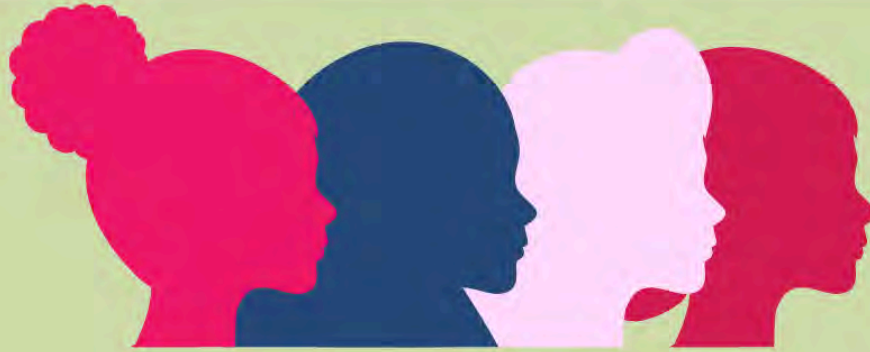


AAUW

September 2024
Birmingham Branch Bulletin
Birmingham-mi.aauw.net
Vol. 52 Issue 1

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Each One, Bring One!



Seeking other active, like-minded women? Seeking to nourish your mind and your soul, or to “be the change” in the world?

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AAUW!

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

10 - NOON

General Meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.

Northbrook Presbyterian Church

22055 W 14 MILE RD, BEVERLY HILLS, MI 48025

For over 100 years, American Association of University Women has advanced equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW's founding in 1888 makes it a premier organization of, by and for women: advocating for equality at the ballot box, in the workplace and in society. Birmingham AAUW brings these ideals to our local community, creating a space in which women focus upon interests, networking and friendship as well as empowerment that benefits individuals and society alike

With initiatives in education and mentoring, support of numerous non-profits via volunteerism and donations, monthly gatherings around speakers and food, and study groups, AAUW Birmingham has something for everyone. So come be a part of it!

Find more information at birmingham-mi.aauw.net/
Interested? Reserve your spot with Cam at 248-515-1733!



PHILANTHROPY

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

EQUITY



President's Message September 2024



Welcome back to the beginning of the 2024-2025 year. As summer transitions into fall, kids and school personnel return to school. Our AAUW Branch will resume the activities you are all familiar with. Our branch is 105 years old and represents many years of contributing to the well-being of women and girls through local programs, scholarships, and learning opportunities for our members. I have borrowed the following paragraph from the AAUW of Michigan webpage as a reminder of what we do and what we can do.

*“AAUW of Michigan branches are the lifeblood of the state organization. Since our founding, they have been doing amazing work to help women and girls achieve their dreams. Whether it’s **Supporting** leadership programs like **NCCWSL**, encouraging girls to flex their science and math skills by **Hosting** Tech Trek STEM events, **Leading** awareness discussions on issues like campus sexual assault and Title IX, **Conducting public policy** forums, or holding book sales and other **Fundraising** events to support scholarships and other activities, our branches are in action and committed to the mission of advancing the lives of Michigan women and girls. We salute their tireless work.”*

It is our hope that we can continue our involvement with NCCWSL, Study and Interest Groups, Scholarship Fundraising Activities, and STEAM events. An effective way to find out how you can become involved is to attend this year’s **Each One Bring One** event on Wednesday, September 18th from 10AM-noon at the Northbrook Presbyterian Church at 14 Mile Road in Beverly Hills. You will have the opportunity to meet up with your AAUW friends and meet new members. If you know anyone that might be interested in joining, this is a perfect time to invite potential members. The Board hopes that you will take time to find out how you can participate. You will have the opportunity to sign up for an activity that is of interest to you.

Our monthly luncheons will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month this year. The change was made to facilitate reservations due to the popularity of 2nd Wednesdays with numerous organizations and clubs.

We are looking forward to a good year and opportunities for you to support women and girls as we have done in the past. A good place to start (or continue) your search for information to help you make educated decisions for the November elections could be the AAUW website. The following link is an example of what you can find there.

100 days to the election: Join AAUW’s “It’s My Vote!” campaign to elevate public discussion and engage gender equity advocates. [Its-My-Vote-2024-Voter-Issue-Guide-English.pdf \(aauw.org\)](#)

Jean

AAUW Birmingham Branch Luncheon Programs October - February 2024—2025



October 16

Mark Farlow Principal of Design Hamilton
Anderson Associates

Mr. Farlow is an architect energetically involved with the revitalization of Detroit. He will tell the story of “Restorative Urbanization: Black Bottom and Paradise Valley.”

Donation collection is for Big Families of Michigan Toy Drive .



November 20

Mary Callahan Lynch,

Artistic Director of the Motor City Lyric Opera

Ms. Lynch is a professional opera singer and former voice coach of Aretha Franklin. Brought up in a musical family, she will tell us how a hometown Birmingham, Michigan girl became the founder and director of the Motor City Lyric Opera.

Donation collection is for Bound Together Holiday Shop.



December 18

Stuart Johnson, Speaker on Jazz and Pops

Mr. Johnson, a popular music historian, takes us back to the days after World War I when a mass migration of African Americans fled north to escape the harsh realities they faced in the South. Many settled in Harlem where they flourished in the Arts that included music and dance.

Donation collection is for Haven of Oakland County.



January 15

Barb Gash, Sue Winowiecki, Judy Allie & Pam Kiesel

These four AAUW members will discuss Women Artists in Paris from 1850 to 1900. We will see how young women, even then, were breaking barriers and showing the world what they could do.

Donation collection is for Ruth Ellis Center .



February 19

Jessica Marcetti, Vista Maria

Ms. Marcetti will speak about the wonderful work Vista Maria is doing for vulnerable youth and human trafficking victims through restorative mental health and transitional living.

Donation collection is for Vista Maria

AAUW Birmingham Branch Luncheon Programs March - May 2024—2025

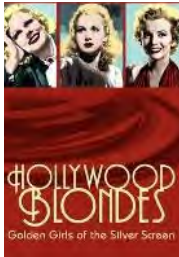


March 19

Bruce Zellers, Oakland University History Department

Professor Zellers will speak about Theodore Roosevelt, the environmentalist president. After becoming president in 1901, he established national forests, bird and games preserves, parks and monuments in over 230 million acres of public land. Today, his legacy can be seen across the country.

Donation collection is for the Michigan Animal Rescue League.



April 16

Pamela Craig,

Ms. Craig, an AAUW member, is a very popular speaker and has given many presentations to various clubs in Michigan. Today, she speaks about Hollywood, Blondes and the Golden Girls of the Silver Screen.

Donation collection is for Hope Against Trafficking.



May 21

Spring Luncheon

After a delicious lunch celebrating our 2024-2025 season, we will have a the AAUW Birmingham Branch Meeting where we will review what was done in 2024-2025 and what we hope to accomplish in 2025-2026

Donation collection is for Open Hands Food Pantry.

General membership meetings are luncheon meetings scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 am. Members are welcome to attend only the program portion of the meeting without attending the luncheon. Check your newsletter for luncheon cost and menu.

Meetings are held at the Iroquois Club, 43248 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Township.

Mail Luncheon Payment to:

Christine Dagenais
1668 Trading Post Lane
Bloomfield Township, MI 48302

News from the Branch



This month's charitable donations go to the Arc of Oakland County. Arc is a non-profit charitable organization that advocates for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and other related development disabilities. They strive for improving systems of support and services, inspire our community and influence public policy. They serve individuals and families throughout Oakland County as a local affiliated chapter of the Arc of Michigan and the Arc of the United States. They have three fundraisers per year. They need volunteers to get ready for and to work for the fundraisers. Arc of Oakland County's address is 1641 Big Beaver Rd., Troy, Michigan 48084, 248-816-1900. Contact person is Christy Kay. Her direct phone is 248-983-3392.

Suggested donations to bring to EOBO are adult and child coloring books, colored pencils, crayons, soft balls, stuffed animals. and hygiene products.

Branch Board Highlights for the June 2024 Meeting

Sally Doty, Foundation President, announced new Foundation officers for 2024-25: Katie Wiese, President; Christine Dagenais, Corresponding Secretary; and Julie Blair, Recording Secretary.

Fifteen Branch members attended the State Convention in May. Our Branch was #4 in per capita donations to national AAUW in Michigan, and #2 in total donations to national AAUW in Michigan. The Board recognized the service of departing Board members Nancy O'Connor and Katie Wiese.

The Board acted on two motions related to promoting volunteer service among members. The first was to support educational success programs, Promise Zone with Oakland University and Bound Together with Pontiac Schools. The second was to develop a plan for volunteer involvement that can be articulated to the membership at EOBO on September 18th.

Discussion also began on reorganizing the structure of the EOBO event. This plan will be completed at the August Board meeting.

Branch Board Highlights for the August 2024 Meeting

The Board reviewed the list of volunteer opportunities currently available. These include Bound Together; Promise Zone; Big Family; Forgotten Harvest and school STEAM projects. Jean is looking for a member to help organize the school STEAM volunteer opportunities.

The Board finalized plans for the Each One Bring One (EOBO) event which will be held Wednesday September 18th from 10:00 to 1:00 pm at the Northbrook Presbyterian Church. The recipient organization for member donations for September is Arc of Oakland County which serves developmentally disabled individuals.

Michelle Wogaman provided a detailed look at Promise Zone and described the kinds of volunteer opportunities that exist there. The Board decided to ask the Director, Coco Moulder, to speak briefly at the October Branch luncheon.

Katie Wiese, Foundation President presented the new Foundation strategic plan and calendar.

Patty Orlowski reminded everyone that we are looking for free or low cost venues for meetings and events. She asks members to send her possibilities.

News from the Foundation

NCCWSL 2024

National Conference of College Women Student Leaders



Thanks to your support, the AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation was able to send three young ladies to the 2024 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, held at the end of May at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

This Fall our scholars are entering their junior year at Dennison University, The University of Michigan and Western Michigan University.

Your efforts allowed us to pay for both their conference fee and their airfare to Baltimore, along with some spending money. Katie Wiese and Cindi Hopkins were able to meet with Leila and Maya after their return, and later Cindi met with Camille.

All three young women reported that the conference was helpful, enjoyable, but too short! They reported that their sessions were impactful to their futures. They learned about personal safety, having a growth mindset, and dealing with microaggression. They enjoyed meeting with other young women from throughout the country.

Hopefully, next year we can again support attendance at this conference, and work with neighboring branches to allow the young ladies to visit Washington while there. Please continue to support these efforts with your donations to the Birmingham Branch Foundation.

Thank You AAUW members!

AAUW Foundation is thrilled to announce the establishment of the AAUW Birmingham Scholarship Endowment for the education of women and girls. This achievement is possible because you have supported AAUW fund raising campaigns and events.



Study Group Calendar September 2024

Community Outreach

No Program Planned

International Relations

No Program Planned

Public Policy

2:30 pm, Thurs., Sept. 12

Topic: Discussion of future programs and projects
Bloomfield Township Library
Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net

The Breakfast Bunch

10:00 am, Tues., Sept. 24

Topic: *Why We Tell Stories...*, Kathleen Ragan
Book discussion led by Beverly Fogelson
Little Daddy's, 39500 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art.

12:30 am, Thurs., Sept. 26

Topic: "Tamara de Lempicka" by Ann Paddy
Bloomfield Township Senior Center
Contact: Cheryl Cross, ckcfcmc@gmail.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres.

1:00 pm, Tues., Sept. 17

Topic: *Covenant of Water*, Abraham Verghese
Hostess: Leona Gates, lech2gates@gmail.com

Beyond Adelante

1:00 pm, Tues., Sept. 3

Topic: *Independence*, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
Hostess: Linda Schnorbus, lfsrshs@comcast.net

Contemporary Books

12:30 pm, Mon., Sept. 16

Topic: *James*, Percival Everett
Hostess: Uma Bedi, umabedi@2Vindustries.com

Morning After Readers

10:00 am, Mon., Sept. 9

Topic: *The Shadow of the Wind*, Carlos Ruiz Zafon
Hostess: Susan Mitchell, susangene@sbcglobal.net

Mystery Book Club

1:00 pm, Wed., Sept. 25

Topic: *How to Solve Your Own Murder*, Kristin Perrin
Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Potpourri

1:00 pm, Wed., Sept. 25

Topic: *The Henna Artist*, Alka Joshi
Hostess: Cindy Clement, lwclem18@gmail.com

Thurs. Morning Readers

10:00 am, Thurs., Sept. 19

Topic: *An Unfinished Love Story*, Doris Kearns Goodwin
Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb.

11:00 am, Tues., Sept. 17

Topic: Field trip to Fleur Detroit – tour garden shop, floral studio, and retail space followed by lunch at Ellen's Bakery and Cafe
Hostess: Jackie Werner, jwerner951@gmail.com

Let's Cook.

12 noon, Tues., Sept. 17

Contact: Erin Silverman, keaksilver@yahoo.com

Needleworks.

12 noon, Wed., Sept. 4

Hostess: Kathy Stasys, kstasys@hotmail.com

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas.

No Program Planned

Theater Goers

No Program Planned

Two Thumbs Up

Time TBD, Fri., Sept. 6

Hostess: Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com

JUST FOR FUN

Canasta

1:00 pm, each Monday

Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Mah Jongg

2:00 pm, Wed., Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25

Bloomfield Township Library. Beginners are welcome.
Contact: Janet Brown, janet.brown@wayne.edu

Bridge

2nd Friday:

10:30 am, Sept. 13, The Village Club

Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098

4th Friday:

10:30 am, Sept. 27, The Village Club

Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178

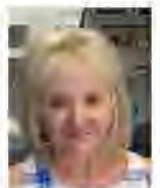


Please submit calendar changes by the 20th of the month.

Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013
sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915
kevorkianlk@gmail.com



In loving memory

A memorial donation has been made in memory of **Stephanie McKenzie** by the following:

Potpourri Book Club

Geraldine Hansen

Joan Antos

Charlotte Mahrt

Jane Conway

AAUW Birmingham Branch

A memorial donation has been made in memory of **Jean Walker** by the following:

Sally Doty

AAUW Birmingham Branch

A memorial donation has been made in memory of **Callie Schmidt** by the following:

Beth Szuhay

Cassie & Angus Blackwood

Yisel Cabrera

John Lawson

Susan Winowecki

Carol Pyke

Sally Doty

Janice Szuhay

Bev Pintar

Kelly & Nora McKinley

Linda Taft

Mary Ann Riedle

Patricia Harris

Christine Dagenais

Patty Orłowski

Uma Bedi

Jim Kelly & Mariam Noland

Jane Conway

Matt & Sue Brown

Ruth Goulding

Rose Zawislak

Sandra Spencer

Robert & Renee Epstein

John & Sheila Brice

Judith Allie

Kathy Rice

Julie Blair

Joan Hanpeter

AAW Birmingham Branch

A memorial donation has been made in memory of **Roberta Russ** by the following:

Julie Blair

AAUW Birmingham Branch

School Board Monitoring Project (SBMP)



The School Board Monitoring Project (SBMP) arose from discussion in the Public Policy group about the banning and removal of books from public school libraries and community public libraries. Members were concerned about the increasing number of organizations and efforts, not only to remove books, but also to remove what Moms for Liberty and similar groups considered objectional content in English, Social Studies and History curricula. Moms for Liberty and similar groups also oppose including LBGTQA+ individuals as protected classes under Title IX laws.

Carol Pyke took the lead in organizing Public Policy members, and others, who volunteered to become observers for specific school district board meetings. *These meetings are available to observe live or pre-recorded on-line as well as in person.*

Carol Pyke, Linda Barclay and Maria Woloson (LWVOA and AAUW) explored the possibility of AAUW and LWVOA working together on this project. Both groups could use information gained from observing school board meetings to educate and inform their own members about school/community activities. Each organization, in accordance with its own vision, mission, values and policies, could then determine whether to shift from observing and educating members, to focusing on some form of advocacy.

Karen Kudla (LWVOA) and Tara Moon (LWVOA and AAUW) developed a Google-based electronic storage system to house simple fillable pdf observation forms. Both groups started assisting volunteers in becoming comfortable using the system. By last Spring 16 volunteers, reflecting both LWVOA and AAUW members, had joined the effort. We are actively looking for at least 12 more volunteers to be able to cover all the Oakland County Schools. We will continue to help train new volunteers as well as set up monthly check-in opportunities for volunteers to share information about controversies and challenges to educational materials and activities as well as the treatment of students, faculty and staff.

If you would like to know more about this important work and/or join our project, please contact Linda Barclay (barclay1610@gmail.com) or Cam Takach (hadaam1@sbcglobal.net). Wouldn't you like to be one of our volunteers? We'd love to have you join us!!

Challenges to Expansion of Title IX Protections: Michigan schools Impacted

Title IX federal regulations were originally developed to protect students, educators and school community members against gender discrimination and sexual harassment in educational institutions which receive federal funding. Recently, these regulations have been amended to include LGBTQ+ individuals and pregnant individuals as protected classes under Title IX.

The new federal rules have been the subject of legal battles across the country and now include Michigan. A U.S. District Court in Kansas issued an injunction blocking the new regulations from being enforced in many schools including 100 Michigan schools and several districts in Oakland County: Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Berkley, Huron Valley, Lincoln Park, Rochester, Troy, and others.

This injunction is temporary while an appeal is studied in the court system. The situation is complicated, however, as all schools must still adhere to the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act which was amended in 2023 to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identities. For more information see Source:<https://www.freep.com/story/news/education/2024/08/02/moms-for-liberty-newlgbta-protections-michigan-schools/74632467007/>

