



The TWIG

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

March
2026

Used Book Sale by Trudy Dutot, AAUW Used Book Sale Coordinator

The Used Book Sale will be April 24, 25, and 26, 2026. Book donation barrels will be out the end of March. The exact date is yet to be determined. Barrels will be in Kroger, Family Fare, and the two main entrances of the mall. We expect to collect well over 10,000 books so we require a big team of workers. Over the years, we have developed a very smooth system to sort and categorize books and media materials. New team members are always welcome so come and see what we do and participate in the fun! This worthwhile event raises funds for scholarships for local women. Our AAUW Branch will award up to \$16,000 in scholarships this spring.

The sort room location has changed. It will be the space that was used by the calendar store. The former Bat Cave has been leased out. The sort room will be open March 30th.



Your help is important. We welcome spouses and friends to help in this endeavor:

- Pick up donated books from grocery stores some days
- Put price stickers on books and put them in category boxes
- Stack books on sale tables Thursday evening, April 23rd at 7:00 pm
- Take a 2-hour shift at the sale, selling or keeping tables straightened
- Help box books for gifting and recycling at the end of the sale

For more information regarding volunteering opportunities, please contact Trudy Dutot and (989) 600-1433 or mjdutot@gmail.com.

You can also help by spreading the word about the sale. We need many buyers to achieve the sale income needed to support our scholarships.

Hope to see you there!

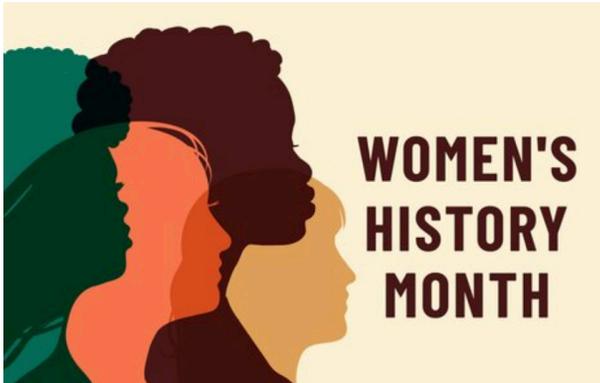
March General Meeting

Our March Program will be held on Thursday, March 12th at 1:00 pm at the Chippewa Nature Center Visitor Center. We will be met by staff and hear an update about all things possible there. You will then be free to browse the facilities. Light refreshments will be served. To assist our members, we decided to meet at 12:30 pm in front of the Midland Center for the Arts. You can park your car there and then we will carpool out to the Chippewa Nature Center. Please RSVP no later than Monday, March 9th to either: Mary Graiver at mmg@svsu.edu or text at 989-430-2388 or Mary Harding at maryharding0827@gmail.com or text 989-513-6113.



Our final Program will be our Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May, 21 at the Country Club.

President's Message by Carol Arnosky



Happy Women's History Month! This is from the United States Census Bureau: This month honors the successes and sacrifices of U.S. women. It dates to March 8, 1857, when hundreds of women from New York City garment and textile factories rallied to protest harsh working conditions. In 1909, New York City became the site of the nation's first Women's Day celebration, a year after 15,000 women there marched to demand shorter working hours, better pay, an end to child labor and the right to vote. More than seven decades later, in 1981, Congress set aside the second week of March as Women's History Week. Six years later, Congress

expanded the week to a month. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we reflect upon the advances women have made, including increased earnings, educational attainment and job opportunities.

Some Fun Facts:

There are 172 million women in the United States as of July 1, 2024. There were about 168 million men in the United States as of the same date, including 4 million women age 85 and over in the United States as of July 1, 2024 and about 2.4 million men this age as of the same date.

There were 83.7 million women age 16 and older who participated in the civilian labor force in 2024. This comprises 59.5% of women in this age group.

Not So Fun Fact:

Women's median earnings is 80.9% of men's median earnings for full-time, year-round workers age 15 and older in 2024.

Additional information from the Census Bureau can be found here: [Women's History Month](#).

February Meeting Recap by Mary Graiver

It was a foggy day when our program commenced on Thursday, February 19th at the Grace A. Dow Library Community Conference Room. By the time we left the sun was shining and everyone left in a great mood. Our Speaker, Lyn Knapp from ETC (Education and Training Connection), in Midland was both very informative and inspirational. She presented the history of the ETC spanning over 30 years as well as all the services provided. She reviewed all the services under each of the areas. One new venture is New Freedom that transports individuals from Midland who have medical appointments outside Midland County to those sites. That might include trips to Henry Ford or the University of Michigan Medical Center.

We also had refreshments from Enjoy! Bakery that were individual sugar cookies frosted in flowers of various colors. It was a true surprise.

We concluded our time with a short Business Meeting that shared information with those in attendance. One area we discussed was our programs and how we might reach more of our members. As we plan for next year, that might include various days of the week including Saturdays as well as early evening and lunchtime to accommodate our members and attract those who are working.

Branch Officers to be Elected at the March Annual Meeting

by Ruth Copp and Liz Kapla

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Ruth Copp, Judi Cox, Pauline Pittsley and Liz Kapla, has proposed the following slate of officers: President: Carol Arnosky, VP Finance: Liz Kapla, VP Programs: Mary Graiver and Mary Harding, VP Membership: Judi Cox, Secretary: Susan Hillman, Delegates-at-large: Candy Keysor-Oudman and Julie Kennedy.

At this time the committee has been unable to recruit a candidate for the Nominations Officer. We thank the nominees for agreeing to serve on the AAUW Midland Branch Board in our work for the community, our state and at the national level. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

No Kings: Saturday, March 28, 2026



AAUW National will be a supporter in the nationwide No Kings events. WOMAN (Women of Michigan Action Network) will be holding a rally in Midland at noon on March 28, at Central Park. Please watch the MDN or Facebook for additional details. Please contact Carol Arnosky at misbgalore@sbcglobal.net with questions.

Do you know someone who would be a good member in our branch? Now is a perfect time to join!: [Learn More About AAUW Membership](#)

The [Shape the Future Campaign](#) discount of 50% off national dues for new members (those entirely new to AAUW or rejoining after two or more years) remains. Use coupon code STFFY26 through March 31, 2026. Please check with Liz Kapla or Judi Cox for additional information.

Mark Your Calendar

March 12, 2026 at 1:00pm – General Meeting at the Chippewa Nature Center
April 24-26, 2026 – Used Book Sale at the Midland Mall

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

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