



The Twig

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

October
2025

AAUW Fall Book Sale Success

Trudy Dutot, Used Book Sale Coordinator

The Fall 2025 Used Book Sale was a great success thanks to the many hours of hard work by dedicated AAUW Midland Branch members, family, and friends. The deposits for this sale, including net credit card deposits totaled **\$15,280**. Although this sale may not have been as high as those in the recent past, the numbers were still very good. The sales area looked wonderful due to the hard work of our volunteers. Our customers always appreciate the good quality of our books and the attention to detail that we provide when organizing and setting up the sales area.

As in previous sales, thousands of books were donated. We started with 253 banana boxes and had about 45 banana boxes left at the end of the sale – 82% of the books sold! Clean-up was efficient and done in just over an hour.



The end result of many hours of hard work



Berta Gebo and Donna Wedge



So many shoppers came to find their next great read

Thank you all! The next sale is scheduled for April 24, 25, 26, 2026. See you then.

Branch members, spouses and friends listed below are to be thanked for their contributions towards the success of the fall 2025 sale. Special thanks to Joe Sepesey, Steve Arnosky and Mike Dutot for setting up and taking down the A-Frames. As always, the Exchange Club did a great job bringing out the books to the sales area.

*thank
you*

Carol & Steve Arnosky
Jill & Mike Birchmeier
Luke Birchmeier
Kerry Buell
Judy Cline
Ruth Copp
Judy & Tom Donahue

Trudy & Mike Dutot
Barb Galloway
Berta Gebo
Nancy & Ed Hannum
Mary Harding
Meg Harding &
Stan Halpin
Marge Haskell
Paula Jonas
Jean & Bob Julier
Deb & Mark Kaiser

Liz & Roger Kapla
Julie Kennedy
Candy Keysor-Oudman
Jan Lanter
Mary Sydney Matuska
Alice Morgan
Pam & Craig
Murchison
Sherry Palmer
Gina Pederson
Pauline Pittsley

Carolyn Robert
Carol Sarnacke
Joe Sepesey
Kim Steinke
Valerie Trabucchi
Sharon Voss
Donna & Roy Wedge
Jane & Dave Wirth

Hard Hat Tour at the Midland Center for the Arts

by Mary Graiver and Mary Harding

On November 20th at 1:00 PM, the Midland Center for the Arts will host the AAUW Midland Branch for a special “Hard Hat Tour.” The tour will last approximately 30 to 45 minutes and provides a behind-the-scenes look at the Center’s transformation.

Participants are asked to arrive 5 to 10 minutes early and meet at the West St. Andrew’s Road entrance on the north side of the building. Parking is available at the library parking lot. Please note that the tour will include stairs and uneven surfaces, and there may not be elevator access to all areas. All attendees should be comfortable with walking long distances and navigating stairs. For everyone’s safety, participants are asked to come prepared with closed-toe, low-heel, comfortable shoes and long pants (required for entry). Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including a hard hat, safety

glasses, and reflective vest, which will be provided by the Center. All participants are expected to remain with their group at all times and follow any instructions given by Center or construction staff to ensure a safe experience for everyone. Group size is limited to 8–10 people. If more than one group is present, tours will run consecutively. Participants are encouraged to bring as few personal belongings as possible, as the tour will cover a large area within an active construction zone. A sign-in sheet will be provided to help ensure everyone is accounted for.

The Center is excited to offer this unique opportunity to view the progress firsthand, promote safety awareness, and stay connected with visitors. Attendees will also be able to sign up for future updates on the project or other news from the Center.



Membership Has Its Benefits – Locally and Beyond

by Judi Cox, 2nd VP Membership

Being part of our local AAUW branch offers meaningful opportunities for community connection, personal growth, and satisfying engagement with others who share your commitment to equity. But your membership doesn’t stop there. You also enjoy access to valuable state and national benefits that can enhance your professional and personal life; while helping you save money. Here is a reminder of those broader AAUW benefits.



- Travel Savings through Avis and Budget car rentals can save you up to 35% on car rentals worldwide with the AAUW discount code. You can also unlock exclusive discounts on hotels, cruises, tours, condos, and group travel packages.
- Publications and shopping offer a one-year free membership with Ms. Magazine and a discount on AAUW apparel, accessories, and supplies.
- For work and everyday savings, there are discounts for Office Depot/Office Max, Constant Contact, and UPS.

For more detailed information please visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>. These benefits not only save you money, but also support AAUW’s advocacy, leadership, and community programs every time you use them.

Mark Your Calendar: Tentative Program Schedule

by Mary Graiver and Mary Harding

Here is our AAUW Midland Branch tentative program schedule for 2025-2026.

- There will be no meeting in October
- In November we will offer an extra optional event at the Center for the Arts Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 1:00 pm. It will be a “Hard Hat Tour” of the Center with Joe Davis who spoke to our group in May (see article above for additional information).
- In December, we will host a holiday-themed luncheon at the Midland Country Club on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 11:30 am. We will have the CEO of ETC describe its role in Midland. (We thought we might ask ETC what its consumers need and donations could be brought to the event. We are also wondering if we should have members bring something to share as in past? i.e.. Book, ornament, favorite song, favorite gift. Please let us know your thoughts.)
- On Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 1:00 pm we will have staff from the Ukrainian Bakery talk to the membership with goodies from the Bakery. The location of this event will be determined as the date gets closer.
- On Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 1:00 pm we will take a trip to see the new building at the Chippewa Nature Center. We plan to have goodies at this event as permissible.
- On Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 11:30 am we will host our final program at the Midland Country Club and will possibly have the Conductor from the Midland Community Orchestra speak to the group.

If you have any comments, thoughts, or concerns please reach out to Mary Graiver at mmg@svsu.edu or Mary Harding at maryharding0827@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

November 20th at 1:00 pm – “Hard Hat Tour” of the Midland Center for the Arts

December 18th at 11:30 am – Holiday Luncheon at the Midland County Club

April 24, 25, 26, 2026 – Used Book Sale

President: Carol Arnosky • VPs Program: Mary Graiver and Mary Harding

VP Membership: Judi Cox • Twig Editor: Annette Clapp

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