



The Twig

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

December
2025

Festive Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, December 18th 2025
Midland Country Club – 1120 West St. Andrews
11:30 am (handicap accessible)

Save the date and join us for this year's Holiday Luncheon! This is a great opportunity to introduce friends to the importance of AAUW, so invite a guest!

Reservations are required by December 15, 2025. Cost per guest is \$20. Make checks payable to AAUW-Midland Branch and mail to Liz Kapla, 1205 Bayberry Lane, Midland, MI 48640. Contact Liz at ekapla@charter.net or call her at 989-631-7365 with your RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Branch Program Chairs: Mary Graiver and Mary Harding



President's Message by Carol Arnosky

Happy December & Happy Holidays to everyone!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you, with our best holiday sweaters at our December 18th gathering. A large *THANK YOU* to the 'Marys' for their great work thus far as the new program chairs.

May your season be filled with laughter, joy, and plenty of cookies 🍪. Here's to more good work, good times, and good cheer in the year ahead!

Seeking NCCWSL Scholarship Recipients

by Carol Hoerneman-Plaush



Be on the lookout for 2 college-aged women and encourage them to apply for the \$1,500 scholarship to attend the 2026 National College Women's Leadership Conference (NCCWSL). The dates for this 4-day conference are May 27 to May 30, 2026 at the University of Maryland/College Park.
Deadline to apply is January 30, 2026.

AAUW Midland Branch Scholarship Updates

by Carol Arnosky, Liz Kapla, and Judi Cox

We are proud to share exciting news about our scholarships! The Board recently voted to increase the amounts by \$500 each as follows:

- High School Senior Scholarships (2) – now \$2,500 each from branch funds
- Deferred College Degree Scholarships (2) – now \$2,500 each from branch funds
- Trade & Technical Scholarship (1) – now \$1,500 from branch funds
- Midland Believes Scholarship – our branch contributes \$1,000 annually to the Midland Area Community Foundation

✨ Special Note

Thanks to the generosity of our longtime member Terry Townley, who has pledged \$500 annually for five years, our High School Senior and Deferred College Degree Scholarships will increase to \$3,000 each. Thank you, Terry, for your incredible support!

💡 How You Can Help

Did you know you can also donate individually to support our scholarships? You can do this by visiting the Midland Area Community Foundation website or sending a check to the Foundation earmarked for the AAUW – Midland Branch Endowed Scholarship Fund.

📖 Thank You Members!

These scholarship increases are possible because of the dedication and hard work of all our members at the biannual Used Book Sales. Your efforts make a lasting impact on students' futures. Together, we are opening doors to education and opportunity. Thank you all!

Thanks from the Midland Area Community Foundation



American Association of University Women
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 back in 2004. We appreciate your partnership.

— Warm Wishes From Your COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Exploring the Arts: Our Hard Hat Adventure

by Mary Graiver and Mary Harding

What a wonderful time we had on our Hard Hat Tour at the Midland Center for the Arts.

We were met in the Lobby by Lauren Fletcher, the Head of Volunteering at the Center carting our hard hats and other protective gear. Joe Davis then met up with us and we were escorted into the Donors Lounge where we had a discussion on what to expect as well as get on our gear. We divided into 2 groups of 8 and off went the first group. During our tours we all had the opportunity to sign the Upper Gallery Wall!

On behalf of Lauren, myself, and the staff and volunteers at the Center we would like to say thank you for letting us share the renovation project with your organization. We hope everyone enjoyed the tour and the opportunity to sign the Upper Gallery Wall. Everyone's name will be encased in the wall during construction. Also attached are the photos taken.

Have a great weekend.

*Joe Davis
Midland Center for the Arts*

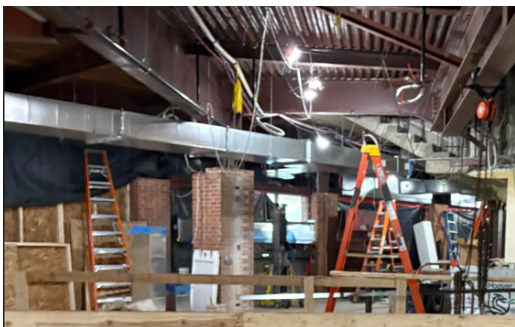


Pictured above are both groups of AAUW members on their tours

While the first group toured the others stayed in the Lounge with Lauren Fletcher as she discussed upcoming events at the Center, volunteering, and answered questions.

After both groups had completed tours some of us drove to Live Oak to continue conversation. What a great afternoon.

Please view the email we received from Joe Davis (in the text box above and to the right) plus pictures he took as well as some photos taken by Trudy Dutot!



So much work is in progress at the Center



Some areas are reminiscent of the previous space



It was also exciting to see the final vision for the space

Looking for One Good Woman

by Carol Arnosky

During AAUW of Michigan's Convention and Annual Meeting in Battle Creek, April 17-18, 2026, we will be celebrating outstanding women by honoring them with AAUW of Michigan Awards.

Do you know a woman who should be recognized for their commitment, energy, and perseverance in promoting equity for women and girls. Consider nominating them for the Martha Griffiths Equity Award. This is a great chance to honor someone who has been a great force in our mission for equity. The recipient does not need to be a member of AAUW.



Martha Griffiths

In keeping with AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy, AAUWMI encourages branches to identify a person who has promoted equity for women and girls in Michigan. This award was established in 2008 to honor the memory of Martha Griffiths, who was elected in 1948 to the first of two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, was later a Records Court Judge, and then served as a member of Congress until 1974. She was the first woman to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, and she chaired the House Subcommittee on Fiscal Policy. Her unique abilities enabled her to achieve significant legislative accomplishments, which included moving the Equal Rights Amendment out of Congressional Committee and securing passage of Title IX. In 1982 she was elected for the first of two terms as Lieutenant Governor of Michigan.

The nomination form is very easy to complete. It can be found by going to <https://aauwmi.org/aauwmi-awards/> and scrolling down until you see Martha Griffiths Equity Award. Then select the first blue box under it that says "Download Nomination Form." Along with basic info, you need a single-sided no more than one page narrative that illustrates the ways the nominee has promoted equity for women and girls in Michigan in a demonstrable manner.

Mark Your Calendar

December 18, 2025 at 11:30 am – Holiday Luncheon at the Midland Country Club

April 24, 25, and 26, 2026 – Used Book Sale at the Midland Mall

President: Carol Arnosky • VPs Program: Mary Graiver and Mary Harding
2nd VP Membership: Judi Cox • Twig Editor: Annette Clapp

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