

South Haven, Michigan AAUW

Newsletter: March 2025

President's Message

Greetings AAUW/SH Members! Hoping everyone is well and starting to look forward to Spring. The February cold snap made for some very quiet time, which contributed to some binge reading and TV watching for me.

Now would be a good time to remember that our Annual Meeting is in May and our Scholarship Celebration is in June. Hopefully we will also have our Annual Fundraiser Memorial Day Weekend. More information on all of that will be forthcoming in the next month or two.

Not sure if everyone received the Feb 11 email from National's Meghan Kissell regarding the nomination of Linda McMahon for Secretary of Education, but she was looking for members to weigh in about it: The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions held a confirmation hearing for Linda McMahon to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. AAUW strongly opposes the nomination of McMahon, whose history of supporting vouchers, diverting resources away from Pell Grants, and opposing LGBTQ+ rights endangers vital civil rights protections for students. McMahon was indeed confirmed, but AAUW is not done advocating for students. I'm sure you will receive more requests to help as we are experiencing some vertigo with the new administration. Please do what you're comfortable doing to help further AAUW goals. Thank You!

Opportunities

We are still looking for the Board positions of Treasurer, Membership and President Elect, all of which start July 1st this year. You can contact:

Marge Lampe for Treasurer position

- themargerylampe@gmail.com

Jackie McAninch for Membership

- jdmcaninch@gmail.com

Judy Pollack (for President elect

- Judyp4904@gmail.com)

We would be happy to answer any of your questions.

Lunch Bunch

Twenty brave souls came out in the cold, snow, ice, and wind to attend the January Lunch Bunch at The Lodge on January 22.



Lunch Bunch Organizer Needed

AAUW SH Winter Lunch Bunch provides an opportunity for us to escape the grey winter days and enjoy lunch with our friends at local restaurants. We had a successful January Lunch Bunch at The Lodge and bless those that braved 1F temperature. **Alida Zamboni** has volunteered to organize the March Lunch Bunch and **Julie Molar** will organize the April Lunch Bunch. Will you plan additional gatherings? It's easy...just pick a restaurant and a date, set up with the restaurant management, and put the word out. If you are willing to organize a Lunch Bunch, please contact **Mary Tobin** at tobinmm1947@comcast.net or 269-227-3564.

Alida Zamboni has reserved Maria's for our March lunch on 3/13 Thursday at noon.

We'll celebrate St Patty's day (at an Italian restaurant) 🍷 🍷

Please RSVP to Alida at azamboni@sbcglobal.net

Book Groups

Monday Afternoon Group

Mar 24 *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

Hostess: **Susan Murphey**

Apr 28 *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyen Pham Que

Mai

Hostess: **Nadine Godin-Nassaney**

Wednesday Evening

Mar 12 *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

Hostess: **Lois Schwartz**

Apr 9 *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts,

Hostess: **Nancy Hendrickson**

Wednesday 2.0

Mar *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar

Apr *The Story Collector* by Evie Woods

> We actually won 10 copies of *The Story Collector* by Evie Woods from an online Book Club website, BookMovement.com. There are giveaways for book clubs on a regular basis. It's also a great place to see what other clubs are reading, etc.

Thursday Night Book Club

Mar 20 *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout

Hostess: **Mary Tobin**

Apr 17 *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti

Callahan Henry

Hostess: **Alida Zamboni**

What is better than reading a good book? **Talking** about a good book.

AAUWSH is fortunate to sponsor **four** active and successful book clubs. The groups have been so successful they are at capacity and will no longer be open to new members. If you would like to join a Book Club, I encourage you to volunteer to organize a new group. Yes, **you!**

The primary benefit of a Book Club is reading and discussing books, but there are other ancillary benefits that are not so obvious. Book Clubs get you outside your usual genre habit. Book Clubs trigger more diverse reading habits. You will become a regular and thoughtful reader. Book Club discussion will give you a broader insight into the craft of writing and may force you to have opinions.

In addition to the intellectual stuff there is the fun stuff – food, wine, chitchat, etc.

Organizing a Book Club is not difficult. Put out a call for interested parties, set a time to meet, decide what type of books you want to read, set a schedule, and go from there. If you are interested in organizing a new Book Club, contact **Mary Tobin** at tobinmm1947@comcast.net.



Women's History

Meet More Marvelous Michigan Women

In recognition of March as Women's History Month, The Silver Bag Ladies of AAUW will present

"Remembering Remarkable Michigan Women"

Thursday, March 20 2:00 p.m.


South Haven Memorial Library

Community Room

Performers include **Sharon Gultinan, Lois Swartz, Sherry Saenz, Marge Lampe, Liz Smith, Sue Murphey, Mary Lynn Bugge, and Ann Habicht.**

Bring a friend. Meet both familiar and unfamiliar women from Michigan's past.

AAUW Presents:
a Women's History Month *Silver Bag Ladies Reader's Theater Production:*
"Remembering Remarkable Michigan Women"
When: Thursday, March 20 @ 2 PM
Where: South Haven Memorial Library
Community Room



Women's History Month,
March 1-31, 2025
Moving Forward Together: Women
Educating & Inspiring
Generations

DEI Update

On February 4, the DEI Committee hosted **MaryJo Schnell, Executive Director of the Outcenter of Southwest Michigan**. This Non-profit organization provides services to the LGBTQ community in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties. The event was open to all AAUW members and guests. We had a good turnout with over 20 people attending.



MaryJo summarized the current political climate since the National election and discussed the current administration's attack on all DEI programs, including their LGBTQ

community, and transgender people in particular. She said that banning DEI programs is an attempt to impose “re-segregation.”

Based on surveys in their tri-county area, “*20% of 13-18-year-olds identify as LGBTQ, and half of that group have at some point considered self-harm, not due to who they are, but due to how they are treated*”. The Outcenter provides a safe space for these teens through their various support groups, Pride Events and other activities. Their mission is to change “**hearts, minds and policies.**” The Outcenter offers numerous education and training programs for organizations including schools, healthcare facilities and businesses. Their partners include the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Corewell Health and Bronson Health. They have a significant CDC federal grant focusing on sexual violence prevention which may be at risk due to federal funding changes. Especially now, private funding is important to allow them to continue their important work. They will gratefully accept donations at outcenter.org.

Memorable quote from MaryJo: If people say they are against DEI, ask them to tell you which specific part they are against, **diversity, equity or inclusion?**

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



Amy Kilbridge and Marge Lampe enjoyed the February breakfast.

Membership

Please welcome:

Melanie L. Ruppert

591 Hawksnest Dr.

South Haven, MI 49090

269-906-5610

melanieruppert@icloud.com

BA University of Michigan

Cheri Stein

14149 73rd St.

South Haven MI 49090

269-767-3862

Cheri7stein@gmail.com

BA-MSU, MA-WMU

GVSU- Graduate Teacher Cert.

Jenny Bailey

667 Hanna St.

Birmingham, MI 48009

jennylbailey@icloud.com

248-420-1519

Public Policy Committee

Our February 27 meeting at the home of Melinda Gruber will feature an informal conversation with State Representative Joey Andrews about legislation affecting women and girls.

Rapid Responders

PPC recently sent each AAUW SH member a Rapid Responder Message regarding contacting our elected officials regarding issues relating to our mission. As a reminder -

We are being hit daily by Executive Actions with serious consequences for women and girls, as well as our entire nation. PPC is providing you with tools to immediately call your elected officials when you learn about an action that would adversely affect women and girls.

Commentators have stated that the phone calls to elected officials made a difference. Pick up the phone and call whenever you learn of an issue affecting women and girls.



Staff count the number of calls and if they are for or against an action. This is important information that makes a difference.

The number of calls matter. If you speak to a staff member, state your name and address and explain your position succinctly (please refrain from the temptation to curse). If you reach an answering machine, do the same.

Copy this list so it is readily accessible.

President Donald J. Trump	202-456-1111
Vice President JD Vance	202-456-1111
US Senator Gary Peters	202-224-6221
US Senator Elissa Slotkin	202-224-4822
US Representative Bill Huizenga (4th Congressional District)	202-225-4401
Governor Gretchen Whitmer	517-373-3400
MI State Senator Aric Nesbitt (20th State Senate District)	517-373-0793
MI House Joey Andrews (38th State House District)	517-373-0827
MI House Pauline Wendzel (39th State House District)	517-373-1799

Scholarships

AAUWSH Scholarship Recipient Update:

2023 Pathfinder and 2024 Achievement Award Recipient Arianna Rouse DeHoyos is a sophomore at Lake Superior State University. Arianna's Connection to AAUWSH is **Kerry Hagy**, Executive Director of the South Haven Center for the Arts. Kerry has known Arianna for several years as Ari is an artist and long-time volunteer at the Art Center. When they spoke over the holidays, Kerry was given permission to update members on Arianna's college experience so far.

Arianna got married last year and said she and her husband enjoy living in on-campus housing. Ari said that her fall semester went well, and that she changed her major from education to political science with a concentration in public administration. Arianna said that this major gives her more options, and if she decides she wants to be a teacher after all, she can enroll in a one-year teacher certification program after earning her degree in political science.

Lastly - as with *all* of our Achievement Award recipients - Arianna has been on the Dean's list each semester of college!

2025 AAUWSH Scholarship Applications:

AAUWSH is one of 24 local organizations using the South Haven Community Foundation's common scholarship application system. Submitting their information to one shared website makes it easier for the students to apply for scholarships, resulting in an increase in the number of applicants for local scholarships.

In early March, AAUWSH Scholarship Committee members **Stephanie Timmer, Sandy Olsen, Amy Kilbridge and Nadine Godin-Nassaney** will begin reviewing the applications and selecting three recipients for the 2025 AAUWSH scholarships. In the meantime, be sure to mark your calendars for the Spring Scholarship Celebration held at South Haven High School June 9, 4:00 - 5:30.

Information from AAUW Michigan:

In January, Scholarship Committee Chairperson **Teresa Gibbons** attended the AAUW of Michigan webinar, *It's in the Numbers! What Your Branch Needs to Know about Finances, Fundraising, and Scholarships*.

According to AAUWMI VP of Finance Sheila Blair, if any AAUW branch were to give money to a college or university and instruct the school staff to select a scholarship recipient on behalf of the branch, then that AAUW branch could not require the college/university to award its scholarship to a female. However, this is not the process our branch uses. AAUWSH does not give our money to a college/university for them to disperse. Instead, AAUWSH Scholarship Committee members review our scholarship applications and select our scholarship recipients. Then, our organization sends a scholarship check to the individual college/university where the girl is enrolled. This means that *we* can determine who we award our scholarships to, affirming that we are free to provide scholarships exclusively to females.

From National AAUW



In Black History Month, we were proud to celebrate the achievements of remarkable AAUW alumnae like Indira Bailey, Ph.D.

AAUW's fellowship award helped support

Dr. Bailey's work on the underrepresentation of Black women artists in K-12 teaching resources and its impact on Black women art educators' inequities in education. She is an Assistant Professor of Art Education at Claflin University, an HBCU where she integrates social justice and art education to prepare future art educators to develop an inclusive and diverse curriculum. Her latest book chapter, "Learning About African American Women Artists Intersecting Identities: Critical Conversations Using Intersectionality as an Analytic Tool in Art Education" in *The Intersectionality of Critical Identities in Art Education*, highlights the significance of Black women artists lived experiences.

But the fight for educational equity isn't over. Supporting women in higher education has always been at the heart of AAUW's mission, and with your help, we will continue to rise.

Gloria L. Blackwell
Chief Executive Officer



On Your Calendar?

Feb 27 Public Policy
 Mar 3 Diaper Bank & Period Pantry
 Mar 4 Teen Dinner
 Mar 11 Breakfast 8:30
 Mar 12 Wednesday Books
 Mar 13 Lunch Bunch – Maria's
 Mar 18 Silver Bag Rehearsal
 Mar 20 Silver Bag Program
 Mar 20 Thursday Books
 Mar 24 Monday Books
 Apr 7 Diaper Bank & Period Pantry
 Apr 8 Breakfast 8:30
 Apr 9 Wednesday Books
 Apr 17 Thursday Books
 Apr 28 Monday Books
 Apr 29 Open Door

To Do List ✓

- Read with a group
- Start a new book group
- Invite friends to AAUW events.
- Donate some Diapers.
- Call a legislator. Call again.
- Invite a friend to enjoy the Silver Bag Performance
- Volunteer to serve as an officer of AAUWSH.
- Organize a Lunch Bunch opportunity
- Breakfast out.
- Volunteer for Open Door
- Stay in touch with your legislators
- Plan a Teen Parent Dinner