

South Haven, Michigan AAUW

Newsletter: July 2023

Scholarships

After receiving a record 18 applications, scholarship committee members **Teresa Gibbons, Kathy Dascenzo, Delores Atkins and Andrea Cheeseman** selected six finalists to interview. Based on those interviews, the committee members chose three South Haven High School seniors to receive this year's \$1500 Awards.

*Pathfinder Award recipient: Arianna Rouse

*Pathfinder Award recipient: Jillian Carey

*Luminary Award recipient: Abigail Grabner



Scholarship Chair **Teresa Gibbins** (left) and AAUWSH President **Linda Garrison** (right) celebrated with scholarship recipients Sydney Barnes, Jillian Carey, Arianna Rouse, Abigail Grabner, Jessica Arvizu, and Elinore Frost.

DEI Committee Book Recommendation

Thanks to the hard work of the fundraising committee and to the generosity of our members, we also gave \$1500 awards to six SHHS graduates who were previous AAUW scholarship recipients. According to president Linda Garrison, "These past few years have been difficult for young adults, primarily due to COVID. As a result, college attendance is down, and more students are choosing to step away from college. While we understand the need for some students to re-evaluate their college plans, we also want to recognize these young women who continue to pursue their education."

Sydney Barnes, sophomore at the University of Michigan

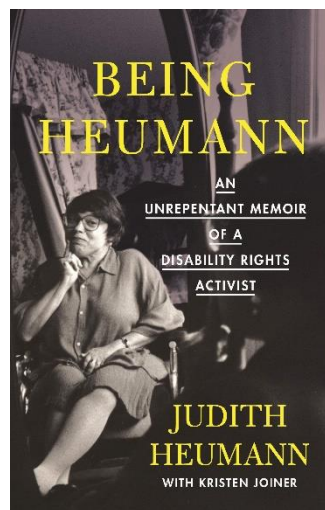
Jessica Arvizu, sophomore at Michigan State University

Leslie Guzman, junior at the University of Michigan

Hailey Copeman, junior at Western Michigan University

Elinore Frost, junior at Oberlin College

Alondra Gonzalez, senior at Grand Valley State University



Your DEI Committee would like to recommend *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist* by Judith Heumann with Kristen Joiner. In this book, one of the most influential disability rights activists in US history tells her personal story of

fighting for the right to receive an education, have a job, and just be human. This is a story of fighting to belong in a world that wasn't built for all of us and of one woman's activism, Judy Heumann's lifelong battle to achieve respect, acceptance and inclusion in society.

Teen Hope Meals

It seems a long time until September when AAUW members will once again be providing a monthly meal to young mothers at the Parent Resource Center on Phillips St. (across from the Wellness Center).

We provide a main dish, a salad and bread, and a dessert to about 15 young women on the first Tuesday of each month from September until June.

If you have helped with this project in the past or would like to be added to the list of cooks, please contact **Elaine Fluck** at elainejf707@yahoo.com or 637-3451. **Judy Chapman**, who served as co-ordinator on this project for a number of years, is retiring. Many thanks to her for her years of service.

Summer Fun

Making a difference

Memorial Day weekend marked another first for us – sponsoring a community event to raise money for student scholarships. Our Fundraising and Scholarship Committees came together to plan an afternoon of *Summer Sounds in the Vineyard*. Jack and Debbie Murdoch welcomed us to family-owned Cogdal Vineyards to enjoy a glass (or two) of wine while we listened to the sweet and sassy sounds of Diane Van Deurzen and Lisa Otey.



Diane and Lisa pointed out that ALL contributions made during their performance would go toward the scholarship program. This was possible through the generous support of AAUWSH members **Marge Lampe, Bernice (Bernie) Lopata, Liz Smith and Elaine Stephens**. Thank you for stepping forward to ensure the success of the event!

When the donation boxes were collected after the event, our mail opened and PayPal donations counted, we added \$4,000 to our Scholarship Program! We also discovered that we could “Put the fun in fundraising” and invite friends, family and the broader community to

partner with us to make a difference in the lives of young women striving to improve their lives through education. Thank you for your continuing support of this important work. We couldn't do any of this without you!

Domestic Violence Prevention Committee

Our Domestic Violence (DV) Prevention Committee visited the Cora Lamping Center in Benton Harbor. Members in attendance: **Kathy Dascenzo, Sharon Gultinan, Mary Hosley, Julie Molnar, Peggy Murnighan, Sandy Olsen and Robin McGinnis**. Robin is an AAUW-SH member and also the Chief Strategy Officer of The Avenue Family Network, INC, which is the umbrella group that includes Cora Lamping Center.

We learned of everything they do at the Cora Lamping Center to assist DV Victims become survivors. These DV Victims and their children come from the Southwest Michigan area encompassing Van Buren, Cass and Berrien Counties. As you may know, Van Buren County does not have a shelter for DV Victims. People at the Cora Lamping Center work with The Domestic Violence Coalition in Paw Paw to assist Van Buren County DV Victims.

We were very impressed with the level of detail and ideas they have to help their organization help more DV Victims. They go so far as to help children remain at the school they were at prior to seeking shelter. The Cora Lamping Center provided ideas of how we can help, like twin bed linens, towels, etc. We discussed how nice it is to have something new and there were discussions of sending items with the DV Victims as they leave the Cora Lamping Center. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to AAUW Member Robin McGinnis at 847-650-7502 (cell - call or text).



Message from the President

Finally, the real summer is here. My daughter and family just spent a week with us – nothing like a visit from the grandchildren to make you feel older and younger at the same time. You feel younger as you watch them run around and play – and older after you have tried to run around and play with them. We celebrated the one-year old's birthday 2 weeks early, complete with a smash cake. I'm not sure who came up with that tradition, or why. And, of course, the almost 3-year-old had to eat his cupcake with his face also.

While on the topic of celebrations – thanks to both **MaryLynn Bugge and Teresa Gibbons** for joining committee forces to honor this year's scholarship winners at the Spring Scholarship Celebration (formerly known as Spring Tea). Thanks also to those who brought the delicious sweet or savory refreshments, to our fundraising committee, and to all of you who contributed time, energy and dollars to make this celebration possible. Just hearing the stories that our young scholars shared reminds us why we do all this – "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

I was happy to see so many of you were able to attend the Annual Meeting on May 11th. How many organizations do you know of that can have so much fun throughout the year with only one general meeting? Nominees **Judy Pollack and Marge Lampe** were elected to President Elect and Treasurer, **Jackie McAninch** continues as VP of Membership, and **Sherry Saenz** will complete Judy's term as Secretary. Several linguistic clarifications to the by-laws were also passed. And of course, who could forget our little winged sparrow friend flying around the room (and dive bombing Teresa).

Hopefully you were able to attend the benefit concert by "Diane and Lisa" at Cogdal Winery during Memorial Day weekend. The weather was cooperative, the venue perfect, the wine from Cogdal and food from Phoenix Street delicious, and the music exceptional. With members sponsoring some of the expenses, and Diane and Lisa donating their tips, we were able to raise \$4000!!! Diane and Lisa can be heard playing weekly in Kalamazoo at Martell's on Thursday nights.

Our next big fundraising event is the annual Booksale on August 8th and 9th at the First Congregational Church. Our busy book elves have already succeeded in holding a pop-up children's book sale in the church parking lot giving us a \$790 head start. Barrels are out at the Senior Center, Wolverine Hardware, the Wellness Center, and First Congregational Church and book sorting will begin on June 28th from 9 – 11 AM in the basement of the church.

I was recently asked to fill out an Affiliate Annual Report for use by AAUWMI to help keep track of our activity as an affiliate and assist in any areas that we may need help. We are provided with a "fill in the blanks" monthly calendar to record our activities. I was surprised to be able to complete 3 pages of events. My only concern is shared by other affiliates – ability to find different people to assume the roles of committee leadership. With that in mind, we are looking for someone to chair Hope Teen Dinners and Domestic Violence Prevention Committees. We are also still looking for someone to chair the Event Committee but have some contingency plans in place for that group.

Don't forget to pay your membership dues – ideally by June 30th. At this time, 78 of our last year membership total have renewed. Although one can join anytime throughout the year, for ease of bookkeeping we encourage you to pay within the next several weeks. Checks for \$98 can be sent to Dues Treasurer **Mary Ellen Doty**, PO Box 343, South Haven, MI 49090. You can also pay online but must navigate through National and cannot add a local donation through this site. For your information, the Board has decided to send a \$200 from AAUW - SH to National this year to acknowledge that without the National organization, we would just be a local club.

Thank you all for assisting me in my first year as president, completing what has hopefully been as fun and productive year for you as it was for me.

Remember

"Strong women don't have attitudes, they have standards"

Anonymous



Patti Shepherd, Mary Sue Lyon, and Judy Pollock attended the benefit for Sylvia's Place at Fenn Valley May 18.

DEI

Our DEI Committee has been busy in June. On June 14th we hosted a speaker from the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan who presented "Disability and Allyship". It was a very good presentation and we all learned how we could better support people with disabilities.



Members of the DEI Committee assisted with the Juneteenth Party in the Park on Saturday June 17th by helping to set up and serve. It was a very well-attended event and a respectful celebration of the new National Holiday.



Book Groups

Monday Afternoon Group:



July 24 *The Last White Man*
by Mohsin Hamid
Hostess: **Elaine Stephens**
Aug 28 *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christi Lefteri
Hostess: **Patti Sheppard**

The Wednesday Evening Book Group is on summer hiatus and will resume meeting in Sept.

Thursday Night Book Club

July 20 *Remarkably Bright Creatures*
by Shelby Van Pelt

Hostess: **Edna Kent**

Aug 17 *The Paris Key* by Juliet Blackwell

Hostess: **Ann O'Connor**

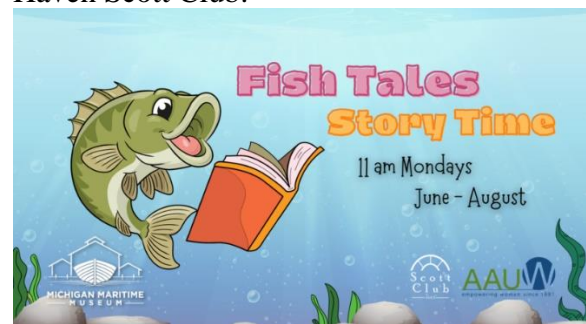
Golf



Welcome all golfers! We are a casual group of women golfers. All golfers of all levels are welcome. The AAUW golfers play 9 holes every Wednesday at 2:30 pm at Hawks Head Links followed by some great conversations and libations if you choose afterwards. If you would like to join this exceptional group of ladies golfers please email **Nancy Kayse** : nancykayse@gmail.com.

In the Community

Participate at the Michigan Maritime Museum at 11 am every Monday throughout the summer as we read a maritime-themed story from their new children's book library! These story times are perfect for young families and included with regular museum admission. Fish Tales is a collaboration with the Michigan Maritime Museum, the American Association of University Women, and the South Haven Scott Club.



Dinner Group

We are looking for people who would like to join us. We will have dinners on September 3rd or 10th (Undecided); October 1st; November 5th and May (first Sunday). Then the wrap up in June. This is a fun way to spend time with good people and try some new recipes (not difficult).



Here, a sample of a recent recipe the group enjoyed:
Norwegian Baked Salmon
with creamy Mustard Sauce (for 8).

8 servings of salmon
2 T vegetable oil
Freshly ground pepper
Chopped fresh dill
8 squares of aluminum foil
1 1/2 t salt
3 T lemon juice
Dry basil crumbled

Heat oven to 350. Oil the salmon and place on foil. Season each filet seasonings. Seal foil to prevent juices from escaping. Place in a large shallow baking dish and bake for 10 - 25 minutes. Fish will flake when tested with a fork. Serve in the foil and let each guest open his/her own package.

Mustard sauce: 1/4 C Dijon style mustard
1/2 C minced fresh dill
1/4 C sugar
1/2 C heavy cream

Stir mustard and sugar in top of a double boiler over simmering water until sugar is dissolved- stir in cream until mixed. Add dill. Serve hot
-Sue Cunningham

Book Sale - 2023

Dear AAUW SH Friends,

It was so good to see everyone at the Spring Tea and to meet and chat with the impressive young women receiving our scholarships. That is why we put in all the work it takes to put on our annual book sale. It is a huge effort and, as you know, we need lots of help. Thanks to the many who signed up and welcome to ALL others.

Here are the details:

- Donation barrels will go out the week of June 20. They will be located at the First Congregational Church, Wolverine Hardware, the Bronson Wellness Center, and Senior Services. (If you have books to donate, please bring them directly to the Church). Anyone is welcome to take these books to the Church if you see an overflowing barrel.
- Book sorting dates are from **9~11 am** (you're welcome for either/both hours): **June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2**. Sorting generally is done shortly after 11:00 AM. The more hands, the better! For members who haven't sorted before, it is a great way to connect with other members.
- On **Tuesday, August 8 at 9** we will set up tables and move boxes upstairs.
- On **Wednesday, August 9 at 10:30**, we will unpack boxes and put books on tables.
- The sale is **Friday, August 11, from 8-4** (early admission at 8 AM) and **Saturday, August 12, from 9-2**. Sign in sheets will be available in July.
- As soon as the sale is done, volunteers will be needed to box up unsold books, put tables away, etc.

Thank you in advance for all your work. You do not have to sign up in advance to help, ALL are welcome and needed to show up. This is AAUW's major fundraiser and is how we are able to provide scholarships to such deserving young women.

Susan Shields, Teresa Gibbons, Edna Kent, Liz Smith: Steering Committee, AAUW Book Sale

Membership

Please welcome:

Nancy Nelson

72231 6th Avenue South Haven, MI 49090

269-370-5047 nnelson@shps.org

MBA - WMU

A drawing was held at the annual meeting for the Shape the Future recipients. **Vickie Purcell, Sharon Gultinan, and Debbie Mellien** were selected. Our branch earned one free national membership for every two new members this year.

Open Door



Open Door was in full swing in May. Here **Elaine Fluck, Don Kitchin, Margaret Sleeper and Susan Murphey** prepare to serve the food that the cooking crew (not pictured) prepared. The next opportunity to volunteer will be August 29.

Silver Bag Ladies

The Silver Bag Ladies reminded the audience at the Scholarship Celebration that Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History. **Elaine Fluck's** Readers' Theater presentation reminded us of some mis-behaving women who made a difference. Readers were **Ann Habicht, Sharon Gultinan, Sherry Saenz, Susan Shields, Mary Tobin, Susie Yule and Lois Swartz.**



Social Committee

The Spring Scholarship Celebration was a great success with seven scholarship recipients, their guests, and many AAUW members in attendance. Thanks to the efforts of the outstanding members of the Social Committee, the high school cafeteria was turned into a welcoming, colorful, butterfly house, signifying our honorees' passage into a new phase of their life adventure. Thank you, also, to attendees that donated delicious food and the high school staff that was so helpful.

Throughout the year the Social Committee provided many opportunities for members to enjoy visiting with each other, including the fall picnic, Holiday Happy Hour, Lunch Bunch gatherings, and the scholarship event. Many thanks for the support, dedication, hard work, and creativity of committee members - **Jean Bevevino, Sue Cunningham, Kathy Dascenzo, Sharon Gultinan, Tricia Heintze, Edna Kent, Elaine Kitchin, Peggy Murnigham, Paula Newbold, Kathy Straits, and Darlene Zoellick** during the past year.

We hope you enjoyed participating in the above events and encourage everyone to consider how they can help carry on these opportunities to build bonds between members and, therefore, build a stronger organization.

~Mary Lynn Bugge, 2022-23 Chair

On Your Calendar?

June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2 Sort Books

July 5,12,19,26 Golf

July 10, 17, 24, 31 Fish Tales at MMM

August 2,6,16,23,30 Golf

Aug 7, 14, 21, 28 Fish Tales at MMM

Aug 8-9 Book Sale Set-Up & Unpack

Aug 11 & 12 Book Sale

Aug 12 Book Sale Clean Up

Aug 29 Open Door

To Do List ✓

- ___ Read with a book group.
- ___ Invite friends to AAUW events.
- ___ Volunteer for the Book Sale
- ___ Organize a Lunch Bunch opportunity
- ___ Read to kids at the Maritime Museum
- ___ Volunteer for Open Door
- ___ Sort books
- ___ Join the Dinner Group
- ___ Plan a Teen Parent Dinner