



Birmingham Branch

January 2026 Newsletter

Birmingham-mi.aauw.net

Vol 53 Issue 5



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 GENERAL MEETING and LUNCHEON

The Iroquois Club

43248 N. Woodward Avenue

Bloomfield Hills

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

Program: Colleen McNamara - DIA Community Engagement Manager

Ms. McNamara is a vital link between the museum and the community. She will share information about the museum's resources and programs that are available to everyone.

Menu: Iroquois Club Salad, Cheese Ravioli, Rolls & Butter, Cookies

Menu to accommodate dietary restrictions available with reservation.

Reservation Deadline – Wednesday, January 14

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

Maureen Jenkins

18241 Dunblaine

Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Cell: 313-680-0327

mo63jenkins@gmail.com

Greeters – Beyond Adelante

JANUARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Arc of Oakland County

Arc of Oakland County is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights and full inclusive participation for adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They strive to improve systems of support and services that connect families, inspire community, and influence public policy.

Donation items: coloring books for children and adults, color pencils, crayons, drawing paper, picture books, "fidget items" like soft malleable balls, Silly Putty, marbles; stuffed animals; hygiene items

Please bring your donations to the January luncheon.



President's Message

January 2026

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday and experienced the beauty of the season. So sorry The Jills could not make it to our December meeting, but your voices during the singalong were great. It sure got me in a festive mood.

The donations collected for Haven were amazing. Thank you for your generosity.

Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams had four of our members shining flashlights for the children at Corewell Health (formerly Beaumont). Thank you for making the holidays special for these patients. Forgotten Harvest continues to need and receive our support. Sign up if you can on page 5.

The Fall Fundraiser ended with over \$32,000 donated to future scholarships. Thank you. If you are a donor, please look for your name in the article that follows. If you would still like to donate, we will gladly accept your gift. Please send it to me, (Cindi Hopkins, 3190 Chestnut Run Dr., Bloomfield Hills, 48302) or Pay Pal as soon as you can.

Moving into 2026, the programs, study group and volunteer opportunities are all spelled out in this newsletter thanks to Sharon and Linda. Happy Hours start up again on January 12th. Please let Carolyn Packard know by January 3rd if you are coming. The restaurant is asking for a count (See page 4).

Beginning in January, you may pay for your lunch by using Zelle. The cost will be \$35 (to cover a bank fee); the QR code will be sent out shortly. The deadline for reservations is the same as for those mailing checks.

Read the newsletter carefully and give me a holler if you need any more information or have questions. Looking forward to learning more about the DIA at January's luncheon.

Happy New Year!

News from the Branch

Branch Board Highlights from the December 17, 2025 Meeting

Kathy Norton, Community Outreach, reported on member volunteer activity during the last month at Corewell, Forgotten Harvest, and Bound Together. Cindi Hopkins, for Michele Wogaman, added that the mentoring program initiative is exploring opportunities at OCC where staff have expressed interest. More on this next month.

Cindi reported on behalf of Katie Wiese who noted that over 90 members have contributed to the Foundation which supports our scholarships. Katie is very hopeful that the Foundation will meet its goal in this important endeavor. Please contribute if you have not yet done so!

The next Happy Hour is January 12th from 3:00-5:00 pm (see details in newsletter) and the next branch Luncheon is January 21st at the Iroquois Club. See you there!

Respectfully,
Linda Barclay
Recording Secretary

Belles Lettres

Belles Lettres has brought Birmingham AAUW members together to discuss books that we like for more than 60 years!



We meet in each other's homes at 1PM on the third Tuesday of the month except January, February and March, when we Zoom. At our May meeting, we each bring two or three books that we like and, after discussing them we vote on the titles for the coming year.

We read both fiction and non-fiction, including history and biography. Here are our books for the rest of this year: January 20, Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt; February 17, Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman; March 17, The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck; April 21. Fellowship Point by Alice Dark; June 16, Genghis Khan: the Making of the Modern World by Jack Weatherford

All are welcome to join our group! If you have any questions, contact Annis Pratt, avpratt@aol.com

Hello from AAUW



- A sympathy card was sent to Louise Juntunen for the loss of her father.**
- A congratulatory card was sent to Frankie Gruber.**
- A thinking of you card was sent to Carol Pyke.**
- A thinking of you card was sent to Bev Pintar.**
- A sympathy card was sent to Marion Muma for the loss of her husband.**

RSVP by Saturday, January 3rd



Happy Hour
with
AAUW Friends

Monday, January 12, 2026
3:00p – 5:30p
Shield's Pizza
1476 W. Maple Road, Troy

RSVP to Carolyn Packard
248-514-9790 (text only)

While there is no limitation on the size of our group for this event,
Carolyn must give the restaurant a count by January 3rd.



**Congratulations to Sally Doty
who won the 50/50 Raffle at the December luncheon.**

Pictures from the December Luncheon



Karen Boyk, Cathy Hurley, and Alanood Btosh



Julie Blair, Kathy Norton, Vivian Norton and guest



Cam Takach and Sally Doty

Service



Jane DuBay, Patty Orlowski, Sally Doty, and Kathy Norton braved the cold to participate in Moonbeams at Royal Oak Corewell Hospital.

time to help



FORGOTTEN HARVEST

Monday, January 12, 2026
9am to 12pm
10 volunteers needed for sorting and packing food boxes

15000 Eight Mile Road
Oak Park MI

January Forgotten Harvest Sign-Up

Donations

Every month our members bring donations for non-profits that support our mission. In December the non-profit we supported was the Haven of Oakland County. Below is a picture of all the donations that were brought in.



In November the donation was for Bound Together's Shopping Day. The donation articles were for Holiday gifts. Children in the program were able to choose gifts to give to the special adults in their lives. Below are pictures of the children choosing gifts.



THANK YOU!

The donation that TOPS all others...

The current freshmen recipients of the Branch scholarship were all able to attend the December luncheon. Anna Kohl (Bloomfield High School now at U of M), Alanood Btosh (Birmingham SCHOLAR now at U of M) and Ken'yhe Bledsoe (Pontiac High School now at Ferris State) shared their current activities with the members at the lunch. In addition, Gabrielle Otto from last year's group (from Bloomfield High School now at MSU) and Reagan Irey, a former recipient now attending U of M Dearborn joined them. It was a pleasure to have them join us. **What an outstanding group of women that remind us of our mission - to support higher education for young ladies.**



Reagan Irey, Ken'yhe Bledsoe, Gabby Otto, Anna Kohl, and Alanood Btosh

Thanks For
Your Support



We have received over \$32,000 in scholarship contributions from our membership. You chose to be counted in, allowing us to further our mission of support for young ladies and their educational goals. You have made a difference for the future.

A huge thanks to all of you!

Judith Allie	Jane Iacobelli	Mary Pickett
Corinne Alonso	Reagan Irey	Bev Pintar
Patricia Bannasch	Jean Ivory	Annis Pratt
Gerrie Barclay	Maureen Jenkins	Carol Pyke
Linda Barclay	Invie Jessup	Kathy Rice
Patty Beaujon	Patricia Judd	Lynda Ronie
Uma Bedi	Louise Juntunen	Christine Salley
Lucy Benham	Sonia Just	Laura Schartman
Patricia Bentley	Linda Kevorkian	Linda Schnorbus
Joan Birnie	Jason & Mikah Klingensmith	Diane Schrift
Julie Blair	Jody Kuhn	Irene Sharpe
Beverly Blanke	Ann Larkin	Coco Siewert
Karen Boyk	Judy Lewis	Elizabeth Snyder
Janet Brown	Karen Linnell	Janna Snyder
Cindy Clement	Sue Longstreet	Sandra Spencer
Kathryn Conner	Charlotte Mahrt	Kathy Stasys
Christine Dagenais	Barb Marchiando	Janet Stenger
Norma Darr	Julie Matthews	Kitty Stephenson
Jean Dasch	Barbara McCormack	Diane Sullivan
Sandra Dickerson	Sharon McKenna	Cam Takach
Beverly Dinsmore	Susan Mitchell	Ray & Catherine Twesten
Sally Doty	Eva Mitri	Carlene VanVoorhies
Jane DuBay	Marilyn Monan	Sylvia Whitmer
Barb Fowler	Maxine Mondshine	Katie Wiese
Barbara Gash	Marion Muma	Sue Winowiecki
Anita Goor	Susan Mundy	Michele Wogaman
Ruth Goulding	Kathleen Norton	Py Wolfe
Frankie Gruber	Vivian Norton	Maria Woloson
Joan Hanpeter	Nancy O'Connor	Rose Zawislak
Eileen Hitz	Patty Orlowski	Colleen Zematis
Cindi Hopkins	Carolyn Packard	Renee Zimmerman
Cathy Hurley		

It's Not Too Late to Contribute:

- Use PayPal via our Branch website:
<https://birmingham-mi.aauw.net/support-the-foundation/>
- Send a check, payable to AAUW-Birmingham Branch Foundation, to:
Cindi Hopkins, 3190 Chestnut Run, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

News from the Foundation

“...as those women better the world.”



As we look forward to a new calendar year, it's only natural to take stock and see where we are - using stated plans and goals as a yardstick and seeing how we measure up! For AAUW-Birmingham, it's a chance to review how our program initiatives support our mission. With that in mind, we want to update the membership on the student mentoring project undertaken this year.

In the summer of 2024, we noted that some of our AAUW scholarship recipients did not experience success in their post-secondary efforts, leaving college and their scholarships behind. Knowing that we needed to find out more about those stories and understand why this was the case, we got in touch with the Pontiac Promise Zone (PPZ), whose mission is the support of scholars from Pontiac. We learned more about some of the challenges facing our first-generation college students and otherwise vulnerable students. They are young women who have ability, but who often do not have the support and cultural context that can be so crucial to a successful college experience.

The PPZ Coaching Project was born from those conversations, and in that process a group of approximately 17 AAUW-Birmingham members signed on to a pilot that would pair an AAUW member with a PPZ student. Each member would act as a sounding board, cheerleader, and accountability coach by encouraging and supporting students in ways that improve their college life. With several planning meetings in the spring and a meet and greet for students/coaches last fall, we knew that the needs are there and that we can help to meet them!

However, timing is everything. In the last several months Pontiac Promise Zone has committed to a deepening of their staff presence in the coaching space as their board responds to the needs of their student constituents. Understandably, PPZ is opting not to take on the simultaneous development of both a staff and volunteer coaching program but seizing an opportunity to add much needed staff and focus on that program impact first. Essentially, they are "putting a pin" in the volunteer component of a coaching initiative for now in the interest of building stable structures that can support students *and* the volunteers who might ultimately come on board to assist in the future.

All good. But in the meantime, what about the enthusiasm and skill that our AAUW members have brought to the table right now? We think that we have an unfolding answer to that in a relationship with Oakland Community College, where the Department of Social Sciences has expressed an interest in connecting us with their students. Many of these women are single moms returning to school; some are first generation students. Unfortunately, there are also students living with traumas such as the shooting at Michigan State and Oxford High School; now they are beginning their educational journeys in a smaller campus environment. Faculty at OCC are enthusiastic (!) about the possibility of having support for their students and are currently laying some groundwork for creating on and off campus opportunities for volunteers. AAUW-Birmingham already has a strong scholarship relationship with OCC. This initiative will help us create additional facts on the ground - facts that include faces and friendships to back up those all-important scholarship dollars.

Look for more information on this to come early in the New Year. Thank you to everyone in the Branch who has donated to the scholarship fund, who has raised a hand to participate in this evolving adventure, and who believes in the power of education to make the world better for women as those women better the world.

STUDY GROUP CALENDAR

JANUARY 2026

SOCIAL ISSUES

Community Outreach

Forgotten Harvest **9:00am, Mon, Jan 12**
 Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com

International Relations

No Program Planned
 Contact: Cheryl Van Zetten, cvanzetten@comcast.net

Public Policy

2:00pm, Thurs, Jan 15
 Bloomfield Public Library
 Contact: Carol Pyke, cpyke@comcast.net
 Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

The Breakfast Bunch

10:00am, Tues, Jan 27
LOCATION: TBD
 Contact: Patty Orlowski, porlow@sbcglobal.net
 Sally Doty, sallyaauw@gmail.com

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Modern Art

12:30pm, Thurs, Jan 22
 Topic: "What Does an Art Conservator Do",
 Barbara Heller, DIA Art Conservator
 Contact: Kathy Norton, kathleennorton45@yahoo.com

BOOK CLUBS

Belles Lettres

via Zoom 1:00pm, Tues, Jan 20
 Remarkably Bright Creatures, Shelby Van Pelt
 Contact: Annis Pratt, avpratt@aol.com

Beyond Adelante

1:00pm, Tues, Jan 6
 How Beautiful We Were, Imbolo Mbue
 Hostess: Beverly Fogelson, bjfogelson@gmail.com

Contemporary Books

TBD
 Contact: Sandy Dickerson,
 sandradickerson@comcast.net

Morning After Readers

10:00am, Mon, Jan 12
 The Wide Wide Sea, Hampton Sides
 Hostess: Pat Bentley, bentzski@outlook.com

Mystery Book Club

1:00pm, Wed, Jan 28
 The Killing Stones, Anne Cleves
 Contact: Joan Birnie, jb03bps@gmail.com

Potpourri

via Zoom 1:00pm, Wed, Jan 28
 The Coming Wave, Michael Bhaskar and
 Mustafa Suleyman
 Contact: Erin Silverman, keajsilver@yahoo.com

Thurs. Morning Readers

10:00am, Thurs, Jan 15
 Lady Tan's Circle of Women, Lisa See
 Hostess: Louise Juntunen, louise5041260@yahoo.com

HOME & GARDEN

Green Thumb.

No Program Planned

Needleworks

11:00am, Wed, Jan 7
 Hostess: Elizabeth Snyder, happystitcherliz@gmail.com

ON THE TOWN

Opera Divas

1:00pm, Sat, Jan 10
 MJR Theater, 100 East Maple Road, Troy
 I Puritani, Vincenzo Bellini
 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, Jan 8
 Movie: TBD at MJR Troy
 Hostess: Sue Winowiecki, suewinow@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, Jan 9, The Village Club**
 Hostess: Marge Thomas, 248-626-6098
 4th Friday: **10:30am, Jan 23, The Village Club**
 Hostess: Carol Cummings, 248-540-2178
 Contact: Sharon Grisdale, shargisd@gmail.com



Calendar changes?
 Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013
 sharonmck.dauw@gmail.com
 Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915
 kevorkianlk@gmail.com



PLEASE NOTE: ALL FEBRUARY BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE JANUARY 23rd

* HAPPY *
New Year