



MARCH 2024

Birmingham Branch Bulletin

Birmingham-mi.aauw.net

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### Dates to Remember

**March** – Women’s History Month

**March** – Spring Scholarship Fund Drive

**Wed., March 13th** – Branch Board Meeting at Iroquois Club at 10:00 AM

**Wed., March 13th** – Branch Meeting at Iroquois Club at 12:00 noon

**Sat. April 13th** – Fashion Designer Showcase & Luncheon from 9:15 am to 1:00 pm at Schoolcraft College sponsored by Northville-Novu AAUW Branch

**Wed., April 10th** – Branch Board Meeting and Annual Branch Meeting at Plum Hollow Country Club

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

**May 10 & 11-** AAUW MI Annual Meeting and Convention at Detroit Marriot in Livonia



**Spring Forward - March 10th**

## March Luncheon

**March 13, 2024**

**Iroquois Club**

**43248 Woodward Ave.**

**Bloomfield Hills, MI. 48302**

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

**Lunch at 12:00 p.m.**

**Program:** Rachel Frierson, Director of Programming, for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, will tell the story of the development of the Riverfront, present information on new programs, and explain how we can get involved.

**Please send your check for \$32, by Wednesday, March 6th to:**

Christine Dagenais

1668 Trading Post Lane

Bloomfield Township, MI. 48302

### Menu

Squash Pecan Soup, Amaretto Chicken/Roasted Stuffed Tomato, Warm Homemade Cookies. No cash bar

When registering, please indicate any dietary requirements.

Hostesses: Mystery Book Group

### March Luncheon Donation

*CARES of Farmington Hills is a community-based food pantry. Each month they serve more than 600 individuals and families who are food insecure. In supporting eight nearby communities in Oakland and Wayne Counties, CARES provides comprehensive services including WIC, AA, NA, suicide prevention, and other 12-step programs. The clients have limited access to everyday necessities, especially items not covered by SNAP (formerly known as food stamps). We can help by donating some of these items in short supply: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, skin lotion, toothpaste, period pads, diapers size 5 & larger, and pull ups for toddlers, all sizes*



# STUDY GROUP CALENDAR

## MARCH 2024

### Community Outreach.

No Program Planned

**International Relations** 10:00 am, Mon., Mar. 4  
Topic: Religion in India  
Hostess: Linda Schnorbus, lfsrhs76@comcast.net

**Public Policy** 2:30 pm, Thurs., Mar. 14  
Topic: TBD  
Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net

**The Breakfast Bunch** 10:00 am, Tues., Mar. 26  
Topic: Open Forum  
Little Daddy's, 39500 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills  
Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

### ARTS & HUMANITIES

**Modern Art.** 11:30 am, Thurs., Mar. 28  
Topic: Caravaggio Exhibit, Toledo Art Museum  
Contact: Bev Pintar, bpintar@comcast.net

### BOOK CLUBS

**Belles Lettres.** 1:00 pm, Tues., Mar. 19  
Topic: *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*, Susan Vreeland  
Contact: Annis Pratt, avpratt@aol.com

**Beyond Adelante** 1:00 pm, Tues., Mar. 5  
Topic: *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, Joseph Ellis  
Hostess: Cindy Clement, lwclem18@gmail.com

**Contemporary Books** 12:30 pm, Mon., Mar. 18  
Topic: *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, Shelby Van Pelt  
Hostess: Beckie Perry, bekieperry@hotmail.com

**Morning After Readers** 10:00 am, Mon., Mar. 11  
Topic: *The Personal Librarian*, Marie Benedict  
Hostess: Julie Matthews, juliemathews796@gmail.com

**Mystery Book Club** 1:00 pm, Wed., Mar. 27  
Topic: *Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies*, Allison Goodman  
Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

**Potpourri** via Zoom 1:00 pm, Wed., Mar. 27  
Topic: *Chasing History: A Kid in the Newsroom*, Carl Bernstein

**Thurs. Morning Readers.** 10:00 am, Thurs., Mar 21  
Topic: *The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World*, Jonathon Freedland  
Hostess: Carolyn Hall, cvcahall@comcast.net

### HOME & GARDEN

**Green Thumb.** 12:30 pm, Tues., Mar. 19  
Topic: Images of flowers, plants, and gardens in art in the DIA collection, presented by Carlene VanVoorhies  
Hostess: Gloria Freeland, glfreeland@gmail.com

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

**Needleworks.** 11:00 am, Wed., Mar. 20  
Hostess: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

### ON THE TOWN

**Opera Divas.** 11:30 am, Sat., Mar 9

#### NEW LOCATION AND TIME

**MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy**

*La Forza del Destino, Giuseppe Verdi*

Possible meeting at nearby restaurant, time and place TBA

Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

**Theater Goers** 2:00 pm, Sun., Mar. 24  
*The Cemetery Club*, Village Players, Birmingham, Tickets \$25  
Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

**Reservation Deadline: Friday, March 1**

**Two Thumbs Up** Time TBD, Thurs., Mar. 7  
Hostess: Carolyn Packard, packard.carolynann@gmail.com

### JUST FOR FUN

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

**Mah Jongg** 2:00 pm, Wed., Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27  
Bloomfield Township Library. Beginners are welcome.  
Contact: Janet Brown, janet.brown@wayne.edu

**Bridge**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday: 10:30 am, Mar. 8, **The Village Club**  
Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098  
4<sup>th</sup> Friday: 10:30 am, Mar. 22, **The Village Club**  
Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178



Calendar changes are due by the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month. Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013  
[sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com)

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915  
[evorkiantlk@gmail.com](mailto:evorkiantlk@gmail.com)





## President's Message – March 2024

“Don't say that Spring has come until you can put your foot on nine daisies.”

We have made it through another winter! It has been a mild winter, but Michiganders know the calendar does not always predict accurate weather. Your AAUW branch is ready to welcome spring. We will again gather for our monthly meeting at the Iroquois Club on Wednesday, March 13th. Our guest speaker's topic is the Detroit's Riverfront. We hope to see many of you there.

The branch Spring Fundraiser is in full swing. Each year we raise funds for the educational scholarship fund to award a scholarship for tuition and other school costs to three high school students and three students who attend Oakland Community College, Lawrence Tech University and Walsh College. Thank you for your generosity each year.

Many people think of Spring as a time to start fresh with Spring Cleaning. If you come across an item that you no longer use but might have some value for someone else, Roberta Russ is happy to sell it on Ebay. The proceeds bring in additional funds for our branch.

Our annual meeting will be held in April at the Plum Hollow Country Club on Lahser Rd. in Southfield. This is an important meeting. You will be able to vote on a new slate of officers and celebrate the success of our Pay It Forward Fundraiser. Our branch activities may be wrapping things up for the year, but have you thought about how you can contribute your time to causes that support our mission? You might be wondering about what you can offer. We can let you know where we need help.

Big Family of Michigan has been one of our volunteer opportunities. They are always in need of people to wrap gifts in the fall to get ready to distribute holiday gifts to the nearly 2,000 foster children in the state. If you can't physically go to the center to wrap gifts, you might be able to work on something at home that can be donated. If you can knit or crochet, they can always use more hats, mittens, and scarves. Each child receives a set to go with a new jacket. If you can sew (or shop), each child receives a blanket. Big Family really appreciated the pillowcases that we made last year. You can make or collect items throughout the year and bring them to a meeting. Everything will be taken to the right place.

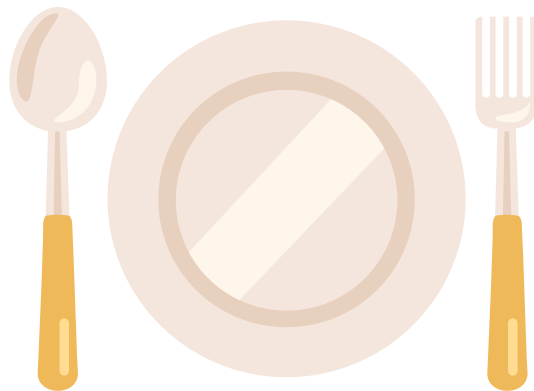
We are off to a slower start with promoting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) but it has been consistent and rewarding. One Monday per month, a small group of our members attend the Funday Monday activity at Bound Together. If more people become involved, we can begin to build a new opportunity to contribute to the educational opportunities for our local schools. Just ask someone what you can do to help. Just know that your time and talents are greatly appreciated. The Branch board is here to help you find your niche in the organization.

# Membership

*in  
loving  
memory*

A Memorial Donation has been made by:

Kitty Stephenson in memory of Dorie Marshall  
Carole Hardy in memory of Dorie Marshall  
W. Todd & Laura Klick in memory of Dorie Marshall  
Norma Darr in memory of Betty Ellison's mother-in-law  
Sally Doty in memory of Dorie Marshall



## April and May Luncheon Reservations

The luncheon on April 10th will be held at Plum Hollow Country Club on Lahser Road in Southfield. Plum Hollow requires us to provide them with an attendance count two weeks prior to the luncheon. With that in mind, please make sure to send in your reservation by **Wednesday, March 27th**. Watch for reminders by email; there will be a signup sheet for reservations at the March luncheon at the Iroquois Club on March 13th. Vegetarian and lactose free options will be available when you confirm. The same situation will occur with the meeting on May 8th at Plum Hollow. The deadline for reservations will be **Wednesday, April 24th**.

The April and May speakers have switched dates. The speaker for April is now Pam Craig, an AAUW member. Pam is a very popular speaker and has given many presentations to various clubs in Michigan. She will take us back to the Gilded Age and the murder of the century. May's speaker is Maria Daniel of Carrera Law offices, PLLC. Her topic is immigration in the US with emphasis on Michigan. She will provide her perspective on the immigration crisis, both positive and negative effects of immigration, and solving the immigration problem.

The cost of the luncheons is expected to remain at \$32. Many thanks to the women who have worked to secure venues for our last three luncheons of the year. Kathy Rice and Sharon McKenna are currently planning the venues for next year. Christine Dagenais keeps track of reservations and special menu requests.

## Did you get your yellow envelope?

### Why did you join AAUW?

Was it because someone invited you to a luncheon meeting? Or perhaps you joined because of a book group or to play bridge? We're proud that the AAUW Birmingham Branch is much more than just a social group. We believe passionately in improving the lives of women and girls. Our mission is to raise funds for educational scholarships.

### What is the need today? Our AAUW Branch scholarships are for local women

and girls who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need. Many of these women and girls struggle to enter or return to education due to absent parents, domestic violence, divorce, single parenthood, no employment or underemployment, and other economic hardship situations.



### What is the cost of today's education?

Branch President Jean Ivory gave us the startling data about the rising cost of higher education. "I attended a public university, which was very affordable at the time. In 1980, the price to attend a four-year college full-time was approximately \$10,231 annually. By 2019 the price increased to \$28,775 annually", and today it's even more. Did you know that along with rising costs, students are also impacted by inflation and less state dollars subsidizing college costs?

**How can you help?** Many of us have grown up with family support, decent housing and good K-12 schools which prepared us for college. For all our scholarship recipients whose experiences have not been the same as ours, their desire to achieve is great but their needs are also great. Be as generous as you can and donate to our scholarship fundraiser. If you can give extra, it will help cover a donation for a member who can't give at this time. Your support is urgently needed to meet our \$30,000 goal.

### Pay It Forward:

- Donate via our Branch website: <https://birmingham-mi.aauw.net/support-the-foundation/> or
- Return the card enclosed in our yellow envelope with your check addressed to AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation and mail to Cindi Hopkins, 3190 Chestnut Run, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, or
- Bring your check to the in-person March 13th Branch Meeting and luncheon.



We've set an ambitious goal, because we're all proud of our remarkable AAUW Branch mission and the difference we make. AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization supporting the education of women and girls. All donations are tax-deductible.



## 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.