

# Update

Volume 50 No. 7  
February 2026

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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–Novi  
<https://aauwnn.org/>  
[info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)

AAUW–NN  
 P.O. Box 511  
 Northville, MI 48167

## AAUWNN MEETING

Tuesday, February 10 at 11:30 a.m.  
 Northville SportS Den

*Programs*  
 Rhonda York, Facilitator  
[rhondayork03@gmail.com](mailto:rhondayork03@gmail.com)



### MARK BOODY

#### AUTISM SAFETY AWARENESS

Mark Boody has served with the Novi Police Department for over 29 years. He currently holds the rank of sergeant in the uniform division. He previously served as a detective for 10 years where he specialized in child abuse investigations.

Mark earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Ferris State University and received his Master of Science in the Studies of Technologies from Eastern Michigan University. He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University’s School of Police Staff and Command.

Mark currently co-presents on Law Enforcement and Public Safety Response to individuals with Autism and Intellectual Developmental Disabilities for The Cardinal Group II. He previously taught Autism Safety Awareness for AAOM (Autism Alliance of Michigan). His other teaching experiences include Michigan’s Forensic Interviewing Protocol and various topics related to child abuse investigations.

### ABOUT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

**If you are hesitating about coming to the meeting on February 10 because you need a ride to the meeting or you feel you can’t walk very far, send an email to [info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org) by February 6. The meeting is on the lower level and you can be dropped off right at the door at the back.**

## Northville–Novi (MI) Update



### NORTHVILLE–NOVI (MI)

<https://aauwnn.org/>

#### President

Karen Zyczynski  
(734) 718-341  
[zyczynski2002@aol.com](mailto:zyczynski2002@aol.com)

#### Vice President Programs

Mary Ann MacLaren  
(734) 306-3991  
[info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)

#### Vice President Membership/ Diversity

Emily Doubler  
(248) 854-7862  
[eajw1976@gmail.com](mailto:eajw1976@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Caryn Doehler  
(248) 982-1029  
[caryn@wowway.com](mailto:caryn@wowway.com)

#### Treasurer

Joyce Murdock  
(734) 207-1942  
[jgmurdock12051942@wowway.com](mailto:jgmurdock12051942@wowway.com)

#### Communication Chair

TBD

#### Editor

Mary Ann MacLaren  
(734) 306-3991  
[info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)

#### 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–Novi (MI)

### President's Message

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



## BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

This year we are hard at work planning our **Michigan Fashion Designer Showcase Luncheon** on April 25, 2026. This month you can still book a full table for the event for you and your family members or friends. Tickets go on sale February 8 to the general public.

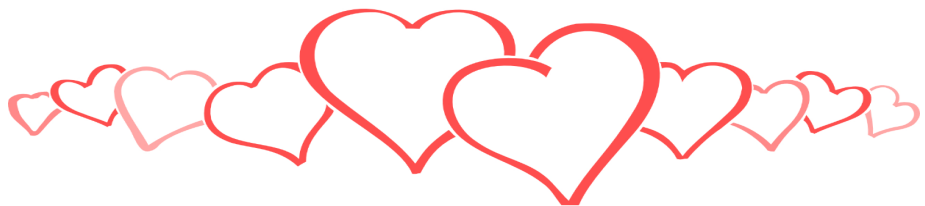
The Fashion Show Planning Committee is still looking for sponsors, ad purchases and door prizes. We have four returning clothing designers and two potential new ones. Some returning accessory designers and some new.

1. We have placed 'SAVE THE DATE' postcards at various businesses in Northville, Novi and Plymouth as well as local public libraries. If you have some cards you are not using, bring them to the February lunch meeting. We can use them.
2. If you have a packet of postcards you plan to place at local businesses, please deliver them immediately.
3. We need to sell at least 175 tickets. You can help by inviting friends from your book club, mahjong group, quilting friends etc. to join your table. People like to be able to sit with someone they know, help us make it happen!

The money we raise at this event, plus the payout from our endowment with the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, our mahjong tournaments and other small fundraisers will support our high school scholarships, Remember the Ladies, Career Path Days and donations to scholarship programs at Schoolcraft College and Oakland Community College for the next two years.

Hope you can join us for some Valentine treats and lunch on February 10 at the Northville Sport's Den.

*Happy Valentine's Day!*  
*Karen*



# Northville–Novi (MI) Update

Vice President Membership/Diversity  
Emily Doubler  
[ejw1976@gmail.com](mailto:ejw1976@gmail.com)



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### LETTER OF THANKS FROM FIRST STEP

First Step, Wayne County’s Domestic Violence Shelter, was the recipient of our holiday giving this year. (See Page 4 for the letter)

### MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

Our AAUW-NN Trifold has recently been updated. (See below) Go to [aauwnn.org](http://aauwnn.org) to print your copy. Thanks to the Northville Chamber of Commerce, the trifold will be distributed in 100 Northville Residence Welcome bags. We hope that this promotional material will bring positive attention to our wonderful organization for those relocating to Northville. This is handy for that “elevator speech.”



Northville – Novi  
Established 1975

AAUW-NN promotes equity, education, and opportunity for women and girls in the Northville-Novri area.

The Branch supports a number of community action projects and raises funds for local college and high school scholarships.

Our branch provides our members with opportunities to associate with like-minded women and men through our events, community projects, and special interest groups.

We join because of AAUW’s mission; we stay because of the friendships we make.

This is the front page

### MONTHLY PROGRAMS

AAUW Northville-Novri meets the **2nd Tuesday of the month.**  
Reference AAUWNN.org website for current information.

### GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

**Sept. 24, 2025: AAUW Northville Novi’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** ‘A Walk Down Memory Lane: 50 Years of Advocacy’ Genetti’s Hole in the Wall Restaurant, Northville. Dinner reservations. Cash bar.

**October 14, 2025:** Presentation and conversation from our **NCCWSL Scholarship Participants.** Presenter: Rhonda Donovan, Schoolcraft College, McDowell Center. 6:45pm.

**November 11, 2025: Support for Victims of Domestic Violence.** Presenter: Audriana Buchanan-Cronk, First Step. Northville Library 6:30pm.

**December 9, 2025: Holiday Event!** Northville Library 6:00pm. Donations for First Step, Wayne County’s Domestic Violence Shelter, are welcome.

**January 13, 2026:** Lunch meeting 11:30am-1pm. Sport’s Den in Northville. **Rank Choice Voting** Presenter: Ravi Yalamanchi of Rank MI Vote.

**February 10, 2026** Lunch meeting 11:30am-1pm. Sport’s Den in Northville. **Antism Discussion.** Presenter: Mark Boody

**March 10, 2026:** Lunch meeting 11:30am-1pm. Sport’s Den in Northville. **Charitable Gifting Options.** Presenter: Jackie Duggan

**April 14, 2026: Staying Fit as You Age** Genetti’s Hole in the Wall Restaurant, Northville. 6-6:45pm.

**April 25, 2026: Michigan Fashion Designer Showcase Luncheon** AAUWNN fundraiser. 9:15am-1:15pm. VisTaTech, Schoolcraft College, Livonia. \$75 Tickets purchased in advance.

**May 12, 2026: Annual Meeting and Celebration.** The Garage, Northville. 5:30 PM. Scholarship winners, guests, election of officers and installation, Named Honoree announced. Dinner reservations. Cash bar.

Join us . . . . .  
Make a difference in the life of a woman or girl.

### Our Branch offers:

- A group of educated women with diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Informative monthly programs September through May
- Varied interest groups
- Community based programs such as Career Path Day and our “Remember the Ladies” program for local Elementary media centers.
- Scholarships for HS Senior girls, donations to Schoolcraft and OCC programs, and support for NCCWSL participants.
- Volunteer and fund-raising opportunities.

This is the Back page

Website: AAUWNN.org  
Facebook: AAUWNN Branch  
Email: [info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)  
Instagram : AAUW\_NN  
Address: AAUW-NN  
P. O. Box 511  
Northville, MI 48167



### Interest Groups

**Daytime Book Club:** Members meet to read and discuss a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction chosen by the group. Currently the group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (Sept-April) from 10-11:30am via ZOOM unless other plans can be made.

**Evening Book Club:** Members meet in the evening to read and discuss a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction chosen by the group. Currently the group meets at members’ homes or via ZOOM the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday evening at 7pm.

**Great Decisions:** Members meet to discuss current global issues facing the USA. A briefing book provides members with nonpartisan background information. Currently the group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 1:30pm via ZOOM.

**Bridge:** A group of self-taught members, who have grown into intermediate bridge players, use Audrey Grant’s Bridge Basic Instructions to play contract bridge. The group meets each Wednesday at 1pm at the Laurel Park Food Court.

**Mah Jongg:** Members play American Mah Jongg using the National Mah Jongg Playing Card. We play for fun on Friday afternoons in each other’s homes. We sponsor a tournament twice a year for local players. Lessons are available.

**Movie Goers:** Members meet the first Tuesday of each month to attend a movie selected by the group, followed by lunch and discussion.

**Restaurant Rovers:** Members meet at a restaurant chosen by the group the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, to try new places and enjoy each other’s company

\*\*\*Additional groups can be added where there is an interest

The American Association of University Women Northville-Novri is open to all graduates who hold an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified institution. Prospective members are welcome at two interest group sessions after which dues are payable.

## Northville–Novi (MI) Update

44567 Pinetree Drive  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170



p / 734.416.1111  
f / 734.416.5555

1/6/2026

American Association of University Women (Northville/Novi)  
c/o Emily Doubler  
P.O. Box 511  
Northville, MI 48167

Dear Emily & Friends of American Association of University Women (Northville/Novi),

As we navigate the lingering coolness and the hope for warmer days, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and steadfast support of First Step. Your recent donation you valued at \$370 received on 12/10/2025 of personal care items, cleaning products, and five gift cards has touched us deeply. Your contribution will aid First Step in providing warmth and care to survivors navigating the harsh impacts of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

At First Step, we're dedicated to fostering a culture of respect, empathy, and consent while raising awareness about the impacts of violence. Your kindness ensures our programs remain a safe-haven for those seeking refuge. With your continued support, we sustain a wide range of life-saving services to help survivors move from fear and trauma to peace and safety.

First Step offers an emergency shelter, 24-hour helpline, counseling, transitional housing, legal advocacy, and even an on-site pet shelter so families never have to choose between their own safety and the safety of their pet. Your contribution lets survivors know someone cares about them. Your donation empowers survivors on their journey towards healing and independence.

For more information about our programs please visit our website ([firststep-mi.org](http://firststep-mi.org)) and connect with us on social media ([facebook.com/firststepmi](https://facebook.com/firststepmi)). For additional inquiries or to schedule a tour or presentation, please contact us at 734.416.1111.

Thank you again, for your unwavering dedication to First Step's mission. Together, we're making strides toward a future where every individual feels safe, respected, and supported.

With warm regards,

Jeni A. Hooper, LMSW-Clinical  
Interim Executive Director

If you, or someone you know, need First Step support, services, or referrals,  
please call the 24-hour helpline at 734-722-6800.

First Step is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. No goods or services were provided by First Step in return for the contribution. Your donation may be tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law; please consult your tax professional for any tax deduction questions. Tax ID 382208980

### WORKING TO END DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN WAYNE COUNTY

24-Hour Help Line:  
734.722.6800



[www.firststep-mi.org](http://www.firststep-mi.org)  
[facebook.com/firststepmi](https://facebook.com/firststepmi)



*Public Policy*

Mary Jane Kearns

[mjkearns1@outlook.com](mailto:mjkearns1@outlook.com)



### NEWS YOU CAN USE - EDUCATION ISSUES IN MICHIGAN

Michigan faces many educational challenges which are not obvious to us since we live in wealthy and well-funded educational districts. However, that is not the case statewide. Educational issues in Michigan (MI) currently center on low student achievement, staffing shortages, inequitable resources, and post-pandemic challenges such as chronic absenteeism and slow learning recovery. These problems are often more severe in high-poverty communities and for historically underserved student groups. In this election year there will be much rhetoric about education, and we need to pay attention to the issues and where candidates stand on them.

#### Student achievement and literacy

Michigan has persistently low proficiency rates in core subjects compared with many other states. Recent data show especially weak reading and math performance in elementary grades, with third graders recording their lowest English language arts scores in the history of the state exam.

- National assessments show that only a minority of Michigan fourth graders are proficient in reading and math, and recovery from pandemic learning loss has been slow.
- Policymakers are focused on early literacy laws and evidence-based reading curricula because reading scores have been stagnant or declining.

#### Teacher shortages and turnover

Michigan is experiencing high teacher turnover and growing reliance on underprepared or uncertified educators. This affects instructional quality and makes it hard for districts to staff certain subjects and schools.

- A recent report found that over 5% of teachers in Michigan classrooms lack a full teaching certificate, and additional teachers are still in training while serving as teacher of record.
- Shortages are particularly acute in special education, world languages, arts, and science, and underserved students are more likely to be taught by inexperienced or under-credentialed teachers.

#### Funding, resources, and equity

While Michigan has restructured its school finance system, concerns remain about whether funding keeps pace with student needs and is distributed equitably. Demographic shifts and increased student needs have made providing adequate services more expensive.

- Analyses of Michigan's school finance since the 1990s suggest that funding levels do not fully reflect higher costs for students in poverty, English learners, or students with disabilities.
- Urban and rural districts, as well as communities with high poverty, often face greater challenges in attracting staff and providing enrichment, even when per-pupil funding looks similar on paper.

*Continued on page 6...*

## Northville–Novi (MI) Update

*continued from page 5...*

### Chronic absenteeism and student well-being

Chronic absenteeism has emerged as a major barrier to learning, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. It not only hurts absent students but can depress overall classroom performance.

- Educators in Michigan report very high rates of students missing 10% or more of school days, linked to poverty, housing instability, transportation issues, and health or mental health challenges.
- Chronic absenteeism is a significant factor behind low test scores and slow academic recovery, including in districts like Detroit and other high-poverty areas.

### Policy debates and reforms

- There is ongoing debate about how to fix Michigan's education system, including accountability, school choice, and teacher support. *Political races at the state level often highlight different approaches to these problems.*
- Proposals include stronger accountability for low-performing schools and leaders, expansion of school choice, and changes to how teachers are recruited, prepared, and supported.
- State leaders are also revisiting curriculum standards and literacy policies, requiring districts to use or justify evidence-based reading programs and signaling a shift toward research-backed instruction.

## THINKING OF YOU



Maureen Miller on the passing of her 95 year old father on January 7.

Rose Dankis on the recovery of her husband from a hospital stay.

Please take a few minutes to send those in this column a card or a little note. I'm sure it would mean a lot to them. If you know of one of our members that we should be thinking of, please send the information at [info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)

## \$\$\$ 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-Novis 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.

Secretary  
Caryn Doepler  
[caryn@wowway.com](mailto:caryn@wowway.com)



## BOARD BRIEFS

Your board met by Zoom on Tuesday, January 27

- Joyce Murdock is our new Treasurer, and Mary Ann MacLaren will take responsibility for the newsletter.
- Fashion Show planning is in full form, with Karen Z and Mary Ann canvassing Northville and Plymouth merchants for donations.
- Emily Doubler, membership chair, has updated and printed our "trifold", and it's ready for distribution. Her committee is looking at ways to increase AAUWNN visibility.
- NCCWSL information for 2026 is available, so planning can begin sooner. Ruth Rickard, chair, would like more members to read applications.
- 14 Novi High School scholarship applications have arrived, and the committee will begin reading and scoring.

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

## INFO ON FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 10 meeting is facilitated by Rhonda York at the Northville Sports Den at 11:30. Autism discussion. Lunch choices are Quesadilla (\$16), Chicken Caesar Wrap (\$16), Greek Salad (\$13), or the soup of the day (\$7) plus beverage. Tip will be added to your bill.

March 10 meeting is facilitated by Jackie Duggan at the Northville Sports Den at 11:30. Charitable Gifting Options discussion.

## MICHIGAN FASHION DESIGNER SHOWCASE LUNCHEON

Our biennial major fundraising event is Saturday, April 25, 2026, 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. at the VistaTech Center, DiPonio Room, Schoolcraft College.

As a member, you can reserve your table of 8 now. Ticket sales open to the public February 8. March 30 is the last day to purchase tickets. The form with detailed information is in this newsletter on the next page.

Flyers need to be placed anywhere you can. Flyers have been posted in downtown Northville and Plymouth.

More sponsors and ads are needed. Forms to leave with places you do business can be picked up at the February member's meeting or emailed to you by contacting Mary Ann MacLaren or email [info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)



Northville–Novi (MI) Update



**Michigan Fashion Designer Showcase  
Luncheon 2026  
Saturday, April 25, 2026  
9:15 AM – 1:15 PM**

**VisTaTech Center, DiPonio Room, Schoolcraft College  
8600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152  
Table of 8 - \$600**

**EARLY BIRD FOR MEMBERS**

Please complete and mail form with check by February 7, 2026.

Tables are guaranteed upon receipt of payment.

Go to <https://aauwnn.org/> after February 8 to purchase tickets online.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tables \_\_\_\_\_ x \$600 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to AAUWNN**

You may hand deliver form and check to Karen Zyczynski or Mary Ann MacLaren

You will be emailed your reserved table/s number one week prior to the date of the event.

**NO REFUNDS**

**The maximum number of persons for your table is 8. Please list all names, including yourself and the others if you already know who you are inviting.**

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\_\_\_\_\_

Payment by check payable to AAUWNN  
Mail form and payment to:  
**AAUWNN Fashion Show**  
P. O. Box 511  
Northville, MI 48167

Questions? Email: [info@aauwnn.org](mailto:info@aauwnn.org)  
or call 734.306.3991

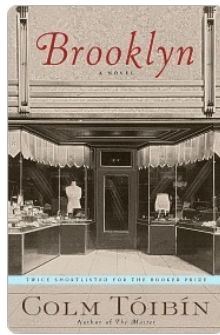
For office use only:  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials \_\_\_\_\_

## Northville–Novi (MI) Update

### Daytime Book Group

Marian Brockie, Contact

On Friday, February 12, 2026 we will discuss “Brooklyn” by Colm Toibin. Group discussion. This is a Zoom meeting from 10:00 - 11:30 A.M.



Also, 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 **WILL NOT BE MEETING IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH.** Play will resume in April.

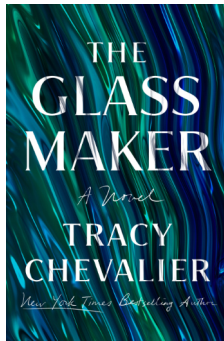


For more information on joining contact Marian Brockie at [mbrockie@umich.edu](mailto:mbrockie@umich.edu).

### Evening Book Group

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

On Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. we will discuss “The Glassmaker” by Tracy Chevalier. Discussion leader is Barb. This is a Zoom meeting.



The complete list of books for 2025-2026 can be found on our website by [clicking here](#) or from our home page, click on About Us, then click on Interest Groups and Evening Book Club.

New members are always welcome. Please contact Mary Jane for details at: [mjkearns1@outlook.com](mailto:mjkearns1@outlook.com)

### Restaurant Rovers

Joyce Murdock, Contact

On February 18 at **NOON**, we will dine at Benstein Grill, 2435 Benstein Road, Commerce Twp.



If you would like to join this group, please contact Joyce Murdock at (313) 381-2350 or [jgmurdock12051942@wowway.com](mailto:jgmurdock12051942@wowway.com)

### Movie Goers

Rhonda York, Contact

Movie Goers are 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 [ryork03@gmail.com](mailto:ryork03@gmail.com)

### Mah Jongg

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

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

Feb. 6 Mary Ann  
Feb. 13 Rhonda  
Feb. 20 Pat  
Feb. 27 Carol

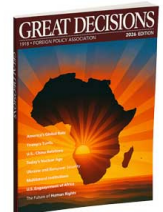


We enthusiastically welcome our recent new members. Interested in joining us? Contact Mary Jane Kearns to join us at: [mjkearns1@outlook.com](mailto:mjkearns1@outlook.com) (248) 449-8693

### Great Decisions

Mary Jane Kearns, Contact  
(Temporary)

The Great Decisions group will meet on Tuesday, February 17 at 1:30 P.M. This will be a Zoom meeting.



In February we discuss chapter 2 from the 2026 Great Decisions discussion book. **“The End of an Era: Trump’s Tariffs in Historical Perspective.”**

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



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

Articles for the March, 2026  
issue due **February 20, 2026** to:

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

**AAUW Northville–Novi (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, 1:00 P.M.  
Day Book Group... .....Second Thursday, 10:00 A.M.  
Evening Book Group..... Fourth Monday, 7:00 P.M.  
Great Decisions .....Third Tuesday, 1:30 P.M.  
Mah Jong.....Fridays, 1:00 P.M.  
Restaurant Rovers.....Third Wednesday, 6:00 P.M.