



# The Twig

## AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

December  
2024

## December General Meeting

Thursday, December 19, 2024  
Midland Country Club – Ballroom C  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm (handicap accessible)

### ‘Tis the Season

The Program Committee is inviting all members and their guests to come and enjoy the AAUW Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at the Midland Country Club. Our lunch will consist of a sunburst fruit and chicken salad, slice of fruit bread, bread basket, nonalcoholic beverages, coffee, and tea. Dessert will be peppermint sundae pie. The cost of lunch is \$20.00 per person. So mark your calendar and bring a friend and enjoy ‘Tis the Season. Reservations are required by December 17<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to AAUW Midland Branch. Send to Liz Kapla, 1205 Bayberry Lane, Midland, MI 48640. Contact Liz at [ekapla@charter.net](mailto:ekapla@charter.net) or at 989-631-7365.



*The Midland County Emergency Food County Network (EFPN) does wonderful things for community members and this meeting is our chance to help them.*

During this Season of Giving, Midland’s three Food Pantries are experiencing an increase in volume. This year, the Program Committee decided to give to the **Midland County Emergency Food County Network (EFPN)**. You can make your check out to EFPN and either bring it to the December General Meeting or send it to Liz Kapla. Liz will present our branch donations to EFPN.

Wishing all AAUW members Happy Holidays!  
Branch Program Committee: Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, and Liz Kapla

## President’s Message

by Carol Arnosky

Happy December & Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope you have a wonderful time with family and friends, and that you land on Santa's "nice" list.

I was very pleasantly surprised to be the recipient of the 2024 Named Gift Honoree award for Midland branch.



I am honored to receive this award and would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the selection process. Thank you for recognizing my contributions and for inspiring me to continue striving to make our branch the best it can be. I also appreciate all of our members with whom I have worked over the years. You all Rock!!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you, with our best Christmas sweaters, at our December meeting!

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## Time to Take Action: The Equal Rights Amendment Needs to Finally Be Added to Our Constitution

by Jane Wirth, Public Policy

I know this is a busy time of the year, BUT take five minutes very soon to find the AAUW Two-Minute Activist site and send an urgent message to our Michigan Representative in Congress. As the AAUW website states: It has been a century since the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was introduced, and despite some progress, women's equality is still at risk due to fluctuating legislative decisions. Without the ERA in the U.S.

Constitution, advances in women's rights that we took for granted are at risk of being weakened or even reversed. Waiting a century for over half of the U.S. population to attain constitutional equality is long enough. Tell Congress, not one more year!



AAUW makes it easy to take action. Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org), click on "Take Action" and among the options that will appear is "Two-Minute Activist."

Click on that option, then scroll down to "Affirm the Equal Rights Amendment", then choose "Take Action Now." You will need to fill out a bit of information about yourself so that the email note at the bottom of that section will be directed to the proper person that represents you. You can accept the message as is or add or delete content in the message.

I found two errors I decided to correct:

- In the third paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> line—add the word "be" between or and difficult to read "...back or be difficult"...
- In the fifth paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> line—add an "o" to "flor" to read "floor".

Then you can add a personal message anywhere you wish. I'm adding this line just before the line that starts "Thank you...": Urge your reluctant colleagues to step forward to assure women's equality in the United States. It's time! Your mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, or niece and women everywhere deserve this action without further delay.

P.S. While you are on the Two-Minute Activist site, check the other options for action and send another message to Congress. It's easy, isn't it?

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## Named Gift Honoree Award

by Barb Galloway

Our President, Carol Arnosky, recently received the 2024 Named Gift Honoree award at the November 21st general meeting. This award is given annually, recognizing a member who has given generously of her time and her talents to our branch and to her community. One thousand dollars will be donated in her name to the AAUW fund of her choosing. Congratulations to Carol who is so deserving of this award.



*Carol Arnosky receiving her Named Gift Honoree award*

## November General Meeting: Jordan Dice

by Carol Arnosky

Our branch was treated to a very interesting talk by Jordan Dice, entrepreneur and owner of the Midland Mall, St. Laurent Brothers candy and nut shop as well as his most recent purchase, the State Theater in Bay City. He talked about his journey (His first job was at 14 when he started what he calls his first real business with StarNet Wireless). He has worked hard and learned about many businesses, which has culminated in his ownership, at his current age of 34, of these amazing and potential-laden properties. Our members asked many questions and provided positive feedback on everything from mall walking to the new parking lot and a shout out to the mall geese.

Jordan Dice said it is hard to tell what the future holds. He does not have immediate plans to acquire anything new – his hands are full as it is with his current assets. We know he will succeed in whatever he does, and we appreciate him coming to talk to us.



Trudy Dutot, our Used Book Sale Coordinator, talked to Jordan to let him know how much we appreciate the mall and to put in a good word for next sale in May 2025.



Many members joined to hear what Jordan had to say



These cookies were handmade by the Program Committee

## Thanks from the Midland Area Community Foundation



Happy (Fund) Anniversary

From Your Foundation

midland area  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

"AAUW" - Midland Branch Endowed Scholarship Fund  
This month is the anniversary of the opening of your fund. On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees for the Midland Area Community Foundation, thank you for being a fundholder. Your commitment to community philanthropy helps to build a thriving community.

For good. For ever. For all.

Midland Area Community Foundation

Thanks for starting your fund with us 20 years ago! We greatly appreciate your partnership!

-Here's to many more, from your Community Foundation 😊



## The Passing of Maria Sablo-Yates by Carol Arnosky



*Maria Sablo-Yates*  
May 4, 1952 – November 22, 2024

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of our dear friend and valued member of the AAUW Midland Branch, Maria Sablo-Yates.

Maria was a very active member of AAUW and served on the Board of Directors and as President. She was an integral part of the Book Sale Scrub team for a very long time, and helped define the procedures for the Children's book sort area. Her influence and guidance are still in place today.

Maria graduated from the University of Washington (Seattle) with B.A. and M.A. degrees in Spanish Language and Literature. As a lifelong educator, she taught at Central Michigan University and Delta College, where she was an Associate Professor of Spanish prior to her retirement.

She was a great person and will be gratefully missed by all that knew her.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to Delta College in support of International Travel Scholarships.

[Obituary information for Maria Francisca Sabló-Yates](#)

### Mark Your Calendar

December 19, 2024 – 11:30 am – 1:30 pm – December General Meeting

May 2-4, 2025 – Used Book Sale at the Midland Mall

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

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