

# South Haven, Michigan AAUW

## Newsletter: January 2025

### President's Message

Dear South Haven Members, I hope you have all had the holiday you wished for, or at least close to it. Many of us have had a little bit of time to enjoy each other's company over the past month and that shared time makes us appreciate the friends we are making as members of AAUWSH. As we look ahead to 2025, it's apparent we will have our work cut out for us to support the mission of AAUW: "to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, advocacy, and philanthropy." (Italics are mine) As a group, we have done well in the past and will continue in the future. Our Public Policy Committee is one of the most active groups in the state and we should be proud of their commitment in advocating for legislation beneficial to women and girls - which ultimately is beneficial for everyone! If you haven't received (or read) the Fall/Winter AAUWMI Newsletter, here is a link:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Fall-Winter-Newsletter-2024.html?oid=1103611975095&aid=CAOUSTzoabU>

I encourage you to take a few minutes to at least skim through it. Last but not least, we are still in need of volunteers willing to commit to the two-year terms of both the Treasurer and the Membership VP. The President-Elect position is a one-year term that leads to the two-year role of President. The current holders of these positions have graciously offered to mentor those who take over. Please let me know if you are interested. TIA!

Let's make 2025 another stellar year for AAUW South Haven.

### DV Prevention

Due to unpredictable weather, the DV Protection Committee will not host an event in recognition of January being Human Trafficking Awareness Month. We will schedule something when more people are around and weather tends to be better.

### Lunch Bunch



In November, *Hawkshead* welcomed AAUW members for lunch. *Taste* saw a holiday gathering in December, complete with Christmas trivia.

### Book Groups

#### Monday Afternoon Group



Jan 27 *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* by Kate Atkinson

Hostess: **Karen Small**

Feb 24 *James* by Percival Everett

Hostess: **Barbara Reber**

#### Wednesday Evening

**Note:** During January and February this Wednesday Evening Book group will meet at 1:00 p.m. to avoid the cold dark nights.

Jan 8 *The Demon of Unrest* by Eric Larson

Hostess: **Kathy Dascenzo**

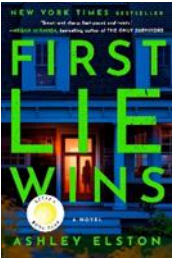
Feb 12 *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

Hostess: **Jo Muszkiewicz**

#### Wednesday Nighters 2.0

Our book group had our 1-year anniversary and happy to report we have a full group now! If anyone that was interested in joining is willing to start another book group, I'd be happy to meet with them and assist in getting another group together.

–Deb D'Adamo [debradadamo@gmail.com](mailto:debradadamo@gmail.com)



Over the last few months we have read

*The Measure, The Sympathizer, and The Comfort of Crows.* In January we are reading *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston.

### Thursday Night Book Club

Jan 16 *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley

Hostess: **Ann O'Connor**

Feb 20 *James* by Percival Everett

Hostess: **Barb Reber**

## Good News

AAUWSH recently received a congratulatory letter. We're doing a good job, Ladies!

*Dear Branch President, It is with great pleasure that I share some exciting news—AAUW South Haven (MI) Branch has achieved a star in AAUW's FY24 Five Star Program! Your branch attained the Communications & External Relations star. This recognition is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of your branch members to advancing AAUW's mission of gender equity for women and girls. The Five Star Program is designed to honor branches that align their work with AAUW's strategic priorities in areas such as Advancement, Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations. Earning a star is an incredible accomplishment, and we are thrilled to celebrate this success with you. While we will be updating the AAUW website soon to reflect all the branches that have earned stars this year, we wanted to ensure your branch received this good news first. Your achievement will be highlighted alongside other winning branches, showcasing your vital role in supporting AAUW's mission both locally and nationally. State leadership will be informed in the coming days. Congratulations again on this well-deserved recognition. Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to creating a more equitable world. If you have any questions or would like additional resources to help your branch continue its progress in the Five Star Program, please don't hesitate to reach out.*

*Regards and Happy Holidays,*

*Tremayne A. Parquet (he/him/his)*

*Deputy Director of Advancement AAUW,*

*1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005*

## Book Sale

Although it may seem early to be thinking about our book sale, there are some new developments to report.

While Book Sale Committee members have not officially begun collecting for our annual sale, we have received two substantial donations of children's books. When Fennville bookstore owner Nathan Green closed his store in August, he donated 40 boxes of children's books to AAUWSH. In addition, after LMC daycare owner Karla Pepple retired in November and closed both South Haven and Benton Harbor locations, she donated 30 boxes of children's books. Because of these donations and a few others, we have enough books to hold a separate pop up Children's Book Sale over Memorial Day weekend.

Locals and tourists alike look forward to the AAUWSH book sale, and our organization has a long-standing tradition of holding its sale at the First Congregational Church. The church has been a vital component of our sale, and we have benefitted from the kindness of its board members who have allowed us to use their space for a nominal fee. And, we are fortunate that for the past several years, one of our members has generously donated \$500 for the use of the church. However, because the church's expenses have increased, church board members have asked us to pay more to use their facilities in 2025.

Book Sale Committee Co-chairs Jean Bevevino and Edna Kent report that AAUWSH will be charged \$1,500 to rent the same spaces used in 2024 for the 2025 August book sale, and \$200 for the May 24, 2025 children's book sale (to be held in the parking lot of the church). Although costs for our 2025 book sale have increased, *all* expenses for the May and August sales (church rental, Blueberry Festival fee, printing, publicity, office supplies, etc.) will be paid by two generous individuals. Donations from AAUWSH member **Mary Pietenpol** and South Haven realtor Amy O'Sullivan will cover all costs associated with both book sales! This means that 100% of the money we make at the book sales will go directly to the scholarship fund. AAUW SH is so fortunate to have the support of our members and our community!

Mark your calendars for these important book sale events:





The Children's Book Sale will take place in the First Congregational Church parking lot Saturday, May 24 from 9 - 1. We'll need help setting up tables and unpacking/arranging books from 8 -9 on the 24th. We'll also need people to work as cashiers, baggers, and table monitors during the sale. Sign-up sheets to help with the Children's book sale will be available in the spring.

For the August book sale,

- Book donation barrels will go out the week of June 30 at the First Congregational Church, Wolverine (ACE) Hardware, the Bronson Wellness Center and the Senior Center. (If AAUWSH members have books to donate, please bring them directly to the church beginning June 30.) Designated committee members will pick up books from these locations, but any AAUWSH member is encouraged to take books to the church if you see an overflowing barrel.

- Book sorting will take place July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 9-11 a.m. (you're welcome for either or both hours). Sorting is a great way to connect with other members, and the more hands, the better!

- Move and unpack the sorted boxes of books on Thursday, August 7. We'll need all hands on deck!

- First day of the sale is Friday, August 8 from 8-4 (early admission is at 8 a.m.), doors open at 9.

- Second day of the sale is Saturday, August 9, from 9-2. Sign-up sheets to work the sale will be available on book sorting mornings in July, at the Annual Meeting in May, and at the Scholarship Celebration in June.

- As soon as the sale is done on August 9, volunteers will be needed to box up unsold books, flatten boxes for storage, put away tables, do general clean-up, and take leftover books to various donation sites as the Fennville bookshop owner is no longer available to take our leftover books.

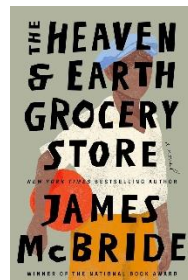
Book Sale Committee Co-Chairs: **Jean Bevevino** (jhbevevino@gmail.com, 815-790-4054) and **Edna Kent** (ande1230@sbcglobal.net , 269-267-3446)

Book Sale Committee Members: **Merrily Brannigan, Teresa Gibbons, Rosalind Giulietti, Sharon Gultinan, Renee Kaplan, Amy Kilbridge, Elaine Kitchin, Peggy Murnighan, Susan Shields and Liz Smith**

## DEI Update

Mark your calendar now for the DEI Meeting, Tuesday, February 4th at 5:30 pm at the Center for the Arts. Mary Jo Schnell, Executive Director of the OutCenter will discuss the work they will do and the challenges to be faced over the next 2-4 years.

## DEI Recommends



*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. This 2023 novel tells the story of Black and Jewish residents of the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania in the 1920's and '30's.

## Open Door



**Sharon Gultinan, Peggy Murnighan, Kathy Dascenzo and Kathy Straits** with aprons, gloves and seasonal headwear.

It snowed on Halloween, but the AAUW goblins showed up to prepare the dinner for the Open Door. Guests were served pulled pork sandwiches, mac and cheese, green beans, garden salad, fruit cup and a cookie. There will be **NO OPEN DOOR DINNER** on Dec. 31, 2024. April, July, September and December all have 5 Tuesdays in 2025.

# The Breakfast Club

Another AAUW SH Social Option  
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



## In the Community

AAUWSH member **JoAnn Flowers** has dedicated her life to helping others. She is a retired Information Technologist who worked for AT&T



for 30 years. Through Senior Services of Van Buren County's Retired Senior Volunteer Program, she has significantly contributed to the success of VITA Tax Assistance, Michigan Medicare Assistance Program, and AARP Driver Safety Programs

over many years. Additionally, she has volunteered at mobile food pantries, a women's shelter, The Scott Club, and the American Red Cross.

JoAnn not only demonstrates extensive knowledge in the programs she supports but also possesses a compassionate spirit and a willingness to assist others. She is a blessing to all the organizations where she donates her time and talent

## Parent Resource Center

Our AAUW members support the Parent Resource Center, which provides educational and emotional opportunities for teen parents.



Located next to the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum on land that was once an apple orchard, the Center provides rooms for baby and child play as well as classrooms for the young parents.

In addition to providing a monthly meal for young parents, this year they asked if someone could help with their monthly diaper distributions. Not knowing how large or heavy a month's supply of disposable diapers would be, I said I'd do it. It's been an enjoyable experience getting to know the mothers (and sometime grandmothers) who come the first Monday of each month.

Although the Resource Center orders diapers in large bags - much bigger than those bags sold by Amazon or Wal Mart, the Center is happy to accept any size package. So if you have diapers left over from family visits - or just would like to help out the Center - drop them off on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon. or bring them to the Congregational Church and I'll deliver them for you. Size 5 seems to always be the most needed. Any help would be appreciated.

~**Elaine Fluck.**

## Membership

Please welcome:

**Rosalind Giulietti**

33 Chippewa Ct South Haven, MI 49090  
708-267-3657 Rgsk8s2@sbcglobal.net



## Public Policy Committee

Thanks to our members who contacted the White House urging President Biden to push Congress to publish the ERA and to urge state legislators to oppose the weakening of minimum wage and paid leave legislation.

We continue to follow progress on bills in the state legislature during this lame duck session and will report back later.

Like us, AAUW National and AAUW MI are concerned about how election results will affect women's rights and opportunities and education issues going forward.



## Scholarships

In 2024, AAUWSH member **Elaine Kitchin** honored her mother with a memorial scholarship in her name. South Haven High School graduate **Kaiden Thomas** is the recipient of the 2024 Elizabeth Ripp Pathfinder Award. After receiving an email from Kaiden, Elaine was given permission to share this update with our members:

*Hello Ms. Kitchin!*

*It's good to hear from you! Sorry it has taken me so long to respond! I haven't checked this email for a while. I also got the card you sent not too long ago, as I went home for the first time at the beginning of this month and was able to grab my mail. Thank you for that :)*

*College has been great so far. I've made quite a few friends and I'm finding more connections every day which is really nice, but it can be kind of challenging balancing time between so many people! Michigan State's campus is beautiful, especially with all of the fall colors. Classes have*

*also been pretty good so far. A few are a little more difficult than others, but I'm figuring it out and going to office hours when I need extra help.*

*I spoke with the counselor for Hospitality majors earlier this week and was able to choose my classes for next semester, which I am super excited for. I also have the opportunity to study abroad in Mexico over spring break, which I am really looking forward to doing! There is also a study abroad Hospitality course in South Korea in June (I am studying Korean and am considering declaring it as a minor), which I am really hoping I can make happen. I think it would be so amazing to be able to do both programs, especially because one is focused more on community service and giving back, while the other is a course that would be helpful for me in my minor. I'm excited that there are so many opportunities like these here!*

*Homecoming was 2 weeks ago, and the campus was super crowded! I'm not that into football, but I did go to the game because I was able to get a free ticket through a program I went to last summer. Now, I am really looking forward to basketball season! Hopefully I can find some good discounts haha.*



*I am very happy to have heard from you. I have been thinking of you and Mrs. Timmer lately, and I am so thankful for your guys' support! Moving forward I hope we can be in touch a lot more since I've become better adjusted to college. Feel free to contact me any time! I really look forward to talking more with you soon!*

*Kaiden*

## Fundraising

A time of gratitude and giving...



As you count down the days until the end of 2024, you may also be reflecting on the many blessings you have received throughout the year, the many gifts you have been given. Hopefully, this

remembering will bring a smile to your face as you recall the people, the special occasions, the everyday thoughtfulness of family, friends and even strangers who brought light to your life.

Perhaps these thoughts will inspire you to “pay it forward” with a gift to brighten the life of a young woman seeking to improve her future through education. AAUWSH allows you to do this through our Scholarship Program. Should you wish to make a donation before the end of the year, you may send a check to AAUWSH, P.O. Box 343, South Haven, MI 49090 or take advantage of our online giving option at [www.southhaven-mi.aauw.net](http://www.southhaven-mi.aauw.net) using a credit card or your PayPal account. Simply click on the DONATE button.

Thank you, on behalf of the women we support, for your generosity during this season of gratitude and giving.

## On Your Calendar?

Jan 6 Diaper Bank  
Jan 7 Teen Dinner  
Jan 8 Wednesday Books  
Jan 14 Breakfast @ Dave’s Landing 8:30  
Jan 16 Thursday Books  
Jan 16 Public Policy  
Jan 27 Monday Books  
Feb 3 Diaper Bank  
Feb 4 DEI Meeting SHCA 5:30  
Feb 11 Breakfast @ Dave’s Landing 8:30  
Feb 12 Wednesday Books  
Feb 20 Thursday Books  
Feb 20 Public Policy  
Feb 24 Monday Books

## Match Up

Do you know these AAUW members?

- A. Marie Curie
- B. Jane Addams
- C. Carrie Chapman Catt
- D. Nettie Stevens
- E. Jeannette Rankin
- F. Wilma Mankiller

1. The first woman elected to Congress.
2. Co-founder of Hull House
3. A pioneering geneticist.
4. The first female chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. She received the AAUW Achievement Award in 1993.
5. The first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Physics, and the only woman to win the Nobel Prize twice.
6. Suffragist pioneer.



Answers: A5, B2, C6, D3, E1, F1. Jane Addams is pictured.

## To Do List ✓

- \_\_\_ Read with a group
- \_\_\_ Invite friends to AAUW events.
- \_\_\_ Donate some Diapers.
- \_\_\_ Volunteer to serve as an officer of AAUWSH.
- \_\_\_ Organize a Lunch Bunch opportunity
- \_\_\_ Breakfast out.
- \_\_\_ Make your year-end giving plan.
- \_\_\_ Donate to the LMC pantry & school supply collection
- \_\_\_ Volunteer for Open Door
- \_\_\_ Stay in touch with your legislators
- \_\_\_ Plan a Teen Parent Dinner