



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 McNamera - DIA Community Engagement Manager

Ms. McNamera 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

beat
the
winter
blues

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.

RAFFLE

**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

Monday, January 12, 2026

9am to 12pm

10 volunteers needed for sorting and packing food boxes



FORGOTTEN HARVEST

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
Corinne Alonzo
Patricia Bannasch
Gerrie Barclay
Linda Barclay
Patty Beaujon
Uma Bedi
Lucy Benham
Patricia Bentley
Joan Birnie
Julie Blair
Beverly Blanke
Karen Boyk
Janet Brown
Cindy Clement
Kathryn Conner
Christine Dagenais
Norma Darr
Jean Dasch
Sandra Dickerson
Beverly Dinsmore
Sally Doty
Jane DuBay
Barb Fowler
Barbara Gash
Anita Goor
Ruth Goulding
Frankie Gruber
Joan Hanpeter
Eileen Hitz
Cindi Hopkins
Cathy Hurley

Jane Iacobelli
Reagan Irey
Jean Ivory
Maureen Jenkins
Invie Jessup
Patricia Judd
Louise Juntunen
Sonia Just
Linda Kevorkian
Jason & Mikah Klingensmith
Jody Kuhn
Ann Larkin
Judy Lewis
Karen Linnell
Sue Longstreet
Charlotte Mahr
Barb Marchiando
Julie Matthews
Barbara McCormack
Sharon McKenna
Susan Mitchell
Eva Mitri
Marilyn Monan
Maxine Mondshine
Marion Muma
Susan Mundy
Kathleen Norton
Vivian Norton
Nancy O'Connor
Patty Orłowski
Carolyn Packard

Mary Pickett
Bev Pintar
Annis Pratt
Carol Pyke
Kathy Rice
Lynda Ronie
Christine Salley
Laura Schartman
Linda Schnorbus
Diane Schriff
Irene Sharpe
Coco Siewert
Elizabeth Snyder
Janna Snyder
Sandra Spencer
Kathy Stasys
Janet Stenger
Kitty Stephenson
Diane Sullivan
Cam Takach
Ray & Catherine Twesten
Carlene VanVoorhies
Sylvia Whitmer
Katie Wiese
Sue Winowiecki
Michele Wogaman
Py Wolfe
Maria Woloson
Rose Zawislak
Colleen Zematis
Renee Zimmerman

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,
sandratickerson@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

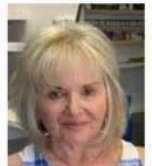
Contact: Sharon Grisdale, shargrisd@gmail.com



Calendar changes?
Contact:

Sharon McKenna 313.570.2013
sharonmck.aauw@gmail.com

Linda Kevorkian 248.219.1915
kevorkianlk@gmail.com



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

— ❄️ — **HAPPY** ❄️ —
New Year