



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025
GENERAL MEETING and LUNCHEON

The Iroquois Club
43248 N. Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills

Social Hour – 11:15 am
Luncheon – 11:45 am

Program: The Bloomfield Hills High School Jills Choir

The Bloomfield Hills High School Choir will help us celebrate the season with their delightful musical repertoire.

Menu: Minestrone soup, Chicken Marsala, mashed potatoes and green beans, rolls & butter, cheesecake
Menu to accommodate dietary restrictions available with reservation.

Reservation Deadline – Wednesday, December 10th

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: Breakfast Bunch

DECEMBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Haven of Oakland County

The Haven is a nationally recognized nonprofit leader that helps victims of domestic violence and provides programs to promote violence-free homes and communities. Their mission is to eradicate sexual assault and intimate partner violence and heal those affected by its injustices.

Donation items: non-perishable food items (canned goods, pasta, etc.), toiletries, baby items, and household supplies.

Please bring your donations to the December luncheon.



President's Message December 2025

Hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner. We are blessed in so many ways. We have been able to fund scholarships for many young women. We have helped three freshman, three sophomores and others already enrolled at OCC, Lawrence Tech and Walsh College. Hopefully, all the students are finishing another successful semester, and hopefully some of them will be able to attend our December luncheon.

Because the Fall Fundraiser has produced a good response, we will be able to continue to give scholarships and provide assistance with other mission-based activities for young women, like attendance at the NCCSWL conference. A big thank you to each of you for doing your part. But, I will say that we would like to improve our percent of participation above 37%. My goal would be to see 100% participation, even if the amount you give is small. It takes "many gifts"! It's not too late to still give. Use Pay Pal or send a check directly to me at 3190 Chestnut Run Dr., Bloomfield Hills 48302. (Yes, I am also the Foundation Treasurer. Anyone out there that would like to assume that responsibility next year, please let me know.)

The November luncheon with Judge Rosen and Ed Peabody as our speakers, provided a really good view of the Detroit Bankruptcy and what was done to keep the DIA and get Detroit out of debt. Be sure to buy his book, *The Grand Bargain*, on Amazon. It would be a great Christmas present. I am hopeful that many of you will attend the December luncheon and bring guests. The Jills from Bloomfield Hills High School will be performing. Their beautiful voices will help us celebrate the Holiday season. One of our scholarship recipients is a former Jill. Hopefully, Gabby will be able to join us.

Finally, I close with total admiration for all you do to support our community and those that live in it. Big Family, Forgotten Harvest, A Courageous Voice, Bound Together and Hope Against Trafficking are all so grateful for our donations and your gift of time. In December we continue with Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams. Katie has driven to Ferris State (and back) to visit with Kenyhe, our scholarship recipient studying nursing there; Michele created a beautiful graphic to celebrate those in our lives that we honor. Laura Schartman has the Branch Treasurer role totally under control; Maureen Jenkins, even though she just moved, has been jumping into her role as Scholarship Chair with enthusiasm and attention to detail. These are just new efforts. I don't mean to exclude anyone who gives time to making our branch a force in our community – THANKS to all of you.

I send wishes for a beautiful holiday season to you all. Members of our community celebrate many different holidays, but all involve family, friends and the giving of time and resources.

News from the Branch

Branch Board Highlights from the November 19, 2025 Meeting

Kathy Norton, Community Outreach Coordinator, updated the Board on the various volunteer opportunities coming up in December including the Corewell Beaumont event, Shopping Day at Bound Together and gift preparation at Bound Together. Please check for information regarding carpooling (for Corewell) and other details in respective newsletter articles.

Katie Wiese reported that Fall Fundraising to support our local scholarships is progressing. We have about 40% of our members who have donated and 100% of both Branch and Foundation Board members who have donated. Additional information and reminders will go out to members.

The Board approved two motions: 1) to invite our scholarship recipients, and possibly their mothers, to attend the December luncheon and 2) to approve the final draft of the policies and procedures documents presented. Thanks to those who made suggestions and to Lucy Benham who prepared the documents.

Linda Barclay
Recording Secretary

Needleworks



Cast On. Knit. Yarn Over. Purl.

The first Wednesday of the month finds a cozy group of AAUW members gathering with their needlework. We meet at each other's homes at 11:00 to share a few hours of knitting, crocheting, or cross stitching. Oh, and lots of laughs. Followed by lunch. With various levels of experience, our members share help and encouragement. Of course, we must show our WIP (works in progress) or some of our "stash".

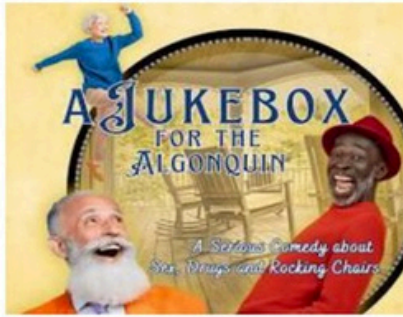
Last summer, seven of us took a field trip to Chelsea and roamed through a beautiful yarn store. Followed by lunch.

If you would like to join Needleworks, please contact Kathy Stasys (kstasys@hotmail.com).

Hello from AAUW



A thinking of you card was sent to Colleen Zematis.



St. Dunstan's Theatre, Bloomfield Hills
Sunday, January 25, 2026
2:00pm
Tickets: \$19

Reservation Deadline:
Saturday, January 3

At the Placid Pines Senior Care Center in the Adirondack Mountains, a small group of residents decide they're not quite ready to "go gentle into the good night." This feisty band of former city dwellers from Brooklyn and the Bronx hatches a plot to prove that aging is not a New York state of mind. *A Jukebox for the Algonquin* is a tale about those who will not be forgotten – a serious comedy about sex, drugs, and rocking chairs.

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

RAFFLE

Congratulations to Jean Ivory who won the 50/50 Raffle at the November luncheon.



Service



Kathy Norton, with three other volunteers, worked fall cleanup at one of the safe houses owned by Hope Against Trafficking .

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Our members volunteering as shoppers and wrapping gifts for foster children at Big Family on November 10. Standing from left to right are Karen Brandt, Jean Ivory, Kathy Norton, Judy Allie, Jane DuBay, Mary Samulski, and Julia Knevels. Seated from left to right are Cathy Hurley and Patty Orlowski.



15000 Eight Mile Road
Oak Park MI

Thursday, December 11, 2025

9am to 12pm

10 volunteers needed for sorting and
packing food boxes

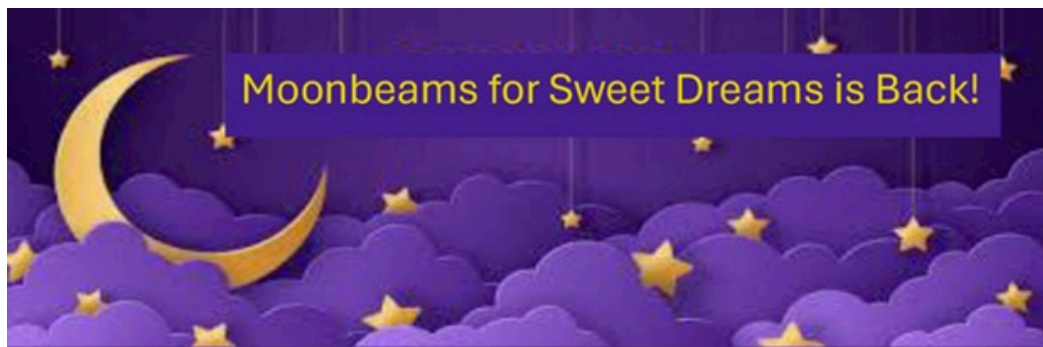
Monday, January 12, 2026

9am to 12pm

10 volunteers needed for sorting and
packing food boxes

[December Forgotten Harvest Sign-Up](#)

[January Forgotten Harvest Sign-Up](#)



Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams is Back!

The event that members have loved to attend is back! Come join AAUW friends on Wednesday, December 10 at Corewell Hospital in Royal Oak to brighten the lives of children hospitalized at Christmas.

It's not a complicated volunteer event. You come, you shine your light at the windows of the Pediatric Unit of Corewell Hospital, and you enjoy the feeling of goodwill. As we shine our lights to the kids, they are likely to shine theirs back to us.

Bring flashlights, light up necklaces, hats, pins, glow sticks, or anything else festive you have (NO open flames). Maybe a few snowflakes will fall to make it even more special.

Bedtime is 8:00. We are asked to arrive 15-20 minutes early, and carpooling is suggested. When you arrive, there will be volunteers directing traffic to the parking areas.

We can meet for dinner before or a drink after - or both!
Watch your inbox for more details and reservation requests.

~ Kathy Norton

News from the Foundation

Wait! There's More!

We Value our Branch Membership: Membership in AAUW affords us so many opportunities to connect and to be counted among amazing women: luncheons that offer stimulating topics, special interest groups that feed our minds and deepen our friendships, and rewarding volunteer opportunities that support mission-based community efforts.

Wait! There's More! But then, as the old commercial used to say: "Wait! There's More!" As an organization that empowers and educates women and girls, AAUW-Birmingham is deeply focused on using our shared values and joint efforts to support our communities. We work together to fund college scholarships, offer leadership skills training, and connect members in supporting and mentoring those who might struggle to acquire a higher degree or credential that can mean everything to a future of independence and self-determination.

Count Me In!



Count Me In! to the Scholarship Fundraiser

As members of AAUW, we are change-makers when we say "YES" to the aspirations of the women whose dreams need the helping hand that we can offer, a truth that was so beautifully and powerfully endorsed by Reagan Irey's video testimonial at our November luncheon about the impact of her AAUW scholarship. When you contribute to the Scholarship Fundraiser, you make dreams a reality by funding **local** college scholarships, supporting **local** students at leadership conferences, and providing seed money for **local** initiatives like the academic mentoring project that continues to evolve around community needs.

Ways to Contribute Now - We Are Aiming for 100% Participation:

- Use PayPal via our Branch website:
<https://birmingham-mi.aauw.net/support-the-foundation/>
- Return the card from the yellow envelope, with your check payable to AAUW-Birmingham Branch Foundation, to:
Cindi Hopkins, 3190 Chestnut Run, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
- Bring your contribution to the luncheon meeting on December 17







New Charitable Contribution Deductions:

Beginning in 2026, under the 2025 Act, individual taxpayers who claim the standard deduction, rather than itemize, may now deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married filing joint taxpayers) in qualified cash contributions made to eligible charitable organizations each year. So, consider taking a non-deductible contribution you are paying and move it to January, 2026.

You do not need an acknowledgement for cash donations under \$500. The new lower limit was raised by the 2025 Act from \$250 to \$500.

Eligible Educator Expense Deductions:

Beginning in 2026, the 2025 Act allows for a new itemized deduction for educator expenses with a broader category of taxpayers to be eligible. In addition to the expenses allowed for the above-the-line deduction, a deduction is available for nonathletic supplies for courses in health or P.E., interscholastic sports coaches will be eligible for itemized deductions. Keep receipts.

Jody Kuhn
Foundation Director

A Gentle Reminder from your AAUW Funds Director

As you know, in response to your request that the Foundation limit the times we ask for donations, we have scheduled two drives a year: the Scholarship Drive in the Fall and the AAUW Funds drive in March, Women's History Month. Personally, I donate when it can do the most good. You probably received an "ask" from AAUW to donate to funds now as they have a group that is doubling any funds given between now and Christmas. I give at this time and if you'd like to increase your effectiveness, you can too. You can donate directly to National with the letter, go online and send it directly, or send your donation to the Foundation with the note "AAUW Funds" on it. Make your check out to AAUW Birmingham Branch Foundation and send to Cindi Hopkins, 3190 Chestnut Run Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Don't forget that you can use your Required Minimum Deduction from your IRA if you're of a certain age. We appreciate any support you can provide.

Sally Doty
AAUW Funds Director



STUDY GROUP CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2025

SOCIAL ISSUES

Community Outreach

Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams. **8:00pm, Wed, Dec 10**
 Forgotten Harvest. **9:00am, Thurs, Dec 11**
 Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com

International Relations **10:00am, Mon, Dec 1**
 Topic: UN General Assembly
 Hostess: Frankie Gruber, irmgardmgruber@gmail.com

Public Policy **2:00pm, Thurs, Dec 18**
 Bloomfield Public Library
 Topic: TBD
 Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net
 Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

The Breakfast Bunch **10:00am, Tues, Dec 22**
NEW LOCATION: Kerby's Koney Island
 26250 Telegraph Road, Southfield
 Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net
 Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art **No Program Planned**
 Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres **No Program Planned**
 Contact: Annis Pratt, avpratt@aol.com

Beyond Adelante **1:00pm, Tues, Dec 2**
 Topic: *The Island of Missing Trees*, Elif Shafak
 Hostess: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Contemporary Books **TBD**
 Contact: Sandy Dickerson,
 sandradickerson@comcast.net

Morning After Readers **10:00am, Mon, Dec 8**
 Topic: *The Berry Pickers*, Amanda Peters
 Hostess: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

Mystery Book Club **1:00pm, Wed, Dec 3**
 Topic: *A Tine to Live, A Tine to Die*, Edith Maxwell
 Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Potpourri **via Zoom 1:00pm, Wed, Dec 10**
 Topic: *The Grand Bargain*, Gerald E. Rosen
 Contact: Ann Larkin, alarkin5657@gmail.com

Thurs. Morning Readers **10:00am, Thurs, Dec 18**
 Topic: *West with Giraffes*, Lynda Rutledge
 Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb. **No Program Planned**

Needleworks **11:00am, Wed, Dec 3**
 Hostess: Kathy Stasys, kstasys@hotmail.com

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas **1:00pm, Sat, Dec 13**
 MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy
 Andrea Chenier, Umberto Giordano
 Contact: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

Theatre Goers **2:00pm, Sun, Jan 25**
A Jukebox for the Algonquin, St. Dunstan's Theatre
 Bloomfield Hills
 Tickets \$19 **Reservation Deadline: Saturday, January 3**
 Contact: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@gmail.com

Two Thumbs Up **TBD, Thurs, Dec 11**
 Movie: TBD at MJR Troy
 Hostess: Julie Blair, jablair400@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

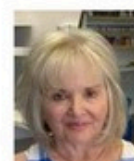
Bridge
 2nd Friday: **10:30am, Dec 12, The Village Club**
 Contact: Sharon Grisdale, shargrisd@gmail.com



Calendar changes?
 Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013
sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915
kevorkianlk@gmail.com



Happy Holidays