



Our Mission: To advance gender equality for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

**Volume 80 Issue 3
January/February 2025**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sandy Stanley Co-President

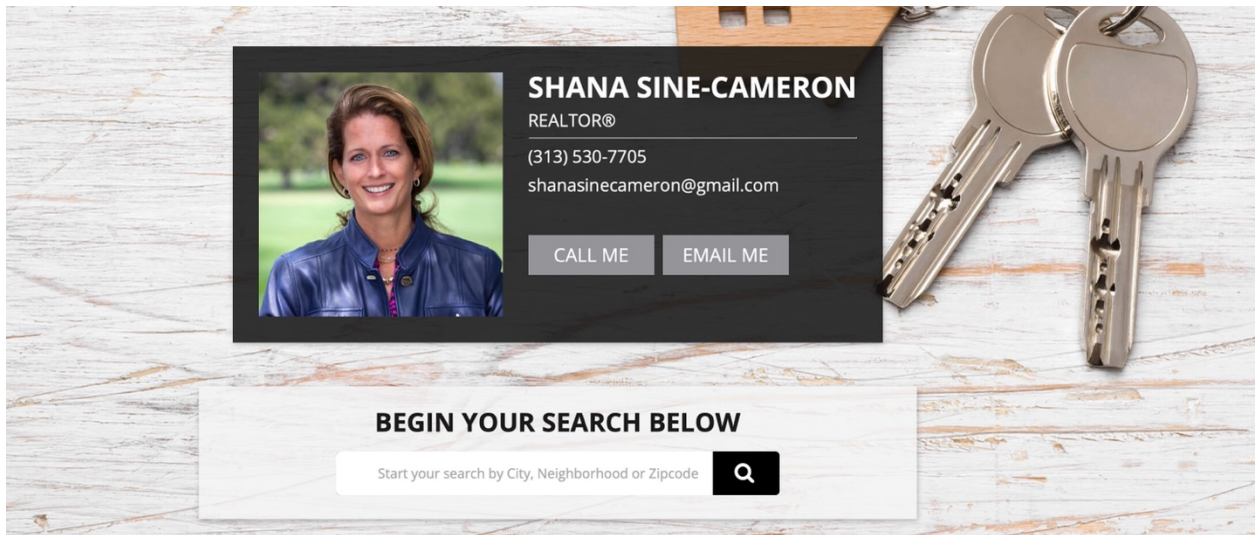


Welcome to 2025! I'm hoping that it is a grand year for each and every one of you. We closed out 2024 in style with an excellent holiday celebration at the Village Grill thanks to our Program Chair, Roseanne Horne, and her very able assistant, Carol Erickson. Our guests numbered in the mid-thirties – mostly members. There were three winners of the prizes for the ugly sweaters and many winners of the bingo prizes and table centerpieces. I think everyone went home with a Christmas present. Thank you to Carol and her friend Susan for putting the prizes together.

We will begin the revision of the Strategic Plan this month. Revision adoption is not due until 2026 so we have plenty of time to get the work completed. Mary Ellen and I will conduct the first meeting of the committee chairs on January 6th via *Zoom*. Work will proceed from there and will require the involvement of all AAUW GP members at some point, as it did in the initial development in 2021. The plan is to realign with the updated plans from National AAUW and AAUW MI, discuss with members what they want for the Branch, and then develop five-year goals based on that information.

Currently, the office of President-elect is vacant. If you are interested in filling that position, please call Eva at 313-418-9085 or Sandy at 313-417-5839 and we will be happy to talk about this one-year position with you. It does lead to the presidency which is also a one-year position. Thank you for considering this very important position. It is essential.

Thank You!

A real estate agent profile card for Shana Sine-Cameron, REALTOR®, is displayed on a wooden background. The card includes a photo of her, her contact information (phone: (313) 530-7705, email: shanasinecameron@gmail.com), and buttons for 'CALL ME' and 'EMAIL ME'. To the right of the card are two keys. Below the card is a search bar with the text 'BEGIN YOUR SEARCH BELOW' and a search icon.

SHANA SINE-CAMERON
REALTOR®
(313) 530-7705
shanasinecameron@gmail.com

CALL ME EMAIL ME

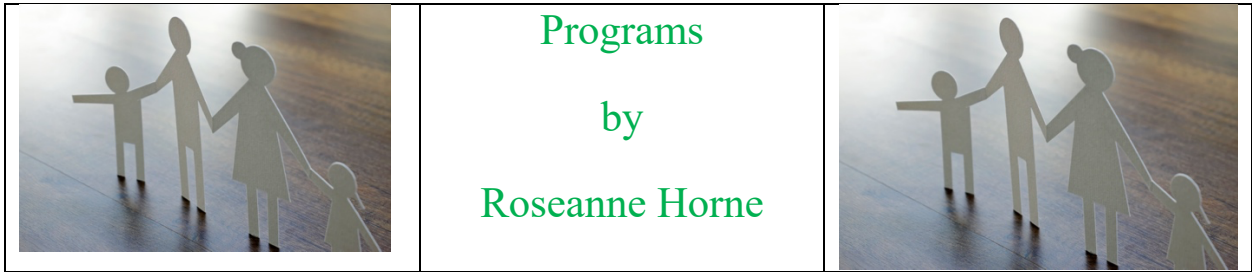
BEGIN YOUR SEARCH BELOW

Start your search by City, Neighborhood or Zipcode

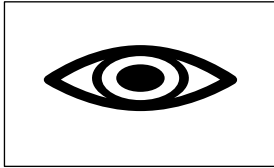
Many thanks from AAUW National to the following Branch members who have made donations over and beyond their national dues:

Mary Ellen Burke
Theresa Selvaggio
Patricia Gotham
Carolyn Barth
Lois Bertani
Marianne Shrader

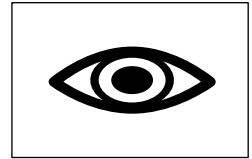
Marie DeLuca
Lorrayne Thielemans
Aralynn Vinande
Lynne Pierce
Carol Erickson



We had a great turnout for the AAUW GP holiday party on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at the Village Grille. Thirty two members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal, door prizes, bingo and Christmas carols sung by members of the Grosse Pointe South High School Choir. Thanks to member Carol Erickson and her friend Susan Starret for making the beautiful centerpieces which were used for Bingo prizes and door prizes. Members were also encouraged to wear “Ugly Holiday Sweaters”. The winner of the Ugly Sweater contest was Roseanne Horne. Thanks to all who attended and enjoyed a festive evening together.



PUBLIC POLICY
Joanne Johnson



Become a Two Minute advocate!

Join AAUW advocates in the fight for equal pay, equity in education, paid leave, protections against sexual harassment and more. Sign up to get regular alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to your legislators, writing letters to the editor and other timely calls to action

It is easy to do simply use this link to sign up AAUW will give you the rest.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

[Support Title IX – Write a Letter to the Editor](#)

The U.S. Department of Education finalized the long-awaited updates to Title IX. Now, we need Congress to know that people support this strong and robust Title IX rule that will protect students experiencing sexual harassment, strengthen supports for pregnant and parenting students, and includes LGBTQ+ students.

[Support the Gender Equity in Education Act](#)

In the five decades since its enactment, Title IX has opened doors for girls and women from classrooms to playing fields. But despite tremendous progress, challenges to equity in education still exist. That's why we need the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) to ensure schools and educational institutions have the resources they need to comply with civil rights law.

[End the Student Debt Crisis](#)

Women hold two-thirds of the country's \$1.7 trillion student debt. As a nation, we rely on women to add to and strengthen our economy. That can't happen under mountains of student debt. Ask your members of Congress to support legislation that would make college more affordable for all students and help millions of borrowers across the country pay off their student debt.

[Pass the Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act](#)

All children should have equal opportunity to succeed. Yet, millions of students are in schools with school-based law enforcement but without essential support such as counselors, nurses, school psychologists, or social workers. Urge your members of Congress to invest in keeping all kids safe at school and support students to ensure their educational success.

[Pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act](#)

Whether based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, religion, gender identity or any other characteristic, bullying and harassment interfere with students' ability to learn. Urge your members of Congress to support the Safe Schools Improvement Act to build educational environments safe from bullying and harassment.

[Workplace & Economic Equity](#)

[Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act](#)

The gender pay gap is persistent. To address it, women need the right tools to challenge discrimination and employers need incentives to comply with the law. It's time for Congress to make real change for all families by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

[Pass the Salary Transparency Act](#)

Transparency around pay helps prevent rampant discrimination and empowers workers to understand how their pay compares with that of fellow employees. Congress must ensure that everyone can benefit from salary transparency practices—no matter what kind of job they have or where they work.

[Pass the FAMILY Act](#)

Unlike the majority of developed countries worldwide, the United States does not guarantee paid annual leave, paid time off for illness or family care, or paid parental leave. And for many Americans, this unpaid time off work is untenable and it threatens their economic security. That's why AAUW is calling for passage of the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act, which would create a national self-funding paid family and medical leave insurance program.

[Support the Healthy Families Act](#)

Too many American workers are forced to face the choice between a job and their health or the health of a loved one every time they get sick or a family member needs care. That's because at least 34 million private-sector workers — nearly one-third of the workforce — don't have access to paid sick days.

[Pass the BE HEARD in the Workplace Act](#)

The far-reaching effects of workplace harassment cannot be overstated, as this widespread problem often impacts an employee's pay, advancement and well-being. This is particularly true for women, people of color, and those working in low-paid jobs. It's time for Congress to act to strengthen protections against harassment for all working people.

[Raise the Federal Minimum Wage](#)

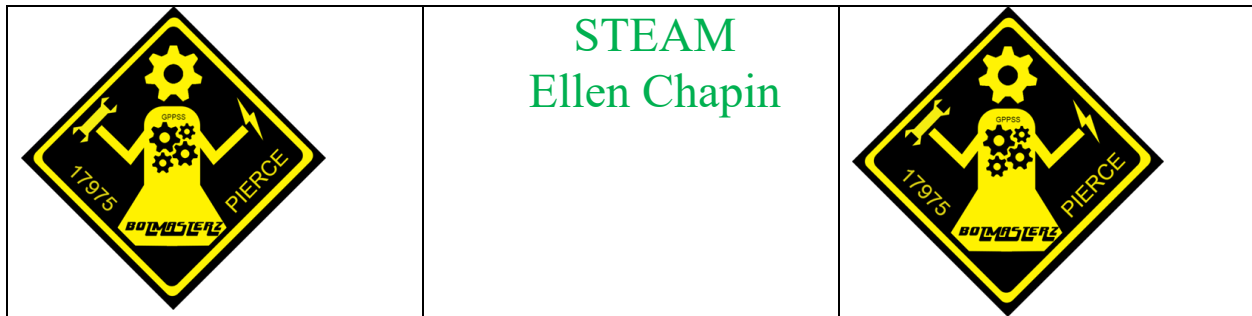
Raising the minimum wage is an important part of ensuring women's economic security and that of their families. Women make up nearly two-thirds of minimum-wage workers nationwide, and women of color in particular are over-represented among tipped workers and other low-wage workers. The country supports higher wages — urge your members of Congress to fight for working women.



INTEREST GROUPS
by
Bonnie Woods



<p>Mystery Readers 1st. Tues. 1 pm Chair: Nancy Patek - 881-5349 artpatek@icloud.com</p> <p>January - No Meeting</p> <p>February – J. Brodie Series, each member’s favorite.</p> <p>Hostess Centie Strong</p>	<p>Lunch - Just Because 4th Thursday 1PM Chair Marcia Wilson 886-9786 mkwmew@aol.com</p> <p>January 23rd Dirty Dog Jazz Café, 07 Kercheval GPF. Centie Strong centie@comcast.net</p> <p>February 27th Frontera Grill, 15318 East Jefferson, GPP Margaret Woodford, margwoodford@icloud.com</p>
<p>Fine Arts Chair: Kathy Conlon 882-0479 conlon_kathy@yahoo.com</p> <p>Jan. 5 1:30 – Historical Detroit Bus Tour: Albert Kahn designed buildings</p> <p>Feb. 2 2:30PM, Twyla Tharp Dance Company</p>	<p>Morning Stitchery 3rd Tuesday 9:15 Chair Barb Stillings 884-6726 basgp259@msn.com</p> <p>Jan. 21 Hostess: Marcia Wilson Feb. 20 Hostess: Eva Habib</p>
<p>Mahjongg Chair: Bonnie Woods 313-886-3496 Bonnet7@comas.net</p> <p>Jan. 14 Hostess: Bonnie Woods Jan. 28 Hostess: Centie Strong Feb. 11 Hostess: Bonnie Woods Feb. 25 Hostess: Centie Strong</p>	<p>Zoom Book Club 2nd Sunday 7PM Chair: Joanne Johnson 313-642-1130 jj71944@gmail.com</p> <p>Jan. 12 Book: <i>This is how it always is</i> by Laurie Frankel Feb. 9 Book TBD</p>



We had an awesome time at our first competition in Madison Heights. We even got to meet and get pictures with Rachel Moore, the Senior Director of First Tech Challenge and Liz Smith, Senior Project Engineer, Game Design!!!

Ranked 5th in the qualifying matches, we earned our spot as captains of the third alliance while also receiving second place for the prestigious *Think Award*. This award recognizes teams that overcome engineering challenges through innovative problem-solving and creative strategies.

During their 2nd (& last) in-season competition yesterday, they earned the *Second Place Connect Award!* This award recognizes the team that most actively engages with the local STEM community, sharing information about FIRST, our team, and STEM opportunities. It's a huge honor, and it speaks to the impact they've made in inspiring others.

As an all-girls team, what we're doing is even more important. By leading the way in robotics and STEM, we are showing the world that girls can be leaders in tech, problem-solving, and innovation. These girls are breaking barriers and encouraging others to believe in their own abilities. The work we're doing now will inspire future generations of girls to pursue their passions in STEM, just like they are.

Whether we brought home a trophy or not, the difference we're making is something to celebrate.

Middle School Team Update

The middle school team is officially in the off-season, and we're thrilled that one of our dedicated parents, along with another volunteer, has stepped up to lead the team. They're planning some exciting outreach and learning activities in the coming months. We're also partnering with the Grosse Pointe Park Rec Department to host workshops this April, which will be led by both the middle and high school teams.

High School Team Update

The high school team's season kicks off this Saturday, and we're excited to share that our team now includes 7 incredible girls—a 130% increase from last year! Plus, we've gained a new programming coach to support our growing team.

In even more exciting news, our swerve drive, which we started building over the summer, is finally up and running after six months of hard work! This new drive system is faster, more agile, and will make us a serious contender on the field. It's like Christmas came early for our team, and we can't wait to see what's ahead in the new year!