



The Twig

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

April
2026

Used Book Sale is Coming Soon!

by Trudy Dutot, AAUW Used Book Sale Coordinator

The Used Book Sale is on the weekend of April 24, 25, 26, 2026. Book donation barrels were put out Friday, March 27th. Barrels are in Kroger, Family Fare, and the two main entrances of the mall. The sort room is in the former Christopher & Banks store. We brought supplies and organized the sort room on Sunday, March 29th. The sort room will be open on Monday, March 30th.

Any help that you can provide is important!

There are several opportunities to help!

- Put price stickers on books and put them in category boxes
- General help in the sort room
- Stack books on sale tables Thursday evening, April 23rd at 7 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 scholarships.

To sign up to volunteer please contact Liz Kapla at 989-631-7365 or email her at ekapla@charter.net

Liz Kapla will be filling in shifts for the sale weekend, set up Thursday evening before the sale, and clean up Sunday afternoon. Please contact Liz at 989-631-7365 or email her at ekapla@charter.net to volunteer during the sale weekend. Spread the word about the sale to family and friends. We need many buyers to achieve the sale income needed to support our scholarships.



President's Message by Carol Arnosky



Be sure to look for our cover story in the Midland Neighbors publication (more information below).

Happy April! Hopefully the real spring will come and stay for a while! I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to daffodils and warm enough weather to start gardening.

This is one of my favorite and busiest months of the year: Book Sale time. The SCRUB team spends many hours setting up the sort room, gathering, sorting and pricing books and ultimately hosting one of the best book sales ever! Please spread the word about our sale to your friends and neighbors. We have flyers to post in your church, salon, and/or favorite businesses. The proceeds from our sale go into scholarships for women from our community, as we continue to empower women to be the best they can be. See you in the sort room or at the sale.

No April General Meeting by Mary Graiver and Mary Harding

With every April comes our Used Book Sale so there is no program this month. Make sure to sign up to work and/or donate to our Used Book Sale instead!



Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 21st to Fly High as we welcome Sarah Pagano, Manager of Midland Barstow Airport, to share the history of the Airport and activities for our community. It will be over lunch at the Midland Country Club.

More details to come in the May Twig!

March General Meeting Success

by Mary Graiver and Mary Harding

AAUW members met Thursday, March 12th at Chippewa Nature Center for our Annual Meeting.

Our presenter, Michelle Fournier, was wonderful in informing us of the numerous opportunities Chippewa Nature Center offers for people of all ages. She told us the history of Chippewa Nature Center (CNC) as well as plans for the future.

CNC offer 2,000 acres of trails and wildlife habitat, a visitor center offering galleries and observation areas, as well as outdoor and indoor play areas and so much more.

There are numerous opportunities for kids, including preschool and summer camps. Michelle told us they had a record-breaking number of kids visit last year; over 24,000!

CNC does offer free admission to the visitor center and surrounding nature but there is also a yearly membership available to receive discounts on programs, store purchases and special events. Membership fees also help educate visitors, provide and maintain nature trails, exhibits and protect habitats, including rivers, woodlands and so much more.

A list of programs, activities, annual events and membership information can be found on their website at www.chippewanaturecenter.org or by calling 989-631-0830.

We also enjoyed cookies from Aviator Cookies during our meeting. They were delicious! Aviator Cookie Company is located on Main Street.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this great program!



Michelle Fournier speaking to our group about the Chippewa Nature Center

Supporting Our Future Nurses: SVSU Nursing Student Emergency Fund

by Judi Cox

Many of you know that I serve as nursing faculty at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU). Over the past several semesters, our faculty have become increasingly aware that some of our nursing students are facing significant financial hardships beyond tuition expenses.

Students have quietly shared struggles with food insecurity, unreliable transportation, and other everyday living challenges that scholarships and traditional financial aid simply do not cover. Despite these barriers, they continue working tirelessly toward becoming the nurses our communities will depend on.

In response, the nursing faculty have partnered with the College of Health & Human Services at Saginaw Valley State University to establish a Nursing Student Emergency Fund. This fund is designed to provide timely assistance when unexpected life circumstances threaten a student's ability to remain in the program.

We are reaching out to organizations and colleagues who share our commitment to supporting the next generation of nurses. I have witnessed the generosity of this organization firsthand and wanted to invite anyone who is able to help us grow this fund and directly support students in need.

Ways to Give

- Online donations: <https://www.svsu.edu/foundation/give>
- Checks by mail:
SVSU Foundation
7400 Bay Rd
University Center, MI 48710
(Please include "Nursing Student Emergency Fund" in the check memo/transmittal.)

Please note there is a Social Work Student Emergency Fund that you can use the same process to give to if you would prefer that instead

While gifts are processed through the SVSU Foundation, the College of Health & Human Services and nursing faculty will manage and steward the funds to ensure students' urgent needs are addressed thoughtfully and responsibly.



Thank you for your consideration and for any support you may be able to provide in helping our students persist, graduate, and ultimately serve our communities as professional nurses.

National Dues Rates

As shared in the April 2025 Twig, a gradual increase in national dues was planned to help support the organization's ongoing work and rising costs. This increase has been implemented over a two-year period.

The national portion of dues has increased by \$2 each year, with the first adjustment taking effect on April 1, 2025, and the second on April 1, 2026.

The updated dues structure is as follows:

- 2025: National – \$74 | State – \$15 | Branch – \$12 | Total: \$101
- 2026: National – \$76 | State – \$15 | Branch – \$12 | Total: \$103

Current members in the last fiscal year should not be advised to renew prior to 4/1/2026 as a host of system updates are underway. We appreciate your continued support and understanding as we implement this planned adjustment, which helps ensure we can maintain the quality and impact of our programs and services.

AAUW Midland to be Featured in Midland Neighbors Publication

by Carol Arnosky

Earlier this year, I contacted Midland Neighbors magazine about our organization and book sale and they agreed to report on this as their April cover story. The editor, Jane Meade-Dean, has been great to work with. Thank you to Trudy Dutot, Gina Pederson, and Jane Wirth for providing additional quotes and information for the article. Also, thank you to Meg Harding, Liz Kapla, Kim Steinke, and Jane Wirth for being part of the 'photo op' for the cover. We hope this publicity will bring customers to our sale, as well as generate interest in our group. Below is the article that will be featured in the magazine. Happy reading.



The cover photo for the Midland Neighbors Publications

Turning Pages, Changing Lives: AAUW Book Sale Returns to Midland Mall April 24-26

Every spring and fall, book lovers across mid-Michigan mark their calendars for one of Midland's most beloved traditions: the used book sale hosted by the American Association of University Women's Midland Branch.

The upcoming sale returns April 24–26 at Midland Mall, where thousands of gently used books, puzzles and media items will be available for readers of every age. Behind the neatly arranged tables and bargain prices is a remarkable volunteer effort — one that has supported education and empowered women in the community for more than 90 years.

A Tradition of Learning and Leadership

Organized May 8, 1934, the Midland branch of the American Association of University Women is one of the community's longest-standing women's organizations. Its mission centers on advancing education and opportunity for women, and the used book sale plays a major role in that work.

The sale itself has a long history. What began as book fairs in 1949 transitioned into used book sales in 1963, eventually growing into the twice-a-year tradition residents know today.

"Ad hoc plans have been refined over the years into an effort that runs smoothly over a six-week period," says Jane Wirth, a member of 55 years who has been involved with the sale for more than 25 years and chaired the team twice.

Since 1963, the sales have raised more than \$718,000 for scholarships and educational initiatives. Today, the branch awards six scholarships annually through the Midland Area Community Foundation, including awards for graduating seniors, women returning to school, trade and technical students, and support for the Midland Believes program. The branch also sponsors two local college students each year to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

"The profits from the sales allow AAUW–Midland Branch to underwrite six scholarships for female college students," Jane says. "These awards amount to \$15,000-plus yearly — an investment in our community."

Months of Preparation

While the sale lasts just three days, preparation begins months in advance.

Trudy Dutot, who joined AAUW in 1995 and has served as book sale coordinator since 2014, says planning meetings start about two months ahead of the event.

"Things such as publicity, when the book collection barrels go out, schedules of volunteers, book prices and assignment of tasks are discussed," Trudy explains.

Collection barrels appear throughout the community about a month before the sale, including at grocery stores and the mall entrances. Volunteers regularly empty them and transport donations to a temporary sorting space inside the mall. There, the real work begins.

"Once we receive the books, we check them, wipe them down if necessary, price and then put them into banana boxes organized by category," Trudy says. "We pride ourselves on having an organized, good-looking sale with lots of high-quality books."

On the Thursday evening before opening day, volunteers — along with members of the Exchange Club of Midland — move more than 10,000 books to the mall's center court.

"It is very busy and often chaotic trying to get all of these books out on the tables," Trudy says. "We work hard but have fun as well."

A Community Built on Connection

For many volunteers, involvement in the book sale is just one part of a deeper connection to AAUW.

Gina Pederson joined after retiring in 2009, encouraged by friends already involved. “I loved the book sale and had friends that worked on it. They invited me to help and I was hooked,” Gina says.

Her motivation reflects the organization’s broader appeal. “Joining AAUW should appeal to anyone interested in meeting with a vibrant and engaging group of women and learning more about the community and the world,” she says.

Carol Arnosky, who joined in 2016 and now serves as Midland Branch president, was drawn to the organization’s mission and membership.

“Our branch has over 70 members, all with varied experiences, careers and personalities,” Carol says. “It is fun to get to know everyone through different activities and our service to the community.”

She adds that the mission is personal. “I have two granddaughters, and I am proud to be part of an organization that will continue to empower women into the future,” she says.

Jane, meanwhile, recalls joining decades ago while seeking connection and intellectual engagement as a young mother. “I was looking for adult stimulation,” she says. “I had heard of AAUW from friends and decided to join.”

Over the years, she participated in study groups focused on reading, art and community education — a reflection of the branch’s wide range of opportunities beyond the book sale.

Finding Joy in the Work

During the sale, each volunteer plays a role in creating a welcoming, organized shopping experience. Carol serves as sort room coordinator leading up to the event and stays busy throughout the sale weekend.

“You will find me constantly walking around, straightening books for our customers,” Carol says. “My watch tells me I average over 24,000 steps each day of the sale.”

For Gina, the reward comes from watching shoppers connect with books. “It is so much fun to watch people getting a book they really want to read — or 20 or 30,” she says. “Seeing the children pick books very carefully always gives me a thrill.”

The sale draws loyal visitors from across Michigan, including collectors and resellers who appreciate the organization and quality. “We have so many repeat customers from all over the state,” Gina says. “That really makes the effort worth it — appreciation and anticipation from so many.”

More Than a Fundraiser

While the sale is the branch’s primary fundraiser, volunteers say its impact goes far beyond dollars raised. Meeting scholarship recipients is especially meaningful.

“In the past, we have had former recipients or a parent come to the sale and say that the scholarship money really helped further their education,” Trudy says.

The experience reinforces the purpose behind the work. “This is such a worthwhile event,” she says. “We get great satisfaction from our hard work.”

Volunteers also point to the fellowship within the group. “The camaraderie is so very rewarding,” Trudy says. “This organization is made up of many interesting and very accomplished women.”

Carol also credits community partners, including Midland Mall staff, for supporting the event year after year.

Mark Your Calendar

This spring’s sale runs April 24–26, opening at 9 a.m. Friday and concluding Sunday afternoon.

Shoppers will find an extensive selection of fiction and nonfiction, children’s books, puzzles, music and more — all carefully curated and affordably priced.

For longtime visitors and first-time shoppers alike, the event offers more than just great deals.

It’s a chance to support education, connect with neighbors and take part in a tradition that has strengthened the community for generations.

As Trudy puts it, “Come to the book sale April 24, 25, 26. We love to talk about the organization — and especially the book sale.”

Join AAUW Midland

Who

Women with an associate degree or higher who are interested in education, equity and community involvement.

Why Join

- Support local scholarships for women
- Connect with 70+ members from a variety of backgrounds
- Enjoy programs, speakers and interest groups

Learn More

Visit midland-mi.aauw.net, find the group on Facebook at **AAUW Midland (MI) Branch, Inc.**, or stop by the April 24–26 book sale at Midland Mall to learn more and take advantage of reduced membership fees.

Mark Your Calendar

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

May 21, 2026 – General Meeting at the Country Club

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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