

March Branch Meeting

Thursday, March 21 – 6:30 p.m. at the Community Arts Council

What do you know about AI: Artificial Intelligence?

We are very excited to let you know that our featured speaker for March will be Judy Bowling. She will be sharing real time information on AI: Artificial Intelligence.

Judy is currently the Instructional Technology and Library Consultant at Wayne County RESA. She is a natural learner who loves to collaborate with others on a wide variety of topics; many of them new and upcoming issues. Her path to RESA has taken her through Livonia Public Schools as a third grade teacher, fifth grade teacher, Technology Specialist, Media Specialist, as well as the Media and Technology Coordinator. We hope you are able to come join the fun as we hear about one of today's hot topics from a kind and knowledgeable spokesperson.



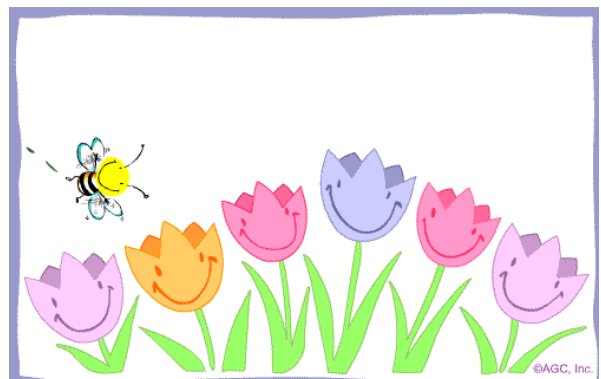
Food will be Irish themed – but, we promise, not St. Patrick's Day leftovers. Please plan to pay \$10. Even though dinner will be donated by board members, the money will go towards the building rent for the evening.



Looking Ahead to April -- Spring Luncheon

We are excited to bring our Spring Saturday luncheon back by popular demand. Mark your calendars. Our April branch meeting will be on Saturday, April 20th, at Rocky's of Northville. Our own Lisa Gapa will be our speaker that day and will introduce us to the wonderful world of sign language. We promise Lisa's energy will be infectious.

The delicious luncheon will include bread and butter, house salad, a choice of entree (Pecan chicken, Portobello ravioli, or Broiled Great Lakes Whitefish), dessert, and coffee tea or soda. Cash bar will be available. The cost is \$30 and we will need payment by April 6 to Marie Mack, 34610 Fountain Blvd, Westland 48185. (You might want to pay for the luncheon at the March meeting.) We'd like to encourage you to invite a friend.....the more the merrier. Hope you will all be able to join us for this fun informative AAUW event.



From the Presidents ...

March is a month of celebrations! During Women's History Month and on International Women's Day, we applaud the positive achievements of women, past and present, who have made a difference in our lives by raising awareness of the importance of working toward our goal of gender equality and who have advocated for a world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. Great strides have been met, but there is so much more to do! The following quotes from two inspirational women from different generations ring true.

Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!"

Michelle Obama said, "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."

March also brings the beginning of Ramadan (March 10), Daylight Savings Time (March 10), the first day of spring (March 19th) and Easter (March 31st). Our Michigan weather tends to be a little crazy, with freezing temperatures one week and sunny weather in the mid 60's the next week, but we do know that spring, followed by our glorious summer is on the way!

April 3rd is the first day for online voting for **AAUW's Open Membership Vote**. AAUW is proposing a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership and to welcome any person who advocates equity for women and supports our mission. Everyone is entitled to their convictions, and it is important to cast your vote before the deadline of May 15th. You can find out more information about the bylaws proposal by accessing AAUW's National and/or Michigan website. You may also take part in a Plymouth-Canton branch Living Room Conversation on Zoom on March 14th. Read on in the Catalyst for the details.

Registration is now open for the **Michigan AAUW State Convention** on May 10-11. Our Plymouth-Canton branch is hosting this event, which will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Livonia (Laurel Park Drive). There will be activities planned for attendees on Friday evening and then on Saturday from 9 to 4, there will be keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a buffet lunch and the annual meeting. You can register online at aauwmi.org. We hope to see you there!

Now read on in the Catalyst about additional activities, including the next branch meeting, book club get together, election of officers and our Plymouth-Canton Spring Luncheon!

Dawn and Mickey

WE NEED BOOKS!!!

As a fundraiser for the branch at the State Conference on May 11, we are collecting *current titles, hard cover, in almost new condition books*. Please go through hardcover, recent titles that you are willing to donate and put them in a bag and get them to Dawn Parker. Dawn is also willing to pick them up. Members can contact her at 734-658-0844. Members can also bring books to branch meetings or drop them off at Dawn's home at 44664 Hanford, Canton, MI 48187. Questions? Contact Mickey, Helene or Dawn. Thanks!



By Becky Copenhaver

The [National Women's History Alliance](#) designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. The 2024 theme celebrates “Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.” This theme recognizes women who understand the need to eliminate bias and discrimination from individuals' lives and institutions. Wow! This is exactly what AAUW is all about!

In cooperation with this theme, Canton Township’s supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak is sponsoring the following free event on March 14th.

“Join Supervisor Graham-Hudak on Thursday, March 14, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Summit on the Park for this very special event where outstanding women from the community will provide brief presentations about their advocacy and work towards equity, diversity, and inclusion. This free event will be followed by a Q&A panel with all of the presenters. Lunch will be provided.”

If you are interested in attending this event, you must RSVP by calling 734/394-5185 by Tuesday, March 12. Hope to see some of you there!

Then on the evening of March 14th at 7 p.m. is our Living Room Discussion on the AAUW vote to drop the membership requirement. We hope you have this on your calendar as we want to hear from everyone. You should have already received in an e-mail the nature of these conversations as well as the rules for discussion and the wording of the proposed by-law change.

Here is the Zoom meeting link. (It is a different link than the other one we use from Kay.)

Topic: Living Room conversation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82391593049?pwd=NjgwZkYrNEJRMWxXVGhjQUphbkEdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 9159 3049

Passcode: 171310

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,82391593049#,,,*171310# US

See you then!

Last, but not least I have found some inspiring quotes for Women’s History Month.



“You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right.” – [Rosa Parks](#) (1913-2005), civil rights activist.

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." - [Shirley Chisholm](#) (1924-2005), U.S. Congresswoman.

“My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.” – [Maya Angelou](#) (1928-2014), memoirist, poet, civil rights activist.

“It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent.” – [Madeleine Albright](#) (1937-2022), U.S. Secretary of State.

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." - [Alice Walker](#) (1944 -), novelist, short story writer, poet, social activist.

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”
— [Malala Yousafzai](#) (1997-), Pakistani female education activist, Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Have a wonderful March everyone!

MARCH IS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

MAJOR EVENTS IN WOMEN’S HISTORY: DECADE BY DECADE

In honor of Women’s History Month, the Smithsonian has chosen one significant event from each decade over the past century. Each event recognizes the achievements of women in all facets of life, who moved history forward.

1903: Marie Currie becomes the first woman to win the Nobel Prize.

1912: Juliette Low founded the Girl Scouts of America

1920: Women in the U.S. are given the right to vote.

1932: Amelia Earhart flies solo across the Atlantic.

1942: Women serve in the armed forces during World War II.

1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama.

1966: National Organization for Women is founded by Betty Goldstein Friedan.

1973: American tennis champion Billie Jean King defeats champion player Bobbie Riggs in a “Battle of the Sexes” match.

1983: Sally Ride become the first American woman in space.

1994: Congress passes the Violence Against Women Act.

2007: Nancy Pelosi becomes the first female speaker of the House of Representatives.

Honor a woman in your life, who has made a significant impact!!

2024 National Conference for Collegiate Women Scholars (NCCWSL)

The conference will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 30 through June 1, 2024. This year’s conference theme is “**Dare To Be**”. The participants will be challenged to be bold, engaged and a leader. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) track sessions will be designed to engage women interested in STEM. The goal is to provide young women with an inspiring, transformative experience.

For More Information: National Website: AAUW NCCWSL or Shirley Zaetta szaetta@wowway.com

Play Review

We received three donations for the branch during the play for a total of \$250. One was from Sandy I.'s mom, Lina; one was from Tammy Anderson (we are not sure who she is); and one was from my sister, Kristina Aubry, who donated in memory of my brother-in-law, Dennis. Nick. There were other smaller donations from ticket sales.

Erica Goff, branch member, sold cookies in the lobby after the performances. They were made by her and beautifully decorated with Cinderella themes. Erica has a business – check out her website – **Graphicsoiree.com** She generously shared the profits with the branch.



Monica, Play Co-Director

Membership News

I sent a Thinking of You card to Laurie Kempisty and a Congratulations (baby) to Kaytee Bellows. – Monica Nick, Corresponding Secretary

Laurie Kempisty sounded great when I talked with her. She is having chemo every other week for the time being and is doing well with it. One of the things we chatted about is that her medical team is very encouraging and positive about a good outcome for her. – Sue Sayers

Kaytee Bellows was not able to be in the play this year. She was a little busy that week. Happy and healthy **Eleanor Grace** joined Kaytee's family on January 29. Big sis Lottie is totally smitten with *her* Baby Ellie.



BOOK GROUP

Book Group will meet on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 at 5:30 pm at Pat Lowes' home to discuss The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger. Please note the day change from Thursday to Wednesday for March only. All are welcome. Looking forward to seeing you.

Helene and Mickey



EQUAL PAY DAY – March 12, 2024

AAUW ANALYSIS OF THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU AND U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS GENDER PAY GAP DATA REVEALS LITTLE PROGRESS.

Comparing full-time, year-round workers, AAUW found women took home only 84% of the pay that men received. This figure is not statistically different from 2020's pay gap.

Despite pay discrimination becoming illegal in the U.S. sixty years ago, today's data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that the gender pay gap between men and women remains persistent.

AAUW'S more comprehensive calculation compared all women with earnings in 2022 were paid a mere 78% of men's wages. Looking closer at specific groups of women, AAUW found even more startling inequities, compared to the pay of white, non-Hispanic men.

Overall

Women working full-time, year-round are **paid 84 cents** and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) are paid **78 cents** for every dollar paid to men.

Asian American Women working full-time, year-round are paid **99 cents**, and all earners are paid **89 cents** for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

White Women (non-Hispanic) working full time are paid **72 cents** and all earners are paid **74 cents** for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

Black Women working full-time are paid **69 cents** and all earners are paid **66 cents** for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women working full-time, year-round are paid **65 cents** and all earners are paid **61 cents** for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

Latina women working full-time year-round are paid **57 cents** and all workers are paid **52 cents** for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

Native Women working full-time, year-round are paid **57 cents** and all earners are paid **51 cents** for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

In dollars and cents, the wage gap for women overall is \$11, 450. These are dollars that could be spent on childcare, buying homes, paying off student debt, and investing in the future. AAUW CEO, Gloria Blackwell, stated, "Legislators and employers must do better. AAUW won't stop fighting until all women are paid fairly and have the same opportunities to build secure economic futures for themselves and their families." Equity is still an issue, Mickey

**ARE WE REALLY STILL
TALKING ABOUT THIS?
#EQUALPAYDAY**