



Birmingham Branch November 2024 Newsletter

Birmingham-mi.aauw.net
Vol 52 Issue 3

November Luncheon

November 20, 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: Mary Callahan Lynch, Artistic Director of the Motor City Lyric Opera 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.

Menu: Blueberry Muffins, Warm Grilled Chicken Salad
Dessert: Chocolate Chip Cookies

Please send your check payable to AAUW Birmingham Branch
for **\$32**, by **Wednesday, November 13** to:

Nancy O'Connor
3220 Vinsetta Boulevard
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Please indicate any dietary restrictions.

November Community Outreach

Bound Together is a non-profit organization of kids, parents/guardians, volunteers, and program partners working together to provide a caring, nurturing community in the city of Pontiac, MI. This organization provides a program for students Tuesday-Thursday during the school year, consisting of "downtime" between school, 1:1 tutoring, and bus service home.

Donation items should be holiday gifts for adults. Children go into a "Holiday Store" and choose gifts for their parents and grandparents. Gifts can be new or gently used. Ideas for women: bath items, scarves, gloves, umbrellas, jewelry etc. Ideas for men: shaving items, socks, key rings, umbrellas etc. See page 7 for more information.

Please bring your donations to the November Luncheon.



President's Message November 2024

As the calendar year begins to wind down and we enter the season of giving, I would like to thank each of you for what you contribute in terms of time and financial support for our AAUW Birmingham Branch. Because of your generosity, the Branch has been able to provide scholarships and needed items to the various groups with whom we have relationships.

On the second Monday of each month, some of you go to Bound Together to help the kids as they learn about robotics with volunteers from the Oakland County 4-H organization. Our donation items for the November luncheon are gifts for adults so the kids can "shop" for holiday gifts for parents, grandparents, and guardians.

November is also a time for volunteers to spend time at the Big Family of Michigan Center. Seven gifts are chosen from donated items for each foster child in the state (close to 2,000 kids) and then wrapped. This is sure to put smiles on the faces of many kids and the foster parents. These are a few of the activities our branch participates in, fulfilling our mission to empower women and families to improve their lives.

The potential for raising more money for the scholarship fund blossoms when someone steps up for the eBay Sales. Perhaps two members could take this position together. Please contact me for more details. We are missing valuable revenue while waiting for one or two women to accept this task.

When I went to the AAUW state website, I was proud to be part of an organization with so many diligent women. We all wear a few hats, but I would like to take this time to thank Linda Kevorkian, Sharon McKenna, Katie Wiese, and Sally Doty who fulfill roles on the State AAUW Board in addition to what they do for our Branch. These women certainly contribute to the legacy of the Birmingham Branch as leaders in the State. Be sure to thank them when you see them and acknowledge their many contributions.

In the spirit of the season, I encourage you to consider giving to our Branch or one of the organizations mentioned during November and December. Whether it is through a donation, volunteering, or spreading the word about our work, together we can make a lasting difference in our community.

"For one thing we know beyond all doubt: Nothing has ever been achieved.

by the person who says, 'It can't be done.'" Eleanor Roosevelt

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you a happy and meaningful Thanksgiving Season.

Jean

News from the Branch

Highlights from the October Branch Board Meeting

The Branch Foundation Board is working on this year's Impact Report. If you know of any good quotes from current or past scholarship recipients, please send them on to Katie Wiese katie.wiese@att.net.

Our Branch needs two positions filled: Community Outreach Coordinator and E-Bay Coordinator. Please consider helping and contact Jean Ivory who can explain each important position. We need you!

Susan Wheatley, Branch Treasurer, volunteered to serve as the overall Project Manager for the Spring (March) concert of American women's music which the Foundation is organizing. The Branch Board passed a motion to help support the March 23, 2025 concert and concurred with the benchmarks for the event established by the Foundation Board.

The Board discussed Branch member feedback on the Each One Bring One event held in September. Several themes emerged, including the need for more general meetings to elicit member feedback on their preferences about the types of volunteer activities the Branch should develop and promote. Examples proposed include activities that stimulate member social interaction and activities that do not require ongoing weekly or monthly commitments. Discussion on ways to improve Branch member volunteer experiences will continue at the November Board meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Sunday, Nov 3 – Daylight Savings Time Ends

Tuesday, Nov 5 – Election Day – VOTE

Monday, Nov 11 – Veteran's Day

Monday, Nov 11 – Funday Monday: Bound Together, Branch STEM activity

Tuesday, Nov 12 – "Shopping and gift wrapping" for Big Family of Michigan

Thursday, Nov 14 - Happy Hour at The Moose Preserve

Wednesday, Nov 20 – Monthly Luncheon with speaker, Mary Callahan Lynch

Thursday, Nov 21 – Native Women's Equal Pay Day

Thursday, Nov 28 – Thanksgiving

Wednesday, Dec 18 – Monthly Luncheon with Speaker, Stuart Johnson

Sunday, Jan 26, 2025 – Branch social/get-together featuring Sander's Hot Fudge Sundaes at the Iroquois Club.

More Branch News



Downsizing? Reducing Clutter?

Do you have collectibles and other nice things that your children are not interested in? You can donate these items to the AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation. We will pick up your items, and then they will be sold on EBAY. AAUW receives the proceeds which benefit our mission-based projects.

Interested? Contact Katie Wiese (248) 842-8684 katie.wiese@att.net

In loving memory

A donation was made by Linda Kervorkian in memory of Roberta Russ.

A donation was made by Contemporary Books in memory of Callie Schmidt.

A donation was made by Jean Ivory in memory of Carol Ann Angeli.



Volunteers Needed!



Looking for someone to help with EBAY sales. You would need to pick up items and coordinate with our EBAY seller to deliver them to him for sale. This may require occasional storage of items and some trips to Brighton where the seller is located. Proceeds from these sales benefit the Foundation and our mission-based programs.

Interested? Contact Katie Wiese (248) 842-8684 katie.wiese@att.net

News from the Foundation



**It's that time of year, for snowflakes, mittens and end of the year planning. . .
Are You Eligible for This Tax Benefit?**

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you are required to withdraw funds from your IRA. This is called required minimum distribution (RMD). Did you know that this withdrawal gives you the opportunity to make a tax-free gift to the AAUW-Birmingham Foundation?

How it Works:

- Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the AAUW Foundation (Tax ID 87-0783293)
- Your gift would not be subject to federal income tax.
- You may designate the purpose of your donation.
- Donations may be designated for
 - o Scholarships
 - o Endowment Fund
 - o AAUW Funds

Consult your financial advisor ---save on taxes and help provide opportunities for women and girls!



Mission Based Project

Birmingham (MI) Branch

Coco Moulder, Executive Director of the Pontiac Promise Zone, visited the October Branch meeting and spoke about the challenges facing first-generation college students, in particular young women. Established in 2011, the Pontiac Promise Zone provides eligible Pontiac School District students with tuition assistance to earn a two- or four-year college degree.

Despite the financial support provided, many of these students will begin college but, for many reasons, become discouraged and drop out. Our Branch is collaborating with the Pontiac Promise Zone and Oakland University to mentor first-generation college women, help make college accessible and ensure success.



We are working on identifying a time for a Zoom meeting that will focus on:

- Attention to understanding and responding helpfully to our students' social, emotional, and educational situations
- Specific actions/avenues we can be taking to support them in each of these spheres
- Learning about assets that may be available on their campuses that we might encourage them to use
- Considering whether/what kinds of group experiences/campus-based opportunities for social gathering of mentors/mentees that we could co-sponsor

Interested in more information, or in getting involved?

Contact Michele Wogaman, director@boundtogetherpontiac.org



HERE COMES BOUND TOGETHER SHOPPING DAY!

DONATE OR VOLUNTEER FOR
BOUND TOGETHER SHOPPING DAY

12.05.24

DONATIONS ACCEPTED NOV. 1-29

BRING GIFTS FOR OUR KIDS' SPECIAL ADULTS. SET UP FOR THEM TO SHOP
FOR IN THE "BT DEPARTMENT STORE"

Donations of men's/women's gifts of all
kinds gratefully accepted
Bring donations to

AAUW November Luncheon

OR

All Saints, 171 W. Pike, Pontiac
Monday-Friday, 1-4PM
or call at 248-875-5768 for app't

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BOUND TOGETHER?
www.boundtogetherpontiac.org

THANK YOU!!

*New Members are welcomed
at October Luncheon*



Irene Sharpe and new member
Rosalind Griffin-Williams



Janet Stenger and new member Joyce Schomer



Nancy O'Connor, new member Frankie Gruber, and Maureen Jenkins



New member - Patty Beaujon

Study Group Calendar - November 2024

Community Outreach 9:00am, Tues., Nov 12
 Event: Gift Wrapping at Big Family of Michigan
 Contact: Jean Ivory, jean_ivory@comcast.net
 Cathy Hurley, cathyghurley@gmail.com

International Relations 10:00am, Mon., Nov. 4
 Topic: History of Indonesia
 Contact: Kathy Sherman, klsherman27000@gmail.com

Public Policy 2:00pm, Thurs., Nov. 21
 Topic: TBD
 Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net

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

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art 12:30pm, Thurs., Nov. 21
 Topic: "Art Deco and Erte" presented by Pam Craig
 Contact: Judy Niborski, jniborski@att.net

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres 1:00pm, Tues., Nov. 12
 Topic: *Pursuit of Happiness*,
 Hostess: Lois Booth, lderbooth@gmail.com

Beyond Adelante 1:00pm, Tues., Nov. 5
 Topic: *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Seen Deeply*, David Brooks
 Hostess: Cindy Clement, lwclem18@gmail.com

Contemporary Books 12:30pm, Mon., Nov.18
 Topic: *The Women*, Kristen Hannah
 Hostess: Bev Pintar, bpintarbb@gmail.com

Morning After Readers 10:00 m, Mon., Nov. 11
 Topic: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*, Lisa See
 Contact: Kathy Sherman, klsherman27000@gmail.com

Mystery Book Club No Program Planned

Potpourri (via Zoom) 1:00pm, Wed., Nov. 27
 Topic: *The Anxious Generation*;, Jonathon Haidt
 Hostess: Erin Silverman, keaksilver@yahoo.com

Thurs. Morning Readers 10:00am, Thurs., Nov. 21
 Topic: *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, James McBride
 Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb. 11:00am, Tues., Nov. 19
 Topic: *Potluck and 2025 Planning*
 Hostess: Katie Wiese, katie.wiese@att.net

Let's Cook 12 noon, Tues., Nov. 19
 Hostess: Erin Silverman, keaksilver@yahoo.com

Needleworks 12 noon, Wed., Nov. 6
 Hostess: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas 1:00pm, Sat., Nov. 23
MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy
Tosca, Giacomo Puccini
 Brunch at 10:30, Maple Leaf Restaurant, 110 West Maple
 Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

Theater Goers No Program Planned
 Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Two Thumbs Up Time TBD, Fri., Nov. 1
 Hostess: Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com

JUST FOR FUN

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

Mah Jongg 2:00pm, every Wednesday
 Bloomfield Township Library. Beginners are welcome.
 Contact: Janet Brown, janet.brown@wayne.edu

Bridge
 2nd Friday: 10:30am, Nov. 8, The Village Club
 Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098
 4th Friday: 10:30am, Nov. 15, The Village Club
 Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178

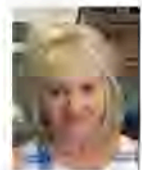


Please submit calendar changes by the 20th of the month.

Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013
sharonmck_aauw@gmail.com

Linda Kevoorkian 248.219.1915
kevoorkianlk@gmail.com



*Happy Thanksgiving
 to you and your family*