

# South Haven, Michigan AAUW

## Newsletter: March 2025

### President's Message

Dear SH AAUW Members,

It's Springtime and the start of our busy season, with several events in the works. Our April Lunch Bunch was a delight. Thank you to **Julie Molnar** for hosting!



Our May Lunch Bunch is being planned by **Marge Lampe and Jeannette Meyer**, but date and location are TBD.

On May 8th at LMC, we will have our Annual Meeting, starting with a social half hour at 4:30. Wine, water, and small snacks will be provided. Thanks to **Merrily Brannigan** for volunteering to be our new Membership VP and to **Alida Zamboni** for accepting the President Elect Office. I am expecting unanimous votes for these two spectacular women! And maybe one of you will come forward to volunteer to take over the Treasurer position? (Fingers crossed)

I'm planning the meeting to be no more than one hour (5-6PM), as there are no special projects or votes happening. I will be sending out the Strategic 5-year plan that **Linda Garrison** has completed when I send out the agenda for the meeting.

If you aren't paying dues directly to National, you'll be able to pay at this meeting, either by check or credit card (Note - paying by credit card will incur a 2.5% processing fee, so \$106) You can also pay at the Scholarship Celebration.



The breakdown of dues for 2025 are:

National: \$74

Michigan: \$15

South Haven: \$14

**Total: \$103**

Another way to pay is by mail:

Dues Treasurer PO Box 343 South Haven, MI 49090

May 24th - there will be a Children's Book Sale at First Congregational Church. To volunteer, contact Edna Kent at [ande1230@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ande1230@sbcglobal.net)

May 25th - Annual fundraiser at Cogdal Vineyard. Details will be sent soon.

June 9th - Scholarship Celebration at the High School. Details will be sent out closer to the date. Hope to see many of you at one or more of these events!

One more thing: Did you know we have two of our members who are running for Mayor of South Haven? Best of luck, **Annie Brown** and **Mary Hosley**! Anticipating a robust yet civil campaign this year for all candidates running for city positions.

### Lunch Bunch



The March Lunch Bunch at Maria's was a lovely St Patrick's celebration with a group of 23. Even though our hostess **Alida Zamboni** was afflicted with a seriously broken wrist, she soldiered

through with the help of her daughter, along with **Nancy Hendrickson**. Good luck with the long recovery, Alida!

## Book Groups

### Monday Afternoon Group

May 19 *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride*  
by Alex Prud'homme

Hostess: **Barbara Sampson**

June 23 *Kitchens of the Great Midwest*  
by J. Ryan Stradal

Hostess: **Margery VerBeek**

### Wednesday Evening

May 14 *The Great Divorce* by Ilyan Woo

Hostess: **Kathy Straits**

June 11 *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan

Hostess: **Carol Tidwell**

### Wednesday 2.0

Accepting new members now! Contact  
**Deb D'Adamo** [debradadamo@gmail.com](mailto:debradadamo@gmail.com)

Accepting new members now.

May's book will be *James* by Percival Everett



### Thursday Night Book Club

This group must have had a rousing March meeting; when I got their report to members, this comment was attached. "*Per your request, the recipe for the Reuben Crescent Bake is attached.*"

May 15 *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts

Hostess: **Delores Atkins**

June 19 *Wish You Were Here* by Jodi Picoult

Hostess: **Marla Zwolan**

## DEI Update

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

## Women's History



The South Haven Memorial Library thanks the Silver Bag Ladies for their Women's History performance of **Elaine Fluck's** second production featuring famous Michigan women - "Remembering Remarkable Michigan Women." The thespians included **Marge Lampe, Lois Swartz, Sherry Saenz, Mary Lynn Bugge, Sue Murphey, Sharon Gultinan, Liz Smith, and Ann Habicht.** Some of them will be entertaining you at the Spring Scholarship Celebration in June.

## 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

If you had attended in April, you would

Hope to see you there and then



If you had attended in April, you would have enjoyed your meal with **Mary Ellen Doty.**



## Book Sale Preview

### Mark Your Calendars Now

**Adult and Children's Sales on Friday, August 8, 2025**, Early Bird at 8 a.m., doors open from 9-4p.m. and **Saturday, August 9, 2025**, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be available to work at both sales (sorting, cashiers, baggers, packing/unpacking books and clean-up). **Sorting will take place every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. in the First Congregational Church basement on the following Wednesdays: July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.**

## Membership

Please welcome:

**Mary O'Donnell**

650 Conger Unit 6

South Haven, MI 49090

mkodonnell11@gmail.com

## Dinner Group

The last dinner for our Dinner Group will be on Sunday, May 4th. The final gathering for everyone involved will be at **Ann Longerot's** for appetizers and liquid refreshments June 8th. There we will share ideas and gather menus for next season. This group offers the opportunity for our members with spouses, partners or a friend to gather in homes to socialize and share the set menu for each of five dates. We encourage our members to invite their friends who may be interested.

## Golf



The AAUW-SH Golf Group will tee off its 2025 season on Wednesday May 14 at HawksHead Golf Club. Cost to play is \$40 for nine holes. If you are not already a part of this group but would like to

play and need more information, please email **Becky Vasko** (ravasko@iu.edu) with "Wednesday Golf" in the subject line.

## 2025 Children's Book Sale

AAUW SH received a few large donations of children's books this fall, so in addition to our annual August book sale, we are holding a separate **Children's Book Sale on Saturday, May 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the parking lot of the First Congregational Church. (Set up begins at 8 a.m. and cleanup will be done by 2 p.m.) In the event of rain, the sale will be held inside the church.



To make this sale a success, we need help with the following: setting up tables, unpacking and organizing books, serving as cashiers or baggers, and boxing up books after the sale. If you are available for any part of the day, 8 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., please text or email Jean ([jhbevevino@gmail.com](mailto:jhbevevino@gmail.com) 815-790-4054) or Edna ([ande1230@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ande1230@sbcglobal.net) 269-267-3446) to sign up.

Co-Chairs: **Jean Bevevino** and **Edna Kent Merrily Brannigan, Teresa Gibbons, Rosalind Giulietti, Sharon Guiltinan, Renee Kaplan, Amy Kilbridge, Elaine Kitchen, Peggy Murnighan, Susan Shields, Liz Smith and Mary Tobin**

## Scholarships

Save the date: Join fellow AAUWSH members on Monday, June 9 for the Spring Scholarship Celebration at South Haven High School. The program begins at 4:00, and doors open at 3:30 so members can pay dues, sign up for interest groups, enjoy light refreshments, and socialize with friends. An official Evite will be sent to your email in late May.

## In The Community

This is the AAUW group that handled Blessing in a Backpack in April. “We have a good time walking in circles to fill the bags that are taken to the schools so the kids in need have some extra food for the weekend. One more month to go! We have a great group of volunteers representing AAUW.” Pictured: **Renee Kaplan, Sandy Olsen, Jean Bevevino, Cathy Duda, Sue Cunningham** and a helpful guy from Rotary. **Sue Cunningham** has already informed the local Blessings in a Backpack team that AAUW will be participating again next year.



- South Haven Chapter was established in 2012.
- Program is an “opt-in” service for families.
- Serving 27% of SHPS elementary school students (avg. 220/week).
- Five community organizations volunteer to pack the food bags each week.
- Weekly food costs are currently \$4.00 per student = \$125 per year.
- Entirely funded by donations; entirely volunteer managed.



**Elaine Stephens** supports our schools.

The Parent Resource Center sends thanks to AAUW cooks for providing meals for their first Tuesday classes and lectures. Chefs this year included **Margaret Sleeper, Debbie Mellein, Peggy Murnighan, Kellie Terry, Sharon Guiltinan, Amy Kilbridge, Sue Murphey, Mary Lynn Bugge, and Kathy Descenzo**. They say you are excellent cooks.

Note: Due to decrease in federal funding, the Diaper Bank at the H.O.P.E Parent Resource Center will now be open the first Monday of EVERY OTHER



Month. We are able to offer diaper assistance to families 6 times per year between October - September. The Period Pantry will run on the same dates as the Diaper Bank. The Period Pantry will run on the same dates as the Diaper Bank. Period Poverty is defined as a lack of access to safe and hygienic menstrual products, education, hygiene facilities, waste management, or a combination of the above. The Period Pantry helps fill the need of menstrual products, provides education on menstruation and hygiene, and creates a sense of community and security for menstruators. 69.41% of South Haven Families in the 2022/2023 School Year were Economically Disadvantaged.

## To Do List ✓

- \_\_\_ Read with a group
- \_\_\_ Help with the Children’s Book Sale
- \_\_\_ Start a new book group
- \_\_\_ Invite friends to AAUW events.
- \_\_\_ Donate some Diapers.
- \_\_\_ Pay AAUW dues
- \_\_\_ Consider the Dinner group for next year.
- \_\_\_ Call a legislator. Call again.
- \_\_\_ Organize a Lunch Bunch opportunity
- \_\_\_ Breakfast out.
- \_\_\_ Volunteer for Open Door
- \_\_\_ Donate to Blessing in a Backpack
- \_\_\_ Stay in touch with your legislators
- \_\_\_ Volunteer to be Treasurer



## Fundraising

### Planting Seeds ... Changing Lives

Spring has finally arrived in West Michigan! Despite some grey skies and cool winds, I have hope when I see the tulips, hyacinths and scattered patches of daffodils dot the landscape (sometimes in the most unexpected places). The gardeners among us, by now, have cleaned up their beds, prepped them for new additions of seedlings and annual plants, and smile when their favorite perennials begin to poke through the soil.

As we move through this season as members of AAUWSH, we are reminded of the seeds we have planted last year and the years before when we read the stories of our newest scholarship recipients and celebrate their hard work and success at our annual Scholarship Celebration in June. What a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the importance of our giving and how we are making a difference.

But there are more ways to plant seeds and change lives as a member of AAUWSH. We support other activities and projects that touch the lives of people in our community: LMC food pantry and school supply closet, Hope Resource Center meals, sponsorship for board-approved events, such as our annual used book sale, a future scholarship benefit or other needs that may arise. When you pay your annual dues, consider tagging on a few extra dollars and earmarking the money for one of these activities or administrative expenses. You can also send a check with your gift designation at any time to Treasurer, P.O. Box 343, South Haven, MI 49090.

One final note: Mark your calendar for [Summer Sounds in the Vineyard](#) at Cogdal Winery on Sunday, May 26. We will again welcome our friends Diane and Lisa who will perform from 1:00 – 3:00. Bring your family, neighbors and friends for an afternoon of music, Michigan wine and fun while you support our Scholarship Program.



## Public Policy Committee

At our last meeting, our guest, South Haven Public Schools Superintendent Ana Aleman-Putnam, shed light on relevant issues for our schools including the challenges the schools will face if we lose the federal funding promised by the Trump administration. Our schools will potentially lose numerous positions, primarily those which serve special education students.

As education for women and girls is a primary focus of AAUW, we are paying particular attention to the attacks on public education and higher education, public and private.

Our next meeting will be held May 1.

Your PPC encourages all our members to communicate frequently with our elected officials concerning Public Policy. That includes letting those officials know what you support as well as what you oppose.

US Senator Gary Peters: 202-224-6221

US Senator Elissa Slotkin: 202-224-4822

US Representative Bill Huizenga: 202-225-4401

Governor Gretchen Whitmer: 517-373-3400; 517-335-7858 (Executive Office)

MI State Senator Aric Nesbitt: 517-373-0793 20th State Senate District

MI House State Representative Joey Andrews: 517-373-0827 38th State House District

MI House State Representative Pauline Wendzel: 517-373-1799 39th State House District

If their phone response does not allow for messages, send them an email.





## From National AAUW

Winter seems to be lingering a bit longer in parts of the country this year, and heat is already breaking records in others--but spring is on the way in DC. We have navigated the past few months with ongoing resilience and a steadfast commitment to our mission and values, and a new season brings new energy.

Big news: We're notifying our 2025-26 Fellowships and Grants awardees this week — congrats to all! Their dedication and impact inspire us. In this extraordinarily challenging time for students, we are awarding more than \$5 million to 230 exceptional fellows and grantees to achieve their academic and professional goals or lead community-based projects that empower women and girls! And your support continues to be vital to increasing higher education access and opportunity for women.

The big picture: While the environment for higher education is under relentless attacks, our mission stands firm. AAUW remains strong as a tireless advocate for women in higher education.

On the ground: We truly enjoy connecting with our members and I appreciated AAUW Maryland member Pat Stocker and AAUW Pennsylvania member Linda Robbins for inviting me to dinner while on recent travel. Moments of connection, both virtual and in-person, matter. They remind us why this work is so powerful. Why it matters: Our branches are doing incredible work. I hope you're using the new tools from the policy team — they're designed to support your advocacy and community engagement. You can find those tools [here](#).

We look forward to staying connected and hearing from you as we move forward in 2025!

With gratitude and solidarity,  
Gloria L. Blackwell  
Chief Executive Officer



## On Your Calendar?

Apr 28 Monday Books  
Apr 29 Open Door  
May 1 Public Policy Committee  
May 4 Dinner Group  
May 6 Teen Parent Dinner  
May 8 Annual Meeting at LMC 4:30  
May 13 Breakfast 8:30 Dave's Landing  
May 14 Golf – Also May 21 & 28  
May 15 Thursday Night Books  
May 19 Afternoon Books  
May 24 Children's Book Sale  
May 25 Fundraising Concert @ Cogdal  
June 2 Diaper Bank and Period Pantry  
June 4 Golf – Also June 11, 18, 25  
June 8 Dinner Group  
June 9 Scholarship Celebration  
June 10 Breakfast 8:30 Dave's Landing  
June 19 Teen Parent Dinner  
June 19 Thursday Night Books  
June 23 Afternoon Books