

South Haven, Michigan AAUW

Newsletter: November 2025

President's Message

Greetings, AAUW South Haven!

It's been a busy Fall and now we're going to be heading into the Holiday Season. Looking forward to some get togethers for those of you who are staying in town. For you snowbirds, stay in touch because we'll be missing you!

Paula Harer, our Communications Chair, has been working on updating our website **www.southhaven-mi.aauw.net** so check it out! There are a few changes that we hope will make it more user friendly. For the Members Only section, our password is **Aquamarine15**. If you have any updates or photos that you'd like to see entered, contact Paula at harer.paula@gmail.com

Also, we do have a new Facebook page but I understand that people are still being directed to the old one. We are trying to correct this, but in the meantime, if you search, click on the AAUW South Haven with the profile pic of the lighthouse. You can also post on this page.

Punchbowl is our new invitation program. There are concerns that people are often receiving notifications from this app in their junk/spam/promotions folders. We will be reviewing this program next spring and if we find that it does not meet our needs we will be looking at using Evite instead. Your input is appreciated. Please let me know what you think at judyp4904@gmail.com Thanks!

To our new members - thinking of getting involved in one of the committees? Open Door is looking for cooks and servers. Domestic Violence and DEI are looking for committee members. Check out the Committees and Special Interests on our website. You may also want to check out all the committees that are included on the website **www.southhaven-mi.aauw.net**

Please keep this on your back burner: the Board Positions of VP Membership, Secretary, and Dues Treasurer need to be filled for the 2026/2028 fiscal years. I encourage all members to consider these positions. It's a great way to get to know people and be "in the know" of AAUW SH happenings!

Coming up:

>October 30th Lunch Bunch, hosted by Mary Hosley, our Domestic Violence Committee chair, at Frida's Cantina in Bangor at 12:30. You should have received a Punchbowl invitation for this. If you did not, contact Mary Hosley at mjhosley@live.com

>November Lunch Bunch - TBD

>December Holiday Lunch Bunch - TBD

If anyone would like to volunteer to coordinate a Lunch Bunch, it's a super easy thing to do. Let me or Mary Tobin know!

That's all for now (I know it's a lot), and hope to see you around town!

~ **Judy Pollack**

Public Policy Committee

Be aware! Remember the SAVE ACT which AAUW opposes because it would affect the right of women to vote all across the country? It was passed by the U.S. House but has thus far stalled in the Senate. Federal courts blocked an Executive Order by the president who attempted to implement a similar policy.

Now, the government is trying to push this again through the auspices of the Election Assistance Commission which was intended to be a bipartisan independent entity. The EAC is considering adopting a requirement that a passport or other proof of citizenship, like a birth certificate, be shown when registering to vote.

Americans who don't have access to their birth certificates, including those whose documents have been lost when their houses were destroyed or damaged during natural disasters, and women whose legal names change upon marriage, would be affected.

The changes would affect our forces deployed overseas who would be prevented from updating their registration online as well as those who need to mail in their applications.

Michiganders secured access to voting rights via the ballot in 2022, but some of that would be upended if the EAC provisions are put into place.

Book Groups



Monday Afternoon Group

Oct 27 *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo

Hostess: **Liz Smith**

Nov 24 *The Signature of All Things*

by Elizabeth Gilbert

Hostess: **Lisa Rostar**

Wednesday Evening

Nov 12 *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts

Hostess: **Julie Leavitt**

Dec 10 *When Women Ran 5th Avenue*

by Julie Satow

Hostess: **Kathy Straits**

Wednesday 2.0

Wednesday Nighters 2.0 have been meeting regularly and have read some great books.

September's book choice was *Isola* by Allegra Goodman. We read *The Second Chance Book Club* by Stephanie Butland in October. We will be reading *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston in November.

Thursday Night Book Club

Nov 20 *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan

Hostess: **Marge Lampe**

New Book Group?

Our four thriving book groups are operating at capacity, and still new members are seeking a reading community. Are you interested joining members to explore reading opportunities? What do you like to read? What do you need in a discussion group? When is the best time to meet? Send your wish list to Ann Habicht ahabicht@rocketmail.com. When there is a collection of potential group members, you will be contacted about the possibility of forming GROUP 5!

DEI Update

On September 9, the DEI Committee invited the members of SH AAUW to join a virtual meeting sponsored by AAUW Hawaii, entitled "DEI: Is it a Dirty Word?" Facilitator Younghee Overly summarized the hits DEI has taken under the Trump Administration, even as research has documented organizations that support diversity, inclusion, and equity initiatives more often result in communicative teams, fresh innovations, and sustainable market growth. Guest speakers from law schools and legal firms agreed that States must fight any Federal takeover of state laws and constitutions. People were encouraged to resist and protest any deprivations of liberty - particularly when discriminatorily enforced by race or ethnicity. Emphasized was how consistently the cuts to programs, jobs, and grants hurt women and children the most. Cuts to Education and The Arts, Food Assistance and Healthcare, Sexual and Domestic Violence victim supports, vaccine and family planning accessibility all impact our most vulnerable demographic.

Cards

If you enjoy playing Euchre, we have just the group for you. AAUW's Euchre group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Senior Center from 1:00-2:30. Many of us arrive early at noon in order to eat lunch together.

Feel free to come every month or just when you are able to play. We make it work!

If you are interested, please email **Jean Bevevino** at jbevevino@gmail.com to be put on the reminder email list. Hope to see some new faces along with our veterans!

Membership

Please Welcome:

Janet Davis

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518-424-9927

BA Muhlenberg College, PA

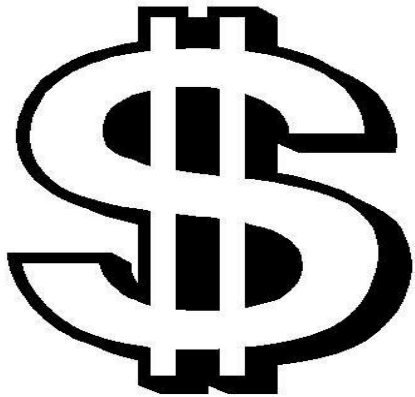
Liz Woods

lizrules@gmail.com

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee wants you to be aware that while the majority of our funds go toward scholarships, there are numerous other initiatives we support. Our members have consistently prioritized local impact. To that end, there are activities and obligations that require funding of various amounts that however small, do add up.

Among these are the speakers or special events sponsored by the DEI committee, our Candidate Forums and other Public Policy initiatives, community support services including Open Door, the LMC Pantry, and the HOPE Resource Center. Also, our support of both Sylvia's Place and the Domestic Violence Coalition may involve some expenditures.



We do not want to minimize the importance of what the national organization accomplishes with our dues - for example, are you aware that AAUW often participates with other organizations to present amicus briefs to the Supreme Court on issues that affect our Public Policy priorities? But understand that our share of that dues comes to \$14.00 from each of our members. That amount would total only one scholarship if that was all the money we collected! We wouldn't be able to provide the wonderful scholarship program that we have in place today.

In addition, there are business fees we must pay annually to provide insurance and the required registration with the state in order to fundraise as well as the miscellaneous costs involved in maintaining the 501c3 status.

As you can well understand, there are good reasons we call upon the generosity of our members as well as host a public event like The Memorial Day weekend musicale at Cogdal Winery).

In the Community

From South Haven Memorial Library:

Do you use Libby for your electronic books? If so, you will be happy to know that the library has joined a group of twelve other libraries so that patrons will have a greater selection as well as shorter waits for popular books. Stop by the library for a bookmark listing all the libraries and information about how to access this new benefit.

The Parent resource Center continues to express thanks to those of us who've contributed diapers - and meals.

If any members would like to donate for other types of baby needs, the Center can always use the following:

- Desitin Diaper Cream
- teething rings
- infant books - crinkle, Indestructibles *, cloth, Tummy Tales, etc.
- breast feeding nipple cream
- baby lotion/shampoo

These items can be delivered to the Resource Center or contact **Elaine Fluck**, who will deliver them for you.

Thank you in advance for any help you can give. *Indestructibles are books built for the way babies "read": with their hands and mouths. Chew-proof, rip-proof, and drool-proof, they're printed on a unique 100% nontoxic, paper-like material that holds up to anything babies can throw at it—gumming, spilling, dragging across the floor.

This Fall AAUW contributed snacks, school supplies, and personal hygiene items to the LMC South Haven campus snack pantry. Grab and go snacks and new notebooks were appreciated by the students. If anyone is interested in coordinating this activity for AAUW please contact **Mary Tobin** at tobinmm1947@comcast.net or **Peggy Murnighan** at pmurnighan@gmail.com

AAUW planned, prepared and served the community Open Door dinner on September 30th at the Methodist church. The cooks and planners were **Kay Brookey, Chris Flood, Linda Keefe, Kathy Straits, and Kellie Terry**. We made a Mexican chicken casserole, corn and carrots, garden salad, cookies and fruit cups. The servers were **Elaine Fluck, Sandy Olsen, Susan Shields, and Liz Smith**. We cooked for 80 guests,

Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee held its annual meeting on October 10. Members discussed the common application system which is used by 23 local scholarship organizations. In 2021, AAUW received only 6 scholarship applications. After the common application was launched in 2022, the number of scholarship applicants has increased each year, and in 2025, AAUW received 27 applications. At the annual meeting, committee members were shown how the common app filters criteria to lead students to the appropriate scholarships based on their specific qualifications. Members also discussed the more detailed description that was added to the Pathfinder and Luminary awards: This \$1500 scholarship can be used to offset the cost of



traditional college/university, community college, trade school or technical program. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate financial need and/or who have encountered life challenges. Members hope that this addition will encourage more students to apply for our scholarships.

It was announced at the meeting that **Stephanie Timmer** is now co-chair of the Scholarship Committee along with **Teresa Gibbons**. Stephanie has served on the Application Review team for two years, and she also helped revise AAUW SH's scholarship applications this summer. Beginning March 2026, Stephanie will lead our scholarship application process.

New from Scholarship Recipients:

After receiving the 2025 Nancy Kayse Pathfinder Award in June, Brenda Calderon chose to delay her college education. Instead, she has spent the last five months working and planning for college.

Recently, Brenda enrolled at LMC and will begin taking classes in January 2026. Brenda shares her experiences and her plans with our members:

This gap semester was a great opportunity to figure out what I really want in school. I got the chance to see what I am capable of, which allowed me to see what the real world is all about. I have been working two jobs since I got out of high school and have been saving money for the future. I'm glad I decided to take this gap semester because now I have money saved up for either future classes I take, or just in general. When I attend LMC, I will be living at home. I just feel that it's easier because most of my classes will be in South Haven; it's closer, and I'll be able to save more money. This gap semester allowed me to see that I need to learn more about business and more about the real world, so while I wait for the PTA program to begin, I will be in General Studies and take some business courses to allow me to learn more on these topics, mainly because I am already ahead with my pre-requisite classes. So this gap semester really allowed me to see what it is that I really want.

2022 Luminary Award recipient Sydney Barnes, a chemistry major at the University of Michigan, recently sent this update:

So far my senior year has been filled with going to football games with friends, student club meetings, and lots of classes! I am the president of the pre-pharmacy student organization this year and we have had record breaking turnouts at all of our events so far, which is truly exciting! I also have a group of 7 freshman in the same program that I mentor; I met with them today to grab coffee and go over their first couple weeks of school. This coming week, I will be attending a large career fair. I can't believe I am searching for jobs already! As for classes, I am taking four different chemistry/pharmacy courses including a chemical synthesis lab that is my favorite class so far. When I'm not doing school I love walking around the many trails in Ann Arbor (Gallup Park is one of my favorites). Though it's my busiest semester yet, it has been the most fun and fulfilling.

Helping Girls on the Way



Helen Matusevich Oujesky, a member of AAUW, was an American professor of microbiology at the University of Texas, San Antonio. In this capacity she actively pursued environmental research on pollution of soil and water, particularly of toxic wastes. In her career span of 45 years in the field of education and research, Oujesky was the recipient of several awards such as from the National Science Foundation, Student Science Training Programs for High School Students, Minority Research Programs for Minority High School Students, and an Intervention Model Program for Girls Using Laboratory Activities in Science, Math and Engineering.

After her college graduation in 1951 with a bachelor's degree from the Texas State College for Women she started her career as a teacher at Trimble Tech High School in Fort Worth and worked as a chemistry and biology teacher until 1963. She also pursued her higher education at Texas Christian University (TCU) and received a Master of Arts degree in 1965. She was awarded a doctoral degree from the Texas Woman's University in 1968. She then worked from 1963 to 1973 as a college educator.

Oujesky joined the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1973 and retired as professor in 2001. She was also on the board of directors of the Texas Academy of Sciences from 1980. Apart from presenting her research findings at various forums on applied microbial ecology and effects of environmental pollutants on microbial metabolism related to water and land pollution of toxic wastes, she has also lectured on the subject of educational equity for girls and women across the country. She gave a guest lecture at the 5th International Biodeterioration Symposium in Aberdeen, Scotland. She supported pre-college students presenting their scientific work at science fairs and junior science academies. She was also encouraged minority women to participate in the sciences.



On Your Calendar?

Oct 27 Monday Afternoon Books
Oct 30 DV Month Lunch
Nov 12 Wednesday Book Group
Nov 19 Euchre
Nov 20 Thursday Book Group
Nov 24 Monday Book Group
Dec 17 Euchre

To Do List ✓

- ☐ Read with a group
- ☐ Start a new book group
- ☐ Invite friends to AAUW events.
- ☐ Donate some Diapers.
- ☐ Play Cards.
- ☐ Check out the webpage
www.southhaven-mi.aauw.net
- ☐ Call a legislator. Call again.
- ☐ Organize a Lunch Bunch opportunity