



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

COFFEE & MORE

Branch General Meeting, Thursday, January 18, 10 am – noon
Creative 360, [1517 Bayliss St., Midland](#)

Each January, Midland Branch has featured an international program. This year our focus is on a program that helps women and children in India. Indira Oskvarek will talk about Global Compassion, Inc. that has two major outreach programs: International (India and others) and Local Community (Midland area). In India, the emphasis is to provide funding to drill wells for water in remote areas where families and livestock are in dire need of water. The organization also empowers women to attain self-sufficiency by providing sewing machines (along with training), dairy cows and goats. It also provides support for education for children in orphanages. Indira will have much more to tell us.

Indira and her husband Ed are the founders of the organization that started in 1996 and received 501c3 status in 2008. Since 2006 Global Compassion, Inc. has raised \$503,000 in donations and disbursed 97% for outreach. Funds raised go directly to the needy in India, other countries and local projects. The organization is completely run by volunteers. One of their fundraisers is an Indian feast prepared by Indira and friends. Some of you may have attended one of these annual dinners in Midland.

Branch members are encouraged to bring a guest to hear about this remarkable international service. Plan to visit over coffee, tea and a variety of home-baked tea breads, scones and muffins.

We ask a contribution of \$5 to help defray the rental fee and other expenses; there is no charge for guests. Make checks payable to AAUW-Midland Branch and mail **by January 15** to P.O. Box 30, Midland, MI 48640-0030. Contact aauwmidland@gmail.com if you have questions. If you are so inclined, tax deductible donations will be most welcome for Global Compassion Inc.

Mary Crane-Franek, 1st VP Program Development

Nominate a Named Gift Honoree ~ Jane Wirth, AAUW Funds

Who should be selected as our Branch's Named Gift Honoree? It's that time of year and member suggestions are always welcome. The honored person should be one who has supported Branch activities in a significant way and who has also made contributions to the community apart from AAUW. The honoree is able to direct a \$1,000 contribution from our Branch to a specific AAUW Fund. Previous honorees are listed in your Branch Handbook. The most recent honorees are: Mary Crane-Franek, Gina Pederson, and Barb Galloway. Please share your suggestions with Jane Wirth (aauwmidlan@gmail.com).



Happy New Year to All

Kim Steinke, Branch President

Leaders of Tomorrow - Send Them to NCCWSL

Carol Hoerneman-Plaush College /University Liaison

The female leaders of tomorrow are being shaped right now. Do you know a college woman who would benefit from attending the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders \(NCCWSL\)](#) in 2018? The conference dates are May 30 to June 2, 2018 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. Our Midland Branch must be ever observant and vigilant to notice and encourage today's young college women to dream big and take advantage of the NCCWSL Leadership Scholarship that we offer.

Information for this scholarship is on the application found on the Midland AAUW website—<http://midland-mi.aauw.net>. Click on "scholarships." Address questions to aauwmidland@gmail.com.

House Republicans Propose Massive Changes to Higher Education Act

June Turley, Public Policy Chair

"The U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce introduced a bill today that [proposes](#) sweeping changes to the [Higher Education Act](#). The changes would impact a number of AAUW's priority issues, including [student debt](#) and [campus sexual assault](#). The plan would make changes to federal student loan borrowing, income-based repayment, and loan forgiveness. The reauthorization bill also alters the Clery Act, the law that provides much-needed transparency in the fight against campus sexual violence. Stay tuned as this story develops."

Excerpted from [Washington Update E-Bulletin](#), Dec. 1, 2017 (www.aauw.org)

Be a Two Minute Activist

(<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>)

Select: Take Action/
Education

Tell your senators and representative what you think about this proposal.

Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 18, 10:00 am Global Compassion Inc. President Indira Oskvarek, Creative 360

Feb. 15, 1:30 pm Women's Health Issues, place TBA

Mar. 15, 6:00 pm Annual Meeting / Public Policy Program

April 27-29 Used Book Sale

May 17 Lunch at the Country Club

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://aaumi.org/> E-mail: aauwmidland@gmail.com