

South Haven, Michigan AAUW

Newsletter: May 2024

Scholarships

Upon reviewing the 19 applications AAUW SH received, Scholarship Committee members **Stephanie Timmer, Sandy Olsen, Andrea Cheeseman** and **Teresa Gibbons** were pleased to select this year's scholarship recipients. Members will have the opportunity to meet these impressive young women at the annual Spring Scholarship Celebration Monday, June 10 from 4:00 - 5:30 at South Haven High School. Invitation coming to your email soon!

Book Groups

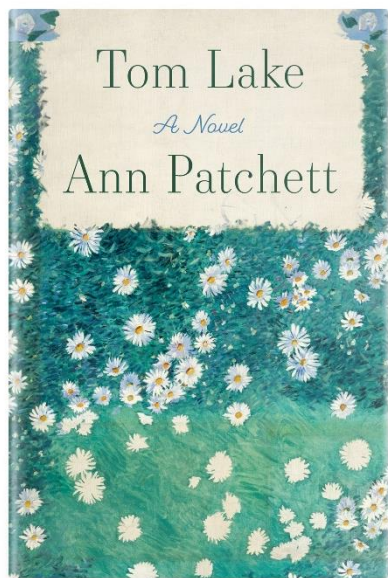
Monday Afternoon Group:

Apr 29 *Our American Friend* by Anna Pitoniak

Hostess: **Lynda Warshawsky**

May 20 *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

Hostess: **Nadine Godin-Nassaney**



June 24 *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
Hostess: **Mary Pietenpol**

Thursday Night Book Group

May 16 *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards

Host-**Mary Tobin**

Jun 20 *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

Host-**Marla Zwolan**

Wednesday Evening Book Group A (South)

May 8 - *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict,

Hostess - **Kathy Straits**

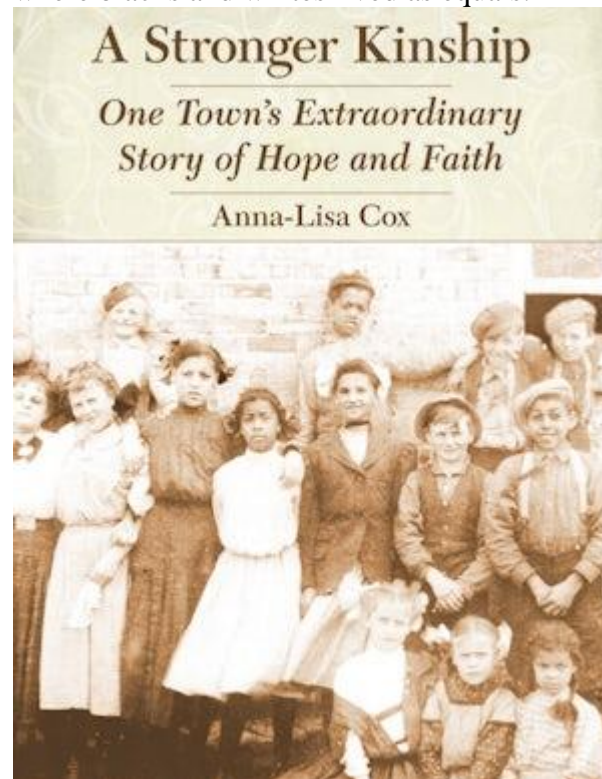
June 12 - *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks,

Hostess - **Carol Tidwell**

DEI recommended read:

A Stronger Kinship: One Town's Extraordinary Story of Hope and Faith by Anna-Lisa Cox.

This book is a history of Covert, MI. Starting in the 1860's, the people of Covert, Michigan, broke laws and barriers to attempt what then seemed impossible; to love one's neighbor as oneself. This is the inspiring, true story of an extraordinary town where blacks and whites lived as equals.



DEI Update

AAUW's Public Policy Committee and DEI Committee are pleased to sponsor the following event (re-scheduled from January):

City of South Haven's

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan

Presented by Kim Wise, HR Director for the City of South Haven

Tuesday, April 30th,

5:00 pm Snacks and Socializing

Presentation and questions 5:30-6:30 pm

South Haven Center for the Arts

All AAUW members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Marlazwolan@gmail.com.

Women's History

The Silver Bag Ladies of AAUW celebrated Women's History month with a presentation at the library. An enthusiastic audience enjoyed "Oh, The Places They Went - Remembering Remarkable Michigan Women" by **Elaine Fluck**. Wearing the hats, and carrying the bags were **Lois Schwartz, Mary Tobin, Sherry Saenz, Mary Lynne Bugge, Jean Bevevino, Susie Yule, Mary Lynne Bugge, Ann Habicht, and Mary Kathy Dascenzo**. Enjoy a repeat performance at the Spring Scholarship Celebration on June 10.



Annual Meeting

Just a reminder that our annual meeting will be held at Lake Michigan College on Thursday, May 9th from 5 - 7 PM.

Our present Secretary, **Sherry Saenz**, has agreed to run and hopefully serve again. **Mary Tobin**, our present VP of Programs, has also agreed to run and serve again. Remember that at the Annual Meeting, nominations may also be taken from the floor with the approval of the nominee.

We will be starting the development process for our next 5 year strategic plan at the Annual Meeting, so please put some thought into the following questions:

What are we doing successfully?

What do we need to improve?

Where would you like to see AAUW SH in 5 years?

AAUW Bylaws

Members are registered to vote in the AAUW Election 2024. This ballot ends at May 15th, 2024 at 12:00 pm Eastern. Follow this link to access the ballot- <https://aauw.simplyvoting.com/index.php> If you have any questions, or updates regarding your membership or changes to your address or email, please contact connect@aauw.org.

Summer Sounds

Last year's benefit concert came as a surprise to some who attended. The anticipation of a pleasant afternoon was replaced by a thrilling appreciation of artistry, good cheer, and celebration (as well as the benefits AAUW received in donations and community goodwill). This year, come ready to enjoy *Summer Sounds in the Winery*, with *Diane and Lisa from 1:00 – 3:00 at Cogdal Winery*. Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and choose your lawn chairs.



Hello from Linda

Hopefully many of you got to view the recent eclipse – whether partial or in totality. Although only partial here, the sunlight did get strange, the temp dropped and the wind picked up.

We are entering into an active season for AAUW SH – both personally and as a branch. About 10 members led by **Andrea Cheeseman** met at Julia's Café for four hours over 2 days and wrote about 200+ thank-you notes to our hard working teachers in South Haven to be distributed during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Here are reminders of upcoming events:

April 24th – Lunch Bunch at Lake Arvesta Fire Water Bar and Grill – 12:30 - thanks to Julie Molnar. Hope to see you there.

April 30th – City of South Haven's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan presented by SH City Director Kim Wise and hosted by our DEI Committee – 5 PM Snacks and Socializing, 5:30 – 6:30 PM Presentation – South Haven Center for the Arts.

May 9th – AAUW SH Annual Meeting 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at LMC – Dues can be paid at this time

and sign up sheets for committees and interest groups will be available. Also available will be sign up sheets for sweet or savory refreshments to be brought to the Spring Scholarship Celebration. We will be voting on Secretary candidate Sherry Saenz and Vice President of Programs candidate Mary Tobin – both agreeing to continue in their present positions if elected. Nominations will be taken from the floor. Before the conclusion of the meeting, there will be a breakout session to consider 3 questions for our next 5 year Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030 ; 1) What are we doing well? 2) Where can we improve? 3) Where would you like to see the organization in 2030? Start considering these questions.

May 10th – 11th AAUWMI holds it Biennial Convention at the Detroit Marriot in Livonia, Mi. Registration closes April 30.

May 15th – 12 noon – Closing of the vote for the National By-Law change to open AAUW’s membership and “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.” Those of us who have already voted can reassure you that the process is quick and easy. Make your opinion known and vote. Just go to National website and search “proposed 2024 bylaw changes”.

May 26th – Sunday of Memorial Day weekend – AAUW SH Benefit Concert by our friends Diane and Lisa at Cogdal Winery.

June 10th – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Spring Scholarship Celebration – at South Haven High School. This is a time to celebrate the students we support with our scholarship money. Refreshments (see above – sweet or savory sign up lists at Annual Meeting) will be served.

August 8th – 11th – AAUW Annual Booksale during the National Blueberry Festival. More details about book collection dates and that weekend to come.

We are certainly an active group – and I am sure there will be more activities as the summer goes on. That is who we are.

Blessings in a Backpack

It’s difficult to capture the “Blessings in a Backpack” team, because they work so quickly, and rarely look up from their tasks, so this is a special image from North Shore School on April 18.

In back: **Teresa Gibbons, Kathy Straits** Front row: **Jo Muszkiewicz, Sandy Olsen, Cathy Duda, Sue Cunningham, Amy Kilbridge, Jean Bevevino**



Public Policy

Public Policy Committee: At each of our meetings, our South Haven Public Policy Committee reviews information about the latest federal and state government news relating to our public policy priorities that is discussed via the monthly Lobby Corps virtual meetings hosted by AAUW of Michigan.

The Lobby Corps formed in 2015. Invaluable leadership is provided by Mary Pollock, Public Policy Director and Government Relations Coordinator. Mary is our link to learning about legislation concerning: gender issues in education, individual and civil rights, voting rights, reproductive rights, and economic security for women.



Mary Pollock, AAUW of Michigan
Government Relations
Coordinator

Any of our members can join Lobby Corps and the Lobby Corps

Facebook Group by emailing Mary Pollock pollockm@comcast.net .

School Board

South Haven Public Schools Board of Education will have three seats open this year. Membership on this board does not require having children or grandchildren in the South Haven Public School System. It requires an interest in education and residency in the South Haven School District (city and township of South Haven and parts of



Casco and Geneva township).

Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month, July through April,

with two meetings in May and June (various Wednesdays).

Members also serve on a Board Committee such as Finance and Facility, Curriculum, Policy or Personnel.

This is a great opportunity for you to share your expertise and experience. If you or a family member might be interested, please contact the office of the Superintendent (637-1950) for information and an application.

Book Sale

Only a few more months until our Book Sale in full swing! These will be 2024 dates. The week of the sale may have some revision depending on unforeseen circumstances.



and Senior Services.

Sorting dates are Wednesdays: **June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.**

Sale Week: **Tuesday, Aug 6** - set up tables, carry up boxes, unpack and organize

Tuesday, Aug 6 and 7 - Children's books

Wednesday, Aug 7 - unpack books and put on tables

Thursday, Aug 8 - oversee

SALE DAYS: Friday, Aug 9 & Saturday, Aug 10

Breakfast

Gathering at Dave's Landing on the second Tuesday of the month, AAUW members can share breakfast and socialize in a casual setting.

Make a plan for the next outing:

The second Tuesday of each month
8:30 am

Dave's Landing (05110 Blue Star) South Haven
COMPLETELY CASUAL

Come if you can for conversation and camaraderie.

No invitations

No RSVP's

No name tags

Hope to see you there and then



Donation & Grants

Creating Opportunities, Changing Lives

In our February newsletter, I wrote about how you might consider using your annual *Required Minimum Distribution* from a retirement account to make a contribution to AAUWSH – without being taxed! While we focus our fundraising on student scholarships, I also mentioned that you may designate your gift to any board-approved initiatives such as the Lake Michigan College Snack Shack/Food Pantry coordinated by Peggy Murnighan or this year's Candidate Forum. Simply make a note of your intention when you make your gift and the money will be earmarked for the program you wish to support.

Another way for you to invest in AAUWSH, is to **become a sponsor for one of our activities**, such as *Summer Sounds in the Vineyard*, our May 26 benefit performance at Cogdal Vineyards. Having a sponsor last year, ensured that all the proceeds from the event went directly to our scholarship program. Other AAUWSH events, like the popular [Used Book Sale](#) during South Haven's Blueberry Festival and the well-attended [Candidate](#)

Forum, incur expenses as well. Your sponsorship support can offset these expenses and allow us to use the budgeted funds for other board-approved initiatives.

If this sounds appealing to you, please contact our treasurer, Marge Lampe, and let her know.

While student scholarships continue to be the primary way AAUWSH empowers women through education, we are happy to offer other programs and a variety of giving opportunities that allow us to share our time, talent and treasure in the way that is most meaningful to each of us. Thank you for your generosity and continuing support

~Bernie Lopata

Golf



Welcome Golfers. The AAUW Wednesday Golfing group is golfing again. We golf 9 holes each Wednesday at 2:30 at Hawks Head Golf Club. This group of ladies love the game and love the social hour afterwards even

more. If you're interested in golfing with us email NancyKayse@gmail.com.

From National AAUW



With the start of the spring season, AAUW is leaping into our dynamic engagement to advance gender equity for women and girls from states and branches to the halls of Congress! We are making

progress together to ensure an equitable future for all. This month AAUW is awarding \$6.25 million to 260 exceptional fellows and grantees to achieve their academic and professional goals or lead community-based projects that empower women and girls! We are so proud that AAUW is unique among nonprofits with the distinction as the oldest non-institutional funder of graduate-level women. And your support continues to be vital to increasing higher education access and opportunity.



On Your Calendar?

April 24 Lunch Bunch – Lake Arvesta
April 25 Public Policy
April 29 Book Group (afternoon)
April 30 Open Door
Apr 30 DEI presentation at SHCA
May 1,8,15,22,29 Golf
May 7 Teen Dinner
May 8 School Board
May 9 Annual Meeting 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at LMC
May 14 Breakfast at 8:30 – Dave's Landing
May 15th (noon) Deadline to vote on the National By-Law change.
May 22 School Board
May 23 Public Policy
May 26 AAUW SH Benefit Concert by our friends Diane and Lisa at Cogdal Winery.
June 4 Teen Dinner
June 5,12,19,26 Golf
June 5 Golf
June 10 Spring Scholarship Celebration
June 11 Breakfast at 8:30 – Dave's Landing
June 19 School Board
June 26 Book Sorting
July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 Book Sorting

To Do List ✓

- ___ Read with a book group.
- ___ Arrange to pay your AAUW dues
- ___ Visit our website
- ___ Start culling your book supply – donate to the Book sale.
- ___ Vote on the AAUW National by-law change.
- ___ Invite a guest to the Scholarship Celebration
- ___ Put Breakfast on your calendar
- ___ Run for School Board
- ___ Invite friends to the Benefit Concert May 26
- ___ Sort books
- ___ Write a legislator.
- ___ Start and Interest Group.
- ___ Look for SHAAUW on Facebook. Like!