

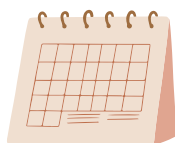


December 2023

Birmingham Branch Bulletin

Birmingham-mi.aauw.net

Vol 54 Issue 4 December 2023



**Dates to Remember**

Sun Dec 3 – International Day for People with Disabilities

Sun Dec 10 – international Human Rights Day

Wed Dec 13 - Branch Bd. Meeting and Holiday Luncheon at the Iroquois Club

Mon Dec 18-26 – Hannukah

Mon Dec 25 – Christmas

Tue Dec 26 - Kwanzaa

Wed Jan 10, 2024 – Monthly Board and Branch Meeting via ZOOM

Wed Feb 14, 2024 – Monthly Board and Branch Meeting via ZOOM

Sat Apr 13, 2024 – Fashion Designer Showcase and Luncheon – 9:15 am-1:00pm; Schoolcraft College and sponsored by Northville-Novii AAUW Branch

Fri-Sat May 10-11, 2024 - AAUW MI Annual Meeting and Convention, Detroit Marriott, Livonia



# December Luncheon December 13, 2023

Iroquois Club  
43248 North Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan  
Social Hour - 11:30 - 12 noon  
Lunch at 12 Noon

**Program:** Using a piano, Mr. Feinberg, instructor of music at Oakland University, will give a very entertaining presentation of Rock and Roll and How It Came to Be.”

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

Christine Dagenais  
1668 Trading Post Lane  
Bloomfield Township, MI 48302

Menu  
Iroquois House Salad  
Apple Orchard Chicken/Vegetable Lasagna  
Warm Homemade Brownies  
Cash Bar  
Vegetarian and Lactose Free option is available.

Hostesses: Contemporary Books

*Happy Holidays*



# STUDY GROUP CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 2023

**Community Outreach.** No Program Planned

**International Relations** 10:00 am, Mon., Dec. 4  
Topic: Provinces of India  
Hostess: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

**Public Policy** 11:30 pm, Thurs., Dec. 14  
Topic: Lunch at Biscuits and Bourbon  
8 N.Saginaw Street, Pontiac  
Contact: Norma Darr, njdarr@hotmail.com

**The Breakfast Bunch** No Program Planned

### ARTS & HUMANITIES

**Modern Art.** 11:30 am, Thurs., Dec. 14  
Topic: "After Cubism: Modern Art in Paris, 1918-1948"  
and tour of DIA archives  
Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com  
**Reservation Deadline: Friday, December 1**

### BOOK CLUBS

**Belles Lettres.** No Program Planned

**Beyond Adelante** 1:00 pm, Tues., Dec. 5  
Topic: *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, Shelby Van Pelt  
Hostess: Susan Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

**Contemporary Books** No Program Planned

**Morning After Readers** 10:00 am, Mon., Dec. 11  
Topic: *My Antonia*, Willa Cather  
Hostess: Kathy Sherman, klsherman27000@gmail.com

**Mystery Book Club** 1:00 pm, Wed., Dec. 6  
Topic: *Devil in the Blue Dress*, Walter Mosley  
Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

**Potpourri** No Program Planned

**Thurs. Morning Readers** 10:00 am, Thurs., Dec. 21  
Topic: *Stoned*, Aja Raden  
Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

### HOME & GARDEN

**Green Thumb.** No Program Planned

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

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

### ON THE TOWN

**Opera Divas.** 12:55pm, Sat., Dec. 9

*Florencia en el Amazonas*

Brunch before the opera at 10:45 at the Gallery Restaurant.

Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

**Theater Goers** 2:00 pm, Sun., Dec. 17

*A Christmas Carol*, Meadowbrook, Rochester

Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

**Two Thumbs Up** Time TBD, Thurs., Dec. 7

Hostess: Norma Darr, njdarr@hotmail.com

### JUST FOR FUN

**Canasta** 1:00 pm, each Monday

Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

**Mah Jongg** 2:00 pm, Wed., Dec. 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, Dec. 8, Village Club

Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098

4<sup>th</sup> Friday: 10:30 am, Dec. 22, Village Club

Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178



For calendar changes contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013

[sharonmck.aduw@gmail.com](mailto:sharonmck.aduw@gmail.com)

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915

[evorkianlk@gmail.com](mailto:evorkianlk@gmail.com)

Information is due by the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.





## President's Message – December 2023



Thanksgiving turkey and leftovers are gone. Did your favorite football teams win? During the month of November, our members helped others by wrapping holiday gifts for foster kids through Big Family of Michigan; some members donated time and gifts for the children who attend Bound Together; others made plans for charitable donations to their favorite organizations.

We have had many reasons to celebrate accomplishments within our organization. Our membership totals are up to 187 people. Nearly all our new members from last year have kept their membership. Once again, we had to say good-bye to some; we keep them in our thoughts and remember them for the many good things they have done for the Branch and for the women our branch helps with scholarships and opportunities.

The AAUW is an organization whose vision is to improve the lives of other women and families. Our local branch accomplishes this through the scholarship program and affiliated organizations. The state branch (AAUW-MI) focuses on the same vision, but they also provide the structure for the local branches to follow, help in any way, and keep us informed about any legislation that also furthers our cause. Just this year, the state of Michigan joined nine other states creating a law against allowing children under the age of sixteen to marry. The Michigan AAUW played a strong part in its passage. This helps the National AAUW organization encourage the other forty states!

Please consider supporting the AAUW with donations to the AAUW Funds so that more states can pass important legislation for women, children, and families. The drive for AAUW Funds will be ending soon; please contact Sally Doty to donate. The state AAUW has been selling holiday greeting cards and greenery – wreaths, porch pots and hanging pots – for their projects to support the local branches. So, the next time you are asked for a donation, ask yourself if you can “give a little bit more.”

For those of you who find it rewarding to give of your time, there will be opportunities for that in the new year. Bound Together needs tutors and help after school from 4:30 to 5:30. We are also trying to get back into STEMed opportunities with Enrichment Mondays (2nd Monday of each month) at the same time. Many of us are hoping to get back to activities after a long absence. Our annual fundraiser will take place in March (National Women's History Month). This event provides the dollars to fund the scholarships we offer to three high school seniors and three college age women. Birmingham AAUW Branch has given out these much-appreciated scholarships for many years. We need your support to keep it going.

As always, if you see a need somewhere that is in alignment with our vision for local women, please bring it to our attention. Please join us in January and February via zoom for our monthly meetings. Kathy Norton has arranged for programs until we return to in-person luncheons in March at the Iroquois Club. We will be meeting at Plum Hollow in April and May.

I hope you all have an opportunity to celebrate and share this holiday season with family and friends. Hope to see you take advantage of an opportunity in the new year to get together with your Birmingham AAUW Branch.

*Jean*

# AAUW Volunteers

On December 1st, AAUW members volunteered at Big Families of Michigan choosing and wrapping gifts for foster children.



Jean Ivory, Susan Mundy, Jane DuBay, Patty Orlowski and Mary Samulski



Nancy Moses, Cathy Hurley and Eileen Hitz



Joan Birnie, Nancy O'Connor, Rita Dates, Becky Valenti, Maureen Jenkins and Karen Brandt.

# AAUW Volunteers

On December 13th, AAUW members volunteered at a STEM activity at Bound Together.



Jean Ivory Patty Orlowski, Jane DuBay, Gail Abraham, Becky Valenti and not pictured Carol Pyke

# AAUW Gives

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS NCCWSL

Each year, AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking at our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This past May, the AAUW-Birmingham Branch Foundation sponsored three young women for the conference.

Nahida and Spirit from the University of Michigan and D'Myra from Western University traveled to the University of Baltimore in College Park, MD.

The young women joined in with over 800 others from around the country in three days of workshops (including STEM). All entered their junior year of college this fall. They shared their experience with pictures and comments.

“This conference was a great networking and learning opportunity for me. Even though I am not a STEM major, I still was able to find plenty of sessions to attend that related to the success of my academic and non-academic career. I hope you will continue in the future funding attendance at this conference.” Spirit

### NCCWSL By the Numbers

- Roughly 50% of NCCWSL attendees are women of color. Many are first-generation college students.
- 1 in 4 NCCWSL attendees major in the STEM fields, followed by majors in business and the social sciences.
- Nearly 500 colleges from 48 states have sent campus leaders to NCCWSL.

“The NCCWSL conference was an exciting experience. The connections I made were definitely everlasting. I try to take advantage of every opportunity that gets handed to me and this was one I definitely will never forget.” D'Myra

Although my interaction with the three young ladies was done only through Zoom. I came away from booking their flights and conference attendance with confidence that they were great choices for 2023. Maybe one day we will be able to meet them in person or hear about them as they move in to their post-college professions.

Cindi Hopkins, Treasurer  
AAUW-Birmingham Branch Foundation



D'MYRA WITH GLORIA BLACKWELL



SPIRIT and NAHIDA

# AAUW Gives

## Bound Together



### THANK YOU FROM BOUND TOGETHER

Certain things one can count on: the sun rising in the east, a little bit of chocolate almost always being perfect, and the AAUW membership who come through with gifts for Shopping Day! The outpouring of generosity for our kids and families was nothing short of miraculous. You may all be sure that your kindness will make all the difference when a child experiences the excitement of giving something wonderful to someone they love. Thank you for making one of the fundamental joys of life available to our kids. And for those of you who energized your entire neighborhoods -- Kathy Stasys, Janna Snyder, Colleen Zematis, and others whose names I may not know -- let's just say that women are powerful!

It doesn't stop there. AAUW volunteers were mission critical in getting our STEM enrichment off the ground successfully on November 13th. The kids had a blast and I hope that volunteers did as well! Thanks to Jean Ivory, Becky Valenti, Patty Orlowski, Carol Pyke, Gail Abraham, and Jane DuBay who brought classroom skills and a sense of humor to our proceedings. Look for information about a training session to be held at All Saints before mid-January. It will give all of us grown-up types a chance to be more hands-on and really dig into the program.

But until then: wishing you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving, and every good thing the season has to offer.

Michele J. Wogaman  
Executive Director  
Bound Together

Your paragraph text



# Membership

Membership VP, Katie Wiese, held a New Member Brunch at her home on November 17th. New and “nearly new” members were invited to meet Board members.



Cheryl Cross, Carolyn Herman, and Colleen Zematis



Recording Secretary, Linda Barclay and Treasurer, Nancy O'Connor

*in  
loving  
memory*

Memorial Donations have been made by:

Contemporary Books in memory of Anita Munday, Susan's Mundy's mother

Sharon McKenna in memory of Lana Klingensmith.

## Birmingham Branch Board Meeting Summary

November 8, 2023

- Sally Doty reported on the Foundation Board Meeting along with recent activities and plans to generate income. She reviewed the distinctions between allocation of dues money, allocation of AAUW Foundation money and the allocation of AAUW fund money. These entities support the mission and values of AAUW, and the options they have
- Sharon McKenna reported that there are 187 members and that of the ten new members in 2022, nine have renewed their memberships in 2023. Study/Interest group leaders should ensure that members keep their dues current.
- Patty Orłowski reminds everyone that due dates are the 20th of each month for newsletter articles.
- Jean Ivory noted that many branches are dealing with the same concerns our branch has regarding membership. Are you interested in helping to archive branch materials? Committee coming soon! Recording Secretary now has two individuals, Linda Barclay and Nancy Moses.