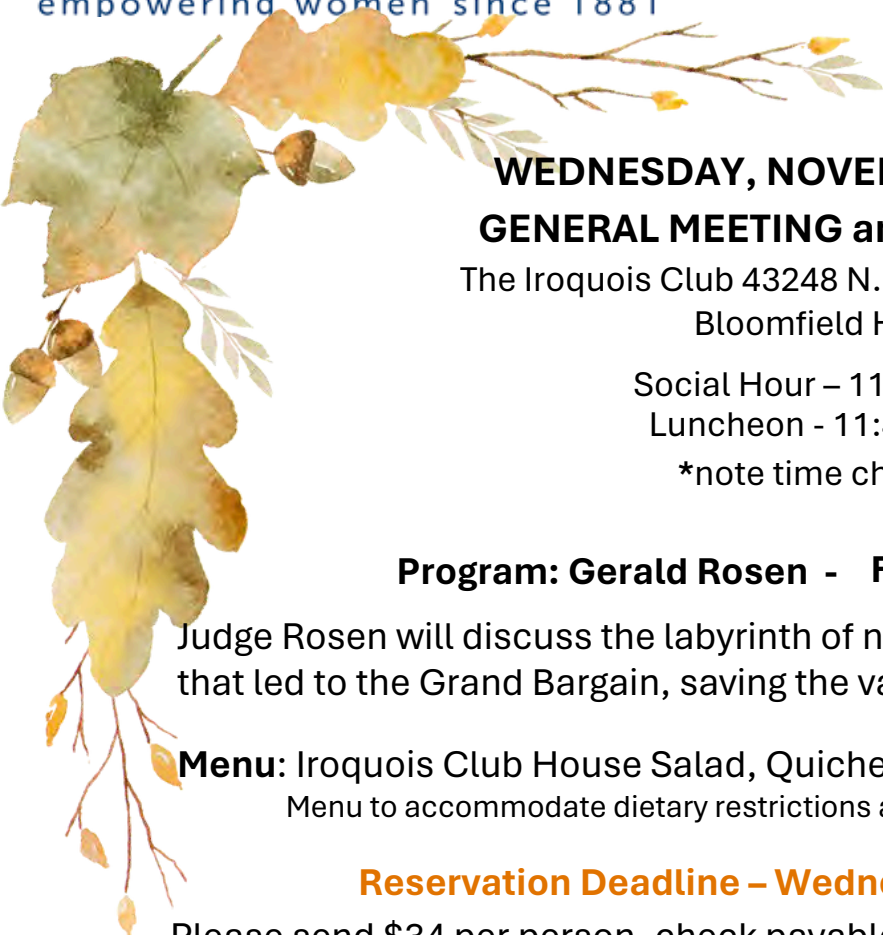




WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

GENERAL MEETING and LUNCHEON

The Iroquois Club 43248 N. Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills

Social Hour – 11:15 am*

Luncheon - 11:45 am*

*note time change

Program: Gerald Rosen - Federal Bankruptcy Judge

Judge Rosen will discuss the labyrinth of negotiations during the Detroit bankruptcy that led to the Grand Bargain, saving the valuable collections of the DIA.

Menu: Iroquois Club House Salad, Quiche, Rolls & butter, Brownies

Menu to accommodate dietary restrictions available with reservation.

Reservation Deadline – Wednesday, November 12th

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

Christine Dagenais
1668 Trading Post Lane
Bloomfield Township, MI 48302
Cell: 248-755-4372
cacmdm@gmail.com

Greeters: Mystery Book Group

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Bound Together

It takes a village, and kids, parents, guardians, volunteers, and program partners, work together to provide a caring, nurturing community in the city of Pontiac, Michigan. This organization provides a program for students Tuesday-Thursday during the school year that includes “downtime” between school and tutoring, 1:1 tutoring for students during the school year, a hot meal and bus service home.

Donation items: Holiday gifts for adults to stock the “Holiday store” where children can select gifts for six adults in their life. Gifts can be new or gently used. If it is a gift that you would be delighted to receive, then it will be a perfect gift for these parents and grandparents. Ideas for women: bath items, manicure sets, hand lotion, scarves, gloves, umbrellas, jewelry, etc. For men, shaving items, after shave lotion, socks, slippers, key rings, umbrellas, etc.

Please bring your donations to the November luncheon.



President's Message November 2025

Of all the holidays we celebrate, Thanksgiving is my favorite. No presents – no trees – just family and good food. The chance to be grateful for all we have, including this wonderful country, is present. May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

The branch has been busy. I just learned that over \$300 has been sent to the branch as a part of our eBay sales. Great job filling a couple of carloads with potential eBay items! You are welcome to bring any additional items to the luncheons, or call/text Sally Doty if you would rather take them to her house.

Volunteers have been at Bound Together, teaching, tutoring, and helping young children. They also have made candles, an important part of the fundraising effort for A Courageous Voice. In October (and again in November), YOU helped at Big Family, wrapping presents for foster children around the State. The table of gifts for Big Family at the October luncheon was overflowing! I'm confident Big Family was very appreciative when they were delivered. Thank you, Kathy Norton!

Speaking of the October luncheon, a big thank you to Kathy Rice for getting Meagan Elliott from the Belle Isle Conservancy as our speaker. This jewel found in our area has so many facets to it; she helped us understand the aquarium, the conservatory, the beach, the bike path around the island, and what the future might bring for the island. Belle Isle is truly a treasure – field trip??

We also were able to hear from Eric Lofquist, in the OCC Development Office, about the students that have been able to move forward because of the scholarships we provide. He certainly brought great stories from them. New scholarship recipients will soon be named.

The Fall Fundraising for our scholarship efforts is well underway. You should have received a yellow envelope with materials, including an outstanding Impact Report, detailing what we have been able to do. Help continue that story, and honor a woman who has made a difference in your life, with a donation.

Hope to see you at the November luncheon as we learn about the Detroit Bankruptcy solutions offered by Judge Gerald Rosen, author of *Grand Bargain: The Inside Story Of Detroit's Dramatic Journey From Bankruptcy To Rebirth*.



News from the Branch



“Hear Ye - Hear Ye - the Social Hour at the November luncheon will begin at **11:15 am**. Lunch will start at **11:45 am** and the program will begin by **12:30 pm**. We will conclude by 1:30 pm. Please do all you can to plan to stay for the whole event. Let’s be good hosts.”

Branch Board Highlights for the November 2025 Meeting

- President Cindi Hopkins welcomed Laura Schartman as our new Treasurer, and thanked her for her willingness to serve in this critical Board function.
- Cindi provided an update on luncheon cost for 2025-26. Driven largely by rising food costs, luncheons will now cost \$34. She also reviewed information on using the Zelle payment option. If a member chooses to use Zelle, an additional \$1.00 will be added to the luncheon fee. As some Board members have requested this payment option for its convenience, Cindi proposed to go forward with setting this up. Board members agreed. Cindi expects to have this option ready for the December luncheon.
- Kathy Rice thanked Board members for their help with the September Fall Gathering event. There were 49 attendees and Kathy received many compliments. Cindi asked all Board members to generate ideas on how to engage more members to attend.
- Kathy Norton, Community Outreach, reported on progress with the Sign Up Genius system. Volunteers provided service to Big Family, Forgotten Harvest, and Courageous Voice, in addition to our monthly donations collected at each luncheon.
- Lucy Benham, By Laws and Policies, reviewed the latest draft of the Branch Policies and Procedures. She will bring the final draft to the next Board meeting for review and approval.
- Christine Dagenais, VP Membership, reported that the new member brunch will be held at Katie Wiese’s house Friday, November 7th at 10 am. We have 15 new members this year and hope to see them all there! Christine also noted that we had 60 registered for the October luncheon – a great turnout to start the year!

Linda Barclay, Recording Secretary

Hello from AAUW

In the last month, cards have been sent to:

Colleen Zematis - Thinking of you
Linda Kevorkian - Thinking of you
Lucy Benham - Thinking of you
Maureen Jenkins - New home
Charlotte Mahrt - New home





Stagecrafters, Royal Oak
Sunday, November 16, 2025
2:00pm
Tickets: \$30

Reservation Deadline:
Friday, November 7

In this coming-of-age story set in 1942 Yonkers, New York, we find the Kurnitz family. Young Arty and Jay come to live with their grandmother and Aunt Bella while their father travels, trying to scrape together money to pay off debts. Colorful characters come into their lives like Uncle Louie, a henchman for some gangsters and Aunt Gert, whose most notable issue is that when she breathes, she tends to suck in while still speaking. Winning the Tony award for Best Play, Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers* centers around the themes of love, responsibility, and the importance of family.

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

Just For Fun

Part of being a member of the AAUW-Birmingham Branch is being able to participate in activities with other members "Just for Fun". The Study and Interest Groups that participate are:

Canasta - meets every Monday at 1:00 pm in members' homes. Please call Sue Winowiecki at (248) 635-0462 if you would like to play. You do not need to know how to play.

Mah Jongg - We play weekly on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 - 4:00 at the Bloomfield Township Public library at the corner of Telegraph and Lone Pine roads. We meet in an open room near the entrance with tables and vending machines. Interested people are welcome to come and watch if they would like to learn the game. We welcome beginning players. Currently eight women are involved but rarely do all eight come on the same Wednesday. Three players are the minimum needed to play; four players are the usual number. If we have five players, we rotate in and out of the game; six to eight players require two tables. Anyone interested can email or text Janet Brown (248-910-6877) to ask questions or talk to one of the other players.

Bridge - meets two Fridays each month, the second and the fourth, at the Village Club. Play starts at 10:30 and ends midafternoon. Enjoy a delicious lunch. Call Sharon Grisdale (248) 926-9536 (H) or (586) 612-5940 (C) if you are interested in playing or subbing. Knowledge of bridge is necessary. This is rubber bridge.



Service



**Our members volunteering as shoppers and wrapping gifts for foster children at Big Family.
Linda Kevorkian, Patty Beaujon, Jane DuBay, Sue Winowiecki, Lisa Speck,
Kathy Norton, Mary Samulski, and Becky Valenti**

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**THANK
YOU!**

It takes a village. Our first Fall Membership Gathering on September 17th was a great success thanks to these generous people.

Chris Dagenais, Sally Doty, Cindi Hopkins, Maureen Jenkins, Linda Kevorkian, Kathy Norton, Nancy O'Connor, Kathy Rice, Kathy Stasys, Michele Wogaman, and Katie Weise. Special shoutout to Michele and Katie for transportation help. My profound apologies if you were forgotten.

Until next year,

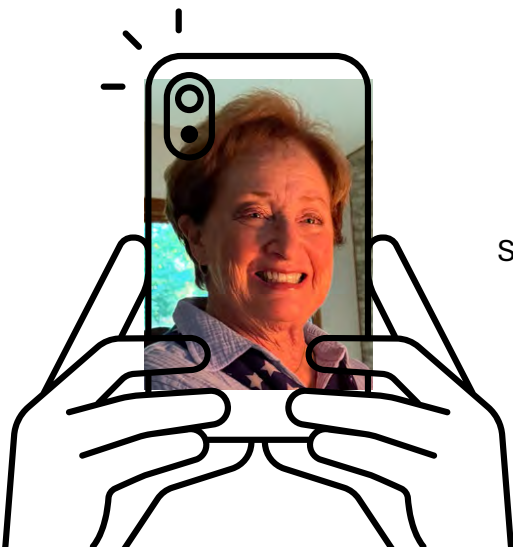
Kathy Rice, Vice-President, Programs

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Congratulations to Joan Birnie who won the 50/50 Raffle at the October luncheon

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Smile for our official Branch photographer, Jane DuBay.

News from the Foundation

Fall Scholarship Fundraiser – My Story

Count Me In!



I contributed to the Fall Fundraiser with appreciation for the strong women in my family who were educated and formidable – supporting other women and demonstrating that NO is never a final answer.

My grandmother Mabel was born on a small farm in Grass Lake, Michigan in 1898. She was the oldest of ten children, eight of whom were girls. At that time girls were not sent to college, so the Washburne daughters created their own “scholarship” program. Each daughter worked and sent her next younger sister through school. Eventually, all earned college degrees.

My other grandmother, Lula, was a Suffragist and a schoolteacher. With her encouragement and guidance, her daughter - my mother, Mary Belle - entered one of the first coeducational journalism classes at Miami University in Ohio. At that time, it was a very hostile environment for working women, but Mary Belle pursued her dream of being a news reporter, found a job, and started her career.

After marrying, Mary Belle joined the Royal Oak Branch of AAUW. She and her AAUW friends were instrumental in convincing Royal Oak to open an Oakland Community College campus which flourished and continues to grow today. I saw firsthand what is possible when women band together for a cause.

Our own AAUW Birmingham Branch has made a big commitment to providing a significant number of scholarships to local women. I am grateful for the many women who came before me and created opportunities for me.



We have set an ambitious 2025 scholarship fundraiser goal, because we can make a difference. We are striving for 100% participation from our Branch, because that is who we are.

Katie Wiese
AAUW Birmingham Branch
Foundation President

Count me in!

It's Who We ARE....

Memorials, Tributes and simply “Thank You”

- A donation was made by Lynda Ronie in memory of Ed Hanpeter.
- A donation was made by Patty Orlowski in memory of Elizabeth Flury.
- Donations were made by Marion Muma, Carolyn and Robert Meza, and Irva Bermudez in memory of Barbara Jean Cochran.
- A donation was made by Sonia Just to honor Betty Finkbeiner.



AAUW: ROOTS & WINGS



Create A Lasting Legacy

If you qualify, it's a good time to think about giving your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA to a qualified charity such as AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation or AAUW National Funds.

By using your RMD to give to AAUW, either locally or nationally, you are making a tax-smart gift toward the future education of women and girls. Checks for the Foundation from RMDs should be made payable to AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation and should be mailed to: Cindi Hopkins, Foundation Treasurer, at 3190 Chestnut Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302.

Create a legacy that helps provide a path to higher education and economic security!

Of course, it is always important to consult an expert before making any decision, and our favorite tax expert, Branch member Jody Kuhn, shared this important information:

Beginning in 2025, new rules will apply to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) that may affect your retirement planning. The required beginning age for RMDs will be 73 for individuals who turned 72 after December 31, 2022, and before January 1, 2033, and will increase to 75 for those turning 74 after December 31, 2032.

Your first RMD must be taken in the year you reach age 73, but you may delay this first withdrawal until April 1 of the following year; for example, if you turn 73 in 2024, your first RMD is due by April 1, 2025, and your second by December 31, 2025. The amount of your RMD is calculated by dividing your prior December 31 account balance by a life expectancy factor from IRS Publication 590-B, and the updated tables introduced in 2022 remain in effect for 2025. Additionally, the good faith standard for governmental plans will no longer apply after January 1, 2025, which may change how RMDs are handled for certain plans. Because several rules reference "before Jan. 1, 2025," further updates may be issued, so it's important to stay informed and plan ahead to avoid potential penalties. If you're approaching RMD age or already subject to these requirements, now is an excellent time to review your distribution strategy.



Four new members joined us at the October luncheon.
Welcome to Pam Mathers, Corrine Alonso, Carol Marshall and Barbara Fowler.

Although Ferris State is far from her home in Pontiac, Kenya has been welcomed into the Big Rapids AAUW Family. On a beautiful fall day, I took a road trip to visit our Pontiac Scholar. We met up for lunch with Leah Monger of the Big Rapids Branch. Leah connected Kenya with several other branch members who are at Ferris State and Kenya plans on attending their next campus event.

Kenya showed me around the growing campus. She wants to study nursing, and Ferris has an impressive health sciences campus. We stopped at the Jim Crow Museum (yes in Big Rapids) and took a side trip to the grocery for essentials. I was pleased to see how welcoming and inclusive the campus is for this first-generation college student.

Katie Wiese
Foundation President



**Leah Monger of AAUW Big Rapids and
Kenya Bledsoe**



**Katie Wiese and Kenya Bledsoe
outside Bond North Dorm**



Eric Lofquist, from OCC's Development Office, stopped by the October luncheon to report on the progress of our scholarship recipients. Joining Eric are Katie Wiese and Maureen Jenkins.



Volunteer to
organize, wrap,
be a personal
shopper on 12/4 -
give us a call!

Wonder what to
do with those
items that
weren't quite
right for you?

BOUND TOGETHER SHOPPING DAY

DECEMBER 4, 2025

The Bound Together Department Store opens for one day each year to allow our students to choose a holiday gift for four of their special adults!

We seek donations of new gift items suitable for that mom, dad, grandparent or other grown-up that our children would like to honor - giving kids a chance to experience the joy of giving, and ensuring that adults in our families also have a gift just for them.

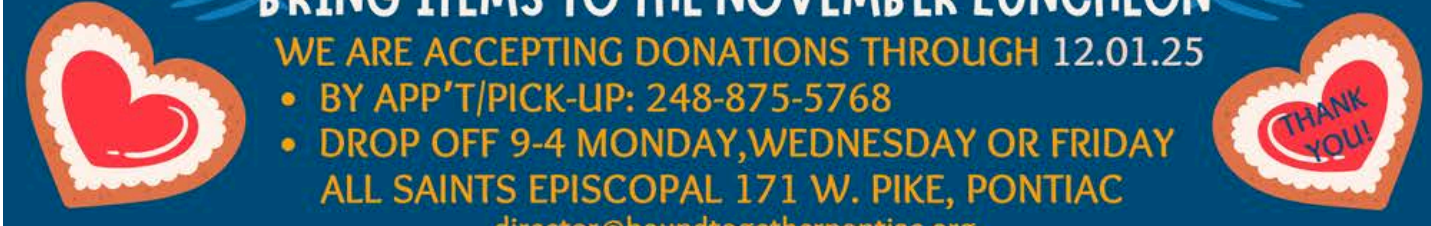


BRING ITEMS TO THE NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS THROUGH 12.01.25

- BY APP'T/PICK-UP: 248-875-5768
- DROP OFF 9-4 MONDAY, WEDNESDAY OR FRIDAY
ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL 171 W. PIKE, PONTIAC

director@boundtogetherpontiac.org



STUDY GROUP CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2025

SOCIAL ISSUES

Community Outreach

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

International Relations

10:00am, Mon, Nov 3

Topic: Secretariat and Secretary General of the United Nations

Hostess: Kathy Sherman, klsherman27000@gmail.com

Public Policy

2:00pm, Thurs, Nov 20

NEW LOCATION: Pomeroy Senior Living
3434 W. South Blvd, Rochester Hills

Topic: Low Test Scores of Michigan Students and plans for improvement

Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net
Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

The Breakfast Bunch

10:00am, Tues, Nov 25

NEW LOCATION: Honey Tree, 3633 W. Maple, Bloomfield
Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net
Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art

12:30pm, Thurs, Nov 20

Tour: "John Singer Sargent" presented by Pam Craig
Contact: Barb Moran, barbamoran41@aol.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres

1:00pm, Tues, Nov 18

Topic: *An Unfinished Love Story*, Doris Kearns Goodwin
Hostess: Julie Reisig, jereisig@gmail.com

Beyond Adelante

1:00pm, Tues, Nov 4

Topic: *James: A Novel*, Percival Everett
Hostess: Linda Schnorbus, lfsrhs@comcast.net

Contemporary Books

12:30pm, Mon, Nov 17

Topic: TBD
Contact: Sandy Dickerson,
sandratickerson@comcast.net

Morning After Readers

10:00am, Mon, Nov 10

Topic: *The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum*, Margalit Fox
Hostess: Sue Mitchell, susangene@sbcglobal.net

Mystery Book Club

No Meeting Planned

Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Potpourri

No Meeting Planned

Contact: Kitty Stephenson, misskitty36@att.net

Thurs. Morning Readers

10:00am, Thurs, Nov 20

Topic: *The Grand Bargain*, Gerald E. Rosen

Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb.

12:30pm, Tues, Nov 18

Topic: Planning Meeting and lunch

Hostess: Katie Wiese, katie.wiese@att.net

Needleworks

11:00am, Wed, Nov 5

Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas

1:00pm, Sat, Nov 8

MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy
La Boheme, Giacomo Puccini
Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

Theatre Goers

2:00pm, Sun, Nov 16

Lost in Yonkers, Village Players, Birmingham

Tickets \$30 **Reservation Deadline: Friday, November 7**
Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Two Thumbs Up

TBD, Fri, Nov 7

Movie: TBD 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

No Meeting Planned

Contact: Sharon Grisdale, shargrisd@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

