Toaate Volume 50 No. 5 December 2025

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES:

AAUW Michigan:

https://www.aauwmi.org/

AAUW National:

https://www.aauw.org/ connect@aauw.org

AAUW Northville-Novi:

https://aauwnn.org/ info@aauwnn.org

AAUW-NN P.O. Box 511 Northville, MI 48167

AAUWNN MEETING FESTIVE GATHERING Tuesday, December 9, 6 p.m. **Northville District Library** 212 W. Cady Street, Northville



Programs VP Mary Ann MacLaren maryann@maclareninc.com

Supporting First Step & Celebrating the Holiday

Join us at the Northville District Library starting at 6 p.m.

There will be light refreshments plus an easy holiday craft to make. Please bring a pen or pencil or similar diameter object with you.

Any member that wishes to support First Step may bring items or monetary donation to this meeting. The link here https://www.firststep-mi.org/donate/mostneeded/ FirstStep - offers a list of most needed items. More details about First Step can be found on page 3 in this newsletter.

If you would like a ride to and from our meeting, email info@aauwnn.org for arrangements. Zoom will also be available.

Additionally, we will have our lunchtime meetings starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Northville Sports Den January 14, February 11, and March 11.

ABOUT THE DECEMBER MEETING

If you are hesitating about coming to the meeting on December 9 because you need a ride to the meeting or you feel you can't walk very far, send an email to info@aauwnn.org by December 5. The meeting is on the lower level and you can be dropped off right at the door.





President's Message Karen Zyczynski zyczynski2002@aol.com

Reflections on 2025

It is easy to forget all the wonderful activities and accomplishments AAUWNN was a part of over the last year, as we all lead busy lives. And so, as 2025 rapidly comes to a close, I thought I would do a brief review of our year.

In January, February, and March our Scholarship Committee was hard at work reviewing scholarship applications from both high schools and making selections. The Scholarship Committee is always looking for volunteers to help read applications. Contact Caryn Doehler if interested. In addition, our NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) students from Schoolcraft College were completing their applications to participate in this excellent leadership training program held in College Park Maryland.

At our Annual Meeting on May 13, we kicked off our 50th Anniversary and honored Joyce Murdock and Karen Olsen for their 50 years of involvement in AAU-WNN. Our named honoree was Harriet Sawyer for her dedicated work on revising our Bylaws and Policies and Procedures.

Also, in May we hosted two Career Path Days (CPD) for 8th grade girls from Northville Middle Schools. They explored some career possibilities at Schoolcraft College, had lunch at Genetti's and visited some local businesses. Judy Sherman coordinated this program and would be happy to have a few more volunteers.

In June, through our Remember the Ladies Program, we supported all the elementary school libraries (12 total) with a donation to purchase learning materials about women in history. We also donated to the Endowed Scholarship Programs at Schoolcraft College and Oakland Community College to benefit women returning to school after a break in their education.

Finally, September 24 arrived and we hosted our 50th Anniversary Celebration at Genetti's Hole-in-the-Wall in Northville. The Mayor of Northville came to share the City of Northville's Proclamation making September 24, 2025, AAUWNN Day in Northville. The Novi Mayor dropped in, and two Novi City Council members came for dinner. Charity Meier from the Novi Note attended and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell came with a framed declaration honoring us in the 119th Congressional Record. What an evening!

Looking ahead to 2026, your Fashion Show Committee is hard at work planning our big fundraiser scheduled for April 25, 2026. Along with our Mah Jongg Tournaments, the Fashion Show helps raise the money we need to support all the above mentioned programs.

Building and maintaining our membership is key to keeping our organization viable and moving forward. If you have a friend or family member who might be interested in our cause or is looking for a way to give back to our communities, invite them to a meeting in 2026. Emily Doubler, Membership VP, would be happy to talk with them.

And finally, may your holiday season be filled with love and laughter and good times with family and friends. Hope to see you at our December meeting!

Karen

NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI)

https://aauwnn.org/

President

Karen Zyczynski (734) 718-3341 zyczynski2002@aol.com

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Newsletter Editor

Joyce Murdock (313) 381-2350

info@aauwnn.org

AAUW Mission

The AAUW MISSION is to advance gender equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW Diversity Statement

AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership teams and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic basis.

Update is published monthly, August through June, for the members and friends of the American Association of University Women Northville-Novi (MI)

First Step of Wayne County Working for Peaceful Families and Safe Communities



L. to R., Joyce Murdock, Emily Doubler, Audrianna Buchanan-Cronk, Carol Murchison, Mary Jane Kearns, Mary Ann MacLaren, Lee Doyle, Karen Zyczynski, Betty Mooney, Caryn Doehler, Ruth Rickard, Karen Visger, Reem Alam, Deena Parks-Alam, Kay Bartol On November 11, Audriana Buchanan-Cronk, Director of Operations and Engagement at First Step spoke to our group. First Step, in Wayne County, provides comprehensive services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. It has been around for 45 years, is the largest facility in Michigan and has the highest quality rating in the state.

Almost half of First Step's funding comes from Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. These are federal crime fines that are rolled down to cover costs for victims. With less enforcement of white-collar crimes, there has been a 40% decrease in VOCA funding. This has had a drastic impact on First Step's funding.

What can we do? Reach out to Senators and Reps and ask them to tour First Step.

Donate. Volunteer. Support victims. Survivors with the best outcomes are those with the strongest support systems. Audriana recommends giving grace and removing judgement when helping victims. She handed out pocket cards that can be shared with anyone

who may have a need for First Step's services.

The Lethality Assessment Program is a national program with well-defined process for adoption. It is a protocol used by law enforcement and other first responders to screen victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) to identify those at the highest risk of being killed or seriously injured. LAP consists of a structured risk assessment questionnaire and an immediate referral system to connect high-danger victims with domestic violence services, such as hotlines, shelters, counseling, and safety planning. Only **five** cities in Michigan have adopted the lethality assessment by going through the training and adhering to its tenants. Fortunately for us, 4 of those cities are: **Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Canton.** (also, Taylor.)

Volunteering opportunities with First Step: Front Desk, Tabling, Nurturing

For anyone interested in volunteering:

- Submit interest via our website or join the wait list to be notified when interviews open at the bottom of this page: https://www.firststep-mi.org/getinvolved/volunteer/
- The next 30 hour Core Skills training is scheduled for: Jan 15, 23–25 (Flyer attached for easy sharing and you can always preview dates here: https://www.firststep-mi.org/getinvolved/volunteertraining/)

December 10 AAUWNN has volunteered to assist in a Holiday Gift Wrapping Station from 9:45 AM to 1 p.m. If interested in helping, contact Emily Doubler.

At our December meeting, the board has decided that First Step will be the recipient of our holiday giving.

This is the always wish list that we will use -

https://www.firststep-mi.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/First-Steps-Donation-Guide-2023.pdf

Monetary donations are always appreciated.

Mah Jongg Ladies Day Out



On November 2, a group of AAUWNN members enjoyed a lot of laughs attending Jeff Daniels' play, "Norma and Wanda", at The Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea.

L. to R., Mary Ann MacLaren, Karen Visger, Carol Murchison, Emily Doubler, Caryn Doehler, Ruth Rickard, Pat Noworyta, Mary Jane Kearns, Joyce Murdock, Kathy Fenchel, Rhonda York and Barb Wilson

AAUWNN Christmas Tree



NOTE: Stop by the Festival of Trees at the Northville Community Center between December 2 and December 29 and check out the AAUWNN tree!



Remember the Ladies
Joyce Murdock, Contact
jmurdock12051942@wowway.com

Remember the Ladies

Our "Remember the Ladies" project is our **no work fundraiser**. A book about women put in a school library is a great and unusual Christmas gift for a mom, daughter, granddaughter or anyone on your list. The holidays are coming up. Do you need a holiday hostess gift and still can't think of a good idea? Instead of another candle, a woman's biography may inspire a daughter or granddaughter to become the person who discovers the cure for breast cancer. To donate a book call me at (734) 207-1942 or (313) 381-2350 or contact me at my e-mail address, <u>jgmurdock12051942@wwwway.com</u>.

The purpose of our "Remember the Ladies" Program is to place women's biographies in the Northville and Novi school libraries so there is a more equitable distribution of male and female biographies. The minimum contribution is only \$15 and an order form is on page 10 of this newsletter.

The title of the program came from a quote that Abigail Adams wrote in a letter to her husband John Adams when he was drafting the code of laws for the fledgling nation. She wrote, "I long to hear that you have declared an independency. And, by the way, in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors."

Small Parties
Mary Jane Kearns, Contact
mjkearns1@outlook.com

Girls Just Want to Have Fun!

Join us for our 1st Small Pary!



Rachel at **Alloy Gym** in Novi is going to give those of us who sign up a chance to check it out. She is offering us **a special class just for us at noon on Thursday, January 15**. Wear appropriate workout clothing and shoes. This is limited to 6-8 people, and the cost will be \$25 (payable to AAUWNN, prior to the class). Contact Mary Jane Kearns at mjkearns1@outlook.com or (248) 449-8693 to sign up. If necessary, we will organize an additional class. Hope to see you there.

For those of you who are not familiar with the gym, it is a very friendly place with knowledgeable, attentive coaches and 'geared to you' workouts. They also have a location in Northville.

Great Decisions
Mary Jane Kearns Contact
mjkearns [@outlook.com

Great Decisions Update

The topics for 2026 have now been published, and they look to be excellent. You can have a look at them at https://fpa.org/great-decisions-2026-topic-announcement/ Books are now available and are \$40. This is the perfect time to join us for the new year beginning in January. See page 9 for more information about the January meeting.

We encourage new members and guests. For more information and a ZOOM invitation contact Mary Jane Kearns at mikearns 1@outlook.com or (248) 449-8693.

\$\$\$ PASSIVE FUNDRAISING **\$\$\$**

Shopping, it's what we all do well, several times a week. We visit Kroger for food and gasoline and browse AAUWNN spirit clothing from Big Frog. You can EASILY add to the coffers of AUWNN by signing up with these two companies. A portion of your purchase will go directly into our account. You do not have to do a thing but shop! You know how to do that, don't you??? Sign up now!

KROGER

Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program to help AAUWNN achieve its financial goals! Go online to https://www.kroger.com/o/store-services/community-rewards. Sign in using your email address and designate American Association of University Women Northville-Novi as the recipient of your rewards. If you do not already have a Kroger Plus Card, you will be issued one.

BIG FROG

Sign up from the homepage of our website: https://aauwnn.org/. Scroll down to Spirit Wear and click to be linked to Big Frog, Novi.

Public Policy Mary Jane Kearns, Chair <u>mjkearns l@outlook.com</u>

Public Policy News You Can Use



This is why we belong to AAUW! Spread the word...

AAUW stands for Social Justice and Civil Rights

• Constitutional Rights:

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including recognition and publication of the Equal Rights Amendment
- Complete, accurate and timely collection of data, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender identity to inform policy decisions and the apportionment of political representation

• Expanding Voting Rights:

 Expanding voting rights to promote equitable political participation and ensure all Americans have the same access and right to vote

• Freedom from Harassment and Violence:

- Ensuring that people who are subject to harassment or violence based on age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, religious beliefs, pregnancy or parental status have full protection and recourse under the law
- Supporting policies to end gender-based violence, including reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- Supporting policies that address the prevention of human trafficking and protection of its victims

• International and Civil Rights:

- Supporting U.S. advancement towards the gender equity goals on education and the economy in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- ° Supporting ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

2025-2027 Biennial Action Priorities

AAUW's Biennial Action Priorities for federal action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership. These national priorities inform state and local action. Additional priorities may be added based on circumstances. No order of importance for the priorities is implied.

To support equitable access to higher education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls especially women of color, AAUW advocates for:

- Reinstating Title IX rules that strengthen and clarify protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault, ensure schools provide accommodations for pregnant and parenting students, and affirm Title IX's protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Ensuring institutions of higher education are accessible to all students regardless of socioeconomic status, the environment and curriculum is inclusive, and free from political, religious, or cultural bias

(Continued on page 7)

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Public Policy (Continued from page 6)

- Reducing barriers to postsecondary success, including increasing investment in financial support for degree programs and campus childcare programs
- Policies that support women in pursuit of higher education, including increased access to paid leave, access to contraception and abortion care, affordable high-quality childcare

The Fashion Show Committee Needs Your Help

It takes all of us working together to pull off this event. So, how can you help?

- If you know someone in Clothing Design or is an Accessory Designer who might want to participate in our Fashion Show, let Karen Z. know.
- If you know someone who has a business and might want to support our cause with an ad in our program book, I will have information available at our December meeting and in January.



- If you have a friend or family member who would like to support us with a minimum \$20 donation, we would be happy to list their name in our program book as a Friend of AAUWNN. Either cash or a check made out to AAUWNN with friend written in the memo line. Make sure you have the correct spelling of their name.
- If you are unable to attend the event but would be willing to donate a ticket, let Mary Ann MacLaren know.

Your Fashion Show Committee,

Mary Ann MacLaren, Carol Murchison, Karen Visger, Janice Wargo, Rhonda York, Karen Zyczynski



Thinking of You

Jan Wargo, our treasurer, is going through chemo treatments for pancreatic cancer. Her address is:

sure it would mean a lot to them. If you missed people that were previously in this

Jan Wargo 41687 Sunnydale Lane

Northville, MI 48167 Please take a few minutes to send those in this column a card or a little note. I'm



column and you still want to send them a card, call me or send me an email and I will send you the newsletter.

If you know of one of our members that we should be thinking of, please send me the information at igmurdock12051942@wowway.com.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

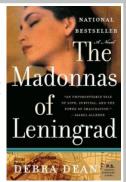
NORTHVILLE-NOVI BRANCH

"Remember the Ladies" Order Form
Name
Address
Phone #
School District (Please check one) Northville Novi
Preferred school library – Please enter the school's name
In honor In memory
Of
Would you like a certificate sent to the person or family of the person listed above? YesNo
If yes, to whom and where would you like the certificate sent?
Send this form along with a check (minimum \$15) made payable to the proper school district with "Remember the Ladies" on the memo line to: Remember the Ladies Committee, 12338 Woodlands Ct., Plymouth, MI 48170
Office use only
Order form # Date
Receipt # Check Amount
Book plate completed sent (date)
Certificate completed sent (date) (date) (date)
Thank You completed (date)
(uaic)

<u>Daytime Book Group</u> Marian Brockie, Contact

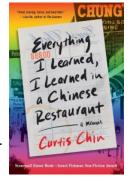
We will be discussing **The Madonnas of Leningrad** by Debra Dean at our December 11 ZOOM meeting from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. It will be a group lead.

For more information on joining this group please contact Marian Brockie at mbrockie@umich.edu.



Evening Book Group Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

We will not meet in December. In January we will meet over Zoom. On January 26 at 7 p.m., we will discuss **Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant** by Curtis Chin. This "vivid, moving, funny, and heartfelt" memoir tells the story



of Curtis Chin's time growing up as a gay Chinese American kid in 1980's Detroit. Marcia will lead our discussion.

A complete list of what we are reading is published on our web site https://aauwnn.org/ Members will receive an automatic reminder for the Zoom meetings. Please RSVP to accept or decline that invitation.

Interested in joining? We'd love to have you. Contact Mary Jane at <u>mjkearns1@outlook.com</u> or (248) 449-8693 to be added.

Mah Jongg

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

The Mah Jongg group plays Friday afternoons at members' homes. The December schedule is as follows:

Dec. 5 Rhonda

Dec. 12 Mary Jane Dec. 19 Emily

Dec. 26 no play



We enthusiastically welcome our recent new members. Interested in joining us? Contact Mary Jane Kearns to join us. Mjkearns1@outlook.com (248) 449-8693.

Bridge Group
Marian Brockie, Contact

The Bridge Group currently is meeting at the Laurel Park Food Court area every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information on joining contact Marian Brockie at mbrockie@umich.edu.



<u>Restaurant Rovers</u> Joyce Murdock, Contact

The Restaurant Rovers will not meet in December. On January 21 at NOON, we



will dine at Benstein Grill, 2435 Benstein Road, Commerce Twp. Note that we are going to our lunch meetings.

If you would like to join this group, please contact Joyce Murdock at (313) 381-2350 or jgmurdock12051942@wowway.com.

Movie Goers

Rhonda York, Contact

Movie Goers are now meeting the first Tuesday of the month. Rhonda will send an email to those on the list.

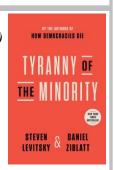


To be added to the list or for information, contact Rhonda York at rlyork03@gmail.com.

Great Decisions

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact (Temporary)

We will not meet in December. We will resume meeting over ZOOM on the third Tuesday of the month. On January 20 at 1:30 p.m. we will discuss Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point by Stephen Levitsky



and Daniel Ziblatt. In February we will begin to discuss chapters from the 2026 Great Decisions discussion book.

We always welcome new members. Contact Mary Jane at (248) 449-8693 or mjkearns1@outlook.com for more information.

VP Programs Mary Ann Maclaren <u>info@aauwnn.org</u>

Info on Future Programs

December 9 Meeting is facilitated by the Program Committee at the Northville District Library at 6 p.m. Details of refreshments and entertainment are on page one.

January 13 Meeting is our first of three lunchtime meetings at the Northville Sports Den at 11:30. This meeting is facilitated by Mary Jane Kearns. Guest speaker is Ravi Yalamanchi of Rank Choice Voting.

February 10 Meeting is facilitated by Rhonda York at the Northville Sports Den at 11:30. Autism discussion.

March 10 Meeting is facilitated by Jackie Duggan at the Northville Sports Den at 11:30. Charitable Gifting Options discussed.

Mary Jane Kearns MI Funds Director

What's Up at National re: Contributions?



This is the time of year when we most think about donating to our favorite causes, and I hope you will consider contributing to AAUW.

If you have tried to donate online to AAUW, you would have found some changes – and a much simplified way to do it.

The most recent changes to AAUW's funds include a strategic focus on increasing contributions and

donor numbers for specific funds in fiscal year 2026. AAUW aims to raise \$30 per member towards the Greatest Needs Fund, increase contributions to this fund by 15% compared to the last fiscal year (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025), and increase the number of individual donors. The Greatest Needs Fund is particularly important as it consists of unrestricted funds used where the need is greatest, including administrative costs, advocacy, public policy, and programs supporting equity for women and girls.

AAUW also encourages branches to contribute to the Defend Higher Education Fund and the Public Policy Fund, which address critical higher education issues and enhance advocacy efforts nationwide. In fiscal year 2024, AAUW gave out \$6.2 million in fellowships and grants to 276 recipients, supported largely by these funds. Additionally, the Legal Advocacy Fund continues providing renewable grants (\$5,000 to \$20,000) to support gender-equity legal cases.

Overall, while 96% of AAUW's assets are restricted to specific uses like fellowships and grants, only 4% are unrestricted for flexible use, which is why boosting the Greatest Needs Fund is a primary funding priority for AAUW in 2025-2026

10 December 2025



...empowering women since 1922

Support AAUW of Michigan while you **Shop for Fall and Winter Holidays**

Shop from Lynch Creek Farm between now and December 10, and AAUW of Michigan will receive 10% cash back from your purchase. Lynch Creek Farm has decorating and gift ideas for your fall and winter occasions. The company handcrafts traditional and uniquely decorated Christmas wreaths, fresh centerpieces, and other beautiful holiday gifts. Their fresh evergreen products are created onsite ensuring freshness and high quality. The company's practice of trimming branches for their boughs without cutting down trees helps protect and sustain local forests and fragile ecosystems. Other gift items include gourmet foods featuring Pacific smoked salmon.



Shop the Holiday Fundraiser

You can pre-order items now and select an approximate shipping date. Standard shipping is \$4.95 per item. If you prefer to place your order by phone, call 1-888-426-0781 and mention campaign #9323617 to make sure AAUWMI receives 10% cash back from your purchase. Proceeds will fund AAUWMI programs in support of AAUW's mission to promote equity for all.

AAUW of Michigan Holiday Fundraiser









Supporting our fundraiser is easy... Simply decorate your home or send an elegant evergreen gift!



SUPPORT OUR CAUSE



much more!! Visit https://lynchcreekfundraising.com/campaigns/953312 Click the green Shop button next to a teammate

We earn 10% of your purchase!





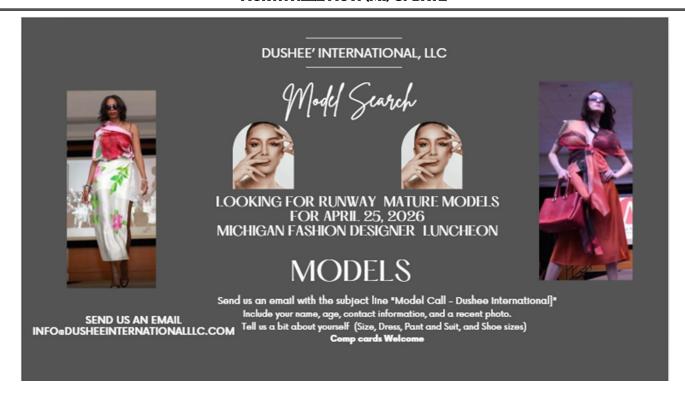


AAUW of Michigan | stateservices@aauwmi.org

AAUW of Michigan | https://www.aauwmi.org/ | Big Rapids, MI 49307 US

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Dushee' International, LLC – Model Call Sign-Up Sheet

Call for Models: December 2025 – February 2026

Dushee' International, LLC is seeking diverse models for upcoming fashion and art projects, including photo shoots, product showcases, and promotional campaigns featuring our signature scarves and accessories. If you're passionate about fashion, art, and creative expression - we'd love to collaborate with you!

Model Information	
Full Name:	
Email Address:	_
Phone Number:	_
City/State:	_
Preferred Contact Method: □ Email □ Text □ Call	
Availability (Check All That Apply)	
December 2025	
☐ January 2026	
☐ February 2026	

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MICHIGAN FASHION DESIGNER SHOWCASE LUNCHEON 2024 SPONSORS PLEASE FREQUENT THEIR BUSINESSES





empowering women since 1881

American Association of University Women Northville-Novi A non-profit 501(c)(3)





Articles for the January 2026 issue due December 20 to:

Mary Ann MacLaren info@aauwnn.org

AAUW Northville-Novi (MI) Calendar of Events visit the website for more information at

https://aauwnn.org/

Board Meeting	Fourth Tuesday, 6:45 p.m.
Bridge Group	Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
Day Book Group	Second Thursday, 10 a.m.
Evening Book Group	Fourth Monday, 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Third Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg	Fridays, 1 p.m.
Restaurant Rovers	Third Wednesday, Noon

