



The TWIG

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

February
2024

Education as the Tool: My Journey From the “Jim Crow” South to Midland

February General Meeting
February 21, 2024 Wednesday Afternoon
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (handicap accessible)
Community Room – Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

Our February speaker will be Bertha Vaughn who was recruited by the Dow Chemical Company as a summer intern in 1974, and began full time for Dow in 1975. She is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC with a bachelor’s degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics.

Bertha grew up in South Carolina during the Jim Crow era and her path to becoming a chemist at Dow was profoundly affected by the struggle for civil rights in South Carolina. Bertha will share her personal experiences being raised in the South.



The program will take place at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Community Room on Wednesday, February 21st from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. AAUW General Meetings are open to the public. The Program Committee encourages you to bring friends or new acquaintances to join with AAUW Branch members to this meeting.

Branch Program Committee: Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, Liz Kapla

President’s Message by Carol Arnosky

Happy February, month of love, to everyone!
I hope you experience lots of love, in whatever form you desire (self-love, family love, pet love...) this month (and all year)!



Save the Date for the
2024 Statewide Convention!
May 11, 2024 at the Detroit Marriott in Livonia

As I said in a previous message, I encourage you to attend any AAUW convention that you can. You will meet other AAUW members from around the state and see what they have been doing to spread our mission. Lots of networking, fun and a great day out! We will have more info as the day gets closer.

We made it through January - let's tackle the rest of this winter so our tulips and daffodils can bloom!

Shelterhouse Welcomes Clothing and Household Donations

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to clean out your closet? Local survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault benefit when you donate items you no longer need to the Shelterhouse Resale Shop. Proceeds help support services like emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and medical forensic exams! Your donations, and also your purchases, directly empower survivors and provide healing services in their greatest time of need.

Every client at Shelterhouse is given a gift card to shop for free at the Shelterhouse Resale Shop. Clients are able to buy clothing and small household goods such as kitchen items, bedding, and accessories that they need to feel comfortable, confident, and safe. Thanks to your donations and support, survivors are able to buy professional clothing for a job interview as they begin to rebuild

their lives, decorations to make their new house feel like a home after fleeing an abusive relationship, and even work uniforms to take a small financial weight off their shoulders as they seek to create stable and healthy homes for their family!

Sometimes donations of designer clothing, collectible items, and other high value gifts come in. While finding these treasures is one of the joys of thrifting, the shop is also able to make more for survivors by selling some select items at auction.

The shop accepts donations five days a week Monday through Friday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Saturday 11:00 am – 5:00 pm and by appointment. Shelterhouse Resale Shop is located at Kmart Plaza, 1830 S. Saginaw Rd. For more information, call (989) 486-8776 or check the website shelterhouser resale.shop.

The First 2024 Vote in Michigan is Upon Us

by Jane Wirth, Public Policy Chair

Are **you** registered to vote?? Are your offspring registered to vote? What about your of-age grandchildren? Other extended family members?

It's not too late to register; you can register right up to and including election day. Registering on election day, however, must be done at Midland City Hall for city residents or at the appropriate township hall for township residents. Be alert to the fact that if a college student has changed their address with the secretary of state their voter registration address has changed too.

Primary season is upon us and later on this month you will have an opportunity to vote in the Michigan Presidential Primary. You can vote in-person at the Grace A. Dow Library during the nine days prior to the February 27 Primary Election Day, you can cast an absentee ballot, or you can vote in person on election day, of course. We all got a new voter registration card recently which has your polling location, which may have changed. Be sure to check. There is really no excuse for not voting!

A Fact to Consider

Women made up less than half of the state legislatures in nearly every state this past year. We are lucky to live in a state where "we have 40% women in both chambers, chairs of both chambers' appropriations committees and the majority leader in the Senate. The majority party's caucus is 50+% women. The states where men are in the super-majority have more regressive policies towards women's issues" according to Mary Pollock's January 17, 2024 AAUW Lobby Corps' post.

Branch Officers to be Elected at the March Annual Meeting

by Ruth Copp & Barb Galloway, Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, consisting of Ruth Copp, Judi Cox, Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, Liz Kapla, and Pauline Pittsley, extends their appreciation to the following candidates for the slate of officers for 2024-2026.

President (2024-25): Carol Arnosky

Carol joined AAUW in 2015. She is a graduate of Florida State University with a degree in accounting and received her MBA from the University of Houston. She worked for 25 years as an accountant/finance analyst for Tenneco Oil Company and the Dow Chemical Company. After retiring, Carol was the owner of Scrapbooks Galore & More for ten years. She has served as the Midland Branch's President for the past four years, has been Communications Officer and participated in many interest groups: Done in a Day, Gardening for Fun, Shelterhouse Birthdays, Matinees & More, and the Used Book Sale. Being active in her community is a priority for Carol and she volunteers for numerous causes. Carol and her husband, Steve, have three children and three grandchildren. They frequently travel to Texas, Illinois, and Missouri to enjoy these offspring.

Finance Vice-President (2024-26): Liz Kapla

Liz joined AAUW in 2005 and has served as Finance Vice-President for the past 7 years, she has been on the Program Committee, the Nominations Committee, Shelterhouse Birthdays Committee, and the Used Book Sale. She received her B.S. in elementary education at the University of Colorado. She taught in Boulder and then Freeland, after moving to Midland. After raising four children with her husband, she created and ran the Midland Mentors program for at-risk teens at the Midland County Probate Court. Liz enjoys volunteering, gardening, reading and traveling - especially to visit her children and grandchildren who live in Washington D.C., Seattle, Wiesbaden, Germany, and Colorado Springs.

Nominations Officer (2024-25): Pauline Pittsley

Pauline has been a member of AAUW for 38 years. During that time, she has served the branch in many capacities including President, VP/Program Development, Communications Officer, Women's Issues Luncheons Chair, TWIG Editor, and Handbook Editor. She chaired the Used Book Sale for a number of years and continues to help manage the sale. She graduated from SVSU with a teaching degree and taught in Bay City Public Schools before moving to Midland. Pauline is retired from Senior Services where she was the Volunteer Manager and editor of the Senior Independence Newspaper. Her personal interests include the creative arts, cooking, and reading.

Delegate-at-Large (2024-25): Mary Harding

Mary joined AAUW in 2021. She was born and raised in Midland. She then attended Oakland University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University. She

lived in Rochester Hills for 25+ years and moved back to Midland to be around family. Mary currently works for MyMichigan Health in the Patient Financial Services Department and has over 30 years' experience in medical insurance and hospital policy and procedure. Her volunteer experience includes the Midland Center for the Arts, Tri-City Brewing in Bay City, and Election Inspector. Her first experience of being on a committee was Adams Elementary Student Government. She was appointed by her first-grade teacher, Deb Kaiser. Mary looks forward to continuing her community involvement by furthering the positive impact AAUW has on women and the community at large.

Recording Secretary (2024-26): Jane Wirth

Jane has been an AAUW Midland Branch member for 52 years which has included service as President, Co-President, Used Book Sale Chair, Treasurer, AAUW Funds, College/University Liaison, and several other branch offices and committees. She was instrumental in establishing the branch scholarships for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) plus serving on the steering committee for a branch-sponsored area Transitions Conference. **She is an Honorary Life Member of AAUW and a branch Named Gift Honoree.** Jane received a BS in Home Economics Education from Iowa State University and taught for 5 years.

Mark Your Calendar

February 21, 2024 – General Meeting at the
Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Community Room

April 26-28, 2024– Book Sale at the Midland Mall

May 11, 2024 – 2024 Statewide Convention at the Detroit Marriott, Livonia

President: Carol Arnosky • 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando
2nd VP Membership: Judi Cox • The Twig Editor: Annette Clapp

Websites: <https://midland-mi.aauw.net> <https://aawumi.org/> E-mail: aauwmidland@gmail.com