



February Luncheon

February 19, 2025

Iroquois Club
43248 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, MI. 48302
Social Hour - 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Menu: Caesar Salad, Beef Lasagna, Rolls & Butter, and Carrot Cake

Program: Jessica 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.

Please send your check, payable to **AAUW Birmingham Branch,
for **\$32**, by **Wednesday, February 12** to:**

Christine Dagenais
1668 Trading Post Lane
Bloomfield Township, MI 48302
Please indicate any dietary restrictions.

February Community Outreach **Vista Maria**

What began as a home for girls and women in need has evolved to encompass mental health services, foster care, adoption, independent living, and secure care for the survivors of human trafficking. It also offers education, after school care and advocacy for the welfare of children.

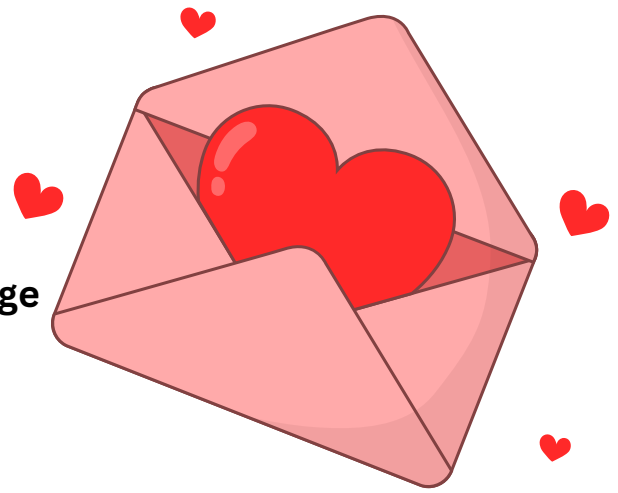
Volunteers are encouraged to help out with a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, basic money management, cooking and baking, life skills, working in the Vista Boutique, to name a few. One can also be a one-on-one mentor, meeting for an hour once a week to discuss life in general, play board games, or do crafts or other activities both enjoy.

Donations: hygiene items (such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, tampons, sanitary napkins), black leggings, and solid color tee shirts in size S to XL.

Please bring your donations to the February Luncheon.



President's Message February 2025



February has certainly brought those of us in Michigan proof that winter is upon us. Hoping you are staying warm amidst all the snow and frigid temperatures. We all know that February is the month we celebrate Valentine's Day but it also reminds me that the work we do to help members of our community is another (important) expression of love.

You might volunteer your time to Bound Together or bring a donation item to the monthly luncheon which goes to help women and families in need. This is, indeed, a show of love for your community. The scholarship program is ongoing throughout the year as we continue the various fundraisers that support the scholarship program. So many of you contribute often to make this happen. It is important that we keep up the work which began before most of us were born. The Birmingham Branch of the AAUW has quite an impressive legacy going back more than a hundred years.

As many of you know, there have been a couple of committee positions that have gone unfilled. One of those is for the eBay committee. This week I received a check for \$684.81 from the eBay collections that have taken place over the past year. Think of what we could do if we had someone to actively keep this endeavor going. A few people have offered to do this as a team but we don't have a place to store items until they can be taken to our liaison who lists the items on eBay. The people who have volunteered have other positions but they understand the importance of keeping this opportunity going. So, if you find yourself with some time to spare, don't hesitate to contact a board member and volunteer for this position.

The arrival of February means that we have one month before the AAUW Funds drive will begin. You will receive more information about that in the coming weeks. Your donations can be kept local, if you prefer, rather than the general national fund. Donations can also be designated for the scholarship fund only. You decide how you want your money to work.

The annual meeting is held in April each year. There will be a few open positions and we would like to have people come forward to find out how they can serve. The positions are typically for 2 years. The nominating committee will be contacting people to encourage you to serve on the board or as a committee chair.

We will be meeting on Wednesday, February 19 and listen to a representative from Vista Maria. This organization focuses on the youth and human trafficking. See you then.

Jean

News from the Branch



Pontiac Promise Zone: Calling all Coaches!

AAUW - Birmingham welcomed Coco Moulder, Executive Director at the Pontiac Promise Zone, to our October luncheon meeting, at which time she shared with us the PPZ's exciting work of supporting Pontiac students in their pursuit of post-secondary education - and we just want to update everyone on the development of our chance to be a part of it.

As Coco shared, this is exciting work, but also very challenging work. We know that many of these students are the first in their families to attend college, whose social nets do not necessarily include familiarity with the college experience - and that, perhaps more crucially, there are additional social and environmental factors making young women in this cohort more vulnerable to feeling overwhelmed and dropping out.

Relationship can make all the difference here, and as we discussed in October: we are hoping to create opportunities for members of AAUW-Birmingham to offer their experience and encouragement to young women enrolled at Oakland Community College and Oakland University as they navigate the waters after high school. Right now, what students really need is that coach: someone to check in on them, ask them the important questions about how/what they're doing, offer them some advice on problem solving and action plans, cheerlead a little to create confidence, and offer some supportive accountability that keeps them from sliding into absenteeism and incomplete workloads.

We are grateful to everyone who has already indicated an interest in participating in this project. Currently, Ms. Moulder is working on guidelines and an orientation presentation that we are hoping will be ready in February. This will be via Zoom, and we will keep you posted on the details as well as providing an opportunity for you to sign up for the event once our date is confirmed. It's hard to overestimate the difference that education can make in the lives of young women, and especially for young women whose life experiences have already included challenges. This project has the potential to change the lives of these girls - and the experience for the coaches. We're thinking that, as the commercial says: *priceless*.

Thank you for engaging in this collaborative and creative process. For more information, please feel free to contact Katie Wiese or Michele Wogaman - and watch your email for an invitation to the orientation soon!

Dates to Remember

Friday, February 14 - Valentine's Day

Monday, February 17 - Presidents' Day

Wednesday, February 19 - Luncheon at the Iroquois Club

March - AAUW Funds Kickoff

Wednesday, March 19 - Luncheon at the Iroquois Club

Wednesday, April 16 - Luncheon and Annual Meeting at the Iroquois Club



More Branch News

January 2025 Branch Board Highlights

President Jean Ivory and Foundation President Katie Wiese updated the Board on Foundation activities and plans. They led a discussion about Foundation plans to develop a google docs-based system to track all Branch activities. Organized, quantifiable information, is needed to pursue grant opportunities. The Foundation wants to seek grants to support critical Branch activities. Katie and Jean will create a draft report form for Board review and implementation with Branch leaders of book groups, study groups, and specific Branch programs and activities. The Foundation will also be developing memorial and legacy donation options, including endowments to support Branch activities and programs. Lucy Benham will work on related legal issues for the Foundation.

Jean Ivory reported that Coco Moulder, Director of the Pontiac Promise Program, is developing guidelines for the Branch volunteer program. Katie and Jean expect the volunteer program with Pontiac Promise Zone will begin in Fall, 2025. This program seeks volunteers to provide mentoring and support to first generation college students to help them navigate and successfully complete post-secondary education and training programs. Susan Wheatley and Patty Beaujon have volunteered to serve as Co- Chairs for The Branch Community Outreach program.

Jean Ivory noted co-chairs for the Branch EBay program are still needed.

Best wishes 🎁

Donations were made by Sharon McKenna and Patty Orlowski to honor Barbara Gash on her 90th Birthday.

Even More Branch News



Purple Rose, Chelsea
Sunday, March 2, 2pm
Tickets: \$45.50

Reservation Deadline:
Thursday, February 16

It's weird when city girl Sienna gets a cryptic phone call about the untimely deaths of some distant family members in small-town Blissfield, Indiana. Weirder yet is the way they expect her to deliver eulogies for relatives she's never met. But weirdest of all: Sienna goes there. Maybe she's hoping for a big inheritance. Maybe she just really needs to get away from her dead-end life in Chicago. But what she never expected was the tumultuous and rewarding relationship that she develops with Millie, the peculiarly sunny employee of the Blissfield funeral home.

Send checks, payable to Susan Winowiecki, to:
2957 Courville Drive
Bloomfield Hills 48302



Nevertheless, She Persisted

Featuring Music by American Women Composers
Sunday, March 23 • 3:00 pm • Orchard Lake Community Church



The Orchard Lake Community Church at 5171 Commerce Rd, Orchard Lake, announces a concert to celebrate Women's History Month. Performers will include professional musicians - singers Julianne Laird, Leslie Mason, Chantel Woodard, Lara Alami, and Susan Wheatley, piano. Selections include classics, ragtime, cakewalks, jazz, and joyful spirituals. The concert is open to the public at no charge, with an option to give a free-will offering to benefit AAUW Birmingham Branch Scholarships.

Even More Branch News



AAUW BIRMINGHAM MEMBERS

**LET'S HAVE
SOME WINTER FUN!!**

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR & MEET NEW FRIENDS

PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 - 3:30pm

**GRAND TAVERN RESTAURANT & BAR
1317 COOLIDGE HWY
TROY, 48084**

PLEASE RSVP TO CAM TAKACH

248-515-1733 or email hadaam1@sbcglobal.net

(just to estimate how much room we need at the restaurant)



Will he see his shadow?

News from the Foundation



Tomorrow Begins Today – Funding the Future

For over 100 years AAUW-Birmingham Branch has supported the education of women and girls. Now you can make a lasting impact and help future generations of women by donating to our new AAUW-Birmingham Endowment for local scholars.

Are you aware that your AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation has designated \$50,000 to establish an educational Endowment fund? This money will be invested and will grow. The annual interest will increase and ensure that we can continue to provide scholarships and educational opportunities for women and girls in perpetuity.

To have enough money to generate adequate interest we need to enlarge this initial gift. We are so thrilled to announce that four more members, Patty Beaujon, Cindi Hopkins, Carlene VanVorheis and an anonymous donor, stepped forward with a donation to the Endowment fund. Thank you for leading the way by becoming founding “Bricks” in our new education building. More than \$11,000 has been added to the \$50,000 start-up funding for this fund.

Interest from the endowment fund remains with our Branch and helps support our mission-based projects which empower women and girls in our community.

Would you like to be one of the early donors – a brick? If you qualify for an RMD, it is a terrific and easy tax-free way to provide more educational opportunities for women. Need more information? Call our Foundation Treasurer, Cindi Hopkins at 248-924-7008 or email her at hopkins3190@gmail.com.

In loving memory



A donation was made by Jody Kuhn in memory of Wayne Pyke.

A donation was made by Sally Doty in memory of Tom Schmidt.

A donation was made by Thursday Morning Readers in memory of Wayne Pyke.

A donation was made by Polly Landgraf in memory of Callie Schmidt.

A donation was made by Linda Schnorbus in memory of Pam Hoffman.

A donation was made by Kathleen Norton in memory of Callie Schmidt.

Photos from the January Luncheon

Members of the Modern Art Study and Interest Group discussing
Women Artists in Paris from 1850 to 1900.



Barbara Gash



Sue Winowiecki



Pam Kiesel



Judy Allie



Your donations to the Ruth Ellis Center

Study Group Calendar - February 2025

Community Outreach **No Program Planned**
 Contact: Susan Wheatley, wheatleyse@gmail.com
 Patty Beaujon, geobeaujon@sbcglobal.net

Thurs. Morning Readers **10:00am, Thurs., Feb. 20**
 Topic: *Table for Two: Fictions*, Amor Towles
 Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

International Relations **10:00am, Mon., Feb. 3**
 Topic: Religions of Indonesia
 Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb. **No Program Planned**

Public Policy **2:00pm, Thurs., Feb. 20**
 Topic: Various discussion topics
 Bloomfield Public Library
 Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net

Let's Cook **12:30pm, Tues., Feb. 18**
 Meeting at Café Dax in the Daxton Hotel
 298 S. Old Woodward, Birmingham
 Hostess: Erin Silverman, keaksilver@yahoo.com

The Breakfast Bunch **10:00am, Tues., Feb. 25**
 Topic: TBD
 Little Daddy's, 39500 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
 Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

Needleworks **12 noon, Wed., Feb. 5**
 Hostess: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

ON THE TOWN

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art **12 noon, Thurs., Feb. 27**
 Topic: Tour of glass collection at Jim McRitchie's home
 Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com

Opera Divas **No Program Planned**
 Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres **1:00pm, Tues., Feb. 18**
 Topic: *Detroit White Girl: A Memoir*
 Contact: Cathy Liller, lillercm@yahoo.com

Theater Goers **2:00pm, Sun., Mar. 2**
Fourteen Funerals, Purple Rose, Chelsea, Tickets \$45.50
Reservation Deadline: Thursday, February 16
 Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Beyond Adelante **1:00pm, Tues., Feb. 4**
 Topic: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, James McBride
 Hostess: Renee Zimmerman, razzjaz2994@comcast.net

Two Thumbs Up **TBD, Fri., Feb. 6**
 Contact: Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com

Contemporary Books **12:30pm, Mon., Feb. 17**
 Topic: *The First Ladies*, Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray
 Hostess: Norma Darr, njdarr@hotmail.com

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

Morning After Readers **10:00am, Mon., Feb. 10**
 Topic: *Black Beauty*, Anna Sewall
 Hostess: Julie Matthews, juliematthews796@gmail.com

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

Mystery Book Club **1:00pm, Wed., Feb. 26**
 Topic: *Sicilian Inheritance*, Jo Piazza
 Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Bridge
 2nd Friday: **10:30am, Feb. 14, The Village Club**
 Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098
 4th Friday: **10:30am, Feb. 28, The Village Club**
 Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178

Potpourri **(via Zoom) 1:00pm, Wed., Feb. 26**
 Topic: *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, Dr. Yuval Noah Harari
 Hostess: Joan Antos, mrsranger2007@gmail.com



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



HAPPY
Valentine's Day 