



MAY 2024

Birmingham Branch Bulletin
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Dates to Remember

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

Wed., May 15th at Noon- Online voting on the Open Enrollment Amendment to the National By-laws ends.

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



May Luncheon May 8, 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: Maria Daniel from Carrera Law Office will be speaking about immigration in the US with an emphasis on Michigan.

**Please send your check for \$32.00 made payable to AAUW Birmingham Branch by Wednesday, April 24th to:
Christine Dagenais
1668 Trading Post Lane
Bloomfield Township, MI. 48302**

Menu

Fresh Seasonal Fruit Plate with Chicken Salad

Dessert: Assorted Family Style Cookies

When registering, please indicate any dietary requirements.

Valet Parking

*Happy
Mother's
Day*

*Mother: the most beautiful word
on the lips of mankind.*

Kahlil Gibran

STUDY GROUP CALENDAR MAY 2024



Community Outreach. No Program Planned

International Relations 10:00 am, Mon., May 6
Topic: Overview of Provinces of India and Union Territories
Hostess: Kathy Sherman, klsberman27000@gmail.com

Public Policy 2:30 pm, Thurs., May 9
Topic: TBD
Contact: TBD

The Breakfast Bunch Date and Time TBD
Topic: Open Forum
Little Daddy's, 39500 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art. 11:30 am, Thurs., May 23
Topic: "3 Contemporary Art Movements and 1 Oh My" presented by Julie Blair
Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton@yahoo.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres. 1:00 pm, Tues., May 21
Topic: *Dinners with Ruth*, Nina Totenberg
Hostess: Carol Deyer, cadeyer@gmail.com

Beyond Adelante 1:00 pm, Tues., May 7
Topic: *The Wolf at Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey...*, Kent Nerburn
Hostess: Linda Barclay, barclay1610@gmail.com

Contemporary Books 11:00 am, Mon., May 20
Topic: Luncheon and Planning Meeting
Rusty Bucket, 42874 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills

Morning After Readers 10:00 am, Mon., May 13
Topic: Planning for 2024-2025 Season
Hostess: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

Mystery Book Club 1:00 pm, Wed., May 22
Topic: *Last Remains*, Elly Griffiths
Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Potpourri 12:00 noon, Wed., May 22
Topic: Planning Meeting
Hostess: Susan Wisnieski, sally wiz@gmail.com

Thurs. Morning Readers 10:00 am, Thurs., May 16
Topic: *The Gown*, Jennifer Robson
Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb. 12:30 pm, Tues., May 21
Topic: Tour of MSU Tollgate Farm in Novi
\$12/person, minimum of 8 members required
Hostess: Jackie Werner, jwerner951@gmail.com

Let's Cook. 12:00 noon, Tues., May 28
Contact: Nancy Moses, nmoses1949@aol.com

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

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas. 12:30 pm, Sat., May 11
MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy
Madama Butterfly, Giacomo Puccini
Brunch at 10:30, Maple Leaf Restaurant, 110 West Maple
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., May 2
Hostess: Beverly Pintar, bpintar@comcast.net

JUST FOR FUN

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

Mah Jongg 2:00 pm, Wed., May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Bloomfield Township Library. Beginners are welcome.
Contact: Janet Brown, janet.brown@wayne.edu

Bridge
2nd Friday: 10:30 am, May 10, The Village Club
Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098
4th Friday: 10:30 am, May 24, 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
sharonmckenna@gmail.com

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915
evorkianli@gmail.com





President's Message – May 2024

May is the time of year when people are anxious for summer and outdoor activities. Teachers and students are ready to wrap things up for summer vacation. Families are planning summer trips and activities: baseball games, tennis, swimming, hiking, and biking.

People can use the transition between seasons to reflect on the past year and make plans for the year ahead. For members of organizations such as ours, it is a good time to look back on what we accomplished. Some members participated in a Fun Day Monday STEM experience or tutoring through Bound Together. We wrapped gifts for foster kids and donated to our Pillowcase Project for Big Family of Michigan. Members participated in Study and Interest groups enhancing their lives with books, movies, play productions and art endeavors. The public policy group delves into important topics and this year was no exception. Some members have been attending school board meetings (usually in a virtual format) to learn about changes occurring and their impact on students. I hope that we can soon hear from them to find out what they have learned. In fact, wouldn't it be nice to hear from other groups about their discoveries?

This year our members have shown strong financial support for our scholarship program. I would like to thank the members of the Branch Foundation Board for their commitment to the campaign and bringing it to you. **Julie Blair** and **Katie Wiese** took on the publicity and organization and kept everyone on the foundation board informed and on-task through the whole campaign. Please thank Julie and Katie when you see them for the work they did every week to ask you to Pay It Forward! Other board members were Cindi Hopkins, Sally Doty, Jody Kuhn, Christine Dagenais, Nancy O'Connor, and Jean Ivory. Joan Hanpeter and Eileen Hitz also attended some meetings to offer their insights on the process.

Did you know that you can find out everything (about our branch) you need to know in two places? **Patty Orłowski** and **Kathy Stasys** provide us with a monthly bulletin that shows members participating in past and planning for future events. **Katie Wiese** has put our website "on the map." People from outside our branch have commented on how good it is. I hope you take the time to read both. Thank you to Patty, Kathy, and Katie.

The State AAUW Convention will be held on May 10-11 in Livonia at the Detroit Marriott. The theme is Shaping the Future Together. There will be time for shopping, mingling, and networking; hope to see many of you there.



Educating and Empowering Women to Make History!

Thank you for investing in our Branch mission and investing in the future! Your donations fund life changing college scholarships for area students pursuing their dreams. Never doubt your impact and the difference you are making. Thank you again for your unwavering commitment to improving the lives and opportunities for women and girls.

Judith Adelman
Judith Allie
Diane Anderson
Estelle Babitch
Patricia Bannasch
Gerrie Barclay
Linda Barclay
Eugenie Beall, PhD.
Uma Bedi
Lucy Benham
Patricia Bentley
Diane Bert, PhD.
Joan Birnie
Julie Blair
Karen Boyk
Janet Brown
Cindy Clement
Kathryn Conner
Jane Conway
Cheryl Cross
Christine Dagenais
Norma Darr
Rita Dates
Sandra Dickerson
Beverly Dinsmore
Sally Doty
Jane DuBay
Betty Eliassen
Gloria Freeland
Barbara Gash

Leona Gates
Anita Goor
Ruth M. Goulding
Cindy Guerrieri
Joan Hanpeter
Geraldine Hansen
Eileen Hitz
Cynthia Hopkins
Cathy Hurley
Jane Iacobelli
Jean Ivory
Maureen Jenkins
Peggy John
Patricia Judd
Louise Juntunen
Barbara Keller
Linda Kevorkian
Pam Kiesel
Jody Kuhn
Lois Kurta
Christine Lynn Lapinski
Ann Larkin
Judy Lewis
Sue Longstreet
Charlotte Mahrt
Julie Matthews
Barbara McCormack
Sharon McKenna
Susan McKinnon
Mary Anne Mehlhope

Susan Mitchell
Eva Mitri
Marilyn Monan
Maxine Mondshine
Nancy Moses
Marion Muma
Susan Mundy
Kathy Norton
Vivian Norton
Nancy O'Connor
Patricia Orlowski
Carolyn Packard
Rebecca Perry
Mary Pickett
Beverly Pintar
Barbara Pobst
Ardith Price
Sharon Pugh
Carol Pyke
Julia Reisig
Kathy Rice
Lynda Ronie
Diane Rouse
Christine Salley
Laura Schartman

Linda Schnorbus
Irene Sharpe
Katharine Sherman
Coco Siewert
Bonnie Simms
Elizabeth Snyder
Janna Snyder
Sandra Spencer, PhD.
Janet Stenger
Diane Sullivan
Cam Takach
Carlene VanVoorhies
Dorothy Warren
Jacqueline Werner
Susan Wheatley
Katie Wiese
Sue Winowiecki
Michele Wogaman
Py Wolfe
Rose Zawislak
Colleen Zematis
Renee Zimmerman
Anonymous
Jason and Mikah Klingensmith

Who receives our Branch Scholarships? This year alone we are helping 11 students with undergraduate or graduate level scholarships and funding leadership training for another 3 students. Thank you for your support of women and girls in our community. Throughout the year, we will keep you posted on the difference you are making. Who knows how our scholars will improve our world?

AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization supporting the education of women and girls. All donations are tax-deductible.

Membership

March Fundraiser – Educating and Empowering Women to Make History

Donations that were made in In honor/memory of

From:
Eva Mitri.

In honor/memory of:
Dorie Marshall



A warm welcome to our newest members: Susan Wheatley, Zenell Brown and Patty Beaujon. By introducing your friends to AAUW Birmingham Branch, you help us continue to grow and thrive.



Highlights of April Branch Board Meeting

- Annual Budget 2024-25 – Nancy O’Connor, Treasurer, presented budget details and line items for review. The Board approved it unanimously. Budget will be emailed to the general membership.
- Branch Meeting Changes – the Board heard from Kathy Rice, Kathy Norton and Christine Dagenais regarding changes needed for scheduling luncheons with a reasonable price point and availability. The decision was made to move the monthly luncheons from the second Wednesday to the third Wednesday each month. Following discussion, the Board approved the change for the 2024-25 year.
- At least two monthly meetings (one in fall and one in the spring) will be devoted to branch business and mission-based activities.
- The nominating committee presented the slate of officers to be voted on later at the annual meeting: Cam Takach for VP Membership, Susan Wheatley for Treasurer, and Linda Barclay for Recording Secretary.
- Sally Doty, Foundation President, reported final results from the Annual Scholarship Fundraising Campaign. There was 55% participation from the membership. The amount contributed by members exceeded our goal by more than \$5,000. Total contributions were \$35,170.66.

Linda Barclay
Recording Secretary

Working toward fulfilling our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through education.



On Wednesday, April 9th, I was so happy to be able to announce that 100% of our luncheon attendees had participated in our annual Scholarship Fundraiser. I want to thank all of you who participated in this drive. It has been most successful.

On Thursday, I attended the OCC 2024 Scholarship Luncheon and met two of our recipients. They are both very accomplished young women and very thankful for our support. And I might add, very serious about their education. I am attaching their pictures and the thank you letters we received previously. I thought you might enjoy seeing what these young women look like and reading their stories.

It was very gratifying to be in the room with so many students who benefit from the many scholarships given and to meet other donors including AAUW Farmington and Northville/Novi members.

Sally Doty



Reagan Trey



Cintia Brookins

02/27/2024

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'm a true Michigander, and I am quite proud of the state I live in. I was raised in Sterling Heights, Ann Arbor, Warren, and Romeo, but I have resided in Troy for the last six years. It could be due to the geography of the state I'm from, but I have always been passionate about the environment. I feel driven to make a change in the world; the relationship that we have with our environment (in America) is extremely out of balance, and we are starting to feel the effects of that. That alone is a massive privilege that others throughout the world cannot say. I feel it is my responsibility as an able-bodied person with a strong willpower to do my best to make a positive impact on the world around me.

In being awarded this scholarship, I can continue to pursue my education with confidence. The past few years have been burdensome financially, but I have not let that discourage me from school remaining my top priority. This scholarship gives me hope and faith that there are people out there who recognize the value of education and of students, and your generosity touches me deeply. I am beyond grateful for being nominated for this scholarship. Financial support in such trying times is not lost on me. I honestly feel like I could not do this alone -- I could not do this without the support of people like you.

I returned to college two years ago after a five-year hiatus, and what I have been able to achieve this 'go-round' surprises me even still. I returned to OCC as a Global Studies student very passionate about making a positive change in the world, as I mentioned previously. It was actually a career test online that pointed me in the direction of this degree. Returning to college was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. Not only have I excelled in my classes, but I have gained relationships with people all across the college I hope will last a lifetime. Ideally, I wish to make at least one true meaningful contribution to society. Although I came to OCC as a Global Studies student, through exploring my interests, I am set to major in Integrative Studies with concentrations in Anthropology, Environmental Science, and Hispanic Studies at university. I transfer to U of M Dearborn in the Fall. I came in as a humanities student but leaving as a semi-STEM student. Anything is possible; I know this now. It is my wish to change the world in a positive way, and to be a beacon of hope for those who may feel they have "failed" in life -- I thought I did once too, but I am stronger now than I ever was before. My experience informs my life and motivates me to be a better person all the time.

My preferred modality of taking classes is, no doubt, in person. I find the in person classroom experience to be unparalleled. Although I can understand and respect the accessibility online classes provide for students who may not be able to make it to a physical campus, I find that my own learning takes place best while I am in a physical space surrounded by other students and alongside my professor(s).

I feel incredibly blessed by the connections I have made and the relationships I have built at OCC. Some names that come to mind are: Lonon Monroe (Anthropology), Gina Mandas (Spanish), Celeste Bogan (Math), Lori Linden (English), Patrick Harris (Global Studies), Ryan Pacheco (Science), Rosalind Reeves (ASC Faculty), and Edward Stotts (Counseling). As you can see, I have been impacted by quite a few of my professors and colleagues at the college. Ms. Bogan recommended me for a Group Tutoring position in Math Literacy after my first semester back at OCC, and while I am not tutoring this semester due to scheduling issues, I have grown into the role and benefitted so much more from it than I ever could have imagined. The staff and faculty that I have had the utmost pleasure of getting to know at OCC have been instrumental in my growth and change as a person and student. I would not be the same student today if I wasn't blessed with the presence of the aforementioned faculty members. I truly feel like a better person for knowing all of them.

As I intend on acquiring a Master's and/or PhD someday, after receiving this degree, I will be pursuing my education for years into the future. However, obtaining my degree from OCC will be a massive achievement for me -- one I never thought possible -- so I do not mean to downplay the importance of this degree by mentioning my future plans. This degree is like the springboard of which I can jump off into the next step of my education and life. It is a major milestone for me; I will accept it with honor and pride. Although I don't have any specific career plans, it is my dream to work on a project that has to do with solutions around the environment (specifically with waste) and to make a serious and lifechanging breakthrough in that arena.

There aren't words in the English language that can encompass how grateful I am that there are donors like you who are willing to support students like me in my education. Prioritizing school as number one in my life has not been easy over these past few years. There have been times where I have seriously contemplated switching back to part-time school and going to full-time work again. Being nominated for a scholarship like this encourages me to continue putting school first; it reminds me that there are selfless people out there who are willing to reach out a hand and help. So, thank you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, for reaching out your hand. I wish you the absolute best. Know that your generosity touches me deeply and gives me hope for my future. I couldn't do this without the support of folks like you; I am endlessly appreciative.

Sincerely,

Reagan Irely

02/19/2024

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 was born and raised in Detroit, where I reside. Something interesting about me is that I have a very traditional aspect: gardening, homesteading, etc. I am passionate about growth and making positive memories.

Receiving this scholarship will help lessen the load of paying for my classes out of pocket. With this scholarship, that is almost half of what one class would cost me, allowing to put my savings to work in other areas of my life. Aside from financial assistance, receiving the scholarship feels like a huge accomplishment for me and lets me know that effort does pay off. I am very appreciative of receiving this scholarship, thank you.

I am currently taking my science prerequisites so that I may transfer to the University of Michigan in pursuit of my Bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. This scholarship allows me to pay for my classes and have the opportunity to take another class sooner than later. I have a total of 4 more classes to complete including the one I am taking now.

In the past I've taken in-person classes here at OCC; I had the goal of getting my degree before my second child was born; and I successfully did just that, walking across the stage as an expectant mom. Taking science classes with Dr. Lamb as well as an awesome anthro instructor at the Royal Oak campus yielded a great experience for me. Though I have not participated in any activities in College, I feel connected when I am on campus. I am currently taking one class online for the first time- so far I have no gripes. My past and present counselors have been awesome as well- Michelle May and the most recent counselor who helped me with a class timeline and offered a resource for outside needs. I participate in my religious ministry and solo hobbies outside of school.

My career goal is to become a dental hygienist and I'd like to work with children. I hope to become a well-rounded and educated individual and receive my Bachelor's degree.

Again, thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in providing this opportunity for students like myself. If you wish to contact me, my telephone number is 313-405-9106 and my school email address is brookins.cintia@student.oaklandcc.edu.

Sincerely,

Cintia Brookins



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: Voting ends May 15, 2024 at Noon

HOW: On-line voting is encouraged.

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.





2024
Statewide
Convention

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

SHAPING THE FUTURE
Together

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.

MOTOWN
in the Workplace

Friday, May 10, 2024
6 PM - 8 PM

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

There is still time to register 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.

Contact Sally Doty (248-909-4583) by April 30th if you are interested in attending.

April Branch Meeting



Kathy Norton, Program Presenter: Pam Craig and Jean Ivory



**Our Newly elected Board Members
Treasurer: Susan Wheatley, VP of Membership: Cam Takach
and Recording Secretary: Linda Barclay**



**Pulling out tickets for the 25-25-50 Raffle
Jean Ivory, Linda Kervorkian and Carolyn Packard**



**AND THE WINNERS ARE:
Janet Stenger and Jane DuBay**

Photos taken by our new branch photographer: Jane DuBay

Bound Together



Bound Together

30th Anniversary Open House

THURSDAY, MAY 30TH, 2024

Join us for
tours,
treats and
thank you's!

EVERYONE
WELCOME

WHAT
WE
PROVIDE

- 1:1 Tutoring, Grades 1-8
- FunDay Mondays
- Dinner
- Transportation

All Saints Episcopal Church
171 West Pike Street
2:00 - 6:30 PM

For more information,
please visit our website:

BOUNDTOGETHERPONTIAC.ORG