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Ann Arbor (MI) Branch

# CONNECTIONS

MARCH 2023

**Hello, AAUW-AA members!**

Beginning this month, our newsletter, **AAUW-AA CONNECTIONS**, has a new look. **Content going forward depends on you.** Information about AAUW-AA Interest Groups, programs, meetings, directory and book sale updates, and more may appear in the newsletter as well as activities outside of AAUW-AA that you would like to highlight and/or invite others to attend. Please be thinking about how you can contribute to our newsletter.

- \* **Submission deadline for contributions to newsletters is the 20th of each month for the following month.**
- \* **A reminder email will be sent to IG chairs a week before the submission deadline.**
- \* **Email your contributions to Pat Drabant, [patdrabant@gmail.com](mailto:patdrabant@gmail.com), and copy Susan Pritts and Amy Seetoo.**

**Thank you to everyone who assisted us in publishing this new format for our newsletter!**  
 If you have ideas for the newsletter or thoughts about the new format, please contact one or all of us.

**Susan Pritts** [spritts@pritts.com](mailto:spritts@pritts.com)      **Amy Seetoo** [amyseetoo@gmail.com](mailto:amyseetoo@gmail.com)  
**Pat Drabant** [patdrabant@gmail.com](mailto:patdrabant@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, March 15 at 7:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Evening Program at Ann Arbor City Club**

## *Gender and the English Language*

**Anne Curzan, Dean College of LS&A, University of Michigan**



As dean of LSA, Anne Curzan is committed to advancing the college as the leading model for the power of a liberal arts education within a top-ranked research university. She is deeply invested in people and fostering a diverse and inclusive college where all can thrive. Curzan aims to promote a culture based in purpose and contributing to the common good, the power of learning, the value of play, and the importance of well-being.

Dean Curzan, a trained linguist, studies the history of the English language. She describes herself as a fount of random linguistic information about how English got to be the way it is—information she shares every Sunday on the show “That’s What They Say” on Michigan Public Radio. She has also dedicated one major strand of her career to helping students and the broader public understand linguistic diversity as part of cultural diversity, and language change as a natural part of living languages. Curzan has received university awards for outstanding research and undergraduate teaching, including the Henry Russel Award and the John Dewey Award. She is an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and the Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature, Linguistics, and Education. She teaches courses on the history of English, English grammar, language and gender, and the dynamics of conversations. She earned her B.A. in linguistics from Yale University and her Ph.D. in English language and literature from the University of Michigan.

### **Tech Power to Economic Power: Closing the Digital Gender Gap**

AAUW is developing the next generation of talented and diverse girls and women in innovation and technology in education and workplaces globally. Access to equipment and acquiring the relevant skills that are rapidly becoming the most in demand in the world is vitally important — but girls and women are still being left behind. Stereotypes, gender bias, and the unwelcome climate of educational spaces and workplaces continue to block participation and progress. Our expert panel will inform, inspire, and provide and provide a playbook of tactics for increasing progress to close the gender digital divide.

**March 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Register for this webinar event at**  
[bit.ly/40T3wj1](https://bit.ly/40T3wj1)

**Join AAUW on March 15 for an expert panel discussion on strategies to close the gender digital divide.**

# INTEREST GROUPS CALENDAR for MARCH

[Click on the links provided to RSVP or for more information.](#)

Locations are in Ann Arbor unless otherwise noted.



## Afternoon Book Review

What: Members share what they are reading

When: Monday, March 6, 11:30a

Where: Alpha Diner, 4389 Jackson Rd.

Chairs: Irene Dernberger, 734.255.7851,

[irene.d@me.com](mailto:irene.d@me.com)

Pat Tompkins, 734.904.0171,

[hippolyta2002@gmail.com](mailto:hippolyta2002@gmail.com)

Email Chair: Karen Fox, 734.645.2430,

[k\\_fox05@comcast.net](mailto:k_fox05@comcast.net)

## Afternoon Bridge

Chair: Ginny Maturen, 734.730.2947,

[ginnymaturen@charter.net](mailto:ginnymaturen@charter.net)

## Afternoon Mystery Readers

What: Reading Joe Pickett series by C. J. Box

When: Tuesday, March 21, 1p

Where: AA Olive Garden in family room

RSVP: Tanya Keller, 734.429.0554,

[tanyakeller@comcast.net](mailto:tanyakeller@comcast.net)

## Americana

What: First insulin in 1922 program

When: Monday, March 27, 1:30p

Where: Candy Friedman, 4534 W. Liberty

RSVP: Candy, 734.662.9792,

[candacef@comcast.net](mailto:candacef@comcast.net)

## Bibliomaniacs

What: Art Davidge on women authors of science fiction and other genres often considered "male"

When: Thursday, March 23, 9:45a for social,

10:00a speaker

Where: Zoom

RSVP: Kim Clark, [kimtclark@cs.com](mailto:kimtclark@cs.com), Lyn

Davidge, [ldavidge@umich.edu](mailto:ldavidge@umich.edu), or Mary

Mostaghim, 734.761.5895, [marymosta@yahoo.com](mailto:marymosta@yahoo.com)

*All are welcome! Contact a chair for more information.*

## Book Exchange East & West

These two groups hold no meetings.

Chairs:

**EAST:** Ginny Reilly, 734.665.5996,

[ginnyray@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ginnyray@sbcglobal.net)

**WEST:** Barb Staples, 734.649.9399,

[barbstaples@gmail.com](mailto:barbstaples@gmail.com)

## Classic Literature

What: *Jason Who Will Be Famous* by Dorothy Allison; a story in Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, 8th edition.

When: Wednesday, March 22; Lunch optional at 11:30a, discussion at 1p

Where: Ann Arbor City Club, 1350 Washtenaw

Chair: Jennie Shedden, 734.649.4947,

[ksjcs@att.net](mailto:ksjcs@att.net)

## Creative Arts *meets twice a month*

What: Bring handwork project to work on

When: Tuesday, March 14, 1:00p

Where: Jeanne Montie, 3151 Daleview Dr.,

RSVP: 734.741.9406

[jmontie157734mi@comcast.net](mailto:jmontie157734mi@comcast.net)

When: Tuesday, March 28, 1p

Where: Sheila Sikkenga, 4066 Glacier Hills Cr.

RSVP: 734.663.0202 [sisikkenga@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sisikkenga@sbcglobal.net)

## Evening Book Discussion

What: Washtenaw Reads book *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid, led by Sally VanderVoort

When: Monday, March 20, 7:15p; 7p for informal chatting

Where: Zoom

Chairs: Sue Rasmussen, 734.913.5565,

[rasmussensue@yahoo.com](mailto:rasmussensue@yahoo.com)

Diane Benson, 734.474.7372,

[dibenson@umich.edu](mailto:dibenson@umich.edu)

## Friendship Circle

What: Join Amy Seeto for Movie Night sponsored by the Comic Opera Guild, featuring Offenbach's *The Grand Duchess*, a local production on video.

When: Tuesday, March 14, 7:30p. \$10 at the door.

Where: The Venue, 1919 Industrial (formerly Lucky's Market).

Chairs: Amy Seeto, [amyseeto@gmail.com](mailto:amyseeto@gmail.com),

Susan Pritts, [spritts@pritts.com](mailto:spritts@pritts.com)

*Please contact us if you'd like to know more about*

*Friendship Circle (sending get-well notes to members, attending local functions, and more).*

## Gardening

Chairs: Judy Daltuva, 734.560.9367,  
[jdal@umich.edu](mailto:jdal@umich.edu)  
Anne Heybey-Wasciuk, 734.646.4126,  
[annehey@umich.edu](mailto:annehey@umich.edu)

## Genealogy

What: DNA results discussion  
When: Friday, March 10, 1p  
Where: Marlene Barr, 1200 Whittier Rd., Ypsi  
RSVP: Marlene Barr, 483.0839,  
[mjb\\_120022535@hotmail.com](mailto:mjb_120022535@hotmail.com)

## Golf Beginner *begins in May*

Contact: Pat Crean, 734.475.6073,  
[creanbill@aol.com](mailto:creanbill@aol.com)

## Gourmet Arts

When: March 1, noon  
Where: Ann Hanton, 7238 Eaton Ct., Dexter  
Chair: Marcia Hallstrom, 216.598.0388,  
[mhallst@mac.com](mailto:mhallst@mac.com)

## Great Decisions

What: War Crimes led by Lynda Collins  
When: Monday, March 20, 1:30p  
Where: Zoom  
RSVP: 734.353.0507, [slawler@umi](mailto:slawler@umi)

## History Book Discussion

Chairs: JoAnne Shaw, 248.390.552,  
[jannebellshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:jannebellshaw@yahoo.com)  
Jennie Shedden, 734.649.4947, [iksjs@att.net](mailto:iksjs@att.net)

## International Dining Out

What: Dinner at Cardamon  
When: Wednesday, March 8, 6p  
Where: Restaurant in Courtyard Shops, 1739  
Plymouth Road  
RSVP: Phyllis Stillman, 734.449.4960,  
[pkstill@umich.edu](mailto:pkstill@umich.edu)

## Local Issues *update pending*

## Mah-Jongg *meets twice a month*

When: Friday, March 3, 1p  
Where: Martie Ream, 2477 Winged Foot Ct.  
RSVP: Martie 734.316.2512  
[mream22@comcast.net](mailto:mream22@comcast.net)  
  
When: Friday, March 17, 1p  
Where: Elaine Brandenburg, 2250 Placid Way  
RSVP: 734.662.4171, [embranden@yahoo.com](mailto:embranden@yahoo.com)

## Moveable Feast

What: Theme: *German Roots*  
When: Tuesday, March 14, 6:30p  
Where: Phyllis Stillman, 10670 Nine Mile Rd.,  
Whitmore Lake  
Chairs: Phyllis Stillman, 734.449.4960,  
[pkstill@umich.edu](mailto:pkstill@umich.edu)  
Judy Daltuva, 734.560.9367, [jdal@umich.edu](mailto:jdal@umich.edu)

## Mystery Readers

What: Charles Todd (author) presented by Ginny  
Maturen  
When: Thursday, March 9, 7:30p  
Where: Zoom  
RSVP: Betty Bishop, 734.662.9492,  
[bbishop@umich.edu](mailto:bbishop@umich.edu) or  
Ginny Maturen, 734.730.2947,  
[ginnymaturen@charter.net](mailto:ginnymaturen@charter.net)

## Scrabble

What: Friendly games, with 2-12 people  
When: Thursday, March 16, 2p  
Where: Grand Traverse Pie Co., 291 N. Zeeb Rd.  
Chair: Mary Mostaghim, 734.761.5895,  
[marymosta@yahoo.com](mailto:marymosta@yahoo.com)  
Email Chair: Anne Lawrence, 734.369.4841,  
[clotheslines@comcast.net](mailto:clotheslines@comcast.net)  
*Everyone welcome! If possible, bring a Scrabble set and/  
or Scrabble Dictionary.*

## Smart Living

What: *Exercise That Works for Me* discussion with  
leaders Diane Benson and Mary Mostaghim  
When: Thursday, March 2, 4p  
Where: Zoom  
RSVP: Geetha Balakrishnan,  
[gdb1000@yahoo.com](mailto:gdb1000@yahoo.com)  
Chair: Mary Mostaghim 734.761.5895,  
[marymosta@yahoo.com](mailto:marymosta@yahoo.com)  
*Please come prepared to share your gym, online  
classes, favorite exercises, yoga class, and so on with  
others who are searching. Covid ruined many routines,  
so what is working for you now?*

## Travelogue

What: Poland  
When: Monday, March 6, 7:30p  
Where: Marlene Barr, 1200 Whittier Rd., Ypsi  
RSVP: Marlene, 483.0839,  
[mjb\\_120022535@hotmail.com](mailto:mjb_120022535@hotmail.com)



# Diversity Dabbles

## Unpacking Unconscious Bias: Workshop on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

By Amy Seeto

The workshop on February 10 was the second Zoom workshop on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion sponsored by AAUW of Michigan. The presenter was Ayana King of Maximum Communications, a consulting agency specializing in Diversity and Inclusion education.

Ms. King talked about our bias toward people of different ethnic groups, ages, different sexual orientations, or mobility, and how these unconscious biases may be so subtle and hidden that we are not aware of the damage we may cause. We need to discover how unconscious bias can impact people around us and assess ourselves.

Two branch members, Pam Ehrhart and Amy Seetoo, attended the workshop. They welcome members' questions and discussion.  
[pkehrhart@gmail.com](mailto:pkehrhart@gmail.com), [amyseetoo@gmail.com](mailto:amyseetoo@gmail.com)



### Spot Light on Members

#### Elizabeth Benazer wrote:

I am in Vero Beach on the east coast of Florida until May 1. I'm sending you sunshine and warm ocean breezes to help you get through the months of February and March in Michigan. I miss my friends from Ann Arbor AAUW.



Forwarded by Shoheyla Marzban

#### When is Nowruz?

The first day of the Iranian calendar falls on the March equinox, the first day of spring, around the 21st of March.

#### What does Nowruz mean?

The word means "New Day."

You may see it spelled many different ways such as Norouz, Naw-Ruz, or Nowruz.

#### Who celebrates Nowruz?

Nowruz is celebrated by more than 300 million people all around the world and has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and by Iranian people worldwide. Naw-Rúz is also one of nine holy days for adherents of the Bahá'í Faith worldwide. It is the first day of the Bahá'í calendar.

#### What are common customs during Nowruz?

House cleaning is commonly done before the arrival of Nowruz. People start preparing for Nowruz with a major spring cleaning of their homes as well as the purchase of flowers. The hyacinth and the tulip are popular.

People are expected to make short visits to the homes of family, friends and neighbors. Visitors are offered tea and pastries, cookies, fresh and dried fruits and mixed nuts or other snacks. Many Iranians throw large Nowruz parties.

One of the most common foods cooked on the occasion of Nowruz is Samanu. This food is prepared using wheat germ. Cooking other foods is also common on Nowruz. For example, Sabzi polo with fish is eaten in the evening and sweets such as Nokhodchi.

Contact Shoheyla for more details about the history and customs of Nowruz. [soheyla70@hotmail.com](mailto:soheyla70@hotmail.com).

**AAUW-AA Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 7 at 7pm via Zoom**