

South Haven, Michigan AAUW

Newsletter: May 2023

Hello from Linda

And again – the seasons of Michigan tease us with the promise of summer and then take us back to the realities of winter # 2. The past two days have been a sunny 80 degrees, today is dropping temperatures and rain, and tomorrow a high of 39 is predicted with snow. I optimistically got my deck furniture out and cleaned the grill – and actually spent one day on the deck reading – enough to get a little tan line. No comments from those of you returning from warmer clients. My recent travel involved an ancestry quest to the Northern Neck area of Virginia where I learned my dad’s cousin played baseball with Babe Ruth – never heard that in the family lore.

I am excited to hear the totals from **Bernie Lopata** and the Fundraising Committee’s recent Achievement Award Campaign. With the help of a generous anonymous member who matched up to \$5,500 of our dollars raised, I know we exceeded our expectations. Thanks and congratulations to all who made this happen.

While on the topic of fundraising, I hope you are planning on attending the concert at Cogdal Winery, May 28th from 1 – 3. Diane Van Deurzen and Lisa Otey will be singing and admission is by free will contribution. We know the venue is beautiful, the singers talented, and there will be wine and food on site for purchase (not part of the fundraiser). More about this from Fundraising.

I cannot mention fundraising without mentioning the Annual Booksale. We again have found ourselves fortunate to have had enough quality children’s books donated to hold a separate Children’s Sale on May 27th from 10:00 – 2:00 in the First Congregational Church parking lot. We previously raised over \$800 with this event for our scholarship program while also providing affordable books to area children.

We’ve been able to gather twice for Lunch Bunch since the last newsletter. In March we met at Phoenix Street’s new location on Broad Street. The location was different but the food was excellent, as always. Those of us who made the trip to Bangor and the new Mexican Restaurant Frida’s were

greeted warmly with delicious food, a special complimentary appetizer and dessert, and an interesting account of the origins of both the restaurant and the original artwork within. The owners could not have been more gracious, so please keep this place on your list of establishments to support – live music on weekends.



Among things to do, our Domestic Violence Shelter partner Sylvia’s Place is hosting a fund raiser at Fenn Valley Winery – a Wine Tasting Open House on Thursday

May 18 from 6:30 – 8:30. See AAUW SH Facebook page for details.

Hopefully you all have the Annual Meeting on your calendars – May 11th from 5 – 7 PM at LMC. At that meeting we will be voting on new officers. We will also be voting on some linguistic clarifications in our bylaws which have been previously sent to you. This will also be one of several opportunities to pay your dues (\$98 including local \$14, State \$12, and National \$72) – with a deadline of June 30th.

Don’t forget to add to your calendar the Spring Tea on June 5th where we have the opportunity to celebrate our existing and new scholarship recipients. The exact time will be announced when solidified.

If you are the chair of a Committee, Community Outreach, or Interest Group, make sure to review and update the leadership and contact list on our website. If you require a budget, be prepared to submit it by our June 21 Board Meeting. This is a busy time, but this is the time that prepares for all the activities of the rest of the year. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting.

“Action without study is fatal, and study without action is futile”

Miss Mary Dixon, President of Benton Harbor branch AAUW October 5, 1955 AAUW SH Board Meeting at the house of Mrs. Buckborough .

Something to Celebrate!

Just over a month ago, you received a letter asking you to support our Achievement Awards, year-two scholarships for the young women who receive our Pathfinder and Luminary Awards. One of our members even offered to match dollar-for-dollar every gift raised, up to \$4,000. What a terrific incentive!

And, yes, you responded. In time for the match deadline, we received donations totaling \$5,500. Our anonymous donor was so pleased, she and her husband agreed to increase their generous commitment by an additional \$1,500 to double the amount raised from our members by the closing date. **The final total was \$12,625** (after we added contributions made through PayPal).

You made the difference. The success of our 18-day, mini-campaign will allow us to extend our financial commitment for our student scholars beyond their first year of college. We are most grateful for your continuing investment in the young women who will become the difference-makers of tomorrow.

With your help, dreams will become reality. Please join us on June 5 for this year's Scholarship Tea when you will be able to meet some of our student scholars, hear their stories, and perhaps even get a little glimpse into the dreams that keep them striving to achieve their goals. Thank you again.

~Bernie Lopata

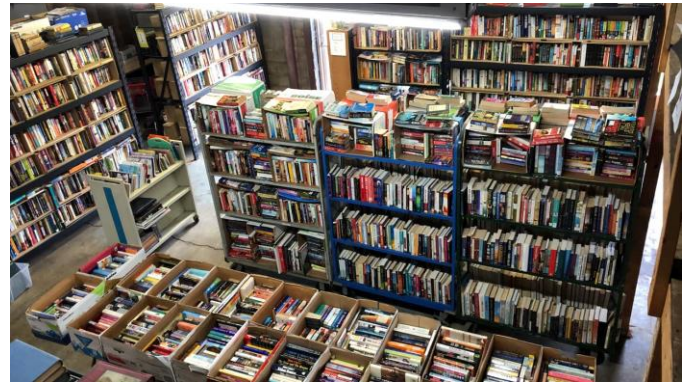
Lunch Bunch

A great time was had by 30 members at our "on the road" Lunch Bunch held at Frieda's in Bangor. Many thanks to **Kathy Straits** for organizing this outing and to Frieda's for making us feel so welcome.

Lunch Bunch gatherings provide an opportunity to enjoy each other's company while having lunch. They are a terrific way for newer members to meet other members and share interests. Since the Fall, there have been five Lunch Bunch events and a Holiday Happy Hour, each organized by one or two volunteers. So, a big thank you to the following for taking the initiative to bring us together: **Sue Cunningham, Kathy Straits, Trisha Heintze, Kathy Dascenzo, Rosemary Fitzer, Kelly Cedarquist and Margret Sleeper!** Lunch Bunch will begin again when the leaves turn color, please consider volunteering to organize a fun event.

Book Sale News

This fall, former Book Sale Committee Chair **Liz Smith** and one of this year's committee co-chairs, **Teresa Gibbons**, discovered The Book Warehouse of West Michigan, a used book business in Fennville. Owners Nathan and Amanda Green work closely with Fennville Public Schools to provide free books to students, and they give discounts to area teachers.



When Liz and Teresa visited the Book Warehouse, not only did Nathan and Amanda offer to pick up our leftover books from the August book sale, but after hearing about our scholarship program, they also agreed to donate some of their children's books to AAUW SH. So, book sale committee members **Elaine Kitchin and Kathy Dascenzo** helped Liz and Teresa sort and box 2,000+ books, enough for another children's book sale over Memorial Day weekend. Our 2021 Children's Book Sale raised over \$800 for our scholarship program, and it also provided affordable books to area children.

So, mark your calendars for AAUW's Children's Book Sale Saturday, May 27, from 10:00 - 2:00 at the First Congregational Church parking lot (or inside the building in case of rain).

We need volunteers to help with the sale, please email **Susan Shields**: sushields@gmail.com



Book Groups

Monday Afternoon Group:
May 22 *The Summer Cottage* by Viola Shipman
Hostess: **Lynda Warshawsky**

June 26 *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel
Hostess: **Nadine Godin-Nassaney**

Wednesday Evening Book Group:
May 3 – *Ashes Under the Water* by Michael McCarthy who will join us for our discussion.
Hostess - **Julie Leavitt**
June 14 – *The Engineer's Wife* by Tracey Wood.
Hostess - **Carol Tidwell**

Thursday Night Book Club
May 18 *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks
Hostess: **Mary Tobin**
June 15 *Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac
Hostess: **Mary Pietenpol**

Save the Date *Spring Scholarship Tea*

Monday, June 5th
3:15-5:15

South Haven High School
Come Honor Our Scholarship Recipients!
Pay dues and signup for committees

Women's History

WANTED: 6 or 7 Loud-mouthed Women

The Silver Bag Ladies have been asked to provide a short history lesson at our annual Spring Tea to honor our scholarship winners. We need six or seven actresses who are available to rehearse Thursday, June 1, at 4:00 and then perform on Monday, June 5 at the tea. Experience not required. It's readers' theatre so no memorization required. Hats provided! (Also, no pay but the refreshments are great!)

Contact **Elaine Fluck** if interested and available.

Scholarship Fundraiser

May 28, 2023

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Cogdal Winery, 7143 107th Avenue
(Food available from Phoenix Street Café)

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Summer Sounds:

Music by Diane Van Deurzen & Lisa Otey



Sponsored by AAUWSH  
All proceeds benefit Student Scholarships.

## Scholarships



This year, 18 South Haven High School seniors applied for an AAUW scholarship. After reviewing the applications, Scholarship Committee members **Teresa**

**Gibbons, Kathy Dascenzo, Delores Atkins, and Andrea Cheeseman** interviewed 6 finalists to determine our three 2023 award recipients.

\*Pathfinder Award- presented to young women making a positive contribution to their school or community and whose parents or legal guardians do not hold a bachelor's degree:

**Jillian Carey**

Central Michigan University,  
chemistry major

**Arianna Rouse**

Lake Superior State University  
political science major

\*Luminary Award- presented to young women who demonstrate leadership, integrity, advocacy, and awareness of key issues.

**Abigail Grabner**

Western Michigan University  
music education major

# Officers

A big thank you to our nominating committee - **Jean Bevevino, Kerry Hagy, and Liz Smith** - for selecting an exceptional slate of nominees for Board positions opening this year to be presented at our Annual Meeting on May 11, 2023 for your consideration and vote. If elected:

- **Judy Pollack** will move from Secretary to President Elect
- **Sherry Saenz** will complete Judy's term as Secretary
- **Marge Lampe** will be Treasurer

**Jackie McAninch** has agreed to continue as Vice President of Membership, so no vote is necessary.

Our thanks to **MaryEllen Doty** for volunteering for the newly created position of Dues Treasurer - no vote needed. And our thanks to **Meg Oberholtzer** for serving as our most recent Treasurer. If anyone wants to add to this slate, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

## Domestic Violence Prevention Committee

The Domestic Violence (DV) Prevention Committee would like you to be aware of two worthy fundraisers hosted by the two groups AAUW-SH supports because of their help to DV victims:

**Sylvia's Place provides emergency shelter and supportive services for DV victims.**

Sylvia's Place has a Wine Tasting Open House!

Tickets, Thu, 18 May 2023 at 6:30 PM |

Eventbrite. The event is at Fenn Valley Winery.

**Domestic Violence Coalition (DVC) provides assistance and supportive services to DV victims in Van Buren County.**

DVC has a 1920's themed dinner and speak easy experience on June 16, 2023, from 7pm-11pm at the Decatur VFW. Join us from 7pm-11pm. \$50 per person or \$75 for a couple. Tickets available at: <http://domesticviolencecoalition.org/eventsfundraisers.html>

## Blessings in a Backpack

**Sue Cunningham** would like me to clarify the volunteer process for Blessings in a Backpack. Although all are welcome to sign up for the committee, only a certain number (6 - 8) are assigned/required to show up for each date. Those registered for that session get two "reminders" from Sue - if unable to attend on your designated date, she will call a sub.



Many hands may make light work, but too many hands can make a mess. If you interested in this program, be sure to be in communication with Sue before showing up.

## Needed:

Suzanne Robinson will be stepping down as webmaster. We appreciate the work she has done in developing and updating our website and she will be happy to help train the next person interested in this position. If no one volunteers, we will unfortunately not be able to keep the website current.

## Open Door

Open Door offers a free community dinner every Tuesday at 6 pm downstairs in Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church in South Haven. AAUW assists each month that has a fifth Tuesday. This provides a hot meal, builds community, and is an opportunity for churches and service organizations to work together preparing, serving, and cleaning up after this dinner. Our next opportunity to assist at Open Door will be May 30, 2023.

## Golf



Welcome all golfers! AAUW Golfing begins again May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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](mailto:nancykayse@gmail.com).

## Membership

### Membership Dues 2023-2024

AAUW South Haven affiliate is 129 members strong. Dues for the 2023-2024 fiscal year are \$98. Dues include National, State, and local dues and support AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy, and research. Deadline for payment is **June 30<sup>th</sup>**.

Locally, our dues support important programs such as H.O.P.E. teen parenting organization, Open-Door dinners at the Methodist church, Blessings in a Backpack, and our Domestic Violence Committee that works with Sylvia's Place and the Van Buren Domestic Violence Coalition. Our Public policy committee monitors national, state, and local legislation affecting women and girls and keeps us up to date about what is happening in the legislative arena.

The 2023-2024 National dues include a \$5 increase to \$72 (\$69 is tax deductible), State \$12 (none is tax deductible), Local \$14 (all is tax deductible).

### Ways to pay your 2023-24 AAUW Dues:

1. In person at our Annual meeting on May 11, 5:00-7:00 PM, at LMC.
2. You may also pay at the Spring Tea which is scheduled for June 5th, 3:00-5:00 PM at the South Haven High School.
3. You may mail your check for \$98 to our new Dues Treasurer Mary Ellen Doty PO Box 343 South Haven, MI 49090
4. You may pay online using the National website and your personal snapshot. (Note: If you add a donation to this method, it will be accepted by National, not transferred to South Haven Affiliate.)

Donations to our local chapter are encouraged and appreciated along with your dues payment. If you choose to give a donation, please indicate which of the three funds (Administrative (Greatest Need), Scholarship or Programs) you wish your donation to go to on your check. As a reminder, the Annual Meeting and Scholarship Tea are Shape the Future events open to guests. Shape the Future allows 50% off National dues for new members who join at an event.

Thank you very much!

**Mary Ellen Doty** - Dues Treasurer  
**Jackie McAninch** - VP Membership

## Children's Book Sale

Thanks to **Teresa Gibbons and Liz Smith and Elaine Kitchin and Kathy Dascenzo**, we have 2,000+ books sorted, enough for another children's book sale over Memorial Day weekend. Our 2021 Children's Book Sale raised over \$800 for our scholarship program, and it also provided affordable books to area children.



So, please mark your calendars for AAUW's Children's Book Sale Saturday, May 27, from 10:00 - 2:00 at the First Congregational Church parking lot (or inside the building in case of rain).

We need volunteers to help with the sale, please email **Susan Shields**: [sushields@gmail.com](mailto:sushields@gmail.com)

## Event Chair Opportunity

**Mary Lynn Bugge** has done an exceptional job this past year as Event Chair, but her term is over and she is happy to pass on the honor. The Event Chair and her experienced committee are responsible for the Fall Picnic (traditionally our "Pillow Picnic" benefiting the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee and Sylvia's Place) and the Spring Tea where we honor our scholarship recipients. The committee will often help with the New Members Event in the fall but it is not their prime responsibility. The Event committee is not directly responsible for Lunch Bunch which generally meets November through April. This past year both members of the committee and other AAUW members volunteered to organize them. To repeat, this is not the Event Committee's expected responsibility. Anyone in the organization is encouraged to arrange these. Whomever does this just contacts the restaurant, sends out notices, and asks for member RSVPs to tell the location how many to expect. Decorations and door prizes are NOT necessary, although some organizers have chosen to provide them. The Holiday Party is "just" a lunch bunch in December later in the day.

We do have refreshments at the Annual Meeting -

provided by the Board who requests that the social committee help with set up and serving.

If you are interested, your only designated responsibilities would be the Fall Picnic 2023 (location TBD by Event Committee), Spring Tea June 2024 at South Haven High School and Annual meeting assistance May 2024 at LMC.

If you choose to take this, Mary Lynn has a notebook full of helpful information and the committee base is already in place.

Please let me and Mary Lynn know if you have any interest in this fun position. Thanks for doing this.

~Linda



Is it Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to be elected to the United States Congress? (A Republican from Montana in 1917). Or is it AAUW-member **Marge Lampe**, performing with the Silver Bag Ladies at the South Haven Memorial Library in March?

## Membership

Please welcome:

Amy Kilbridge  
118 Erie Street  
South Haven, MI 49090  
517-285-0458  
kilbridgea@gmail.com

## On Your Calendar?



May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Golf 2:30

May 7 Dinner Group

May 11 Annual Meeting- 5 to 7 pm LMC

May 18 Fundraiser for Sylvia's Place – Fenn Valley

May 27 Children's Book Sale 10am to 2 pm

May 28 Concert at Cogdal Winery – 1 to 3 pm.

Donation to Scholarships

June 1 Silver Bag Ladies – rehearsal 4pm

June 5 Spring Tea

June 7, 14, 21, 28 Golf 2:30

June 16 Fundraiser for DVC – Decatur VFW

June 21 Board Meeting

June 30 Deadline for Dues Payment

## To Do List ✓

- \_\_\_ Pay your dues.
- \_\_\_ Volunteer as Events Chair
- \_\_\_ Read with a book group.
- \_\_\_ Invite friends to AAUW events.
- \_\_\_ Volunteer for the Children's Book Sale
- \_\_\_ Organize a Lunch Bunch opportunity
- \_\_\_ Perform with the Silver Bag Ladies
- \_\_\_ Prepare your report for the board meeting
- \_\_\_ Volunteer for Open Door
- \_\_\_ Visit our website.
- \_\_\_ Write a legislator.
- \_\_\_ Start and Interest Group.
- \_\_\_ Look for SHAAUW on Facebook. Like!