

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15,**  
**2025 GENERAL MEETING and LUNCHEON**

The Iroquois Club  
43248 N. Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills

Social Hour – 11:30am - Luncheon - 12 Noon

**Program: Meagan Elliott - Director, Belle Isle Conservancy**

Ms. Elliott will discuss the history and the future of Belle Isle as a city park.

**Menu:** Squash Praline Soup, Chicken Caesar Salad, Rolls & butter, Cookies

Menu to accommodate dietary restrictions available with reservation.

**Reservation Deadline – Wednesday, October 8th**

Please send **\$34** per person, check payable to AAUW Birmingham Branch, to:

Christine Dagenais  
1668 Trading Post Lane, Bloomfield Township, MI 48302  
Cell: 348-755-4372  
cacmdm@gmail.com

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**OCTOBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH**  
**Big Family of Michigan**

Big Family of Michigan is a non-profit organization hoping to make life better for children waiting to be adopted. Volunteers work with organizations to provide the love, care, and items foster children need to become successful adults.

**Donation items:** clothing for children and teens, boys and girls; size 24-month jackets; all kinds of toys, games, activity kits, accessories that children and teens would enjoy.

Big Family needs volunteers to wrap thousands of presents for Christmas, starting in October because they service children and teens throughout the entire state. AAUW usually goes at least twice to wrap. See the website for additional information:  
<https://bigfamilyofmi.org/>

**Please bring your donations to the October luncheon.**



## President's Message October 2025

Fall has arrived; nature's colors are beginning their beautiful display. The Fall Membership Gathering was well attended. We had good food, a chance to catch up with old friends, learn more about new friends, and meet potential new members. It was great morning. Thanks to Kathy Rice and the Board for all their contributions to the day! Our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research was the focus of the day. The Study and Interest Groups were all represented and able to share information with attendees. If you did not have a chance to attend or get to a specific table, please reach out to the leader of that group. Their activities are on the web page and in the trifold.

Katie Wiese, Foundation President, rolled out the Fall Fundraiser that will enable our Branch to continue to award educational scholarships. This year (2025-26) over 15 students will receive a scholarship towards their college education. They are attending MSU, U of M, Oakland U, Ferris State, OCC, Walsh College and Lawrence Technical University; we are giving them over \$25,000. We will also send young ladies to the 2026 NCCWSL Conference and support The Pontiac Promise Zone. Please help us raise those funds! Honor a woman who has made a difference in your life.

The luncheon program calendar is posted on our web page. They are always the third Wednesday of the month at The Iroquois Club. October's notice is included; come and learn more about Belle Isle. Bring donations for Big Family of Michigan. This organization collects gifts all year so that foster children in Michigan can receive something special for the holidays. Nearly two thousand foster children receive seven gifts each including a jacket, hat and mittens, games and toys. The Birmingham Branch has committed to wrapping on Monday, October 13 from 9am to 11am and Monday, November 10 from 1pm to 3pm. Don't wait to be asked! Sign up right now through Sign Up Genius.

Also, this month, you can help A Courageous Voice make candles for their holiday fundraiser. Bound Together, an after-school tutoring program, is looking for tutors and members to assist with special activities. Fun Day Monday, with the STEM Monday activity, needs helpers.

I may be a bit out of commission for a short time with a knee replacement that took place in Sept. BUT I can talk, email, chat – whatever works for you. Hope to see you at the October luncheon.

# News from the Branch

## Branch Board Highlights for the September 2025 Meeting

President Cindi Hopkins announced that she has appointed Laura Schartman to fill the 2025-26 Treasurer's vacancy created by Susan Wheatley's resignation. Members will send thanks to Laura.

Board members did a review of the Fall membership meeting. Several noted that they had received many positive comments from attendees. Cindi thanked VP of Programs Kathy Rice for a wonderful event with strong member participation and a large number of guests.

Kathy Rice suggested considering a separate Spring event, perhaps organized around a book of interest by a Birmingham author. At Cindi's request, Kathy will explore this idea and bring back a proposal to the Board.

The 2025-26 year has begun!



## Hello from AAUW

In the last month, cards have been sent to:  
Katie Wiese - Congratulations on a grandchild  
Susan Wheatley - Thinking of you  
Cam Takach - Thinking of you



Stagecrafters, Royal Oak  
Sunday, April 19, 2026  
2:00pm  
Tickets: \$38

Reservation Deadline:  
**Friday, October 17**

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, the show's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality, and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy, and sadness.

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

**NOTE:** Because Stagecrafters has revised their ticket policy, this is advance notice of a play we will be attending next spring. We can no longer get tickets on consignment, as we have in the past, but must purchase our tickets by Friday, October 17, 2025. Please let Sue know asap if you wish to attend this performance – [suewinow@gmail.com](mailto:suewinow@gmail.com).



**Our Special Interest Groups have been busy. . .**



**Green Thumbs made bouquets at the Trinity Garden**



**Modern Art Group visited the Flint Art Museum**



Congratulations to Annis Pratt who won the 50/50 Raffle at the September meeting. Annis donated her winnings to the Branch.

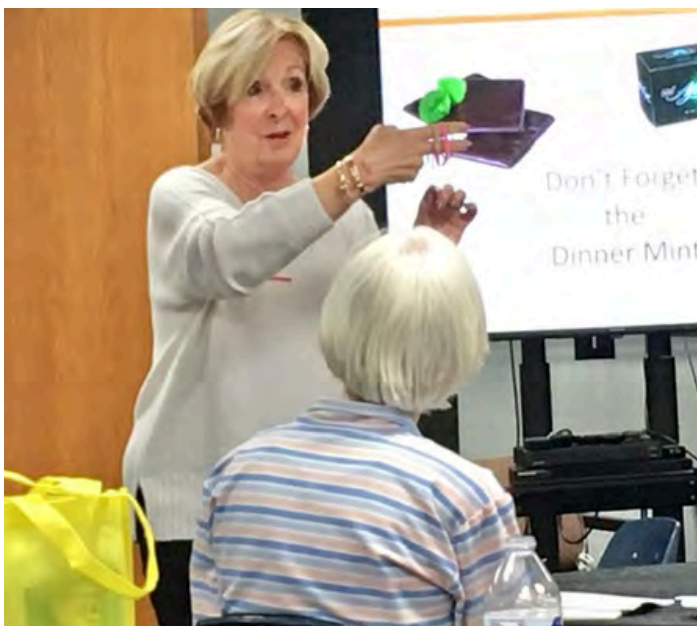


# Service

## IF YOU WANT TO GET SOMETHING DONE . . .

We've all heard the adage: "if you want to get something done, ask a busy person!" Being a member of AAUW connects us with so many of just that kind of person. AAUW women are involved not only in AAUW but sometimes in multiple organizations and projects where their skills, time (and seemingly limitless energy!) are making a difference in the community. As the director of Bound Together, I am privileged to work with a number of fellow AAUW members who volunteer for us. Just one example: Karen Boyk, an AAUW member and supporter of numerous other organizations in Oakland County, came out to Pontiac on September 9th to assist volunteer tutors at Bound Together. She presented a training workshop courtesy of The Einstein Method, offering tutoring tips, tricks and insights into how to motivate students and create success during the tutoring hour. And this is not a one-off for Karen. She has connected Bound Together kids biennially to a non-profit that matches them and their siblings to free bikes (Pedal Works) as well as linking families to clothing and food support from the Assistance League.

There's so much work to be done. Organizations like AAUW, empowering women with connections, with friendship, and with programs to reach out into the community make a difference. Check out this newsletter for updates on outreach opportunities, and take a look at the AAUW website, too, for more information on ways to get involved. Some single events; some things to do as part of a group. You can bring items for non-profits to the luncheons, or maybe you're that weekly volunteer for a lucky organization. We can be the change we want to see in the world; one volunteer hour at a time. Here's a promise: you will make a difference.







*Big Family*  
**OF MICHIGAN**

**It's time to sign up for the very popular  
Christmas Wrapping Extravaganza**

**Monday October 13 from 9:00 to 11:00am**

**and**

**Monday November 10 from 1:00 to 3:00pm**

Pick some friends from AAUW, set up a carpool, and assist Big Family of Michigan! Shop the warehouse (no money needed) and wrap Christmas gifts for foster children around the state.

Everyone loves this volunteer opportunity. Use the link below to sign up and arrange carpools.

### **Sign Up for Gift Wrapping & Carpooling**

**Big Family of Michigan** is a non-profit organization hoping to make life better for children waiting to be adopted. Volunteers work with organizations to provide the love, care and items that foster children need to become successful adults.



Members made candles for A Courageous Voice's Candle Shop. A Courageous Voice is a non-profit dedicated to creating safer environments for children and adults.

# News from the Foundation

## Why a Fall Fundraiser?

Over the last two years, the Birmingham Branch Foundation has worked hard to develop a long-term strategic plan that supports the mission of AAUW. We believe that aligning what we do with our mission is important.

As part of the strategic plan, we set some ambitious goals.

- We focused on having more impact on the lives of women and girls in our local community. Because of this, we expanded the scholarships for high school girls to four years, instead of two. We also looked at how to better support these students, so they achieve a college degree, hence the Pontiac Promise Zone collaboration.
- We created a consistent, limited fundraising plan. We committed to doing the only fundraiser for our scholarships and mission-based programs in the Fall. In addition, we designated March as the month that we support AAUW National programs.
- We created a long-range financial plan, so we could continue to support our mission-based programs for the next generation.

Because of our fundraising plan, we did not have a fundraiser last year. Since the previous fundraiser was in the Spring, we needed to skip a year instead of asking for money twice in one year. To do this, we dipped into our financial reserves.

You have supported us in the past,  
and we are counting on your continued support this Fall,  
Katie Wiese  
President  
AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation



Thanks to all of our members who brought items to the September meeting for EBAY sales:

Patty Bannasch  
Patty Beaujon  
Christine Dagenais  
Jean Ivory  
Judy Niborski

Patty Orlowski  
Carolyn Packard  
Kathy Rice  
Debra Sayen-Merte  
Kathy Sherman

Lisa Speck  
Kathy Stasys  
Janet Stenger  
Katie Wiese

The proceeds from these sales benefit our mission-based projects. Many of us are decluttering and finding that our children do not want our collectibles, silver, or other nice things. If you have additional items to donate contact Sally Doty (248) 909-4583, [sallyaauw@gmail.com](mailto:sallyaauw@gmail.com) or Cindi Hopkins (248) 924-7008, [hopkins3190@gmail.com](mailto:hopkins3190@gmail.com)



BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

## Count me in! It's Who We ARE....

For decades our Birmingham Branch has financially supported women seeking higher education. We are now providing scholarship grants to more than ten women attending seven Michigan public universities: Ferris State, Lawrence Tech, Michigan State, Oakland University, U of M, Walsh College and Oakland Community College. In recent years, we have added a scholarship to a student from Pontiac High School and continued our support into her second year of college. We are proud of these accomplishments. We are proud of the academic achievements of the scholars that we are supporting.

This month we launch our 2025 scholarship fundraising campaign with an ambitious goal of raising \$27,000. We have done it before. We can do it again. Every gift is valued. Every gift can make a difference. If you made a scholarship donation at the September Fall Gathering, we will not ask again. If you couldn't attend this event, watch for a scholarship fundraiser yellow envelope coming in your US mail in October.

**Education of Women—that's our mission.**

**WE ARE the American Association of University Women.**





## **Did You Know that Birmingham AAUW Has Supported College Scholarships for Over 100 Years?**

Yes, the Birmingham branch of AAUW has a long-standing commitment to providing college scholarships to women. In 1922, the Birmingham Loan and Scholarship Fund Association, now known as Birmingham Scholar, was founded to “render financial assistance in the pursuit of higher education to students deemed deserving and worthy of the trustees.” Birmingham AAUW contributed \$500 in 1923 and a whopping \$2,250 in 1923, making them the largest donors to the fund. Other women’s organizations in Birmingham contributed also, including St. James Women, Women’s Literary Club, and Rotary Anns. Additional funds were raised showing movies in the High School Auditorium. Initially students were granted loans ranging from \$25 to \$1000, secured with a promissory note. According to the notes, only two were not paid back. By 1959, 100 loans and scholarships had been granted. In 1984 the bylaws were rewritten, and loans were abolished. At that point scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors and students entering their sophomore year.

Now Birmingham Scholar provides scholarships to about 40 students a year. The awards range from \$3000 to \$1000. The largest number of scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors. Students in their 2nd, 3rd and 4th year can apply also. Students are honored at an Awards Ceremony each May where the student is personally given the award by an AAUW member. AAUW contributes \$3500 each year, which funds one scholarship for a deserving female graduating from a Birmingham High School. The young woman selected is evaluated on scholarship, financial need, community, school, and employment involvement, and educational goals. Because of the long-standing commitment to Birmingham Scholar, the bylaws require an AAUW member to be a trustee on the Board. The young women who have received the scholarships are very thankful and have noted it helps ease the financial burden on themselves or their family.

This year’s recipient is an amazing young woman, Alanood Btoush, a graduate of Groves High School and presently a student at U of M studying Biomedical Engineering. She and her family left Jordan three years ago and relocated to Birmingham. Alanood began at Groves at the beginning of her sophomore year and enrolled in honors and AP classes, earning all A’s. She quickly found her place, becoming active in Model UN, Science Olympiad, student government, gymnastics, and sideline cheer. She is described by her teachers as a natural leader, having exceptional personal qualities, completely bilingual, and having an unwavering dedication to math and science. She has already chaired an international conference on medicine and international policy. Alanood is very grateful for the AAUW scholarship and hopes to attend a meeting in the future.

# STUDY GROUP CALENDAR OCTOBER 2025

## SOCIAL ISSUES

**Community Outreach** 9:00am, Mon, Oct 13  
**Big Family of Michigan – Christmas Gift Wrapping**  
 More information on page 6

Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com  
 Patty Beaujon, geobeaujon@sbcglobal.net

**International Relations** 10:00am, Mon, Oct 6  
 Topic: History and Structure of the United Nations  
 Hostess: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

**Public Policy** 2:00pm, Thurs, Oct 16  
**Bloomfield Township Library**  
 Topic: Discussion of Michigan's declining test scores  
 Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net  
 Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

**The Breakfast Bunch** 10:00am, Tues, Oct 28  
**Kerby's, 43061 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills**  
 Topic: TBD  
 Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net  
 Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

## ARTS & HUMANITIES

**Modern Art** 12:30pm, Thurs, Oct 23  
 Tour: Home of artist Zebel Belian  
 Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com

## BOOK CLUBS

**Belles Lettres** 1:00pm, Tues, Oct 21  
 Topic: *The Women*, Kristin Hannah  
 Hostess: Annis Pratt, avpratt@aol.com

**Beyond Adelante** 1:00pm, Tues, Oct 7  
 Topic: *Sisters of Science: How Four Women Physicists Escaped Nazi Germany...*, Olivia Campbell  
 Hostess: Nancy O'Connor, nancyaoconnor1101@gmail.com

**Contemporary Books** 12:30pm, Mon, Oct 20  
 Topic: TBD  
 Contact: Sandy Dickerson, sandradickerson@comcast.net

**Morning After Readers** 10:00am, Mon, Oct 13  
 Topic: *The Berry Pickers*, Amanda Peters  
 Hostess: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

**Mystery Book Club** 1:00pm, Wed, Oct 29  
 Topic: *The Return of Ellie Black*, Emilio Jean  
 Contact: Joan Birnie, [jb03bps@gmail.com](mailto:jb03bps@gmail.com)

**Potpourri** 1:00pm, Wed, Oct 22  
 Topic: *Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie...the Founding Mothers of NPR*, Lisa Napoli  
 Hostess: Charlotte Mahrt, cmahrt@aol.com

**Thurs. Morning Readers** 10:00am, Thurs, Oct 16  
 Topic: *Mrs. Everything*, Jennifer Weiner  
 Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

## HOME & GARDEN

**Green Thumb.** 12:30pm, Tues, Oct 21  
**Bloomfield Township Library**  
 Topic: *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, Robin Wall Kimmerer  
 Contact: Anita Goor, athenawisdom2@gmail.com

**Needleworks** 11:00am, Wed, Oct 1  
 Hostess: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

## ON THE TOWN

**Opera Divas** 1:00pm, Sat, Oct 18  
 MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy  
*La Sonnambula*, Vincenzo Bellini  
 Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

**Theater Goers** No Program Planned  
**See Important Message about April play on page 3**  
 Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

**Two Thumbs Up** 1:30pm, Thurs, Oct 2  
 Movie: *"Eleanor the Great"* at MJR Troy  
 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, Oct 10, The Village Club  
 Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098  
 4<sup>th</sup> Friday: 10:30am, Oct 24, The Village Club  
 Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178

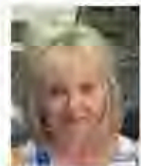


Please submit calendar changes by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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)



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**