



The Twig

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

February
2025

February General Meeting



Do you remember these lovely lyrics from The King and I? “Getting to know you, getting to know all about you” is the theme of our February Meeting. Our speakers will be Reverend Wally Mayton and Alysia Christy, Director of Community Impact, Midlander Area Community Foundation, who will discuss “neighboring.” We will learn how neighboring was conceived, how successful it has become throughout Midland County and how you can become a better, more involved neighbor.

In keeping with this theme of belonging to a community, belonging to a group is good for a person’s well-being as well. So we ask that when you come to the meeting, please be prepared to share a bit about yourself so we can get to know you better. Tell us about your passions, your successes, your families, your professions, your travels, anything you enjoy telling about yourself. We hope new members will attend so we can begin to get to know them and they can learn something about us.

RSVP to Liz Kapla by Tuesday, February 18th. Contact Liz at 989-631-7365 or ekapla@charter.net. The cost is \$20.00. Make checks payable to AAUW Midland Branch. Please send to Liz at 1205 Bayberry Lane, Midland, MI 48640. Reservations are required. Guests are most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 22nd

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



NCCWSL Scholarship Recipients

by Carol Hoerneman Plaush, College/University Liaison



The NCCWSL committee, Paula Jonas and Mary Sidney Matuska are so pleased to announce that Isabel Cole and Paige Filice are the impressive recipients of the AAUW Midland Branch 2025 NCCWSL Scholarships. Isabel is a junior in Social Work. Paige is a junior in nursing both at SVSU. They can travel together to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) on May 28-31, 2025 to the University of Maryland/College Park.

President's Message by Carol Arnosky

Happy February 2025! While we especially celebrate Love on Valentine's Day, wouldn't it be great if every month was full of love for all! **Love is Love!!**



AAUW Midland will again have a booth at the "Build Like a Girl" event set for 5:30-8:30 PM February 19, 2025, at the Great Hall in Midland.

Build Like a Girl is designed to educate young girls of lucrative STEM careers in the construction industry. Contractors and suppliers will offer hands-on activities for the girls to work on. They will learn about education requirements, how to gain confidence in this male populated industry and will gain insight from women who are in the industry in

a panelist discussion. AAUW will showcase our Trade & Technical Scholarships to attendees. We also have a sticky note "What is your Super Power?" activity for the girls to write their answers and stick on our display board. It is always fun to see the enthusiasm of our future generations!

I am already working on the Book Sale (May 2-4): updated signage for the Sort Room & Sale. I have also been saving books and puzzles (we do them just once & then donate to the sale) to be brought to the sort room on Day One! Do you have any books, CDs or puzzles ready for a new home? These cold and snowy days are a perfect time to look through your stash and see what you can share with others! Stay warm & safe!

Branch Officers to be Elected at the March Annual Meeting by Pauline Pittsley, Nominations Officer, and Committee Members: Ruth Copp, Judi Cox, Kerry Buell, and Liz Kapla

President: Carol Arnosky

Carol joined AAUW in 2015 shortly after retiring. She is a graduate of Florida State University (undergrad: Accounting) and the University of Houston (MBA). She worked for 25 years as an accountant/finance analyst for Tenneco Oil Company and the Dow Chemical Company. She then owned Scrapbooks Galore & More for ten years. She is the current AAUW Midland President and has been Technology Officer and a member of various interest groups: Done in a Day, Matinees and More, and the Used Book Sale. Her interests include scrapbooking, card making, gardening, and volunteering for various community events. Carol and her husband Steve have three children and four grandchildren.

1st VP Program co-officer: Mary Mullin Graiver

Mary has been a member of AAUW for over ten years but did not become a Midland Branch member until retirement in 2014. Mary has assisted with the Book Sale in the sort room, and served on the Scholarship Review Committee. A Buckeye by birth Mary received her BSN from St. John College of Cleveland and a MSN from Case Western Reserve University. She held clinical positions at University Hospitals of Cleveland for six years before moving to Michigan in 1978. She accepted a position at Saginaw Valley State University in their BSN program where she taught in both clinical and classroom settings and served on numerous committees for 36 years. She is now a Professor Emerita. Mary has been a member of Sigma, the International Honor Society of Nursing since 1978. With Sigma she has held positions at the local, regional and international levels and currently serves on the Governance Committee Theta Chi Chapter at SVSU. She serves on the Board of the Midland Jewish Community Congregation as secretary. Most recently she has been appointed to the Ursuline/St. John College Alumnae Board. Mary enjoys reading, hiking and traveling with husband Danny, especially if it means visiting their grandsons 6 & 8 in Portland, Oregon.

1st VP Program co-officer: Mary Harding

Mary joined AAUW in 2021. She was born and raised in Midland. She attended Oakland University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from CMU. She lived in Rochester Hills for 25+ years and moved back to Midland to be around family. She currently works for MyMichigan Health in the Revenue Integrity Department and has over 30 years of experience in medical insurance and hospital policy and procedure. Since being back in Midland she's volunteered at several places, including Midland Center for the Arts, Tri-City Brewing in Bay City, and as an Election Inspector. Mary looks forward to continuing her community involvement by furthering the positive impact AAUW has on women and the community. In her free time, Mary enjoys reading, hiking and traveling.

Delegate at Large: Candy Keysor-Oudman

Candy has been a member of AAUW since June, 2022, having rediscovered AAUW at its Spring Book Sale earlier that year. She was first introduced to AAUW around 2002 when she was invited to an AAUW scholarship luncheon in South Haven Michigan, where she was a new attorney in private practice in the areas of bankruptcy, real estate, probate, estate planning, and criminal law. She then joined the Bittner, Hyrns, Daly & Riemland Law Firm in St. Joseph, Michigan. Later she joined Chemical Bank's Trust Department as a Vice-President and Trust Officer, retiring in 2021. In 2019, she and her family relocated to Sanford Michigan, after her husband retired from the Michigan State Police, bringing her closer to family in her hometown of Millington Michigan. While retired, she and her daughter, Laila, revitalized the Meridian Early College High School Library, and volunteered at the Sanford Historical Museum. Candy returned to work for AIM Targeted Intelligence as a Market & Strategic Intelligence Analyst and her current role as Finance Manager. Both Candy, and her daughter, Laila, have assisted in the Branch Book Sale. Candy introduced Laila to AAUW while she was still a dually enrolled junior in high school to acquaint her with the accomplished women that make up the Midland Branch. Laila is AAUW-Midland's youngest member.

Nominations Officer: At this time the committee has been unable to recruit a candidate for this office.

Mark Your Calendar

February 22, 2025 at 10:00 am – General Meeting at the
Midland Country Club, Ballroom C

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

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

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