłowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art. 11:30 am, Thurs., Apr. 25
 Topic: "Diego Rivera and Frieda Kahlo" by Pam Craig
 Contact: Pam Craig, pcaig126@earthlink.net

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres. 1:00 pm, Tues., Apr. 16
 Topic: *Dinners with Ruth*, Nina Totenberg
 Hostess: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

Beyond Adelante 1:00 pm, Tues., Apr. 2
 Topic: *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*, Clint Smith
 Hostess: Beverly Fogelson, bjfodelson@gmail.com

Contemporary Books 12:30 pm, Mon., Apr. 15
 Topic: *Hang the Moon*, Jeannette Walls
 Hostess: Bev Pintar, bpintar@comcast.net

Morning After Readers 10:00 am, Mon., Apr. 8
 Topic: *The Wager*, David Grann
 Hostess: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

Mystery Book Club 1:00 pm, Wed., Apr. 24
 Topic: *My Lady Judge*, Cora Harrison
 Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Potpourri 1:00 pm, Wed., Apr. 24
 Topic: *Chasing History: A Kid in the Newsroom*, Carl Bernstein
 Hostess: Barb Pobst, bpobst@sbcglobal.net

Thurs. Morning Readers. 10:00 am, Thurs., Apr. 18
 Topic: *Trust*, Hernan Diaz
 Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

Green Thumb. 12:30 pm, Tues., Apr. 16
 Topic: Presentation on the Powerscourt Estate Garden (Dublin) by Kathy Rice
 Hostess: Kathy Rice, krice48301@comcast.net

Let's Cook. 12 noon, Tues., Apr. 23
 Contact: Nancy Moses, nmoses1949@aol.com

Needleworks. 11:00 am, Wed., Apr. 17
 Hostess: Patty Orłowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas. 12:30 am, Sat., Apr. 20
NEW LOCATION AND TIME
MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy

La Rondine, Giacomo Puccini

Brunch at 10:30, Maple Leaf Restaurant, 110 West Maple Road
 Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

Theater Goers 2:00 pm, Sun., May 5
Route 66, Meadowbrook, Rochester, Tickets \$39
Reservation Deadline: Friday, April 5

Two Thumbs Up Time TBD, Thurs., Apr. 4
 Hostess: Julie Blair, jablair400@gmail.com

JUST FOR FUN

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

Mah Jongg 2:00 pm, Wed., Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24
 Bloomfield Township Library. Beginners are welcome.
 Contact: Janet Brown, janet.brown@wayne.edu

Bridge
 2nd Friday: 10:30 am, Apr. 12, The Village Club
 Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098
 4th Friday: " 10:30 am, Apr. 26, The Village Club
 Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178



Calendar changes are due by the 17th of the month. Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013
sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915
evorkianlk@gmail.com





President's Message – April 2024

In April it may feel like our branch activities will be wrapping up until September. However, the branch board will continue to meet and plan for the year 2024-2025. Find these plans in the newsletter and email announcements.

This year still has work and fun. The results of our Educational Fundraising endeavor **Pay It Forward** will be announced at the annual meeting in April. We have a new slate of officers to approve for the coming year. Members will be asked to vote on a proposed by-law change. Please educate yourself on the issue as you would for any vote.

The AAUW MI state board has been working hard to bring you this year's state convention. There are many fun activities planned for Friday and useful informative sessions for Saturday. The cost is \$120 but you will be reimbursed for some of the cost by our branch after you have attended the convention. Linda Kevorkian and Sally Doty serve on the state board, and they are excited for you to take part that weekend. We appreciate all that Linda and Sally have done and continue to do on your behalf. Registration online is open – just go to aauwmi.org and search for the convention details.

The branch is working toward better ways to communicate with you about the volunteer opportunities that are available throughout the year. Reaching out to people is gaining momentum. We can once again be known as an organization that works together to bring a better life for some through scholarships and donations of goods and services.

Speaking of reaching out to people, I encourage you to try to meet people in our branch. This past week I had the pleasure of a nice visit with two members. (Yes, you know who you are!) So often we do not take the time to slow down and learn something about a new acquaintance or even someone we have known for a long time. I venture to say that everyone in our branch has a skill, talent, or bit of knowledge that continues to make our branch successful.

See you at the annual meeting on April 10th.

Jean

Membership

March Fundraiser – Educating and Empowering Women to Make History

Donations that were made in In honor/memory of

From:	In honor/memory of:
Diane Anderson	Dorie Marshall
Julie Blair	My mother – Helen Sherman – educator & life long teacher Cheryl Cross Evelyn Scully
Jane DuBay	All Women Pursuing Higher Education
Barbara Gash	Lana Klingensmith
Leona Gates	Ruth Hartman
Anita DeMarco Goor	Dora E. DeMarco
Cindi Hopkins	My mother – Bee Shaver – dedicated teacher
Peggy John	Pam Hoffman
Joellyn Kuhn	Sally Doty
Lois Kurta	Two sisters and my mother
Mary Anne Melhope	Miriam Mercier
Susan Mitchell	Tom Bentley
Susan Mundy	Anita Mundy
Rebecca Perry	Bobbie Guerber
Beverly Pintar	Kay Norton
Bonnie Simms	Ruth Hartman & Margaret “Biani” Moran
Jackie Werner	Linda Ryan
Renee Zimmerman	Pam Hoffman
Anonymous	Norma Darr, Loretta Mirro & Betty Finkbeiner

As of 3/11/024



Jean Ivory discussing membership participation in the March Fundraiser.

Great News – Registration is Now Open for Michigan College Women’s Leadership Training

YOU and your fellow Branch members recently donated to our March Branch scholarship fundraiser. Thanks to your generosity, these funds allow our Branch to send two or three local Michigan college/university women to an exceptional conference scheduled for the end of May 2024.

NCCWSL (National Conference for Women Student Leaders) is an annual AAUW National conference which brings together hundreds of college women from across the nation for an immersive multi-day experience of leadership training, inspiration, and networking. The conference teaches academic, professional, and personal skills, and exposes the students to national women’s issues.

When you donate in the Fall to the AAUW Funds campaign, you help AAUW National sponsor this event. When you donate to our March Branch scholarship fundraiser, as you just did, you help send our local women to this valuable training.

Leadership skills help women students pursue their goals and drive meaningful change in their careers. Our donations and NCCWSL conference skills help empower women to make history!

If you know a young woman enrolled in a Michigan college who might benefit from attending, please contact **Cindi Hopkins by April 10th at hopkins3190@gmail.com**. Scholarship recipients receive airfare, registration, housing, and other trip expenses.

Highlights of Branch Board Meeting



- Explore alternative formats and styles of meetings and member gatherings. This might include catered lunches at Northbrook; game and social get-togethers; membership meetings that delve into a topic or provide an opportunity for members to work together to generate new program projects and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Rescind the zoom meeting format for January and February meetings and return to face-to-face gatherings.
- Include volunteer “job” descriptions in each Bulletin so members can get a good idea of what volunteering for a particular project would involve.
- Explore the possibility of establishing a two-member liaison team for local school districts to identify new opportunities for volunteers.
- Sally Doty reported that, as of Wednesday, March 13th, 92 members have contributed to the Birmingham Branch Foundation which supports local educational scholarships. Sally commented that this constitutes a little over half of our membership. She would ask all members to contribute something, regardless of the amount, toward this important goal of our mission.

Linda Barclay
Recording Secretary

VOTE ON OPEN MEMBERSHIP FOR AAUW

This article includes portions of a statement that has been released by the AAUW Michigan. You can find the entire statement on the AAUW Michigan website at aauwmi.org

WHAT: “AAUW National is proposing a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership.”

WHEN: April 3, 2024, to May 15, 2024

HOW: On-line voting is encouraged but other methods will be announced. More information at our April Annual Meeting on April 10, 2024, at Plum Hollow Country Club.

WHY:

“Our reasons for supporting open membership include the following:

- As AAUW has changed to adapt to the changing world, its membership requirements have changed many times to become more inclusive. This change would allow all who support our mission to stand with us.*
- Those without degrees fight for gender equity just as we do. We can be stronger advocates as we learn more about their battles and their alternate paths to success.*
- We firmly believe that opening membership is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. Open Membership will finally align our membership requirements with our mission and values.*

Voting is a personal privilege in any setting. You are encouraged to read about this proposed by-law change so that you can make your own decision on how to vote. It is not a surprise that AAUW National is supporting this measure and they have listed why they feel it is important to pass this. What may be a surprise to you is that AAUW Michigan is supporting the passage of this by-law based on what AAUW branch members have told them. The following data is interesting.

“In 2021, 63.75% of AAUW of Michigan branch members approved the change. However, only 30.2% of branch members voted. 69.7% of National Members in Michigan approved the change, but only 5.8% voted. An amendment to the bylaws requires a two-thirds majority of voters to pass.”

Based on these numbers a decision could have been made three years ago if more than 6% of Michigan branch members voted. So, I encourage you to investigate **why** this change is being proposed again and **how** it might help to preserve the AAUW and continue its mission to make a difference in the lives of **all** women.

VOTE April 3rd to May 15th





2024 Statewide Convention

Saturday, May 11, 2024
9 AM - 4 PM
Livonia, Michigan

SHAPING THE FUTURE
Together

Sponsor Opportunities
aauw@michigan@gmail.com

Join us for attendee-exclusive **raffles** and **prizes** on Friday and Saturday as well as Friday afternoon **shopping discounts** at Laurel Park Place Mall



Lisa Maatz

Independent Consultant. Nationally sought-after speaker.



Sarah Bannon

Consultant & Specialist. Expert in Board Leadership.



Gretchen Whitmer

Michigan Governor. Invited. Not Confirmed.

Our Presenters:

MOTOWN
in the Woodlight

Friday, May 10, 2024
6 PM - 8 PM

Golden Awards
Motown Bingo & Prizes
Hors D'oeuvres & Cash Bar

Save the Date for the 2024 Statewide Convention! May 11, 2024, Detroit Marriott, Livonia

Arrive on Friday, May 10 to enjoy afternoon shopping discounts at the Laurel Park Place Mall attached to the Detroit Marriott, Livonia where the convention will be held. In the evening there will be a reception with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, the presentation of Golden Recognition Awards to celebrate our members who have been active in AAUW for fifty years or more, and fun and prizes playing Motown Bingo.

The Annual Meeting and Convention will be held on Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Lisa Maatz, former Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy for AAUW (2002-2017), now an independent consultant and nationally sought-after speaker, will be one of our keynote presenters. Sarah Bannon, a consultant and expert in board leadership, will be another featured speaker. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has been invited to attend, but her office is unable to confirm her availability this far in advance.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bound Together: STEM and more!

While Bound Together has been supported by the generosity of the American Association of University Women for many years (ask me about Shopping Day, and what you mean to us!), it's still often the case that we haven't fully shared with everyone what we do as a program - so here's an opportunity to fix that!

Bound Together serves up to 30 Pontiac students, grades 1-8, with after-school tutoring, enrichment programs and nutrition during the academic year. Our home is at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pontiac, and we are incredibly lucky to be in a facility with full classrooms, common area space, a kitchen and a full-size gym and auditorium! Bound Together is entirely free to participating families, and the only requirement is that families reside within a Pontiac zip code.

The most important element of our program delivery is volunteers; folks who are willing to teach, encourage and get to know our kids. Our volunteers come from all walks of life - retirees, business people, high school and college students! Those who are interested fill out a brief application, undergo a background check and engage in an orientation and/or tour before beginning their chosen role. Volunteers select a day (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) to assist, in one of the following primary capacities:

3:45 - 4:30 Pre-program: set up of games/activities in Commons room and gym; set up snack, help supervise students

4:30 - 5:30 Program hour: 1 on 1 tutoring in basic skills, homework help, or in each student's personalized binder

5:00 - 6:00 Dinner hour: prepare a simple dinner, set up tables, serve/clean up, and supervise students

Tuesday - Thursday, we're very fortunate to have the space in which to have individual workstations for tutors/students within a large classroom setting. Our goal is 1:1 tutoring with a consistent tutor/student relationship; we understand our volunteers have many obligations, so please don't worry about needing a sub now and again. All the preparation is done for the tutors as each child has their own binder with work in it, as well as our digital phonics program for children grades 1-5. Often, we are supporting their daily homework in lieu of binder work, so there's always something new!

Last fall, we instituted experiential learning opportunities for our students on Mondays. AAUW has been a huge support of our coding and robotics work, and we are so grateful to members who have come to help our kids:

- First Mondays: Visual art with Pontiac Creative Arts Center
- Second Mondays: Coding/Robotics with Oakland County 4-H
- Third Mondays: William Beaumont School of Medicine
- Fourth Mondays: Physical Fitness/Games with Sheriff PAL

Our facilitators present the program, and volunteers serve as logistics/safety net/extra pairs of hands! As we build this part of the program, we are offering pre-program and program hours without dinner hour.

And in the way of coming events: Bound Together has sponsored a collaborative Vacation Bible School with area Episcopal parishes at All Saints since 2021, providing a chance for a summer camp experience for kids across northern Oakland County. This year's offering is in the planning stages, but we know that it will be an evening program that features dinner at 5, then stories, art, games and science from 5:30 - 7:30.

Our kids LOVED the focus on science last year, and we are definitely looking for volunteers to assist with all aspects of the camp July 15-19!

If you feel that any of the opportunities described above are interesting to you but you'd like to know more, please feel free to email at director@boundtogetherpontiac.org. Or if you prefer, complete an on-line application and we can go from there. We would be thrilled to have you aboard, and I can promise you that you will make a difference, every day!

Michele Wogaman
Executive Director

March Branch Meeting



Rachel Frierson, Director of Programing for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, told the story of the development of the Riverfront.



Eric Lofquist, Director of Development, Oakland Community College, shared snippets of scholarship recipients thank you letters. Below is one of the letters.



02/16/2024

Dear Scholarship Donor:

I am grateful to be a recipient of the AAUW Birmingham Excellence Award for the Winter 2024 semester at Oakland Community College. Thank you for your generosity!

I am from Pontiac Michigan and I'm obsessed with cars. Me and my dad both our own project mustangs we are working on mine is a 2002 mustang gt and his is a 1989 foxbody. I know a bit about cars but I'd love to learn how to weld and paint them that's why I'm in college. Thank you for choosing me it will really help out!

This will really help me further my education and I may even be able to afford my own welder. I never expected to get picked off these but this really did make my year thank you so much and God bless.

I'm currently working on my technical science degree and I have almost half the credits done. Only a year and a half and I should be able to get a pretty high paying job right out of college. If I get another scholarship I want to go to MIT and become an automotive engineer.

I am going to school right now for automotive welding and automotive painting. The person that made the biggest difference in the whole school would be Claud Townstead. He taught the fundamentals class which really inspired to be even more passionate about cars.

Once I graduate I plan on becoming an automotive painter and maybe even open my out shop. I want to do custom work where I can rebuild an entire car from the ground up. I also hopefully will be retired before I'm 40. It might not happen but I'm gonna a work my but off to get there.

Thank you again and God bless you and all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Bryce Goss

The AAUW Central States Regional Conference took place from October 19th through the 21st at the Drury Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Missouri Planning team worked very hard to make this conference a success. Of course, the events began with the song "Meet Me in St. Louis".

Lisa Maatz was the first Keynote speaker. She spoke about highlighting our tasks and not our roles and asked us to rethink our roles.

What is the AAUW? What do we do? How do we identify those impacting the AAUW? What problems can we identify? What are possible solutions?

The agenda was packed: Inclusion-Infusion exercises, sketching each other, and moving to get us out of our seats. Topics included interesting subjects from gender to book censorship. One of the most exciting events at the conference was a Swap Shop where states and branches exchanged information. For example, Arkansas uses different sized candy bars to illustrate pay equity. Gloria Blackwell conducted a Town Hall Meeting; the audience submitted questions to be shared with other branches. It was two and a half days full of information!

We are also planning the 2024 AAUW Michigan Convention at the Livonia Marriott on May 10th and 11th. We visited the mall and talked to several of the businesses connected to the hotel. They may offer discounts to members on Friday night. We are hoping the Keynote Speakers will encourage members to attend. Possible choices are Governor Whitmer and Lisa Maatz.

Linda Kervorkian



Meadowbrook, Rochester

Sunday, May 5, 2pm

Tickets: \$39

Reservation Deadline:

Thursday, April 5

Send checks,
payable to Nancy O'Connor, to:
3220 Vinsetta Boulevard
Y Royal Oak 48073

Take a dollop of grease, mix in some *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, and add a generous dose of *Forever Plaid*, and you've got the high-octane fun of *Route 66!* Beginning with the sounds of 1950s Chicago and traveling along the Main Street of America to the California coast with the surf music of the 1960s, this exciting musical review features 34 of the greatest "Rock and Roll" hits of the 20th century. Songs include "Dead Man's Curve," "King of the Road," "Little Old Lady from Pasadena," "Beep Beep," "Six Days on the Road," "Little GTO," "Fun, Fun, Fun," and many more. Get your kicks with this smash coast-to-coast hit musical revue!