

South Haven, Michigan

AAUW Newsletter: September 2024

From the President

Hello, and Happy Fall! I am honored to be your new President and although there will be a bit of a learning curve, I hope to continue the leadership of our past presidents, especially my mentor, **Linda Garrison**.

Our major event this summer was, of course, the Book Sale. New this year was the ability to accept credit card payments, thank you, **Marge Lampe** for setting that up! This system will also be a convenience at our various fundraisers and even dues paying. Once again, **Susan Shields** and her team did a fabulous job and we were able to raise \$11,648.12 for our Scholarship Fund. Bravo!

As usual, the summer goes by quickly and many of us have played host to several visitors. Even as we breathe a sigh of relief as the summer winds down, there are many activities and events that will start up after Labor Day Weekend. September will be particularly busy with the Pillow Picnic (time and place TBD) and two Candidate Forums.

The Forum for the state and federal candidates will be Monday, September 23rd at Listiak from 7 to 9PM. The Forum for School Board candidates will be Monday, September 30 at LMC from 7 to 9PM. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors as this is an extremely important election year.



Our New Member Event will be at Cogdal Vineyard on Thursday, October 3rd from 5 to 7PM. Our Monthly Lunch Bunch is also tentatively scheduled for October, Date/Time/Place TBD. It's wonderful to connect with other members at these events. And if you're so inclined, there

are plenty of volunteer opportunities!

Two more things - 1. Although we would love to totally revamp our branch website, there are roadblocks to doing that at this time. However, I encourage all Committee Leaders to send me information that I can relay to **Erika Morrison**, who will then include that information on the website. And 2, there is an opportunity to join a State Committee as a College/University Liaison. If this is something you would like to be a part of, let me or the State C/U Chair, Barb Duran now. (barbduranaauw@gmail.com). This committee will meet via zoom and will not take up much of your time. Please consider being our South Haven Branch's College/University Liaison.

Thanks to all of you for being a part of AAUW South Haven!

Judy Pollack

Lost and Found



A lovely, but lonely, jello mold wants to come home. And a splendid chalk board was abandoned at an AAUW event. If either are yours, please contact **Linda Garrison**. Otherwise, they will be

rehomed.



Book Groups

Monday Afternoon Group:

Sept 23 *Finlay Donavan is Killing It* by Elle Cosimano

Host: **Barbara Reber**

Oct 28 Dinner with the President by Alex Prud'homme

Host: Need Volunteer

Thursday Night Book Group

Sept 19 *The 100 Years of Lenni & Margo* by Marianne Cronin

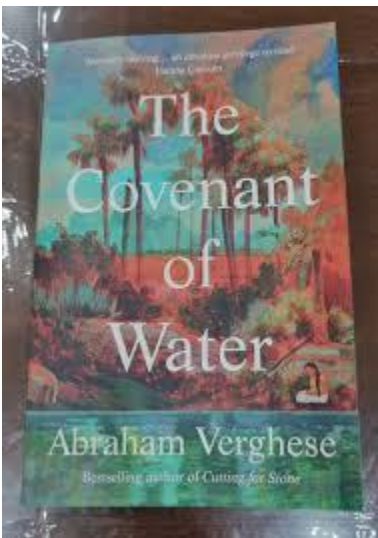
Host: **Helene Dubin**

Oct 17 *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir

Host: **Delores Atkins**



After a nice summer of meeting outdoors, the Thursday evening book group finally took a photo inside.



Wednesday Night Book Group

Sept 11 *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese

Host: **Sharon Gultinan**

Oct 9 *How Beautiful We Were* by Imbolo Mbue

Host: **Lois Schwartz**

Wednesday Nighters 2.0

Book groups are bursting. Contact **Deb D'Adamo** debradadamo@gmail.com about our newest group.

Scholarships

In 2020, AAUW South Haven (AAUWSH) awarded four scholarships: two Pathfinder Awards, one Luminary Award, and one Olsen Memorial Award. However, due to Covid, only one of those four young women attended college - Pathfinder Award recipient Alondra Gonzales. Because \$4500 of that year's scholarship budget was not spent, the Board decided to use part of that money to recognize Alondra's efforts and success during a difficult time. So in 2021, AAUWSH provided a \$1500 scholarship for Alondra's sophomore year of college. This was the beginning of the Achievement Award.

At the time, we had no long-term plans for the Achievement Award, no certainty that we'd have the money to provide this award again; however, AAUWSH has been able to offer a \$1500 Achievement Award to *every* Pathfinder and Luminary Award recipient for each year of her college education since 2021.

Although Alondra finished her freshman year with a perfect 4.0 GPA, criteria for the Achievement Award aligns with our goal to support young women who may not have stellar grades but who are succeeding nonetheless. To be eligible for the Achievement Award, students must finish their previous year of college with a minimum 2.7 GPA.

Except for two young women who chose not to return to college after their freshman year, every AAUWSH Pathfinder and Luminary recipient has qualified for an Achievement Award each year of college; in fact, each of these young women has been on the Dean's list throughout college. As of July 2024, AAUWSH has provided 20 Achievement Awards of \$1500 each.

Think about it. Since 2021, the Pathfinder and Luminary Award recipients have met our criteria and earned an Achievement Award each year of college. And, if they continue to do so, each one will have received \$6000 in scholarship support from AAUWSH by the time they graduate. The original \$1500 scholarship has multiplied many times over due to our members' generosity and

commitment to our mission. You all make this possible!

This message from Alondra Gonzalez, our first Achievement Award recipient, reminds us how important our support



is:

*Hello AAUW Scholarship Committee,
Thank you for awarding me the Achievement scholarship. It means a lot to me and my family, and I'm grateful for your support. Your scholarships help cover my school expenses and allow me to focus more on my studies. I'm currently going into my last semester of the nursing program at GVSU and will graduate in December 2024. Your financial assistance will help me as I work towards my goals. I'm sorry I couldn't attend the scholarship award ceremony because I had COVID. I was looking forward to meeting you and thanking you in person. Thankfully, I'm feeling better now and excited to keep working hard in school. I believe in the purpose of your scholarship, and I am happy you are continuing to help students succeed. Thanks again for your generosity and for believing in me.
Best regards,
Alondra Gonzalez*

Public Policy

Your PPC will be hosting our Candidate Forum on Monday, September 23, 7:00 P.M. at Listiak Auditorium and Forum for School Board Candidates on September 30, 7:00 P.M. at LMC.

The committee meets the 4th Thursday of the month.

Membership

Please welcome:

Janet Gilbert-Smith

7173 Point Betsie Dr. South Haven, MI 49090

janetgilbertsmith@comcast.net

734-255-3163

BA McGill University

MEd Loyola University

DeVona McIntire

PO Box 14, 55 Kalamazoo South Haven, MI 49090

dijone1953@gmail.com

BA Nazareth College

Masters in Judicial Administration from Institute for Court Management

Joan Bauer

1922 Moores River Dr. Lansing, MI 48910-1014

jeb1211@sbcglobal.net

Paula Harer

29853 Lake Bluff Drive Covert, MI 49043

harer.paula@gmail.com

.....and a message from a former member:

I have been a proud AAUW member for 30+ years. I served on the board and many committees. When I was president I recall we only had around 40 members. Wishing you and the membership continued successful growth. I have decided not to continue my membership.

I would appreciate my new address and contact info put in the newsletter.

Suzie Blair

1707 W. Elfindale St. #44

Springfield, MO 65807

sblair59@comcast.net

269.214.4445

Book Sale

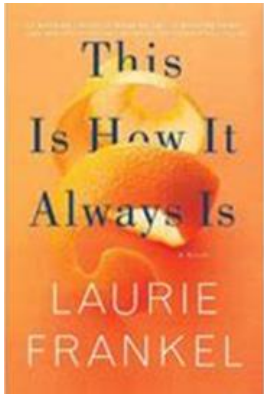
This year's book sale was a teamwork dream come true. Thanks to immeasurable volunteer hours and dedication, we surpassed our goal and achieved a

net sales and donation income of over **\$11,600.**

Heartfelt thank you and a hearty HUZZAH to all involved. **Susan Shields**

DEI recommended read:

This is How it Always is by Laurie Frankel



This Is How It Always Is is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not

always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

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

Domestic Violence Prevention

Domestic Violence (DV) Prevention Committee will again have a speaker for October's Lunch Bunch in support of DV Awareness Month. Van Buren County Prosecutor is available on October 17th to discuss DV issues in Van Buren County. There was also much interest in awareness about Human Trafficking. January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, so keep an eye out for a possible speaker. September is always our picnic gathering where spouses and significant others join us. Stay tuned for details.

Lunch Bunch

Lake Arvesta welcomed the latest gathering for lunch. Thankyou, **Julie Molnar**, for making the arrangements.



LMC



Yes, it's that time of year when students of all ages are heading back to the classroom. The LMC pantry could always use some restocking so if you are interested in dropping off a donation on my front porch, stop on by. Self-stable meals like

Hormel's Completes, healthy non-perishable snack, or small containers of laundry detergent are always welcome additions. My address is 34 Grand Blvd. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Peggy Murnighan

On Your Calendar?

Aug 26 Afternoon Books
Sept 10 Breakfast – Dave's Landing
Sept 10 DEI Committee Meeting, SH
Library Community Room 5pm
Sept 10 Teen Dinner
Sept 11 Wednesday Night Books
Sept 11 School Board
Sept 19 Thursday Night Books
Sept 23 Monday Afternoon Books
Sept 23 Candidate Forum – Listiak
Sept 26 Public Policy
Sept 30 Candidate Forum – LMC
Oct 8 Breakfast – Dave's Landing
Oct 3 New Member Event
Oct 9 Wednesday Night Books
Oct 16 School Board at Maple Grove
Oct 17 Lunch Bunch
Oct 17 Thursday Night Books
Oct 24 Public Policy
Oct 28 Monday Afternoon Books
Oct 29 Open Door

To Do List ✓

- ___ Read with a book group.
- ___ Visit our website
- ___ Invite someone to the New Member event
- ___ Put Breakfast on your calendar
- ___ Consider being our College/University Liaison.
- ___ Contribute to LMC Pantry
- ___ Write a legislator.
- ___ Start and Interest Group.
- ___ Look for SHAAUW on Facebook. Like!