



## **April Luncheon** **April 16, 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: blueberry muffin, warm grilled chicken salad, carrot cake**

**Program: Pam Craig, AAUW Birmingham Branch member and popular speaker in the Detroit area, will speak about Hollywood Blondes and the Golden Girls of the Silver Screen.**

**Please send your check, payable to **AAUW Birmingham Branch**,  
for \$32, by Wednesday, April 9th to:**

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

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### **April Community Outreach** **Hope Against Trafficking**

Hope Against Trafficking is a non-profit organization answering the call for safe housing and restorative support for adult women survivors of sex and laboring trafficking in SE Michigan.

They offer Magdalene Detroit, a 24 month residential program, which provides rent free housing and comprehensive services focused on physical, mental, and economic transformation. Survivors are referred by law enforcement and prominent local social service organizations. Many of the women have been caught in a cycle of addiction or sexual or economic exploitation, which has been induced through threat, force or coercion.

Donation items include cleaning supplies such as laundry detergents, Windex, dusting products like Pledge, dish washing detergent, cleansers for sink, bathtub and toilets and brooms, mops, brushes and buckets. They can also use personal hygiene products like deodorants, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, tampons, and sanitary napkins.

**Please bring your donations to the April Luncheon.**



## President's Message

### April 2025

April brings showers (flowers), warmer temperatures (we hope), and taxes! Our branch will soon be wrapping up the 2024-25 luncheon series. Kathy Rice developed a good relationship with the Iroquois Club so we could enjoy a nice meal while visiting and listening to speakers. Each month Kathy Norton secured wonderful speakers who supported our goal for women. Christine Dagenais, Nancy O'Connor and Maureen Jenkins collected lunch fees and made sure that the right name tags were there for each of us. Linda Kevorkian conducted the monthly raffle. Thank you to all of these ladies for their great diligence.

In the last few months, the speakers reminded us how we can help young women gain the confidence to pursue a better life. Jessica Marcetti from Vista Maria spoke to us about the services that are provided to young people who, through circumstances beyond their control, need help, guidance, and care. They receive support to heal and achieve skills for success. In addition to staff, organizations like this need assistance and support from the communities around them.

Another group that I recently learned more about is the Pontiac Promise Zone. Coco Moulder, Executive Director for the Promise Zone, held a workshop for members of our branch who volunteered to be coaches for the young women. About ten branch members represented us to learn about what it means to be a coach.

Reflecting on what both groups do for young women, it occurred to me that we have many resources to share with them. We have members who are anxious to volunteer their time and others who freely donate everyday items that are always in short supply.

Given the many changes that have taken place over the last five years, we as a branch have opportunities to be a part of these programs in our own way. Through the AAUW National, there are tools that could be used to contribute to the development of skills necessary for achieving success. I hope that you will do your part so that the Birmingham AAUW Branch can continue the work that was started so many years ago.

Two of our members performed with **The Windover Chamber Singers** on Sunday, March 23rd at the **Orchard Lake Community Church**. The performance, ***Nevertheless, She Persisted***, featured American women composers. Branch members Lara Alami (soprano) and Susan Wheatley (pianist) joined four other performers telling the story about accomplishments of women through music, poetry, and storytelling. A free will offering collected at the church was donated to our scholarship fund. Reverend Richard Lapehn, Orchard Lake Community Church Pastor, welcomed attendees and shared a story of his mother's involvement with AAUW. I would like to thank him and Patty Beaujon, as well as church members and branch members who assisted with the concert and refreshments. Thanks also goes to Susan Wheatley for sharing her musical talent and connections to present an important piece of history during National Women's History Month.

Jean

# Branch News

## *A message from our Corresponding Secretary...*

AAUW's mission is about celebrating and supporting women - and a crucial part of that is supporting and celebrating our members within the Branch. One way in which we do that is to reach out to members, with a note or an email, when we know that words of encouragement, congratulation, condolence, or "thinking of you" might be a welcome addition to someone's day. In the role of Corresponding Secretary for the Branch, I have the pleasure of communicating with our members: in hearing from those who let me know that we should be in touch with someone, as well as getting that gesture out with a stamp or a keystroke.

And this is where you come in! Please do feel free to let me know if a note should be sent to someone in the Branch, either by contacting me at [director@boundtogetherpontiac.org](mailto:director@boundtogetherpontiac.org) or calling/texting my cell at 248-875-5768. Including your name, full name of the proposed recipient and any information pertinent to an appropriate sentiment is very much appreciated.

In the last several weeks, notes have been sent out to:

The family of Carolyn Hall for the loss of their mother

Carol Cummings - a get well greeting

Kathleen Norton - a get well greeting

Linda Kevorkian - a get well greeting

Patti Beaujon for the loss of her husband

Susan Wheatley for the loss of her mother

Carol Pyke for the loss of her husband

Thanks so much to everyone who supports friendship and community within the Branch - and I will look forward to hearing from you!

~ Michele Wogaman

[director@boundtogetherpontiac.org](mailto:director@boundtogetherpontiac.org)

248-875-5768



# More Branch News

## AAUW Birmingham Branch Board Highlights

**March 19, 2025**

### Foundation News

Katie Wiese reported on Foundation projects. She is updating the Branch website. Look forward to lots of changes! The first orientation for Pontiac Promise Zone project was a great success. The Foundation supports this project which helps girls in successfully transitioning to, and completing, post-secondary education. Although donations to the Foundation are welcome any time, during March - Women's History Month - our Branch particularly focuses on seeking member donations to AAUW Funds. Donations to the Foundation will go to AAUW Funds which help support National AAUW's many educational and research projects.

### Branch News

The Board is reviewing options for participating in the city of Birmingham's Hometown Parade festivities in May. A final decision will be made at next month's meeting. Sharon McKenna reported that the Nomination Committee has a slate of candidates for open Board positions. (See page 5). The committee will bring a final slate of candidates for the members to review and vote on at the May meeting. The Board has been considering moving the annual meeting to May to provide more time for members to review and discuss the annual report. That change was finalized. Sharon McKenna and Kathy Rice will provide some fun activities to celebrate the Branch. Mark your calendars for May 21st!!



**Village Players, Birmingham**  
**Sunday, May 4, 2pm**  
**Tickets: \$25**

**Reservation Deadline:**  
**Sunday, April 27**

Welcome to the charming town of River City, where the arrival of a charismatic stranger sets the stage for a whirlwind of laughter, romance, and toe-tapping tunes. In Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man*, follow the delightful escapades of Professor Harold Hill as he ignites the spirit of a sleepy community through the magic of music. But as hearts open and dreams take flight, will Harold's own heart be captured by the enchanting Marian the Librarian? Get ready for an unforgettable journey filled with laughter, love, and the joy of making music together.

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

# Even More Branch News

## ELECTION of OFFICERS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING and LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

Slate of Officers to serve from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027

President – Cindi Hopkins

Vice President of Programs – Kathy Rice

Corresponding Secretary – Michele Wogaman

*In loving memory*



A donation was made to AAUW Funds by Barbara Gash in memory of Carolyn Hall.

A donation was made to the scholarship fund in memory of Pam Hoffman by Renee Zimmerman.

A donation was made to the scholarship fund in memory of Callie Schmidt by Rose Zawislak.

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## Women First International Fund

Women First International Fund has committed to providing multi-year funding and organizational resilience to support groups like Mujeres Libres (Free Women), a women-led grassroots group in El Salvador. Founded by a woman who endured over a decade of wrongful imprisonment under one of the world's harshest legal systems, Mujeres Libres empowers formerly incarcerated women from marginalized communities to rebuild their lives and reclaim their power. In El Salvador, life after prison often means facing barriers to employment, societal stigma and the lasting emotional scars of incarceration and isolation. Mujeres Libres creates pathways to financial independence through skills training, psychological support and seed funding for small businesses. These activities help the women break barriers and challenge the status quo, creating immediate and lasting impact.

~ Linda Schnorbus

# Foundation News



## We've Got a Plan!

When AAUW Birmingham Branch members pay their annual dues, it breaks down this way: \$72 supports AAUW National; \$15 supports AAUW of Michigan, and \$17 supports our Branch operations. However, dues don't provide enough funding to support all the work of AAUW National.

Because we value the important work that AAUW does to empower women and girls, our branch designated March - Women's History Month - as a time to contribute to AAUW National Funds. Although you may donate at any time, this is the only time you will receive emails and donation requests from our branch for this purpose.

Several years ago, the branch established the AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation, a 501-c3 nonprofit. Your donations to the Foundation are tax-free and fund local scholarships and activities to support women/ girls. That is our mission!

Of course, AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation is thrilled to receive donations for any amount and at any time. In the fall we will have a special fundraiser or mailing when members are asked to give to our local scholarships. The Foundation needs to raise nearly thirty thousand dollars to fund the scholarships that we give each year. This is an ambitious goal.

We know you are inundated with donation requests, so the Foundation Board created a plan to limit our fundraising to March for National and September and October for our mission-based activities.

Watch the Bulletin because in the coming months we will describe other ways to financially support the work of AAUW Birmingham.

Just a tip - April is tax time and people are often consulting their financial advisors. Would you be able to make a big impact with a legacy gift, or a donation from your MRD, if you meet the requirement?



Congratulations to Rose Zawislak who won the 50/50 Raffle at the March luncheon.





## Declutter and Help with Scholarship Funding - eBay

Donate items to the Branch to sell on eBay! Not too many projects can be a successful fund raiser for the Branch Foundation while helping you declutter and downsize. Sally Doty, Cindi Hopkins and Katie Wiese have agreed to organize this work; Sally will gladly store items in her garage until we can take them to sell. A tax receipt will be provided.

Our contact seller provided the following suggestions:

- Any smaller collectible items that would sell for over \$50.
- Collectible figurines including Hummel, Anri, Lladro, Andrea by Sadek, Royal Doulton, Herend, Royal Copenhagen and Armani are popular now.
- Graded trading cards, sterling silver items, antiques, newer electronics, signed artwork, collectible toys and sports memorabilia will sell.

If the items aren't too big and are sellable, there is no limit to the things we can offer.

Contact Sally by text or phone call @ 248-909-4583, to make plans to bring items to her home in Southfield. \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks. Think how good it will feel to clean up your home and help with scholarship funding at the same time!



## Great News – Registration is Now Open for Michigan College Women's Leadership Training

The AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation allocates funds that enables our Branch to send two or three local Michigan college/university women to an exceptional conference scheduled for the end of May 2025.

**NCCWSL (National Conference for Women Student Leaders)** is an annual national conference which brings together hundreds of college women from across the nation for an immersive multi-day experience of leadership training, inspiration, and networking. The conference teaches academic, professional, and personal skills, and exposes the students to national women's issues.

Leadership skills help women students pursue their goals and drive meaningful change in their careers. Our donations and NCCWSL conference skills help empower women to make history!

AAUW has passed the "running of the event" to a new organization, NASPA, but the conference continues as it has in the past. If you know a young woman enrolled in a Michigan college who might benefit from attending, **please contact Cindi Hopkins by April 10th at [hopkins3190@gmail.com](mailto:hopkins3190@gmail.com)**. Scholarship recipients receive airfare, registration, housing, and other trip expenses.

## Coaching with the Pontiac Promise Zone

Advocacy for women, and particularly for the empowering impact of education on women's self-determination success, has always been central to the mission and vision of the American Association of University Women. Energized by a new outreach platform that seeks to put that mission to work, AAUW-Birmingham members gathered on Monday, March 3 at All Saints Episcopal in Pontiac for a "lunch and learn" orientation launch to our Promise Zone Coaching Project. Coco Moulder, Executive Director of the Pontiac Promise Zone (and a new member of AAUW!) gave a powerful overview of the challenges faced by first-generation college women who are served by the Promise Zone.

This project seeks to partner AAUW members with young women who are currently studying at Oakland Community College or Oakland University, providing them with encouragement, advice, problem-solving, and maybe some chocolate during final exams! The Pontiac Promise Zone provides financial support for students coming out of Pontiac schools as they pursue their dreams via education - but getting students into their post-secondary program is just the beginning. We know that these students, and perhaps especially our girls, often do not have a place to turn within their familial and social

networks for support or advice about the college experience. That's where AAUW comes in:

with the initial goal of providing those reminders about getting to class, staying on top of the homework, going to office hours - the practical input, and a little bit of cheerleading, as students lean into an environment that is unfamiliar, challenging, and sometimes scary.

We are at the very beginning of this work, and so if you are intrigued: this is the perfect moment! We will be putting together a meeting within the next month to further identify activities and expectations for our members, as well as to think about a calendar that might include group events on campus to allow for community-building among the students and our members alike. We hope to roll out initial contacts with students in May/June (because the summer is still an important time to sustain forward motion) and to hit the ground with impact this fall.

If you would like to receive information about this project, and perhaps to get involved: please scan the QR code in the project flyer, (on page 10), which will put you on the listserve for meetings and communications. As so many of us look for ways to be the change that we would like to see in the world, we're hoping that this project will fill that aspiration in ways that are life-changing -- on both sides of the equation.

**Michele J. Wogaman**

Executive Director, Bound Together

tel: 248-334-3827 | cell: 248-875-5768 | [director@boundtogetherpontiac.org](mailto:director@boundtogetherpontiac.org)



# Calling all coaches!



**Share your time,  
experience and support  
with 1st-gen college  
women!**

## **The Pontiac Promise Zone Coaching Project**

AAUW women are supporting 1st-generation college women as we develop our program help them navigate the challenges of college. Join us as we collaborate with Pontiac Promise Zone and coach their students at OCC and Oakland University, discovering how AAUW women can lift up students, build confidence and skills, and play a role in creating success - one student at a time!

**For more info: 248-875-5768**





# March Branch Activities

## March Luncheon



Historian Bruce Zellers spoke on the Environmental President, Teddy Roosevelt.



Cam Ayoub and Gerrie Barclay



Donations to Michigan Animal Rescue League

## The Concert: Nevertheless, She Persisted



Featured AAUW members, Lara Alami (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Susan Wheatley (in the middle).

## Happy Hour at Grand Tavern



## Breakfast Bunch Speaker on Foster Parenting from Oakland Family Services



Debra Sayen-Merte, Social Worker, Teresa Spong and Linda Schnorbus



# Study Group Calendar - April 2025



## SOCIAL ISSUES

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

**International Relations** **No Meeting Planned**  
Contact: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

**Public Policy** **2:00pm, Thurs., Apr. 17**  
Topic: Various discussion topics  
Bloomfield Public Library  
Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net

**The Breakfast Bunch** **10:00am, Tues., Apr. 22**  
Topic: TBD  
Little Daddy's, 39500 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills  
Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net

## ARTS & HUMANITIES

**Modern Art** **Thurs., Apr. 24**  
Topic: Trip to the Edsel Ford House with lunch on site.  
Contact: Pam Kiesel, pkiesel@aol.com

## BOOK CLUBS

**Belles Lettres** **1:00pm, Tues., Apr. 15**  
Topic: *Tom Lake*  
Contact: Cathy Liller, lillercm@yahoo.com

**Beyond Adelante** **1:00pm, Tues., Apr. 1**  
Topic: *Age of Revolution: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present*, Fareed Zakaria  
Hostess: Linda Barclay, barclay1610@gmail.com

**Contemporary Books** **12:30pm, Mon., Apr. 21**  
Topic: *The Little Liar*, Mitch Albom  
Hostess: Mary Anne Riedle, spendercat@aol.com

**Morning After Readers** **10:00am, Mon., Apr. 14**  
Topic: *Flags on the Bayou*, James Lee Burke  
Hostess: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

**Mystery Book Club** **1:00pm, Wed., Apr. 23**  
Topic: *Whiskey River*, Loren D. Estleman  
Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

**Potpourri** **1:00pm, Wed., Apr. 23**  
Topic: *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*, Jane Goodall  
Hostess: Barb Pobst, bpobst@sbcglobal.net

**Thurs. Morning Readers** **10:00am, Thurs., Apr. 17**  
Topic: *Absolution*, Alice McDermott  
Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

## HOME & GARDEN

**Green Thumb.** **12:30pm, Tues., Apr. 15**  
Topic: Presentation: Microclimates, by Laura Schartman.  
Bloomfield Township Public Library  
Hostess: Pat Bentley, bentzski@outlook.com

**Let's Cook** **12:30pm, Tues., Apr. 15**  
Topic: OCC Culinary Academy  
Contact: Erin Silverman, keaksilver@yahoo.com

**Needleworks** **12 noon, Wed., Apr. 2**  
Contact: Kathy Stasys, kstasys@hotmail.com

## ON THE TOWN

**Opera Divas** **1:00pm, Sat., Apr. 26**  
**MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy**  
*Le Nozze di Figaro*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Brunch at 10:30, Maple Leaf Restaurant, 110 West Maple  
Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

**Theater Goers** **2:00pm, Sun., May 4**  
*Music Man*, Village Players, Birmingham, Tickets \$25  
**Reservation Deadline: Sunday, April 27**  
Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

**Two Thumbs Up** **TBD, Fri., Apr. 3**  
Contact: Judy Allie, jallie2@gmail.com

**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**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday: **10:30am, Apr. 11, The Village Club**  
Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098  
4<sup>th</sup> Friday: **10:30am, Apr. 25, The Village Club**  
Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178



Please submit calendar changes  
by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013  
[sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com)

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915  
[kevorkianlk@gmail.com](mailto:kevorkianlk@gmail.com)

