



# Catalyst

Plymouth-Canton Branch  
January 2025

**PLYMOUTH-CANTON AAUW PRESENTS...**

# BEAUTY & THE BEAST

**Feb. 6 @ 7pm**  
**Feb. 7 @ 7pm**  
**Feb. 8 @ 11am and 2pm**  
**at Garden City High School**

TICKETS: \$7 ONLINE  
\$10 AT DOOR

PROFITS TO COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

[HTTPS://PLYMOUTH-CANTON.MLAAUW.NET/PLAY](https://plymouthcanton.mlaauw.net/play)

The cast and crew are working diligently to get ready for this year's performance.

**Note the dates: Feb. 6, 7, and 8.**

**Are you ready? Can you help?** Share the play flyer/dates/times via all social media you use – Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, etc.? Usher at a performance?

Next Branch Meeting: Thursday, February at 6:30 pm

Plymouth Community Arts Council  
Please come for soup and salad supper. The meeting will be a play evaluation, and everyone is welcome



## *From the Presidents ...*

Welcome to 2025! A new year has begun and it's time to move forward and to enjoy the opportunities that each new day will bring to us.

Our Plymouth-Canton branch will continue to work on the goals and objectives established for our 2024-2025 year. Among them are:

- To continue the ongoing fight for gender equity.
- To promote and increase awareness of inclusion and diversity.
- To support fundraising activities to provide educational scholarships for women.
- To encourage our members to attend monthly branch meetings.
- To visit the AAUW National, State and local websites to stay current with policies and programs.



We hope to see you at the O'Leary Auditorium at Garden City High School on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> for our production of "Beauty and the Beast." Get the word out to your family and friends and to other organizations in which you are involved. It's for a good cause and it's a lot of fun to watch your friends on stage!

*Dawn and Mickey*



By Becky Copenhaver

Happy New Year everyone! I have never written a movie review before, but I just saw a movie I feel is worth sharing. The name of the movie is The Six Triple Eight and has just been released on Netflix. This is a remarkable true story of the 6888<sup>th</sup> Battalion of all Black women, who helped sort through millions of undelivered letters and packages mailed to American Troops and their families in World War II.

While the feat was daunting enough, the women also confronted racism and misogyny. Charity Adams, who was the real-life commanding officer said. "First we had to fight segregation, second was the war, and third were the men." The women ranged in age from 17 – 52. Millions of pieces of mail had been piled up and never sent to the soldiers or families. It was believed that getting the mail delivered would boost the troop's spirits as fighting was dragging on. I won't give you the whole story, but only encourage you to watch the movie, and let me know what you think. Both Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune are depicted in the movie as well. (They were the subject of the book club book we read The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray.)

Other dates of diversity in January:

- 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 21 – World religion day
- 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day

# BOOK GROUP

We are scheduled to meet on January 23rd at 5:30 pm at Kay Paupore's home to discuss By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult.



Please let us know if you plan to attend by Sunday, January 19 as we do not have a branch meeting this month.

Planning ahead:-- We meet on February 27th at Mickey's to discuss Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger.

Looking forward to seeing you soon -- Helene and Mickey

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## Promoting Public Policy

Mickey Edell, Public Policy Director

Happy New Year to All! Wishing for love, peace, and joy and publication of the ERA in 2025.

Mary Pollock, AAUW of Michigan Government Relations Coordinator, retired in December 2024. For multiple years her intelligence, dedication, and resolve has had a positive impact on Michigan women and girls. Our branch was privileged to have her as a speaker on more than one occasion. As co-chairperson of the Michigan Equal Pay Day Coalition, I was fortunate to have her guidance and expertise. Mary will continue to make her voice heard in Lansing. Instead of hiring another lobbyist, AAUW of Michigan has designated a committee to work on an app that will alert members in a timely fashion of legislation that meets or opposes our Public Policy goals and make it easy to send a message to our legislators.

AAUW continues to urge President Biden to direct the archivist to publish the ERA. The ERA has met all constitutional requirements to become the 28th amendment to the Constitution. Although the situation is complicated and almost certain to be challenged in the Supreme Court after publication, we continue to fight. You still have a few days to contact President Biden: Call the White House: 202-456-1111. Text: 302-404-0880 Message: "Direct the Archivist to publish the ERA." We must not give up our efforts to enshrine the ERA in the Constitution.

Kudos to Dianne Hartmann who created a clever song: "All I Want for New Year's is the ERA!" Thanks to some of our play cast members, who rehearsed and sang it with gusto. Input from Meredith Conte was so appreciated and special thanks to Lisa Gapa for recording, editing, and sending it to President Biden, Rep. Debbie Dingell, AAUW of Michigan, and the local AAUW Facebook page. We are so lucky to have such committed branch members! We must continue to make strides for women and girls in the new year!

LOOKING AHEAD. . .  
We are planning another yard/garage sale this August. Save things that would be good to sell.