

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

## Branch General Meeting MICHIGAN ELECTION RESULTS & WHAT'S NEXT

### AAUW MI Government Relations Coordinator

Thursday, November 8, 7:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church, 3703 Jefferson Ave. Midland



Mary Pollock

Mary Pollock, AAUW of MI, will present Michigan Election Results & What's Next at our November meeting. Mary is the Government Relations Coordinator for the American Association of University Women of Michigan. Previously she served as Title IX Coordinator at Michigan State University, worked briefly for the Michigan House of Representatives and then began a 33 year career working for the State of Michigan in human resources management. In 2011, she became the Legislative Representative for the Michigan State Employee Retirees Association. She is the only multi-issue women's rights registered lobbyist and advocate following Michigan state government issues.

Mary handles AAUW of MI priority legislative issues at the Capitol including education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity, economic self-sufficiency for all women as well as equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society.

This meeting is open to the public. Bring your friends to learn how AAUW members and leaders throughout our state and local branches work to ensure our voices are heard on the issues that impact Michigan women and their families.

## President's Message

Mary Crane-Franek

On October 27, four Branch members (Judy Donahue, Pauline Pittsley, Jane Wirth and myself) attended the AAUW Michigan Leadership Conference which was held at Albion College. We were so fortunate to have Kimberly Churches, Chief Executive Officer of AAUW, as the keynote speaker. Kim shared the new AAUW Focus, "Beyond Aspirations: Advancing Equity for Women & Girls." I was heartened by the business process Kim and the AAUW task force took to conduct focus groups, visit state branches, local community leaders, doing in depth research on what things AAUW does well and what areas that other organizations do better. This has led to a new and energized focus for AAUW. Behind the areas of focus are metrics so we can measure our progress. You will be learning more about this as our year progresses.



Mary Crane-Franek, Pauline Pittsley, Kimberly Churches & Jane Wirth



I want to give a personal thank you to Maria Sablo-Yates for her time and effort updating the 2018-19 edition of AAUW Midland Branch **HELPS** (Higher Education Loans, Plans and Scholarships). Midland Public Schools counselors consider it a very valuable resource for their students. This is the 61th edition of **HELPS** which is updated annually and posted online. Find it on [midland-mi.aauw.net](http://midland-mi.aauw.net).

## The Pay Gap Persists

June Turley, Public Policy Committee

In mid-September the U. S. Census released new numbers on the gender and racial pay gaps. The recent release serves as a stark reminder that even 55 years after the Equal Pay Act passed, the pay gap is a persistent issue. Though the disparity has narrowed since the law passed in 1963, improvements have stalled over the last two decades. Women's pay is stagnating at 80 cents for every dollar paid to men. Worse yet, the pay gap for most women of color widened as compared to last year. Maintaining the status quo is unacceptable; a worsening pay gap even more so. The pay gap persists in every state and in virtually every occupation and congressional district. Relying on existing law does not adequately solve the problem.

Collecting pay data is a crucial step in addressing the pay gap, yet in August 2017 the administration halted the collection. Stopping these reporting obligations imposes a substantial obstacle in the fight against pay discrimination. Armed with new information about ongoing pay disparities, we continue to urge the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC, to reinstate this collection.

In the absence of agency action, it is critical that lawmakers pass new and stronger local, state, and federal pay equity laws. Congress has an opportunity now to strengthen existing anti-discrimination law. The Paycheck Fairness Act would bolster the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by prohibiting the reliance on salary history in hiring, strengthening penalties for discriminatory pay practices, banning retaliation for discussion of wages, and supporting further data collection. The bill offers common sense solutions to this problem, but the inaction of Congress leaves women and families shortchanged. Some states have taken up this mantle, but access to discrimination protections should not depend on geography.

AAUW will continue to fight a multi-pronged campaign to close the gap and achieve economic security for all women. We must strengthen the enforcement of current pay equity protections, fight for new laws and initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels, and utilize strategies like training millions of women to negotiate their salary through our Work Smart initiative. Our goal is to foster a climate where pay discrimination is no longer tolerated.

Onward! Deborah J. Vagins, Senior Vice President, AAUW Public Policy & Research 9/14/18

**Keep this in mind as you vote on November 6.**

## Member Congratulations ~Lu Ellen DeLine, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership

Congratulations to Eileen Finzel. Eileen has achieved Honorary Life Member status for 50 years of continuous membership in AAUW.

I will be making calls to remind members who have not renewed their membership. Dues (National, State and Branch) are \$88 of which \$56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Shape the Future campaign is still active with half off the national dues when someone joins at a meeting, a savings of \$29.50. Invite friends to our November 8 meeting and introduce them to AAUW.



## 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, 2019. The following slate of officers will be elected at the 2019 Branch Annual Meeting in March.

**President:** (2019-20) Serve as the official representative of the Branch in the activities of AAUW at all levels.

**President elect:** (2019-20) Assist the president for one year and assume the presidency the following year.

**Program Vice President:** (2019-21) Chair the Committee on Program Development.

**Communications Officer:** (2019-21) Have charge of such communications of the Branch as delegated by the President or the Board.

**Delegate-at-Large:** (2019-20) Represent the membership on the Board.

**Nominations Officer:** (2019-20) Serve as chair of the Nominating Committee.

If you are interested in serving our Branch, please contact one of the committee members: Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, Jane Wirth, Ruth Copp, Pauline Pittsley, Lu Ellen DeLine



## Thank You Letter

Carol Hoerneman-Plaush College /University Liaison

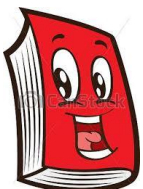
Alina Anderson, one of the student leaders our Branch sent to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) last summer sent this note:

“First, my sincere apologies for not being able to attend the last meeting in person. Second, I want to thank you for the opportunity to attend NCCWSL. In that community I felt I was surrounded by so many women doing amazing things on their campuses and beyond. It was wonderful!

Through this conference I learned of ways to better myself as I enter the work force. I also discovered additional options that I am considering for employment after graduation in May. With your help, these opportunities have been opened to me.

I am thankful for the chance to learn and grow through this experience. I will be leaving to study in China soon, (Nov. 10) and look forward to building on this growth and development in myself.

Sincerely, Alina Anderson”



## Book Sale News

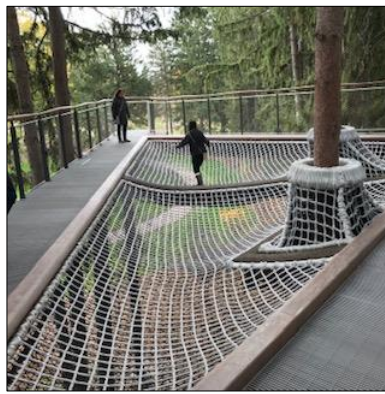
The Friends of the Standish Library held a book sale which included the hundreds of books they picked up from us after our fall sale. They raised \$1200 to benefit their community. Their remaining books were picked up by the used book store in downtown Bay City. Great recycling!

## Interest Group News

Branch Explorers toured the new Whiting Forest Canopy Walk. It is absolutely thrilling. We thank Chris Ferrando, chair of the Explorers Interest Group, for arranging this outing.

None of our members were brave enough to try the net in the photo below, but did walk into the pod seen in the last photo.

*Photos courtesy of member Sandy Collinson*



## Advance Notice ~ Holiday Brunch

The December Branch meeting is scheduled for December 13 at Creative 360. Holiday punch will be served at 10:30 am with brunch at 11:15. Our December program is always special, celebrating the season of giving. This year we will support Midland County Foster Closet. More details will be in next month's Twig, but please put it on your calendar now.

### Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 8, 7:00 pm Branch General Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church

Dec. 13, 10:30 am 'Tis the Season Brunch, Creative 360

President: Mary Crane-Franek ~ 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Chris Ferrando  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership: Lu Ellen DeLine ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Web sites: <http://midland-mi.aauw.net> <http://aaummi.org/> E-mail: [aaummidland@gmail.com](mailto:aaummidland@gmail.com)