



# The TWIG

## AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

March  
2025



Midland Public Schools

## March General Meeting

### The Midland Public Schools Scenario A Bond Proposal

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30)

Grace A. Dow Memorial Library – Community Room (handicap accessible)

Branch members and their guests are invited to attend the March Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at the GAD Memorial Library (lower level). Our program will focus on the MPS Scenario A Bond Proposal. MPS Board of Education reached a consensus to focus on Scenario A which entails building a seventh elementary school, likely at the north end of the city; building a new Northeast Middle School and demolishing the current one; and moving pre-primary programs out of Carpenter Street School, and into elementary buildings. The bond proposal would also include infrastructure improvements and other needed items for the school district.

Following the program, a soup(s) and salad(s) dinner catered by Panera will be served. The dinner will also include coffee, water, and dessert. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Reservations are required by March 8<sup>th</sup>. A short business meeting will follow dinner.

Make checks pay to AAUW – Midland Branch. Send your payment to Liz Kapla, 1205 Bayberry Lane, Midland, MI 48640. You can contact Liz at [ekapla@charter.net](mailto:ekapla@charter.net) or call her at 989-631-7365 with questions.

We look forward to seeing you and your guest(s) on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at the GAD Memorial Library.

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

## President's Message by Carol Arnosky

Happy March!!

I look out at the several feet of white snow shoveled to the sides of our driveway (Thank you, Steve), and when the sun is out, I enjoy the sparkle and calmness of the whiteness. I am happy for the people who like to cross country ski or snowshoe at City Forest or take pleasure in walking their dog in single digit weather.

We had a wonderful February brunch meeting at MCC, as we talked about Neighboring and community. Judi Cox and I attended the Build Like

a Girl event and met many young women ready to take on the world. (See related articles in this Twig)

I hope this also finds you ready to take on the world - whether it is outside in the crisp air or inside by a cozy fireplace. As my grandchildren like to say: "Roar" - come in like the proverbial March lion!

*The Used Book Sale is coming!  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> at the Midland Mall.  
More details in the April Twig!*



## February Brunch Meeting by Carol Arnosky



Wally Mayton and Trisha Fenby

Another wonderful and informative general meeting was held in February at the Midland County Club. Our speakers were Reverend Wally Mayton and Trisha Fenby from the Midland Area Community Foundation, who discussed “neighboring”. The Neighboring concept was initially proposed 12 years ago and has now become an annual event. 2025 dates: September 28 - October 4. We were encouraged to “love our neighbors as ourselves” and learned the phrase “Me We Us”. We also shared several stories with each other at our tables, then summarized the stories with the entire group. Everyone was inspired to go home and plan a block party or, at the very least, wave hello to the neighbors!

Website for the MACF Neighboring Week:

<https://www.midlandfoundation.org/neighboringweek/>

## Build Like a Girl by Carol Arnosky

The third "Build Like a Girl" event was held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, and our branch again had a booth informing the attendees about our Trade and Technical scholarships. Judi Cox and Carol Arnosky represented AAUW, and we enjoyed chatting with the girls and hearing about their “Super Powers” (see sticky notes on the display board). The purpose of the annual event is to introduce young women to career opportunities in the construction business. The attendees did everything from using electric nail guns and drills, to climbing scaffolding, masonry work, CAD and much more. A great and informative time was had by all!



Our AAUW display featuring their “Super Powers”



Just some of the many visitors at the AAUW display

## The Passing of Nan and Dick Skochdopole by Trudy Dutot

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Nan and Dick Skochdopole. Nan was a beloved member of our community, whose strength, kindness, and unwavering dedication will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Dick passed on December 23, 2024 and Nan passed January 17, 2025. Nan was a long-time member of AAUW and a huge supporter of the book sale. Nan and Dick both helped for many years on Thursday night setup. Nan always worked several shifts during the sale (often while Dick shopped). She was the guardian of the cash box during clean up at the end of the sale. This was a huge help because I know the cash box was in safe hands while I loaded my van with supplies. Dick helped with set up and take down of the A-Frames and with packing up books at the end of the sale. Several years ago, Nan and Dick donated their sturdy hand cart to the book sale. It still has their name on it. Over the years, Nan has contributed to AAUW in many ways. In 1977, Nan was book sale chair and she was the Named Gift Honoree. Nan was active in the community, especially with education. She was on the school board for 4 years. Nan and Dick will be missed. Rest in peace.

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## Branch Officers to be Elected at the March 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.

### **1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **1<sup>st</sup> 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

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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.

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## Mark Your Calendar

March 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm – General Meeting at the  
Grace A. Dow Memorial Library – Community Room

May 2-4, 2025 – 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

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