

South Haven, Michigan AAUW

Newsletter: May 2026

President's Message

It's that time of year again when things start getting very busy. Committees are all ramping up their agendas and we have unearthed opportunities for members to be more involved. There are several events scheduled: May 5th is our Annual Meeting; May 24th is our Fundraiser at Cogdal; June 8th is our Spring Scholarship Celebration; Book Sale is during the Blueberry Festival, August 7 and 8; We are changing up the traditional New Member Event in September to be more of a social event and less of a promotional event for committees.

We are still planning on events for Violence Against Women in Sept/October and are looking for committee members to help with those.

You may have already received a punchbowl invitation to the Annual Meeting by the time you read this. I will also be sending out an email with more details - which you also may have already received :-). I am attending the MI AAUW Convention the weekend of April 24/25 and am excited to see what other chapters are doing that we might want to explore.

Hope to see most of you at the May and June events!

~Judy Pollock

Golf



The AAUW Golf Group's 2026 season will begin on Wednesday May 20 at 3 p.m. at HawksHead Links. This year's rate for 9 holes is \$45. If you are a HawksCard holder, the rate is \$35.

If you are a new member who loves to golf and would like to join us on Wednesday afternoons, or if you are an existing member who would like to join us but has not previously signed up, please call or text **Becky Vasko** at 317-902-4954.

Blessings in a Backpack

This is the March group of AAUW packers at North Shore Elementary School. We have two more sessions during this academic year. We partner with Rotary Club as they organize and manage the routine.



Cathy Duda, Sue Cunningham, Sherry Saenz, Sandra Olsen, Merrily Brannigan, Mary Lynn Bugge, Renee Kaplan

DV Prevention

May 14, 2026

5:30-8:30pm

Sylvia's Place Presents Wine Tasting 2026

Fenn Valley Vinyards

6130 122nd Ave. – Fennville, MI 49408

(269)673-5742

www.sylvia'splace.com



Enjoy a memorable evening of wine flights, food, live music, and raffle prizes while supporting survivors of domestic violence. Come out, raise a glass, and celebrate the meaningful impact we're making together.

DEI Update

AAUW National has a new Degree Equivalency Policy whereby membership may be earned via:

- a. Holding of certificates, licenses, or professional certifications issued by a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; or
- b. At least two (2) years of full-time, or 48 credit hours, equivalent education at an accredited institution, as defined above.

The DEI Committee is in correspondence with Eva Habib, VP Membership-Michigan, with a concern.

Cheri Stein questioned the issue of "higher education institution" with vocational careers. For example, a professional welder certified through Ferris State University would be eligible for AAUW membership, however a professional welder certified through the Detroit Carpenters and Millwrights Training Center would not be eligible with the current wording.



Both agencies provide a 4-year program in welding and are authorized to conduct welder certification testing by the Michigan Department of Transportation's Welder Certification Program. Ferris State is a fully accredited higher public

education institution, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Detroit Carpenters and Millwrights Training Center is "not typically classified as an accredited 'higher education institution' (such as a college or university), but it is a highly recognized top-tier apprenticeship training facility. It is accredited through the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights (MRCC) and recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor, offering certified, debt-free, hands-on training to students." (State of Michigan. gov)

Habib has put the question to AAUW National and is still waiting for an answer. It may be that the AAUW South Haven DEI Committee has added to the conversation and hopefully to policy clarity!

Membership

Please welcome:

Ana Aleman-Putman

757 Michigan Ave. South Haven, MI 49090
616-890-9219
Aaleman-putman@shps.org
BA & EdD GVSU
MA Wayne State

Sara Miller

6895 107th Avenue
South Have, MI 49090
239-398-9387
Sarajmiller21@gmail.com

FYI – a memorial service for long-time AAUW member Kathy Haines-Dailey will be July 17 at the First United Methodist Church in South Haven

Book Groups

Monday Afternoon Group

May 18 *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson
Hostess: **Nadine Godin-Nassaney**
Jun 22 *The Invisible Hour* by Alice Hoffman
Hostess: **Karen Small**

Wednesday Evening

May 13: *The Eights* by Joanna Miller
Hostess: **Sharon Gultinan**
June 10: *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood
Hostess: **Carol Tidwell**
We'll select next season's ten titles at our June session.

Wednesday Nighters 2.0



Our group read and discussed *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick. **Carol Kaim** was our hostess. We read *The Engineer's Wife* by Traci Emerson Wood in April. This book was about the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. **Renee Kaplan** was our hostess. One of our members Chris Flood was lucky enough to visit the Brooklyn bridge shortly after our group got together, and she sent us a photo.



Thursday Night Book Club

May 21 *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach

Hostess: **Delores Atkins**

Jun 18 *The Names* by Florence Knapp

Hostess: **Patty Meyer**

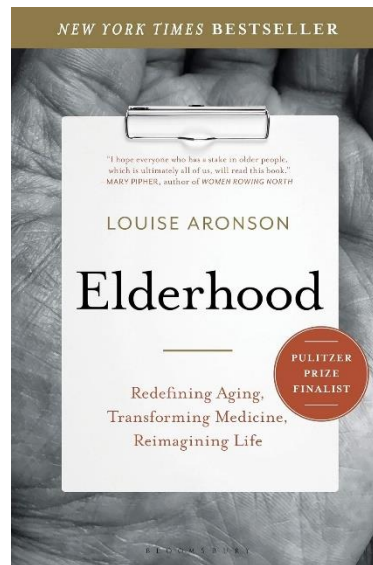


The Thursday night book club discussed *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters on April 16th, hosted by **Marla Zwolan**.

In the photo: **Edna Kent, Kathy Metelmann, Carol Kaim, Delores Atkins, Marla Zwolan, Suzanne Robinson, Alida Zamboni, Marge Lampe, Patty Meyer, Dianne Wagner**

The leader, **Mary Tobin**, is not pictured.

For members wishing to form a FIFTH book group, I will facilitate an organizational meeting, where the When, Where, What and How Often can be determined. Forming a fifth book group will allow more members to enjoy the many benefits that reading together can bring. So far, I know **two** interested members. Leave me a message at ahabicht@rocketmail.com.



The DEI Committee recommends:
"Elderhood: Redefining Aging, Transforming Medicine, Reimagining Life" by Louise Aronson and
"Woodworking" by Emily St. James

Book Sale News

- **The Adult and Children's Sales on Friday, August 7, 2026**, Early Bird at 8 a.m., doors open from 9-4p.m. and **Saturday, August 8, 2026**, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **Barrels will be distributed on Monday, June 29, 2026** (Church, Ace Hardware, Bronson Wellness Center and the Senior Center) and will be picked up on Friday, July 31st.
- **Sign-up sheets to work at the sale will be available** at the Annual Meeting (May 6) and the Spring Scholarship Celebration (June 8).
- **Sign-up sheets will also be available for sorting**, which will take place every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. in the First Congregational Church basement on the following dates: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and possibly August 5.
- Advertising: **Volunteers will be needed to distribute sale flyers** throughout town.
- **ALL HANDS ON DECK – Thursday, August 6, 9:30 am, in the church Fellowship Hall** (upstairs) to **unpack and organize books on tables**.

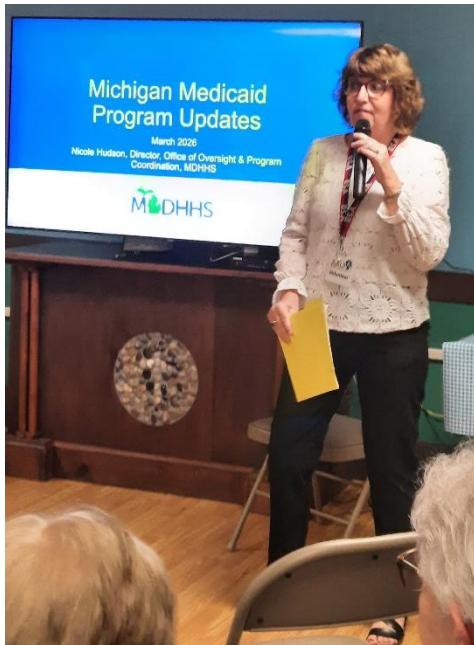
Co-Chairs: **Jean Bevevino and Edna Kent** with **Merrily Brannigan, Mary Ellen Doty, Janet Gilbert-Smith, Rosalind Giulletti, Carol Kaim, Renee Kaplan, Amy Kilbridge, Elaine Kitchen, Patty Meyer, Peggy Murnighan, Susan Shields, Liz Smith and Mary Tobin**

DUES

AAUW National dues for FY27 will increase from \$74 to \$76 on **April 1**. This amount is fully tax-deductible. Other rates remain the same - State dues \$15 and Branch dues \$14. So, the total amount due when you renew **your membership this year will be \$105**.

You should receive an email notification that your membership needs to be renewed a month or so before it is due. For many of you, your membership renewal is in June, but if you joined in the last few years, it may be due in other months. As in other years, you can pay your dues at the annual meeting (May 5th) or the scholarship celebration (June 8th) or by sending a check to "Dues Treasurer, PO Box 343, South Haven, MI 49090".

Public Policy Committee



Amy Nichols, Public Policy Chair

Our March 26 COMMUNITY CONVERSATION held at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany was well-received and well-attended. Presenters Christine Vanlandingham CEO, Region IV of the Area Agency on Aging and Nicole Hudson, Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services, Health Services Division provided valuable information on local impacts of HR1, also known as the "Big Beautiful Bill." There followed numerous questions and comments from those in attendance with much appreciation for the candid and informative presentations. Your PPC is planning for an additional similar program with other presenters.

Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee Selection Team, **Stephanie Timmer, Janae Condit, Amy Kilbridge and Janet Gilbert-Smith**, interviewed six candidates from the 14



applicants and selected three to receive the 2026 scholarships. They are: Gwenyth Meyer, Pathfinder Award; Morgan Tomsa, Pathfinder Award; Olivia Emehiser, Luminary Award

Come to the Scholarship Celebration June 8, 4-5:30, at South Haven High School.

We are looking for members who would be willing to act as a connection to our 2027 scholarship recipients. As a connection you are the liaison to AAUW, hosting the award recipient and their families at the celebration in June (2027) and reach out to the student a few times each semester.

Summer Sounds in the Vineyard ...

Mark your calendar

It's that time of year. You might even call it a tradition. On **Sunday, May 24, from 1:00 – 3:00**, visit the **Cogdal Vineyards** to sip a glass of wine, listen to the sweet and sassy sounds of Diane & Lisa (two of our favorite musicians) and enjoy the company of friends and family. Local realtor Mark Young is this year's Music Sponsor, which means all proceeds from the day benefit our student scholars.



In each of the past four years we have hosted this benefit, we have raised more than in the previous

year. This year will be no exception because one of our generous members will double your donation with a matching gift!

So, mark your calendar, watch for updates and join us as we welcome summer, celebrate our student scholars and invest in their future. Every gift makes a difference.

Lunch Bunch

Taste welcomed our members in April.



On Your Calendar?

May 5 Annual meeting at LMC
May 13 Wednesday Book Group
May 14 Wine Tasting event to support
Sylvia's Place
May 18 Monday Book Group
May 20 & 27 Golf
May 21 Thursday Book Group
May 24 Fundraiser at Cogdal Winery
June 3, 10, 17, 24 Golf
June 8 Scholarship Celebration
June 10 Wednesday Book Group
June 18 Thursday Book Group
June 22 Monday Book Group

Dive into interfaith days to commemorate at
<https://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2026/>

National AAUW

It's now time to vote in the AAUW Election 2026. The election ends on May 12, 2026 at 5:00 pm ET.

To vote, follow this link to access your ballot directly: <https://aauw.simplyvoting.com/auth.php?e=4421202&mac=3cfd2195d7b9238a6cc3>

Or visit: <https://aauw.simplyvoting.com/>

Then enter:

Elector ID - 4421202

Password - YBWGK

For more information on the candidates, please visit <https://act.aauw.org/MemberVote2026>.

If you have any questions, or updates regarding your membership or changes to your address or email, please contact connect@aauw.org.

Thank you for taking the time to vote on these important matters.

To Do List ✓

- Read with a group
- Volunteer for Open Door
- Invite friends to AAUW events.
- Pay your dues.
- Vote
- Dust off your golf clubs
- Declutter your book shelves.
- Support Sylvia's Place
- Serve as connector to a new scholarship winner
- Donate some Diapers.
- Organize a Lunch Bunch opportunity.
- Donate to the LMC pantry & school supply collection
- Stay in touch with your legislators