



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



Annual Dinner Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 6:00pm

[Grace A. Dow Library](#), Community Room, Lower Level

Our branch will celebrate Woman's History Month with dinner and a presentation by delightful creative writer Lindsay Henry Rohde from St. Charles, MI. Ms. Rohde will tell us the trials and tribulations she went through writing her first young adult novel. Her writings have been featured

on such sites as Amy Poehler's Smart Girls at the Party and Huffington Post. She signed with KT Literary Agency in June of 2016 and currently works at Rusted Rooster Media in Midland.

There will be a short business meeting including election of officers and delegates, summary reports of MI AAUW activities as well as branch activities for Equal Pay Day, Midland Women's March and presentation of the Named Gift Honoree award. Dinner will be catered by Shier's Deli & Catering. Dinner will include a choice of soups, wraps, coleslaw, fruit platter, desserts and beverages.

Pre-registration for dinner is required: Dinner charge is \$15. Deadline for reservations is March 13. Make checks payable to AAUW – Midland Branch and send to P.O. Box 30, Midland, MI 48640-0030.

Program Committee: Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, Liz Kapla

Update: Windover High School Walk-In Refrigerator and Freezer Project

Midland Branch collected \$1000 towards a new walk-in refrigerator and freezer for the culinary arts program at Windover High School. In January, Liz Kapla, Terry Townley, Chris Ferrando and Barb Galloway met with Principal Gina Wilson and board member Mary Yeomans to discuss plans to fund the project. The completed project can cost up to \$60,000. It was decided that Principal Wilson would apply to the City of Midland for a Community Development Block Grant. In February, Wilson was selected to give her presentation to the City Housing Commission. The Housing Commission will forward its recommendation to the city council. Wilson will learn if she received the requested grant money by the end of March. Our committee will meet in April to decide our next step in this project. Thank you to all the members who contributed to the project.

From the President ~ Mary Crane-Franek

Earlier this month I watched the film *Hidden Figures* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK8xHq6dfAo>). If you get an opportunity to watch this movie, I highly recommend it. The movie addresses the historical significance of civil rights and women working at NASA, but, more importantly, it also illustrates how discrimination (gender, race, economics, and education) interplay together. These discriminatory forces do not act independently; they overlap and continuously shape and influence each other. The Women's March in Washington D.C. in January (<http://www.aauw.org/2017/01/24/2017-womens-march/>) and our upcoming Michigan Equal Pay Day (<http://aauwmi.org/equal-pay-day/>) on April 25, 2017 are ways that we continue the dialogue to enact change. Also, remember you can also be a [Two Minute Activist](#). Membership in AAUW is not required to use this handy tool to communicate with elected officials. Please continue with our mission.

Branch Officers to be Elected at the Annual Meeting

Pauline Pittsley & Kerry Buell, Nominations Co-Officers

The Nomination Committee has identified the following candidates for the slate of Branch officers: President-Elect: Carol Arnosky; 2st Vice President-Program: Mary Crane-Franek; Communications Officer: Donna Wedge; Nominations Officer: Chris Ferrando and Delegate-at-Large: Deb Kaiser. The election of officers will be held at the annual meeting March 16. Bios for all but Donna were in the February newsletter.

Communications Officer: Donna Wedge has been a member of AAUW since 1988. She was editor of the HELPS booklet for several years and served on the Board of Directors as Secretary. Donna has been very active in the Used Book Sale and enjoys the Reading for Fun interest group.

Nominations Committee also includes: Lu DeLine, Ruth Copp, Barb Galloway & Chris Ferrando



SPREAD THE WORD! Used Book Sale is April 28, 29, 30

Trudy Dutot, VBS Chair

Please mark your calendars now to take part in our Spring Used Book Sale and encourage others to participate. We welcome spouses and friends to help in this endeavor. At the beginning of April, we will begin to collect books and start sorting them on April 3rd. Your help is very important. Please volunteer as often as you can.

- Join the SCRUB team. You can help with one of the many assignments.
- Pick up donated books from grocery stores daily, weekly or as a substitute.
- Put price stickers on books; sort books in category boxes.
- Stack books on sale tables Thursday evening, April 27.
- 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.

You can also help by spreading word about the sale. We get thousands of wonderful books and we need many buyers to achieve the sale income needed to support our scholarships and other educational activities.

To sign up, call Marge Haskell or Pauline Pittsley

New Member ~Judy Donahue, 2nd VP Membership

The Branch is pleased to welcome new member, Mary Gravier.

Branch Awards Scholarships for Women Student Leaders

Carol Plausch, College University Relations

Each year, the Branch uses proceeds from our Used Book Sales to send young college women to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The Branch Committee has chosen two bright and energetic young college women from SVSU for our 2017 NCCWSL Scholarships.

MacKenzie Lukas will graduate in December 2017 with a biology degree. She plans to attend graduate school in pursuit of becoming a professor at a teaching based institution. Sara Chase is a freshman majoring in elementary education..

AAUW Today: The Political Road Ahead

June Turley, Public Policy Chair

The 2016 election was an election that generated high levels of anxiety and controversy. How will AAUW continue its nonpartisan work under President Trump? AAUW has a [12-step program](#) for these uncharted political waters. We intend to approach our ongoing work with both the new administration and the new Congress with our mission in mind. AAUW will work to find common ground with the Trump administration and the new Congress, and we will not hesitate to stand our ground when we do not.



Keep in mind that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

The GOP maintains control of both chambers of Congress. Remember, this is the Congress we have worked with for the past few years; it hasn't changed that much save for the addition of a few more Democrats and a record number of 21 women senators, four of whom are women of color. Our advocacy work will remain focused on [AAUW policy priorities](#). The GOP leadership remains the same, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) leading their respective chambers. While the transition period has seen Republicans coming together, it remains to be seen if Trump administration priorities will align with Speaker Ryan's, and if the Speaker's priorities will be acceptable to the powerful Freedom Caucus — the Tea Party wing of the party that is large enough to block House legislation. As for the Democrats, they voted in Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to be the new Senate minority leader, replacing the retiring Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) as planned. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) retains her position. There is an internal debate among Democrats in both chambers as to what direction they — as the “loyal opposition” — intend to take as they face off with a Republican party that controls the presidency and both chambers of Congress for the first time in more than a decade.

Throughout AAUW's [135-year history](#) we have always stood for solutions that work for all women and families — and we do not intend to stop now. With your active support, AAUW will continue to speak truth to power and fight for gender equity from the White House to the statehouse. You provide the voice; we'll provide the megaphone. Now let's get to work!

Edited from a post by www.aauw.org from 07 Feb 2017. [Read the full article](#).

Midland AAUW's Activities for Equal Pay Day

Judy Donahue, Public Policy Committee

Equal Pay Day is 4/4/17 which symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. June Turley is writing a letter to the Midland Daily News explaining Equal Pay Day and announcing the Michigan Equal Pay Legislative Day Rally to be held on 4/25/17 in Lansing. The later date is due to the legislature not being in session prior to that week.

For 4/4/17 EPD, the Midland AAUW Public Policy Committee is asking Branch members to bake cookies with a “bite taken out”. We also need women to deliver the cookies which will have a flyer explaining EPD. Please write to Judy to let her know if you can do either or both of these tasks. There will be a signup sheet at the March program.

On 4/25/17, the Michigan Equal Pay Legislative Day Rally in Lansing will be held after a breakfast orientation starting at 8:30 am at The First United Methodist Church across from the State Capitol. This briefing will include MI AAUW Public Policy Committee, Virtual Lobby's work on following legislation in Michigan and trying to effect changes that will affect women in Michigan. Immediately after the orientation, which includes a catered lunch, the women attending will walk to the Capitol for a rally with speakers from the legislature, a union representative, activists, and many more. This is the time for women from all over Michigan and especially our branch to make our voices heard on Equal Pay.

Please see the Equal Pay Legislative Day Rally flyer on the last page of this newsletter.

Done in a Day Activities ~ Kerry Buell

Kindness Month in Midland Schools

Kindness was shared during a visit to Floyd Elementary School. On January 31, 2017, two Branch members travelled to Floyd School on short notice. One was with the older children (fourth and fifth grades) and the other with the younger students (kindergarten through third grade) during the lunch periods. A student intern, a counselor and staff designed activities for February to make the school, homes and community into a "kinder" world. Students illustrated or wrote about acts of kindness on pink valentines during lunch time. The valentines were hung on the Kindness Tree in the main hallway.



Kindness Tree

Our team also facilitated older students during the lunch table talk to answer questions like, "What would you do if you were president for one day?" The student suggestions ranged from giving free food; no more homework; the consequences of building walls, and flooding as a result of climate change. Thank you to the staff at Floyd Elementary for providing this opportunity for a Done in a Day project. The students practiced civil discourse, spoke honestly, and heard each other.

Assistance at The Open Door

On February 2nd two Branch members filled slots at The Open Door with set up and warm up of meals for those coming to have a meal and respite from the cold. Another group is scheduled to repeat this service on March 10.

Upcoming Idea for Done in a Day

Habitat for Humanity's Women's Build is scheduled for May 8-12. If you would be interested in participating on Monday or Tuesday, Kerry Buell could lead the team. There is usually a training session on using various tools before the event. Work groups may schedule a morning session followed by lunch or an afternoon session preceded with lunch. Please let Kerry know if you would like to join the group for this effort.

Gardening for Fun Interest Group

This group is dormant for the months of March and April. We will spring into activities in May with a trip to Traverse City for a tour of the Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park. We are considering visiting on either Wednesday, May 24th or 31st. Details will be provided in the April Twig. SEE you in the spring!

Mark Your Calendar

March 2, 7:15 pm	Board Meeting, MPS Administrative Offices, 600 Carpenter St.
March 16, 6:00 pm	Annual Dinner Meeting, GADM Library lower level
April 25	Equal Pay Day Rally, Lansing MI
April 28-30	Branch Used Book Sale, Midland Mall
May 18, noon	Spring Luncheon, Country Club

President: Mary Crane-Franek; President-elect: Kim Steinke; 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando;
2nd VP Membership: Judy Donahue; The *Twig* Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Web sites: <http://midland-mi.aaup.net> <http://aaupmi.org> E-mail: aaupmidland@gmail.com



WOMEN OF MICHIGAN, LET'S RALLY FOR EQUAL PAY

Equal Pay Legislative Day, April 25, 2017, Lansing MI

Midland Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) is calling on all AAUW area branches and other women's groups such as LWV, Zonta, and WOMAN to join us in a rally in Lansing for Equal Pay Legislative Day, April 25, 2017, on the steps of the Capitol. We urge as many women as possible to carpool or drive to Lansing to raise our voices for Equal Pay. Starting at 8:30 am there will be a light breakfast and orientation at the United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capital Ave, Lansing across from the Capitol.

If you are working, have a daughter(s), granddaughter(s), nieces, all women, come and raise your voice. We have been fighting for a long time for pay equal to that which men receive, and if and when women's pay rises, it comes to only a penny or pennies. Government can and must help make the business environment more conducive to women to earn equal pay for the same jobs by creating policies that move businesses in the direction of equality. Come and be heard.

Please contact aauwmidland@gmail.com if you or your group is interested in more information.

4/25 Rally by Michigan Equal Pay Day Coalition

- 8:30 – 9:30 Registration and Breakfast
- 9:30 – 12:15 Issues Briefing and Luncheon
- 12:15 – 12:30 Walk to the Capitol
- 12:30 – 1:30 Rally on the Capitol Steps.
- 1:30 – 2:30 Conversation with legislators

Speakers for the Issues Briefing and Rally

- Mary Pollock -- AAUW Lobbyist
- Joan Bauer – Democratic Party Politician
- Grace Protos – Regional Administrator US Labor Dept.
- Cheryl Hughes – Engineer, EPD Advocate/Activist
- Erika Geiss – MI State Legislator
- Cynthia Estrada – UAW VP
- Many more including possible Gubernatorial candidates

Registration on Facebook Michigan Equal Pay Legislative Rally

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1646488742314301/>

Michigan Equal Pay Coalition website: <https://miequalpay.blog/>

Registration cost - \$15 including light breakfast and catered luncheon