



Catalyst

Plymouth-Canton Branch

May 2025

Annual Branch Meeting

Thursday, May 15, at 6:30 Plymouth Community Arts Council

All members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting as two important items will be covered. We will elect and install next year's officers, and we will vote to pass the changes to bylaws.

Join us for a Summer Supper starring Lee's Famous Chicken, plus assorted salads and desserts brought by board members. Please plan to pay \$10 – which will cover the cost of the chicken, and the remainder will go toward the building rental for the evening.

Representative Matt Koleszar – Guest Speaker

Representative Koleszar is a member of the Michigan House of Representatives from the 22nd district, which includes Plymouth, Plymouth Twp., parts of Livonia, Northville, and Northville Twp. He was first elected in November 2018 and during his tenure has introduced legislation on issues ranging from air quality to school libraries, as well as tuition assistance for fallen police officers and fire fighters. He has served on the House committee for education, higher education, health policy, education policy, elections and ethics, labor, and school aid. He is also serving as chairperson of the education committee.



Rep. Koleszar earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education from Saginaw Valley State and a Master of Arts in English studies from Eastern Michigan University. Before he was elected to the House, he taught middle school and high school for 12 years in the Airport Community School District, coached cross country and baseball, and served as president of the Airport Education Association. He lives with his wife, Kimberly Bush-Koleszar and their rescue animals.

MARK YOUR
SUMMER
CALENDAR

Plymouth-Canton AAUW – Yard/Book Sale

Thursday, August 21, Friday the 22nd, and Saturday the 23rd.

Held at Dawn Parker's house, 44664 Hanford Rd. Canton MI 48187.

Dawn's garage will be open to store items from August 1st until the sale. If you have any questions or want to sign up to help at the sale, please email Dawn at dsp626@aol.com or call 734-658-0844. *All proceeds will go to the Plymouth-Canton AAUW branch.

Music in the Park – Garden City

June 19, July 17, and August 21 at 6:30. Our branch will have a booth at the July 17 event. Stop by and see us. See page 3 for more details.

From the Presidents ...

Dear AAUW Friends,

There have been so many confusing changes in our federal government in the past few months. Several of our members have expressed concern about how AAUW will now address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), which is a core component of our mission.

Amy Shamroe, President of AAUW Michigan, spoke to this topic at the Annual Meeting, on April 26, 2025. She affirmed that AAUW will continue to support DEI. Since we do not depend on Federal funding, we won't stop fighting in our mission to achieve gender equity. Our organization has always been about equity and has worked tirelessly over the decades to be more inclusive and diverse and that will not change. We will continue to focus on the issues of DEI and reproductive rights and will continue to emphasize the importance of higher education as a key driver of opportunity and economic security for women. Our members will need to double down on our mission through grant-making, fellowship and advocacy and every branch needs to continue to support mission-based work and projects.

Leslie Carpenter was introduced at the meeting as our new AAUW Michigan DEI Chair. She offered this insightful comment to the discussion:

“DEI is not political or partisan, it's being human.”

It has been a busy year for our Plymouth-Canton branch, and we've had several successful fundraising activities that contributed to fund our college scholarship program. It has been an honor to work with such hard working, dedicated women this past year.

We hope that you will be able to join us at our last meeting of this 2024-25 year on Thursday, May 15th at 6:30 pm at the Plymouth Arts Council. We will enjoy dinner, listen to our guest speaker, Michigan State Representative, Matt Koleszar and will hold the installation of new officers.

Have a wonderful summer! See you in September!

Dawn and Mickey

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Thursday, May 22 at Cyndi Naumoff's home with Dawn as our host to discuss The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali. The summer schedule includes the following reads. Hosts will be listed later.

June --West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
July -- Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton
August -- The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides



Helene and Mickey



Oh, by the way – did you know that chocolate covered raisins, cherries, orange slices, and strawberries all count as fruit? So, eat as many as you want. Put “eat chocolate” at the top of today’s to-do list. That way you’ll get at least one thing done.

Public Policy Post

As indicated in a recent AAUW press release:

“In just 100 days the Trump Administration has made one thing unmistakably clear: It is waging an aggressive campaign to dismantle higher education—impacting the very students who need it most. Women, students of color, low-income students LGBTQ, and students with disabilities are under attack.”

So, what does this mean? It means that civil rights protections have been gutted. It also means that student aid has been slashed, and academic freedom is under siege. The consequences of this are devastating, because doors slam shut and futures are dimmed. Many students will be left behind as a result of these decisions.

Shannon Wolfe, AAUW Managing Director and Chief of Staff, spoke to this issue and others at the AAUW of Michigan annual meeting on April 26th. Although AAUW still supports pay equity, reproductive rights, passage of the ERA, etc., the focus now is on protecting and responding to the attacks on education. As members, we cannot stay silent. We can do something:

- Speak up when you see attacks on equity.
- Engage in events like town halls, school board meetings, or public demonstrations.
- Contact local officials when legislation threatens equity in education. Use the Two Minute Activist!
- Support AAUW and other organizations working to protect our rights.

Fight back! Defend the right to learn!

In Solidarity, Mickey
Public Policy Director

Slate of Nominees:

Program Vice-President (Co-officers) Michelle Churchill and Marie Mack

Finance Vice-President - Gail Conte

Membership Vice-President - Sue Sayers



Garden City Business Alliance
Supporting our community as we grow our business

Garden City Park
200 Log Cabin Rd
Garden City MI 48135

Free Event

Save These Dates!

June 19, 2025: Sinjon Smith

July 17, 2025: Magic Bus

August 21, 2025: Smith Factor

**Band Info
on Facebook!**

**Shop at our Bizbee Vendor Event from 4-9pm
Bands Start at 6:30pm**

www.GardenCityBusinessAlliance.org | facebook.com/gardencitybusinessalliance