

# Update

Volume 50 No. 1  
August 2025

**You are  
Cordially  
Invited**

**WHEN:  
SEPTEMBER  
24, 2025**

**Celebrating 50  
Years of  
Advocacy for  
Women**

**AAUW  
Northville  
Novi**

**WHERE:  
Genetti's Hole in  
the Wall  
108 E Main Street  
Northville**

**A Walk Down  
Memory Lane**

**AAUW**  
empowering women since 1881  
American Association of University Women-Northville/Novi  
A non-profit 501(c)(3)

Cash Bar/Appetizers 5:30  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
\$50 per person  
Family and friends welcome  
to help us celebrate

Make check payable to AAUWNN  
Write 50 years on the memo line  
Mail to: AAUWNN P.O. Box 511  
Northville MI 48167  
**Deadline September 17, 2025**

celebrating  
50  
YEARS

**American Association of University Women- Novi/Northville. (501C3)**  
**Celebrating 50 years of Serving the Northville/Novi Community (1975-2025)**

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## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES:

**AAUW Michigan:**  
<https://www.aauwmi.org/>

**AAUW National:**  
<https://www.aauw.org/>  
[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

**AAUW Northville-Nov:**  
<https://aauwnn.org/>  
[info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)

**AAUW-NN**  
P.O. Box 511  
Northville, MI 48167



**NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI)**

<https://aaunnn.org/>

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**AAUW Mission**

The AAUW MISSION is to advance gender equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

**AAUW Diversity Statement**

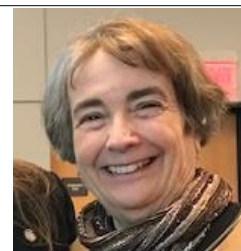
AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership teams and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic basis.

Update is published monthly, August through June, for the members and friends of the American Association of University Women Northville-Nov (MI)

President's Message

Karen Zyczynski  
[zyczynski2002@aol.com](mailto:zyczynski2002@aol.com)

**50 Years of Advocacy!**



***This year is a big year for us as an organization as AAUWNN will be celebrating its 50tieth Anniversary.*** In the summer of 1975, as told by Nanci Olgren, there were seven articles printed in the Northville Record and Novi News calling all eligible women to organizational meetings for a new American Association of University Women (AAUW) branch to be established in Northville. On September 24, 1975, at the new home of Penny Nuechterlein, 55 women signed a 20" x 36" piece of parchment paper and became charter members of the Northville AAUW. Novi was officially added to the title in 1991.

***We want you to help us celebrate! In lieu of a regular membership meeting the second Tuesday of September, we will be hosting 'A Walk Down Memory Lane: Fifty Years of Advocacy' on Wednesday, September 24 at Genetti's Hole-in-the-Wall.*** An official invitation is located elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope you will join us and bring a friend or family member to help us celebrate!

This fiscal year, July 2025 - June 2026 is a big fundraising year for us. We need to raise enough money to cover the majority of our philanthropic expenses (scholarships, Remember the Ladies, NCCWSL, etc.) as well as meeting the administrative costs of renting rooms for our meetings, postage, updating our bookmarks, website/internet/zoom expenses and more for the next two years. Check out our monthly budget reports for details.

Again this year in April we will be hosting our Michigan Fashion Designer Showcase. To make it fully profitable, we need to fill two hundred seats. In order to do this we need the full support of all our members, consider bringing a friend. If you absolutely cannot attend, consider donating the cost of a ticket. The costs of hosting this event have increased dramatically since the first show in 2019. We need your support!

***See you on September 24!!***

Karen





## THANK YOU NOTES FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Dear AAUW Northville- Novi members,  
Thank you so much for awarding me the AAUW NN Scholarship.  
I am incredibly grateful for your generosity and your  
commitment to supporting young women in their pursuit  
of higher education.  
As I head to Ohio Wesleyan University to study Elementary  
Education, this scholarship will help me focus on my goals  
and encourages me in pursuing a career that uplifts and  
empowers young minds - especially young girls who will  
benefit from strong role models, like the women of AAUW.  
Thank you for believing in me and for all the work you do to  
support education and equality. With gratitude, Lauren James Northwell  
2025

Thank You

Dear AAUW Northville,

Thank you so much for selecting me  
as a scholarship recipient! As I  
prepare for the fall, I am so grateful for  
this honor & support for my future! I  
hope to make you very proud.

Sincerely,  
Ava Crozier





Janice Wargo  
41687 Sunnydale Lane  
Northville, MI 48168-2046

Dear Janice,

Thank you for supporting women and girls across our country. Your \$400.00 donation to AAUW is not only incredibly generous, but also a bold choice to promote opportunity for students, professionals, and hardworking women in our communities.

Your generous support helps us focus on three powerful priorities:

**1. Champion gender equity through education and funding.**

We're directly empowering women — especially in underrepresented communities and STEM fields — through higher education, research, and advocacy.

**2. Removing Barriers to Success in Higher Education.**

We are taking action to ensure every woman can thrive in higher education without bias or barriers. From defending Title IX to expanding financial aid and campus supports, your support drives real change where it's needed most.

**3. Strengthen AAUW from the ground up.**

We're investing in local, state, and national efforts while building the financial and operational strength needed to drive long-term impact.

For over 140 years, AAUW has been on the frontlines — defending education, fighting for equity, and standing with students. We won't stop now.

Thanks again for your unwavering commitment to AAUW!

Most gratefully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gloria Blackwell".

Gloria L. Blackwell  
Chief Executive Officer

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Your charitable gift of \$400.00 received on 6/8/2025 supported:

\$400.00 to 4513 - Defend Higher Education

AAUW is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID No. 52-6037388). For IRS purposes, AAUW acknowledges that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift and the gift will not be placed in a donor-advised fund or supporting organization. This letter serves as your official statement. Questions or concerns? Please call (202) 785-7700 or email [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

Membership  
Emily Doubler, VP Membership  
[ejw1976@gmail.com](mailto:ejw1976@gmail.com)



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Congratulations to the three winners of a free AAUW membership for 2025!

Names of eligible members were drawn from a hat at the July Board Meeting.

The winners are: **Jan Wilhelm, Debbie Bry and Kay Bartol!**



**Congratulations!**

## \$\$\$ PASSIVE FUNDRAISING \$\$\$

Shopping, it's what we all do well, several times a week. We visit Kroger for food and gasoline and browse AAUWNN spirit clothing from Big Frog. You can EASILY add to the coffers of AUWNN by signing up with these two companies. A portion of your purchase will go directly into our account. You do not have to do a thing but shop! **You know how to do that, don't you???** Sign up now!

### KROGER

Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program to help AAUWNN achieve its financial goals! Go online to <https://www.kroger.com/o/store-services/community-rewards>. Sign in using your email address and designate American Association of University Women Northville/Novi as the recipient of your rewards. If you do not already have a Kroger Plus Card, you will be issued one.



### BIG FROG

Sign up from the homepage of our website: <https://aauwnn.org/>. Scroll down to Spirit Wear and click to be linked to Big Frog, Novi.



## SMALL PARTIES

**Around 2016-18 we hosted a series of small parties to raise some extra money to help fund our philanthropic endeavors. So why now?**

Since then, we have increased the number of high school scholarships we offer as well as the amount of each scholarship. We incurred a significant expense when we purchased the equipment for our zoom meeting availability. In the past most of our meetings were held in locations that did not

charge for the use of the meeting room; now, except for our lunch meetings, we must pay for the meeting room. Of course, prices have increased on everything else, too. As a result, for the 2026-27 year we are looking to recreate our small parties.

**What are they?** A series of parties, planned by our members, that may be hosted at a local venue or someone's home for free. We charge a fee to attend, maybe twenty-five dollars per event; and members and friends attend those of interest to them. We held a free event at a yoga studio, Cutco Knives hosts cooking classes for free, a wine tasting at someone's home, bourbon tasting, etc. Generally, fifteen to twenty members and friends would attend these small fundraisers.

**What can you do to help?** Right now, we are looking for ideas and people who might be willing to coordinate an event. Maybe you take an exercise class, and the instructor would be willing to host a session for free, or a yoga class, do you know a place that might host a wine tasting, how to write your family history or ??? The possibilities are endless. The plan is to run a series of these beginning the fall of 2026.

If you have a fun or creative idea and are willing to help, please let me know on or before December 1 by email or text. I will need your name, idea, and if you are willing and able to coordinate the activity. I will collect these ideas and sometime in the spring we can start making plans and tying down dates and locations.

Thank you for your help!

Karen Zyczynski

[zyczynski2002@aol.com](mailto:zyczynski2002@aol.com)

(734)718-3341



## Yoga Pose





## **HARRIET SAWYER - MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Harriet Sawyer is a lifetime member of AAUW, joining in 1967, and is our chapter's 2025 Named Honoree. She was nominated by Past President, Jane Hecker. Harriet has held many positions at all levels of the AAUW organization. Here in AAUWNN, she has been Membership VP, Chair of the Policies & Procedures Committee, Chair of the Educational & Legal Advocacy Committee, and on the Nominating Committee as well as serving as its Chair. She also chaired the Home Tour Committee for two years.

At the Oakland Branch, she served as President, Membership VP, Legislative Chair, Book Sale Chair as well as Study Topic Chair. She has also served at the State level here in Michigan, holding the position of President, Membership VP, Legislative Chair (Public Policy), Chair of the 50 Years of Resolutions Research Committee, and on the Resolution Committee. At the national level she has served on the By-laws Committee and on the Planning Committee of Great Lakes Regional Conference.

Harriet holds a BA in Social Science and Education (Michigan State), a MAT in reading (Oakland University), an EdSpec in Administration & Supervision (Wayne State) and an EdD in Curriculum & Instruction (Wayne State). She is a retired high school social studies teacher but says her most interesting job was teaching college writing at a men's prison.

Harriet was married for 58 years to her late husband Bob and has two children and eight grandchildren. A former Northville resident, she now lives in Indiana near her daughter and continues to participate in AAUWNN meetings via Zoom.

Harriet has fulfilled many significant roles in AAUW, most recently with her commitment to aligning and updating our By-Laws and updating our Policies and Procedures. As members, we have so very much to thank Harriet for!



Harriet Sawyer - AAUWNN's  
2025 Named Honoree



Emily Doubler and Mary Ann MacLaren  
at the No Kings protest in Livonia.

## **In Memoriam**



Sadly, another one of our members, Barbara Maise, passed away on July 13, 2025. She was born on January 3, 1935, in Detroit, the daughter of Thomas and Jenny Borden, two first generation Ukrainians. Barb was united in marriage to Raymond Elliot Maise on August 18, 1956. They spent 48 years together until his death in 2004.

Barb graduated from Mercy High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit. She was a teacher before she had a family. They lived in West Bloomfield and then in England for two years before moving to Northville.

In addition to caring for her family, Barb cared for her developmentally disabled younger brother throughout his life and celebrated her other brother's military service and NASA career with great pride.

With the help of her granddaughter she organized her family's Ukrainian recipes into a family recipe book. She and her husband also had adventurous spirits, touring the globe. After he passed, she joined a travel club.

Barbara is survived by her children, Paul (Sheryl Westerdale and former spouse Kimberly) Maise, Peter (Valerie Naiser and former spouse Carol) Maise, Philip Maise, Matthew (Dawn) Maise and Jennifer (Andy) Cormier; her grandchildren, Joan Maise, Jason Maise, Eric (Kaitlyn) Maise, Kelly (Erich) Maise Heise, Matt (Elizabeth) Maise, Jacob (Keri) Maise, Nathan (Sydney) Maise, Raymond Cormier, Abigail Cormier and Thomas Cormier; and her great grandchildren, Allison, Henry, Matt, Francine, Jack, Beatrice, and Elliot.



## **Board Briefs**

Your board met June 3.

The Annual Meeting feedback has been positive, the program was AAUW focused, the dedicated entry was helpful. Additional training is needed with our sound system.

Career Path continues to be successful with positive feedback. Consider being part of this valuable program.

Nominating committee needs members.

Welcome Emily Doubler as Vice-President Membership.

Next Mah Jongg Tournament is Nov 14.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration planning continues.

Caryn Doehler, Secretary



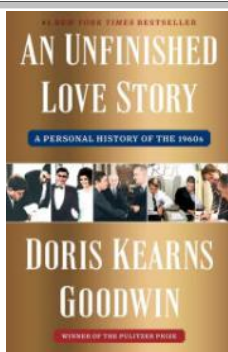


## NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI) UPDATE

### Daytime Book Group

Marian Brockie, Contact

The daytime book group is not meeting over the summer. They will resume meeting on September 11 to discuss **An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960's** by Doris Kearns Goodwin. All of the meetings will be zoom meetings.



For more information on joining this group please contact Marian Brockie at [mbrockie@umich.edu](mailto:mbrockie@umich.edu).

### Bridge Group

Marian Brockie, Contact

The Bridge Group currently is meeting at Laurel Park Food Court area every Wednesday at 1 p.m. For more information on joining contact Marian Brockie at [mbrockie@umich.edu](mailto:mbrockie@umich.edu).



### Restaurant Rovers

Joyce Murdock, Contact

The Restaurant Rovers will dine at the Down Town Pourhouse Tavern, 860 Fralick St, Plymouth, on September 17 at 6 p.m. It was formerly called Stella's.



### Evening Book Group

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

The Evening Book Group is not meeting over the summer. We will meet again on September 22 at Joyce Murdock's home where we will discuss **Becoming Madame Secretary** by Stephanie Dray. Ruth Rickard will be the discussion leader.



A complete list of what we will be reading is published elsewhere in this newsletter and on our web site. Interested in joining? We'd love to have you. Contact Mary Jane at [mjkearns1@outlook.com](mailto:mjkearns1@outlook.com) or (248) 449-8693.

### Movie Goers

Rhonda York, Contact

Movie Goers are now meeting the first Tuesday of the month. Rhonda will send an email to those on the list.



To be added to the list or for information, contact Rhonda York at [rlryork03@gmail.com](mailto:rlryork03@gmail.com).

### Mah Jongg

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

The Mah Jongg group plays Friday afternoons at members' homes. The August schedule is as follows:

August 1	Jan Wargo
August 8	Rhonda York
August 15	Emily Doubler
August 22	Pat Noworyta
August 29	Mary Jane Kearns



New members are welcome. Need lessons? We can direct you, or you can come along and learn as we play. Contact Mary

Jane Kearns to join us. [mjkearns1@outlook.com](mailto:mjkearns1@outlook.com) or (248) 449-8693.

### Great Decisions

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact (Temporary)

We meet via ZOOM on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. On September 16, we will be discussing Chapter 6 in the Great Decisions Handbook: **The Future of NATO and European Security**.

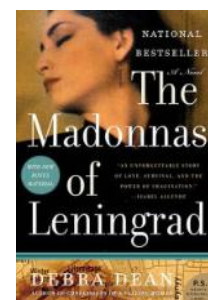
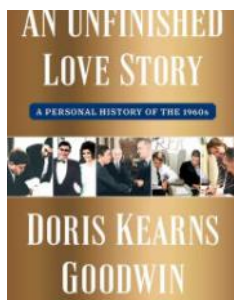


We encourage new members and guests. For more information and a ZOOM invitation contact Mary Jane Kearns at [mjkearns1@outlook.com](mailto:mjkearns1@outlook.com) or (248) 449-8693.

# NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI) UPDATE

## AAUW Northville Novi Daytime Book Group 2025-26

Date	Title	Author	Leader	Location
Sept. 11, 2025	An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960's	Doris Kearns Goodwin	TBD	TBD
Oct. 9, 2025	The First Ladies	Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray	TBD	TBD
Nov. 13, 2025	Too Soon	Betty Shamieh	TBD	TBD
Dec. 11, 2025	The Madonnas of Leningrad	Debra Dean	TBD	TBD
Jan. 8, 2026	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Feb. 12, 2026	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Mar. 12, 2026	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
April 9, 2026	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
May 14, 2026	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD



**AAUW Northville Novi  
Book Group 2025-26**

Date	Title	Author	Leader	Location
Sept. 22, 2025	Becoming Madam Secretary	Stephanie Dray	Ruth	Joyce
Oct. 27, 2025	The Confidante	Christopher C. Gorham	Jane	Jane
Nov. 24, 2025	Remarkably Bright Creatures	Shelby Van Pelt	Mary Jane	Zoom
Jan. 26, 2026	Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant	Curtis Chin	Marcia	Zoom
Feb. 23, 2026	The Glassmaker	Tracy Chevalier	Barb	Zoom
Mar. 23, 2026	Gellhorn: A Twentieth-Century Life	Carolyn Moorhead	Rhonda	Zoom
Apr. 27, 2026	Secret Lives of Sunflowers: a Gripping...	Marta Molnar	Judy	Rhonda
May 18, 2026	Decisions for 2026-7			TBD (pot luck at Ruth's if a restaurant can't be found)



## NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI) UPDATE

### American Association of University Women Northville – Novi – a 501(c)(3)

An Affiliate of National AAUW, one of many local groups across the nation.  
We are an association of dynamic local women committed to our Community with Action.  
AAUW-NN works to break education and economic barriers so that women and girls have fair and equal opportunity, while taking time to network and enjoy personal enrichment.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025-26

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Provide graduate associate or equivalent, baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution:

College/University/Equivalent \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Degree \_\_\_\_\_

College/University/Equivalent \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Grad Year/s \_\_\_\_\_ Major/s \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity (optional): Hispanic (Y or N) \_ White \_ American Indian/Alaska Native \_ Black/African American \_  
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander \_ Asian \_ Other \_

#### ELIGIBILITY

I am a graduate holding an associate or equivalent (RN), baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution ( ). I am an undergraduate student ( )

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER RECRUITER if applicable Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Individual Annual Membership

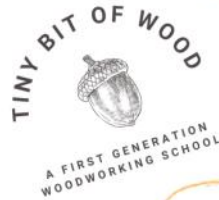
AAUW National membership fee	\$74
\$74 tax deductible	
State of Michigan fee – not tax deductible	15
AAUW-NN fee - \$10 tax deductible	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99</b>

#### Shape the Future-New Member

\$37
15
10
<b>\$62</b>

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO AAUWNN – mail to AAUWNN Membership, P.O. Box 511, Northville, MI 48167** AAUW fiscal year extends from July 1 through June 30. AAUW membership extends for 12 months from enrollment

**MICHIGAN FASHION DESIGNER SHOWCASE LUNCHEON 2024 SPONSORS  
PLEASE FREQUENT THEIR BUSINESSES**



billbrownford.com • 32222 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI





**empowering women since 1881**

American Association of University Women Northville-Nov  
A non-profit 501(c)(3)

Articles for the September 2025 issue  
due **August 20** to:

Mary Ann MacLaren  
[info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)



**AAUW Northville-Nov (MI) Calendar of Events**  
**visit the website for more information at**

<https://aauwnn.org/>

Board Meeting .....Fourth Tuesday, 6:45 p.m.  
Bridge Group.....Wednesdays, 1 p.m.  
Day Book Group.....Second Thursday, 10 a.m.  
Evening Book Group.....Fourth Monday, 7 p.m.  
Great Decisions .....Third Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.  
Mah Jongg.....Fridays, 1 p.m.  
Restaurant Rovers.....Third Wednesday, 6 p.m.