

# AAUW Birmingham Branch

# Summer Reading



To keep you informed and up-to-date on what is happening in the Branch and Foundation during July and August 2025

## President's Message

### Summer 2025

It's been a beautiful summer; I hope you are enjoying all the wonder we find in Michigan this season! I am humbled and honored to be your next Branch President; my term began July 1<sup>st</sup>. I am so looking forward to working with you and having your help making our Branch stay viable and relevant to our mission.

You may think we've taken the summer off – wrong! Susan Wheatley, Branch Treasurer, has been working with Huntington Bank and the Hospitality Team. We plan to roll out payment for lunches by Zelle this Fall. She has created a QR Code to use with your banking app on your phone to make the payments. More to come about this at the September meeting.

We had breakfast in July with our 2024-25 and 2025-26 scholarship recipients and several branch members. The two recipients from this past year shared quite a bit about NCCWSL with our new scholarship awardees. I hope you enjoy the article that follows about NCCSWL; I am so impressed with how valuable the ladies thought this conference was this year. I am continuing as Foundation Treasurer while serving as Branch President, so I'm very thankful that Jean Ivory has agreed to take over the NCCWSL responsibility this year. Thanks to Patty Beaujon and Cathy Hurley for their work with Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills Schools and Pontiac Schools to find our worthy scholarship recipients.

Thank you also to Kathy Norton and Patty Beaujon who will tackle Community Outreach, planning donations for meetings and volunteer opportunities. And a big thank you to Christine Dagenais who will serve this year as VP for Membership. Cam is struggling and may need to have another surgery; keep her in your thoughts. Thanks to Sharon McKenna who is helping create a Zoom meeting with Study and Interest Group coordinators in August.

Time to start thinking about Fall. Kathy Rice deserves a big "Thank You" for organizing this day, and for lining up all the programs for 2025-26. You will learn more at The Fall Gathering, September 17<sup>th</sup>, once again being held at Northbrook Presbyterian Church. There will be a 50-50 raffle and an entertaining program focusing on the year to come. Find items to donate to eBay and bring to the meeting.

In August you will receive an invite that you can forward to your friends. I am personally going to send it to several friends. They are all wonderful women, college graduates, who I believe will support our mission and recognize that "Tomorrow Begins Today".

See You in September (OK wasn't that a song by The Happenings and then Earth, Wind and Fire?) Sing along as you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Cindi



## NCCWSL 2025

Aisys, Gabby, and Joele, our three scholarship recipients for 2024-25, flew to Washington, D.C. on May 28<sup>th</sup> to attend the NCCWSL conference being held at the University of Maryland in College. The three bonded and enjoyed the whole experience.

The evening and the next day and a half were full of sessions, good food and fun. Here are some of their comments:

I learned many practical skills, in addition to being immersed in to a group of young inspiring women who are committed to rising above the challenges they face, especially women of color and what they experience in day to day workplaces.

“I am a leader, I desire to break barriers, and I want to be a change maker”. (Everyone said it out loud during Resa Lovelace’s (the keynote speaker) session.

I learned how to plan out my finances and use loans and credit cards to my advantage in order to better prepare for my future.



I was grateful for sessions that spoke about money management and salary negotiation, and enjoyed speakers who touched on topics such as “the unspoken workload women are often times expected to fulfill in both domestic and professional roles”.

Overall, it was both validating and inspiring to be a part of, and I am so thankful to the women of the AAUW branch for giving me the opportunity to attend the NCCWSL!

A big thank you to David Herring, Sally Doty’s nephew, who picked up the girls after the conference and took them in to DC for the Old Town Trolley tour. At the end of the tour, he also drove them to the airport. As many of you know who travel, there they ran in to trouble. The plane for them, coming from Detroit, was diverted to Philadelphia due to bad weather and turbulence, and they didn’t catch that plane and get back home until 1:30 am the next day. When Cindi Hopkins picked them up, there was no complaining just appreciation for this opportunity. We have chosen great scholarship women!







## *Hello from AAUW!*

Thinking of you notes have been sent to:

Linda Kevorkian

Cam Takach

A sympathy Card has been sent to:

Sue Longstreet on the passing of her mother and branch member, Elizabeth Flury

A shout out to all who take that moment to reach out to friends and members every day - and I'll look forward to hearing from you whenever you have a suggestion about sending some cheer!

Michele Wogaman

Corresponding Secretary

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



Modern Art Group visits Michigan Central Station on May 22.



## **We're Proud to be a member of AAUW!**

Equity for women is the central mission of AAUW. We know that education for women and girls not only creates vibrant lifelong learners but also empowers that equity for women and families! AAUW Birmingham is celebrating our work within that educational space with projects that support children's learning, put a safety net under our first-generation college women, and support non-traditional post-secondary students as well.

- Through our collaboration with Bound Together, we support children's learning with after school tutoring and Fun-Day Monday experiential learning. Additionally, our members donate generously to the Holiday Shop where students shop for a special adult in their lives.
- Through our collaboration with Pontiac Promise Zone, we provide coaching and encouragement to first generation female students from Pontiac. First generation college students face many obstacles, and our members encourage these women to complete their degrees.
- We work closely with Oakland Community College, Lawrence Technological University and Walsh College to provide scholarships to non-traditional students. Many of the recipients are first generation college students, working mothers, and displaced homemakers. As Gina, Walsh College Scholarship recipient shared:

"I was not born here. I am a mother of four children and support my family by working part-time. I try to provide a positive example for my children and inspire them to always strive for their goals and be ambitious. I want to realize my American dream and impart to my children the unique privilege of being a citizen of the United State. Your financial support is invaluable."

- Each year, we send local college women to NCCWSL—National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Participants join other women from all over the country for leadership training, inspiration, and networking.
- What AAUW started in 1922 with a \$500 scholarship to a Birmingham high school woman has grown significantly. Each year, we provide multi-year scholarships to an outstanding female student at a Birmingham High School, Bloomfield Hills High School and Pontiac High School. As Kelley Williams, Superintendent of Pontiac Schools shared:

"The impact of your scholarship dollars is life changing. Impacting students' futures and having students succeed beyond high school is what we strive to do. It is through people like you that these young people can achieve their goals and live better lives."

**As AAUW members, we're proud of the  
difference we're making.**

**We have lots to celebrate.  
Next month we will ask you to join our celebration!**



## A heartfelt thanks from Bound Together

Our Bound Together Benefit at The Crofoot was an amazing success - in large part due to the support of our many friends at AAUW-Birmingham! Members crowd-sourced a beautiful raffle basket, and there was an "AAUW table" organized by Katie Wiese that brought members out for what we hope was a truly enjoyable afternoon. (Check out some photos below!) We are so grateful for the commitment of AAUW to volunteering for tutoring hours, generous outpourings of donations for our annual Shopping Day event for students, and active support of our mission of education and nutrition for children in Pontiac. Thank you, so much, not just for being a part of our village, but being its leading edge in so many ways!

Michele J. Wogaman

Executive Director, Bound Together







Cathy Hurley with 25-26 Birmingham Scholar, Alanood Btoush.



Two scholarship recipients from 24-25 meet two new scholarship recipients for 25-26 for breakfast. They shared advice and encouraged the new girls to go to NCCWSL next May.



AAUW members volunteer at Forgotten Harvest on June 4th.