



Catalyst

Plymouth-Canton Branch
September 2025

September Branch Meeting

Thursday, September 18 at 6:30 pm
Plymouth Community Arts Council

Welcome Back! We begin our season with guest speaker, Dr. Tonya Whitehead. She will discuss her career and succeeding in what is perceived as a traditionally male field.

Dr. Whitehead is Associate Director of the Office for Teaching and Learning (OTL) and Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University. Beyond her professional career she is President of Michigan PTA and co-founder and President of *Pawsitive Impact for Pets*.

She received a bachelor's degree in computer engineering and a master's in manufacturing and engineering management from Michigan State University. Before pursuing a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Wayne State she spent several years in the IT services industry leading teams that supported hundreds of international and domestic clients. While completing her doctorate work, she discovered a passion for engineering education and faculty development. In addition to her role at OTL, she teaches introductory courses in engineering and participates in outreach activities through the college and Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 18	Branch meeting
Sept. 24	Play Tryouts
Sept. 25	Book Group
Oct. 2	Board Meeting
Oct. 16	Branch Meeting
Oct. 23	Book Group

We will have a light supper of salads, desserts, and beverages, which will be provided by board members.

Please plan to pay \$10.

Money collected will go toward paying the building rent for the evening.

We hope you will join us to meet this very interesting speaker and reconnect with friends.

From the Presidents ...



Dear AAUW Friends,

Welcome back to another AAUW year! We hope your summer months were filled with relaxation, fun, travel and interaction with family and friends.

We're looking forward to our members coming together to continue with our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Our government seems to be in a state of flux, but we will keep on fighting for student rights, educational equity and civil rights, despite all the obstacles in our way. Real change happens one step at a time.

Please join us for our first meeting of the year on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Plymouth Arts Council. We'll enjoy a dinner together, listen to an informative speaker and hold a branch meeting to share the plans, programs and fundraising events for the coming year.

Join us and make new friends, network with other women, increase learning and help women of all ages succeed!

Sincerely,

Dawn and Mickey



Play Tryouts: Wed., September 24

HI! HOOOOOO! It's time to get the play on the go! We are inviting you to join us for tryouts for this year's production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. There are some great parts and some cool lines in this script, so we look forward to hearing your rendition of them.

We will meet on Wednesday, September 24 at 6pm at Mickey's. Scripts will be ready for you then!

In anticipation -- your play directors -- Kaytee and Helene

Looking for children's books!!

Mary Fritz is working on a community project for the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and has asked us to help support the venture. Her group is collecting new or slightly used books for one early childhood and two kindergarten rooms at Ericsson Elementary School in Plymouth/Canton. If you have any books you would like to donate, please bring them to our September branch meeting. Look thru your bookshelves. Maybe you can make room for some new purchases. I am sure our donations will delight the little ones.



Promoting Public Policy

Mickey Edell, Public Policy Director

SUPPORT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT!
THE ERA MUST BE PUBLISHED!

The ERA passed Congress with the needed 2/3 vote of the House and Senate as well as the legislatures of the needed 38 states. Congress must immediately recognize the Equal Rights Amendment and pass the following United States House and Senate resolution:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that notwithstanding any time limit contained in House Joint Resolution 208, 92nd Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972, the article of amendment proposed to the States in that joint resolution is valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution, having been ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

In January 2025 President Biden issued a strong statement declaring that the Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified and is the law of the land, having met both requirements of Article V with the vote of 2/3 of the Congress and ratification by 3/4 of the state legislatures. Now is the time for Congress to officially affirm ratification.

Make your voice heard and sign the petition. Sign4ERA. Thank you for supporting the Equal Rights Amendment!

In Solidarity, Mickey

Because equity is still an issue!

BOOK GROUP

Our group will meet on Thursday, September 25 at 5:30 pm at Esther Nelson's home to discuss A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith. We will take a count of potential attendees at the branch meeting. If you are unable to attend the branch meeting but plan to be at Book Group, please let Helene or Mickey know by Sunday, September 21st. Thanks.



We'd like to give a special shout-out and thank-you to **Elephant Ears**, a local bookstore in Plymouth. They have been providing good reads at a 20 percent discount to group members. Stop by there sometime and shop! We support those who support us!

And . . . thanks to Meredith for handling all of this!

Helene and Mickey

Another Successful Yard Sale!



Thank you to all of our members and their relatives, friends and neighbors, who donated their “treasures” to help make our second annual yard sale a success!!

Many thanks to those who were able to help over the three days. These volunteers brought their tables, organized and priced items, carried boxes, set up tables, talked, bartered and sold items to customers and then cleaned up at the end of each day.



Also, a big thank you to those who brought food and snacks for us to enjoy. And though we were pretty exhausted by the end of the three days, we found the whole experience to be fun. We met a lot of interesting (and some quirky) people and the camaraderie we shared was priceless!

It took our AAUW “village” to put it all together and our grand total (sales and donations) came to \$1815.01, which was donated to our AAUW Plymouth-Canton branch.

I hope everybody is well rested now. We hope to set up an evaluation breakfast meeting soon to plan for next year’s sale!!
Dawn



THANK YOU NOTE FROM STARKWEATHER GRADUATE.

July 7, 2025
To the AAUW committee.

Thank you so much for your scholarship! It means a lot to me to be helped out by such a great organization that has done so much for women's education. I can assure you that I will put the money to good use at the College for Creative Studies in the fall.

Thanks again for your support.
Sincerely, Katelyn Morton

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please send any changes for the Directory asap, so I can have it ready for the September meeting.

Change: address, phone, email.

Add - optional: your photo, your birthday (month and day only), any additional info. The birthday is just for fun – to see who shares your day or is close.

Please call or text 734-730-2655 or email suesayers357@gmail.com with updates or questions.

GET TO KNOW MAH JONGG



If you play this Mah Jongg on the computer, it is not Mah Jongg – it is a matching game using MJ tiles.

Mah Jongg has its origins in China. In the last century it was made popular by Jewish women in the U.S, who simplified the rules and formed the National Mah Jongg Society. Recent studies have shown that playing MJ offers substantial cognitive benefits, including improved memory, cognitive flexibility, and slower rates of cognitive decline. Additionally, the social aspect of the game offers further mental health benefits by reducing feelings of loneliness. Mah Jongg is growing in popularity among both senior men and women and young people.

I will bring a Mah Jongg set to the September meeting to show and explain the basics of the game to anyone who is interested. It will be informal during the social time of the meeting. Then, for anyone who wants to know more, we will schedule a few lessons at my house.

By the way, the Northville-Novi branch has a Mah Jongg group which plays regularly and has two tournaments each year for fund-raisers. Who knows??? We may have enough to form an interest group.

Sue Sayers



We extend our sympathy to Lauri Kempisty, whose brother passed away in early August. He was only 65 and the death was sudden.

Kathy Kish has finished both radiation and chemo and is feeling pretty good. She thanks everyone for cards, prayers, and well-wishes.

As of April 1, 2025, dues are \$99 (\$74 for national, \$15 for state, and \$10 for our branch).

Sue Sayers, Membership Chair



Board of Directors

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Dawn Parker	658-0844

Co-Program VP:

Michelle Churchill	248-767-4906
Marie Mack	427-3552

Membership VP:

Susan Sayers	730-2655
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Finance VP

Gail Conte	674-2829
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Dianne Hartman	248-229-3884
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Corresponding Secretary

Meredith Conte	614-270-6846
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