



# Catalyst

Plymouth-Canton Branch  
March 2025

## March Branch Meeting

Thursday, March 20 – 6:30 p.m. at the Community Arts Council

Our guest speaker, Vicki Harkey has been a dedicated member of Pearls of Great Price Coalition since 2017 and was honored to accept the role of president in 2020. She is passionate about leading Pearl's efforts to educate the public about human trafficking and to work towards affirming and restoring the value of those affected by this issue.

Professionally, Vicki has focused her career on the dental industry, where she currently serves as a human resource and transition consultant to dentists.

Vicki has been married to her husband Chris for 35 years, and they have 3 grown daughters. She is actively involved in her church and enjoys traveling and staying active.



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.



It's a busy, busy AAW Spring!  
Make sure to mark your calendar.

Thursday, March 20 – Branch Meeting  
Sunday, March 23 – Shop at Vitrine  
Friday, March 28 – Trivia Night  
Saturday, April 12 – Spring Luncheon  
July 17 – Music in the Park Garden City  
Late August – Yard Sale at Dawn's

## *Looking Ahead to April - Spring Luncheon*

Our April branch meeting will be on Saturday, April 20th, at Rocky's of Northville. Beth Stewart, Executive Director of the Michigan Philharmonic will be our guest speaker.

The delicious luncheon will include bread and butter, house salad, a choice of entree (Chicken Piccata, Portobello Ravioli, or Broiled Great Lakes Whitefish), dessert, and coffee tea or soda. Cash bar will be available. The cost is \$35 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 ...*

Dear AAUW Friends,

Remember the old adage that you learned in grade school, “March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb?” It must be true! The beginning of March was cold and blustery, but by the time you receive this Catalyst, there should be sunshine and 60 degree weather. It gives us hope that spring is really on the way. Hooray!



Our country is dealing with a whirlwind of activity and many changes are taking place in our government. It's important to be aware of how these changes will affect women. We must continue to be positive and to forge ahead to continue to support our mission. The AAUW National website is a valuable resource to find out about how AAUW is dealing with these changes. There are programs, seminars and Zoom meetings that you can access, to find out how you can help and make a difference during 2025. International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8<sup>th</sup>. It originated from Labor movements and the Suffrage movement in the U.S. and Europe during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The United Nations recognized the date in 1975 with support for Women's Rights and International Peace. They also gave focus to issues such as gender, equality, reproductive rights and violence and abuse against women.

March is also Women's History Month. The theme of 2025 is, “Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations. This theme recognizes women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship and leadership. We should honor and celebrate the brave women who came before us to help make positive changes for women.

“Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another. We're strongest when we cheer each other on.”

Read on in the Catalyst to find out about our next branch meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>, Trivia Night on March 28<sup>th</sup> and our Spring Luncheon on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Rocky's in Northville. See you soon!

*Dawn and Mickey*

### **Shopping for a Cause**

Benefitting AAUW Plymouth-Canton  
Sunday, March 23rd from noon to five p.m.  
20% of all sales will be donated to our branch.

Join us at **Vitrine** in the old Baker House.  
233 South Main Street, Plymouth  
Join us for this wonderful fund-raising opportunity!

### **Membership News:**

We welcome Anna Rogers to the branch. She is Michelle Churchill's daughter and was in the play. We have 54 members.

# Public Policy Post

As you know, AAUW promotes gender equity for all women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. We are strong supporters of public education, which has been the bulwark of our nation since the 1800s. Now our system is under attack, as Linda McMahon emailed her staff to prepare for their “final mission,” dismantling the Dept. of Education. Even though President Trump paused the release of the order after considerable blowback, most likely the efforts will continue.

The U.S. Department of Education originated in 1867 and has been responsible for upholding civil rights and ensuring equal educational opportunities. Without it we face support for public school vouchers, stripping of federal funding from public schools, and saddling millions of borrowers with a lifetime of debt. The well-being and safety of students will be put at risk as they may face more gender-based harassment, discrimination, and violence.

**Call and write Congress to stop the destruction of the Department of Education!**

In Solidarity,  
Mickey, Public Policy Director

## BOOK GROUP

Book Group will meet on Thursday, March 27th at 5:30 pm. at Kay's with co-host Dianne. We will be discussing the All the Colors of Dark by Chris Whitaker. Our April selection is Beautiful Ugly by Alice Feeney. All are welcome!

Helene and Mickey



## MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Although we address women's rights and equity throughout the year, March offers us the opportunity to pay homage to outstanding women—those recognized and famous, those who have been forgotten, and those women close to us, who have positively impacted our lives.

**WOMEN'S  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

This month I would like to collect short paragraphs from our members that pay tribute to our foremothers, who will be remembered and recognized. I will collate the information and upon completion, share it with our branch members. I hope you will join me in this effort, because telling our stories bonds us and allows us to share the rich history of our lives.

Please email them to [mousemick@att.net](mailto:mousemick@att.net) before the end of the month. Thanks for taking part in this project. Mickey

## ELECTION TIME – FOR OUR BRANCH

At the annual branch meeting in May, we will elect three officers: Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Membership, and Vice President of Program.

This is the job description from our Bylaws:

*The Vice-President of Finance shall be responsible for collecting, distributing, and accounting for the funds of the branch. The treasurer shall collect dues and properly remit them to the association and state by the specified deadline.* Gail has been the treasurer for 2 years, and she describes that the job can average up to 8 hours a week. Specific tasks include preparation of the annual budget, preparing the books for external audit, and preparing the monthly financial reports for the board and the branch meetings.

*The Membership Vice-President shall invite potential members, handle applications, and supervise renewals.* Two things are different now. First, people can join or renew themselves online using a credit card. When people do that, the membership chair works collaboratively with the treasurer to make sure that records are accurate and up to date. Second, members renew on the yearly anniversary of when they joined. So, throughout the year, there is a rolling renewal process, rather than renewing the whole branch in June.

*The Program Vice-President shall oversee the programs for branch meetings.* Please Note the word “oversee”. No one expects this VP to plan all the programs and line up speakers. We have a meeting in July or August at which plans for the coming year are made. Different members accept responsibility for contacting speakers.

**Would you please consider how you can be active in the branch?**

**Would you be willing to serve on the board?**

**Would you be willing to be a co-officer working with someone else?**

For many people, one meeting a month is one too many. But for several of us, the board meeting is a nice get together with friends, good food, and a way to be more involved in the branch’s activities. If you think you might be interested, but want to know more details, please call the officer who now holds the position.

It is very uncommon for any officer to be overwhelmed with the work.  
There's always someone willing to lend a helping hand.

### **News from AAUW National –**

The AAUW Board approved a modest dues increase — \$2 per year over the next two years.

New national dues: \$74 starting April 1, 2025, and \$76 starting April 1, 2026.

The Board’s decision to increase dues by \$2 reflects an adjustment to the original proposal (which was \$5 per year for 5 years) to lessen the burden of a dues increase on members while keeping pace with inflation. State (\$15) and Branch (\$10) dues remain the same for a total of \$99 for 2025.