



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

Tour New Central Park Elementary School

Mary Crane-Franek, 1st VP Program



The Midland Public School District is bringing STEM related classes to all its schools by the end of the 2018-19 school year. The newly built Central Park Elementary School is the district's first STEM exploration school. A tour of the school for Midland AAUW and League of Women Voters will take place November 6 at 7:00 pm. Principal Bridget Hockemeyer will lead the tour, with a Q & A session to follow in their new media room.

This tour is not open to the public, but AAUW and LWV members may bring a guest.

We will learn about the STEM curriculum that has been developed for the school to encourage students to consider careers in the STEM fields: **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**ath. The Mission Statement of the school is: *“Central Park Elementary develops compassionate, inquisitive and action-minded students in partnership with community and home. We embrace the cultural diversity and global perspectives within society. Students strive to take action in hopes to create a better and more peaceful world.”*

President's Message ~ Kim Steinke, President

The STEM Labor Market Needs Women!

I hope you have been enjoying the recent warm weather as we turn our attention to a new year of programs. The tour of Central Park Elementary School is just the beginning of a year focusing on the importance of STEM education. An AAUW online article says it best – “The STEM labor market needs women.”

It states: “Although women make up nearly half of all employees in the U.S. economy, they hold only 29 percent of STEM jobs. If women and underrepresented groups joined the STEM workforce in proportion to their representation in the overall labor force, the STEM worker shortage would disappear. [...] Before Title IX many opportunities to advance in STEM were denied to women. These included participation in some advanced courses as well as math and science clubs. Today, girls and women have made significant gains, increasing participation in STEM courses particularly in the biological, environmental, and chemical/material sciences. Despite these gains, gender biases remain in STEM at all levels of education and employment. ... If we truly intend to meet the needs of the 21st-century economy, we must increase girls' interest in STEM and encourage more women to pursue STEM careers. [...] Women are particularly underrepresented in the computing and engineering fields, where they represent 26 percent and 12 percent of workers, respectively.”

Taken from AAUW *Quick Facts*, July 2017 <https://www.aauw.org/files/2017/07/QuickFactsSTEM.pdf>

Branch Officer Nominees Sought

Chris Ferrando, Nominations Officer

The Nominations Committee is seeking to recruit members for election as Branch officers for terms beginning July 1, 2018. Please give thoughtful consideration to becoming an officer if you are contacted by a committee member. Committee members are: Ruth Copp, Lu Ellen DeLine, Barb Galloway, Pauline Pittsley and Jane Wirth.



The following slate of officers will be elected at the 2018 Branch Annual Meeting in March.

President-elect: Assist the president for one year (2018-19) and assume presidency the following year (2019-2020). As president, be the official representative of the Branch, preside at board and executive committee meetings and perform other duties with assistance of the president-elect.

Membership Vice President: (2018-20) Serve as chair of the membership committee.

Finance Vice President: (2018-20) Collect, distribute and account for the funds of the Branch.

Delegate-at-Large: (2018-19) Represent the membership on the Board and assume duties as requested by the President.

Nominations Officer: (2018-19) Chair the Nominations Committee. Prepare a slate of officers and present to the membership for election at the Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in serving our Branch, please contact one of the committee members.

Invitation from Saginaw Branch

A good opportunity to get to know what's happening in the Saginaw Branch

AAUW Saginaw Branch invites Midland Branch members to a presentation by Dr. Samuel Shaheen, M.D., Executive Director of the CMU College of Medicine. He will present an update on the College of Medicine and its future. The program is scheduled for November 18 at 10 am at the Saginaw Country Club.

The program includes lunch, mustard chicken, roasted potatoes, vegetables, salad and dessert. Cost is \$20 to be paid at the door. Please RSVP by November 14 to aauwmidland@gmail.com. A reservation will require a commitment to pay.

Arc Annual Luncheon

Celebrate the work of the Arc of Midland to engage and include people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life at their event luncheon, November 29, 2017, 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Arc invites us to gather at The Great Hall to share their story about community inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



WNEM TV5 News Anchor Colette Boyd will host the fundraising lunch highlighting recent achievements. Arc invites the community to join them as they seek to build friendships, solve problems, and ultimately shape the future culture of our community. To reserve your place at the table contact the Arc of Midland, 989-631-4439 ext. 109.

December Branch Program to Focus on STEM Opportunities

Mary Crane-Franek, 1st VP Program

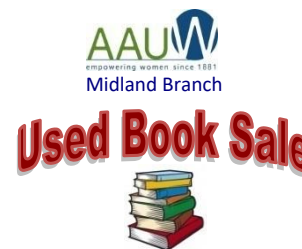
Our annual Holiday Benefit program, 'Tis the Season, will be held at the Chippewa Nature Center. Did you know that Chippewa Nature Center is one of the largest private non-profit nature centers in the United States? Through the years CNC has grown from its original 198 acre parcel and an all-volunteer staff to include over 1,200 acres, 40 staff members and hundreds of volunteers. Over 60,000 people visit CNC every year including 20,000 school children and 700 Nature Day Campers.

Jenn Kirts, Director of Programs, will tell us about the opportunities that abound for children and youth to learn more about nature and its benefits. The Branch focus on STEM this year complements this wonderful Midland County resource.

Thursday, December 7 at 1:00 pm, we will meet at the Chippewa Nature Center and delight you with Holiday desserts and beverages. Look for more information in the December *TWIG*.

New T-Shirts?

It's been many years since we had an opportunity to purchase T shirts that advertise our Branch book sale. We are considering ordering a newly designed shirt. A quality T-shirt with the logo pictured to the right will cost from \$14-15 if we order a minimum of 48 shirts. Shirts are available in both crew and V neck. We can order a mix of both styles.



We also want to offer visors with the AAUW logo on the band that would cost \$6-7. The visors could be sold to members of other AAUW branches.

The order will be placed early in 2018 so we can have them for the Spring book sale. Before going forward, it would help greatly to see what interest there is in the items. If you think you would purchase one or more of these items, please send a note to aauwmidland@gmail.com. This will not commit you to a purchase. We just want to see how much interest there is before committing to an expense. We can order fewer shirts, but the cost of each shirt would go up.

Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 6, 7:00 pm Central Park Elementary School Tour

Dec. 7, 1:00 pm Chippewa Nature Center

Jan. 18, 10:00 am Global Compassion Inc. President Indira Oskvarek

President: Kim Steinke, President-Elect: Carol Arnosky, 1st VP Programs: Mary Crane-Franek
2nd VP Membership: Judith Donahue, The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Web sites: <http://midland-mi.aauw.net> <http://aauwmi.org/> **E-mail:** aauwmidland@gmail.com