

Update

Volume 48 No. 8
March 2024

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES:

AAUW Michigan:

<https://www.aauwmi.org/>

AAUW National:

<https://www.aauw.org/>
connect@aauw.org

AAUW Northville-Nov:

<https://aauwnn.org/>
info@aauwnn.org

AAUWNN Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 11:30 a.m.
Northville Sports Den
133 W. Main Street, Northville

VP Programs

Lee Doyle

leedoyle@umich.edu

What’s a County Commissioner?



Gwen Markham,
Oakland County
Commissioner

Agenda

What’s a County Commissioner?

County Government, the CARES Act, and the American Rescue Plan

Counties and Climate Change

Human Trafficking

Regional Cooperation – Southeast Michigan Council of Governments - SEMCOG

Roads - Where’s the dividing line between Oakland and Wayne Counties? And why the heck can’t we fix 8 Mile Road?

1- 888 - 762 - 3273 Wayne County

1- 877 - 858 - 4804 Oakland County

Gwen Markham is the Oakland County Commissioner for District 15, which includes Novi, Farmington Hills, and the Oakland County portion of the City of Northville. She was elected in 2018 and is now in her third term. She currently serves as Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners Finance Committee, responsible for oversight of the \$1.3 Billion county budget. She is also Chair of the County’s Airport Committee, and a member of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.

(continued on page 8)



empowering women since 1881
American Association of University Women Northville-Novu
A non-profit 501(c)(3)

NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI)
<https://aauwnn.org/>

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AAUW Mission

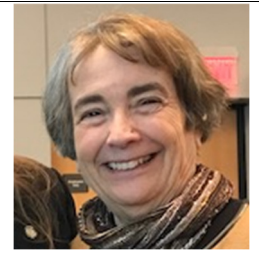
The AAUW MISSION is to advance gender equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW Diversity Statement

AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership teams and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic basis.

Update is published monthly, August through June, for the members and friends of the American Association of University Women Northville-Novu (MI)

President's Message
Karen Zyczynski
zyczynski2002@aol.com



MARCHING INTO MARCH

March is Women's History Month

About Women's History Month

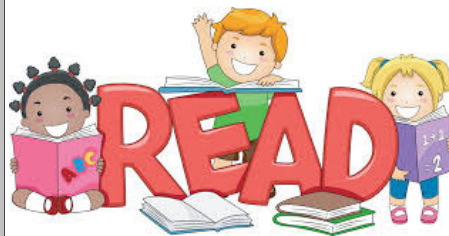
Women's History Month



Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History

Week." . . . In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." . . . Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields. (website: womenshistorymonth.gov)

March is Reading Month



March is National Reading Month, a celebration that encourages reading for all ages. It was established in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday to motivate all Americans to read. He was born on March 2, 1904. Dr. Seuss was actually not a doctor, but was a writer and an illustrator of very popular children's books.

March is - AAUWNN Reading in the Schools While Promoting and Celebrating Women in History

While we have been celebrating Women's History Month for many years, it wasn't so long ago that we added Reading in the Schools to our (continued on page 3)



Marching into March (continued from page 2)

repertoire of activities to enhance our Remember the Ladies Program. Be sure to let Rhonda York know if you are available sometime in March to read in a local elementary school. Rhonda's email is ryork03@gmail.com and her phone number is 248-444-9982.

March Ticket Sales to - Michigan Fashion Designer Showcase Brunch

Tickets now on sale! Bring a friend or family member and support women in Fashion Design while raising money to support young women in their education pursuits in and around our community.

"The things we fear most in organizations...fluctuations, disturbances, imbalances, are the primary sources of Creativity."

MARGARET WHEATLEY

Karen



Board Briefs

Membership: Important decisions this month. Pay attention to Public Policy and Membership reports in the newsletter. There are many opportunities to become involved in our Branch.

Fashion Show: We are getting close to our revenue goal. Make sure you get your tickets and invite your friends. If you cannot attend, consider a donation.



Michigan Fashion Showcase Brunch
Mary Ann MacLaren, Chair
info@aauwnn.org

MICHIGAN FASHION DESIGNER SHOWCASE BRUNCH 2024

PEEK AT THE UNIQUE II

Tickets are on sale NOW online at <https://aauwnn.org/>

You may purchase ticket/s or a table of eight or ten with payment via PayPal or mailed check. Details are on the website.



The Michigan Fashion Designers Showcase Brunch is Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:15 A.M.– 1 P.M. at Schoolcraft VisTaTech Center DiPonio Room.

This is our largest biennial fundraiser that supports our local high school scholarships, eighth grade career path day, Schoolcraft College and Oakland Community College scholarship foundation, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), and other community initiatives.

This is the month to meet and exceed our goal. Please do your part by purchasing a ticket/s to the event (you can gift your ticket to a family member or friend), become a “Friend of AAUWNN” and/or providing a door prize.

Contact Mary Ann MacLaren at info@aauwnn.org for additional information.

Mary Ann MacLaren, Chair
April 13, 2024 AAUWNN Fashion Show
maryann@maclareninc.com
734-306-3991



This is our major fund-raising event for the 2023-2024 year. The involvement of all members is necessary for reaching our financial goal.

AAUWNN Named Honoree

Each year we nominate and honor a person who has been committed to AAUWNN and has worked hard to advance our mission. Here is the process for selecting the honoree, as provided in our bylaws. We welcome your nominations by March 25.



AAUWNN Named Honoree

Selection Process

1. Annual Meeting Committee Chair shall request of the membership names and credentials of members who meet the criteria for the award.
2. The president will submit the names and credentials to the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee will vote at the direction of the president.
4. The name of the selected nominee shall be kept confidential until the date of the presentation of the award.

Criteria

1. Awardee must be an active member of AAUWNN.
2. Consideration is based on activities that demonstrate a significant commitment to the advancement of AAUW's mission.
3. Activities may represent a concentrated time frame or an extended number of years.

Recognition

1. The Annual Meeting Committee Chair shall be responsible for obtaining an appropriate gift in recognition of the honoree's support of AAUWNN and its mission.
2. The gift will be presented at the annual meeting.
3. If the Board of Directors chooses to purchase an ad in the annual AAUWMI convention booklet to recognize the named honoree, the Annual Meeting Community Chair shall have this responsibility.

Please give thought to this award and submit your nomination to Karen Zyczynski at zyczynski2002@aol.com by Monday, March 25, 2024. Your e-mail must include how your nominee has met the above criteria.



Public Policy
Mary Jane Kearns, Chair
mjkearns1@outlook.com

PUBLIC POLICY MATTERS

2024 Proposed AAUW Policy Changes



The AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee recommend approval of the following bylaw amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. This change will align our membership practices with our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls and enable us to include members with the diverse backgrounds and perspectives needed to achieve our purpose in today’s world.

We remain committed to higher education as a pathway to eliminate barriers that hold women back and to enhance their leadership opportunities at all levels. We admire the effort of the inspiring women who have led the way in earning their degrees. We recognize, however, that in today’s world higher education degrees are one of several paths needed to advance equity for women and girls. Professional certifications, on the job training, career technical experience and life experience all are alternative paths to obtaining education and the skills needed to become leaders and advocates for ending discrimination against women.

AAUW’s name, which continues to have significant brand recognition for AAUW as a women’s rights organization, will remain the same if the amendment is adopted.

The board recognizes that some members have strong views on the proposed change in the requirement for membership and encourages respectful debate on this important issue.

The board firmly believes that the proposed amendment is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. The board urges a vote in favor of the amendment.



Amendment Summary

The proposed revision of Article III would:

- Replace the Individual Members paragraph of the Membership Qualification provision (currently Article III Section 2 a) with new language indicating the sole requirement for membership is support of AAUW’s purpose.
- Delete the provision on Student Associates (currently Section 3) since students would be allowed to join as full members of AAUW, thus eliminating the need for a Student Associate provision.
- Renumber Section 4 Dues as Section 3 and delete the reference to “categories of membership” in this section to permit the board to set different dues for student members as previously allowed when Student Associates were listed as a separate category rather than included as part of the Individual Membership category.
- Make no changes to Article III Section 1 or Sections 5 and 6 on Life Membership and Membership Decisions, except that Section 5 Membership Decisions, and Section 6 Affiliates would be renumbered as Sections 4 and 5, respectively, with no other change.

How Do I Vote?

- **All voting will take place online starting April 3.** AAUW is utilizing an independent, third-party (continued on page 7)

Public Policy (continued from page 6)

voting system for this year's vote. Most members will receive emails from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique Elector ID and Password to vote.

- All members without an email address on file or who have unsubscribed from AAUW national emails will receive a paper ballot by mail. No additional paper ballots will be sent during the voting period.

Where Do I Find My Voting Credentials?

- AAUW's third-party voting vendor, Simply Voting, will provide Elector IDs and Passwords to all members. This information will be e-mailed to members before voting begins (and voters will receive regular reminders if they have not yet voted). Voters without a valid email address on file or who have unsubscribed to AAUW's emails will be mailed a paper ballot.
- **Voting will close on Wednesday, May 15 at 12 p.m. (noon) ET.**

What Constitutes A Quorum For A Vote To Be Valid?

- The AAUW bylaws require that submitted ballots equal in number to at least five percent of the votes entitled to be cast by members is the quorum required for a vote to be counted.

How Many Votes Are Needed For The Changes To Pass?

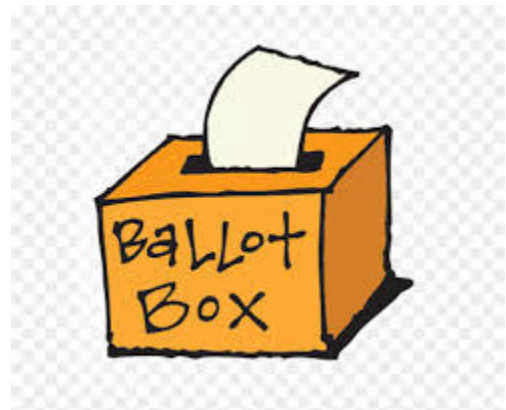
- The AAUW bylaws require that the affirmative (yes) vote of two-thirds of the votes cast are required to amend the bylaws.

How Will I Know If My Vote Is Counted?

- After you submit your electronic ballot, a confirmation message will appear on the screen that you can print out as confirmation of your vote.

If The Votes Pass, When Would The Change Be In Effect?

- Changes to the bylaws are effective immediately.



NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI) UPDATE

County Commissioner (continued from page 1)

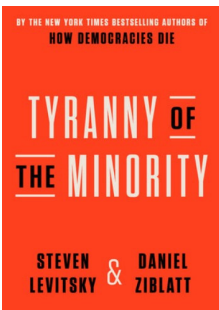
She serves on the board of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, the County Drain Board, and the Human Trafficking Task Force. She also is a Vice Chairperson of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. It's here that local elected leaders from seven Counties and 184 communities come together to work in a bipartisan manner to bring federal funding, environmental protections, and economic development to the region.

Prior to serving as a Commissioner, Ms. Markham served five years on the Novi City Council. Before that, she was on the Novi Planning Commission and the Friends of the Novi Theatres. She has retired from a career in manufacturing operations in the automotive and aerospace industries.



Great Decisions
Diana Chirillo, Chair
chirillodlc@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS



The **Great Decisions Interest Group** will be discussing the book "Tyranny of the Minority" by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, on Tuesday, March 19, at 1:30 p.m. via zoom.

In April the group will begin the Great Decision discussions, starting with #3 "Science Across Borders" led by Mary Fowler.



Membership

Corinne Vincent, VP



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

What does AAUW-NN do anyway? WE EMPOWER WOMEN in different ways.

Provide - “A Little Help from My Friends” begins in house with support of the AAUW-NN Community.

Members of our Community will never stop needing to give or receive our support. In its simplest form, just keep these words on your mind: **Call, Visit, Drive, Share a Skill.**



Look for “A Few Good Women”



2024-25 Membership Campaign Kickoff begins April 13 at the AAUW-NN Michigan Fashion Designer’s Showcase Brunch celebrating Michigan women fashion designers while earning funds to empower other young women.

Invite potential members to join you at your table. We try to show off a little that morning, so let’s invite over some company to experience AAUW-NN’s unique story in action.

Current AAUW bylaws Article III 2.a. (1): “Eligibility: An individual holding an associate (or equivalent) bachelors or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education.” There is a lot of potential in “equivalent” *and also*, we haven’t had any male members for quite a few years. They have been eligible for membership since 1987!

Attendees who decide to become a first time AAUW-NN member, will be eligible to receive a substantial discount on the National AAUW portion of their first year membership. National, State and AAUW-NN membership total for one year = \$58 vs \$94. All but \$12 is tax deductible.

Give Our Talents and Resources

It’s a very busy season. Members are making decisions about which young women will receive AAUW-NN scholarships to the 2024 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and College Scholarships for four college bound Northville and Novi High School young women.

How many members will be reading for the “Remember the Ladies Program” to elementary school students in both communities? Others are working on Career Path Day, a three-part experience for eighth grade females that begins on a college campus, moves to a lunch at Genetti’s with career women and ends visiting women professionals/entrepreneurs at work along Main Street.

Enjoy Personal Enrichment

A recent communication equipment investment will greatly improve the quality of **hybrid** monthly all member enrichment programs. *Everyone will be able to attend and participate, from the office, home, vacation site, or out of state residence.* Member recruitment and active participant base has expanded to
(continued on page 10)

NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI) UPDATE

Membership Matters (continued from page 9)

“anywhere” there is internet reception. Zoom activity has been ongoing since the pandemic. Several interest groups, committees and Board of Directors meet regularly or frequently online. Members can be and are thousands of miles away, actively participating and chairing a committee!

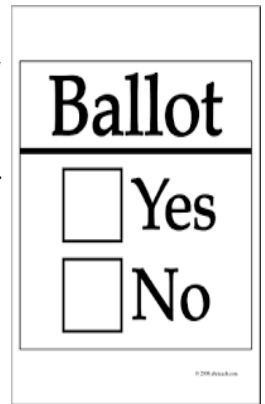
If you aren't quite sure how to access the link to events or zoom, this is where “A Little Help from My Friends” comes into play. Let us know and help will be on the way.

The aim was to be a successful Intergenerational AAUW affiliate. Maybe we should add “global” to that!

Cast Our Vote for the Future AAUW

Exercise your individual right to vote between April 3 and May 15, 12 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time deadline. Look for your AAUW email link to vote. Every member's vote counts in this National AAUW vote on a *proposed by-law change to eliminate all membership education criteria*. To amend AAUW bylaws requires an affirmative (yes) vote of two-thirds of the votes cast. This proposal from National Board and staff has been defeated several times. In 2021 Nation-wide 28.62% of affiliate members voted. In Michigan 30.2% of affiliate members voted.

Apathy on such a critical issue is an organization embarrassment! Educate yourself with facts (AAUW website). Carefully read wording of current bylaws and proposed change. Know who can join AAUW now. Know what would change and what would remain. **If you don't vote, don't complain if the outcome is not what you expected.**



\$\$\$ PASSIVE FUNDRAISING \$\$\$

Shopping, it's what we all do well, several times a week. We visit Kroger for food and gasoline and browse AAUWNN spirit clothing from Big Frog. You can EASILY add to the coffers of AUWNN by signing up with these two companies. A portion of your purchase will go directly into our account. You do not have to do a thing but shop! **You know how to do that, don't you???** Sign up now!



KROGER

Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program to help AAUWNN achieve its financial goals! Go online to <https://www.kroger.com/o/store-services/community-rewards>. Sign in using your email address and designate American Association of University Women Northville/Novi as the recipient of your rewards. If you do not already have a Kroger Plus Card, you will be issued one.

BIG FROG

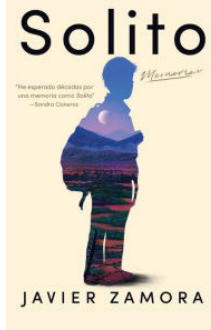
Sign up from the homepage of our website: <https://aauwnn.org/>. Scroll down to Spirit Wear and click to be linked to Big Frog, Novi.

NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI) UPDATE

Daytime Book Group
Marian Brockie, Contact

Our Thursday, March 14, book discussion will take place at the Northville Library Friends Community Room from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Note time change.)

The book discussion is “Solito” by Javier Zamora and led by Marian Brockie. For more information on joining this group please contact Marian Brockie at mbrockie@umich.edu.



Bridge Group
Marian Brockie, Contact

The Bridge Group currently is meeting at Laurel Park Food Court area every Wednesday at 1 p.m. For more information on joining contact Marian Brockie at mbrockie@umich.edu.



Evening Book Group
Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

The Evening Book Group will meet again via Zoom on March 25, 2024, at 7 p.m. We will discuss “Upstairs at the White House: My Life with the First Ladies” by J.B. West and Mary Lynn Lotz.



“J. B. West, whom Jackie Kennedy called ‘one of the most extraordinary men I have ever met,’ provides an absorbing, one-of-a-kind history of life among the first ladies. Alive with anecdotes ranging from Eleanor Roosevelt’s fascinating political strategies to Jackie Kennedy’s tragic loss and the personal struggles of Pat Nixon, Upstairs at the White House is a rich account of a slice of American history that usually remains behind closed doors.” Amazon

Barb Wilson will lead our discussion.

Interested in joining? We’d love to have you. Contact Mary Jane at mjkearns1@outlook.com or 248-449-8693.

Mah Jongg
Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

The group meets every Friday 1 to 4 p.m. in a player’s home.

To join the group please contact Mary Jane at mjkearns1@outlook.com.



Restaurant Rovers
Joyce Murdock, Contact

The Restaurant Rovers will be meeting Friday, March 29, (Note the day change) at 11:45 a.m. at American Harvest, Schoolcraft College.



Please contact Joyce Murdock at jgmurdock12051942@wowway.com or (313) 381-2350 by March 27 at 6 p.m. if joining.

Note: We are going to our lunch time meetings.

Movie Goers
Rhonda York, Contact

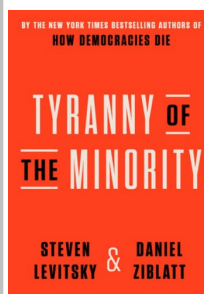
Movie Goers are now meeting the first Tuesday of the month. Rhonda will send an email to those on the list.



To be added to the list or for information, contact Rhonda York at rlYork03@gmail.com.

Great Decisions
Diana Chirillo, Contact

Great Decisions will meet on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. to discuss “Tyranny of the Minority” by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt.



This will be a Zoom meeting. We encourage guests and welcome new members. For more information or a

Zoom invite contact Diana Chirillo at chirillodlc@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee
Mary Jane Kearns, Chair
mjkearns1@outlook.com

Nominating Committee

Nominations for the Slate of officers for 2024-25

The Nominating Committee is composed of the following Branch members: Mary Jane Kearns, Deena Alam-Parks and Christine Verleye. We feel very fortunate that several of our current officials are allowing their names to stand for re-election. Names and biographies follow.

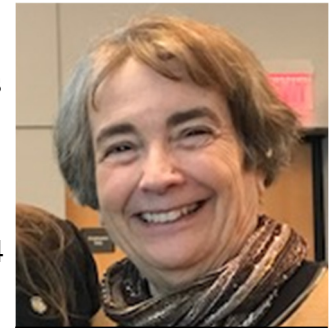
President: Karen Zyczynski

In 1964 I began my teaching career as an early childhood educator and went on to work thirty-five years for Livonia Public Schools, taking off a few years in the 1970s to have my children. In addition, I spent five years in the 1970s working part time at Schoolcraft College.

Growing up in a union family, I became interested in becoming more involved in union activities in my school district and at the State and National level. I became a member of the bargaining team, attended NEA Conferences all over the country and in 1996 became president of my local union. After retiring in 2004 I became involved with my local MEA-Retired Group and eventually served as president. Also, I chaired the Mentoring Committee and the Legislative Committee for MEA-Retired at the state level.

Over the years I worked with Remember the Ladies, chaired Financial Development, chaired the Home Tour and the Michigan Designer Showcase Luncheon, chaired Public Policy and served as Public Policy Director for AAUW Michigan. During the last few years, I served as Membership VP and took over as President for Jane Hecker this past August when she moved out of state.

The best part of belonging to AAUWNN has been the friendships I've made and the opportunity to meet and get to know so many energetic, dedicated and committed women, who work to promote education opportunities, economic security and equity for all women. I look forward to serving a full term as AAUWNN President. Your continued support is very much appreciated.



Karen Zyczynski

VP Membership: Corinne Vincent

Current AAUWNN Assignments 2024

Vice President Membership Diversity – 9/2024 filling unexpired term

Chair: Membership Diversity Team

College University Relations

Member: AAUWNN Board of Directors

Special Assignment: Initiatives Reorganization

Committees: Program, Budget

Volunteer: “Career Path Day”

AAUW Michigan Membership Committee: 2022 – present

Helped design Michigan Membership Best Practices “Playbook” now on the state website, a model to assist other MI AAUW affiliates

Past Assignments

President: 2008-10

Member: Board of Directors

Chair posts – 2009-2020 501(c)(3) Structure Task Force, Endowment,

Initiatives, Public Policy.

VP Membership 2017-2020



Corinne Vincent

(continued on page 13)

Nominating Committee (continued from page 11)

Committee membership: Financial Development, Michigan Designer Show Case Core 2019

Leader: Arrangements & Accessory Designer Acquisition,
Initiatives Committee Member Recruitment 1 yr.

Team Leader “Let’s Read Math”

Home Tour Guide – Patrons/ design 5 yrs.

AAUW member affiliation: AAUW Northville-Novu 2005 to present.

AAUW Northville Charter Member 1975- 1977

AAUW Plymouth-Northville 1967-1975

Secretary: Caryn Doehler

I am currently Branch Secretary, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, and participate in the morning book club.

I am a retired therapist, married to David and enjoy having 2 beautiful and busy granddaughters.

With my new free time I sing and play in handbell choirs. I have a passion for quilting, sending quilts to world missions and I have sent almost 200 to Quilts for Kids.



Caryn Doehler

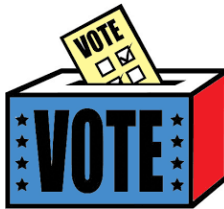
Nominating Committee: Judy Sherman



Judy Sherman

Judy is proud to be a member of AAUWNN. She is a retired attorney, having worked as a medical malpractice defense attorney, representing hospitals, doctors and nurses, for over twenty years. Prior to obtaining her law degree, Judy was a court reporter in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Judy is delighted that in her retirement she is part of a group encouraging young women to reach for the stars and become their best selves.



Simply Notes

Deepest Sympathy to:

Harriet Sawyer on the loss of her husband
Mary Ann MacLaren on the loss of her mother-in-law

Thinking of You to:

Karel Whitaker
Darlene Ursel
Judy Kaye

Get Well Wishes to:

Jan Wilhelm





empowering women since 1881

American Association of University Women Northville-Nov
A non-profit 501(c)(3)

Articles for the April 2024 issue
due **March 20** to:

Mary Ann MacLaren
info@aauwnn.org

**AAUW Northville-Nov (MI) Calendar of Events
visit the website for more information at**

<https://aauwnn.org/>

Board MeetingFourth Tuesday, 6:45 p.m.
Bridge Group.....Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
Day Book Group.....Second Thursday, 10 a.m.
Evening Book Group..... Fourth Monday, 7 p.m.
Great DecisionsThird Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg..... ..Fridays, 1 p.m.
Restaurant Rovers.....Third Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.