



# The Twig

Midland Branch Newsletter ~ June 2019

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

## Branch Contributions 2018-19

The 2018-19 Used Book Sales were very good. The Branch was able to send \$10,000 to the Midland Area Community Foundation to cover our local scholarships (see page 3). We also made contributions at the national level: \$5000 to AAUW Funds to be used where most needed, \$2000 to the Legal Advocacy Fund and \$1000 to be directed by our Named Gift Honoree. A hearty thank you goes to all members of the Branch for these accomplishments.

## Branch to Host AAUW of MI State Convention

*Branch Convention Chairs: Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway & Liz Kapla*

The Midland Branch will host the AAUW of MI State Convention on May 15-16, 2020. Planning has begun for hotel arrangements, registration, convention agenda, times and costs. The H Hotel has been secured for the convention and additional rooms will be reserved at the new Fairfield Inn in downtown Midland.

As Host Branch, we will have many responsibilities and we are counting on our membership's dedication, talent and energy to help us make this a high-quality successful convention. Our goal is to have attendees return to their branches with creative ideas that will stimulate continual growth in their branches and will leave an impact on their communities.

## President's Message ~ Mary Crane-Franek

I recently saw the Broadway Play, "Kinky Boots" at the Midland Center for the Arts. Besides entertaining us, the message the playwright conveyed was accepting others where they are. If we accept this premise, we can accomplish great things. This made me think of AAUW that is all inclusive and accepts everyone without bias. Where there is bias (especially against women and girls), AAUW members try to increase awareness and offer support so positive change can be made to create equality. Please remember this is why AAUW exists and why you are a member.

I attended the Midland Area Community Foundation Scholarship recognition event. Judy Cox, our scholarship chairperson, Pauline Pittsley and I had the privilege of meeting our four recipients and the six recipients of the *Midland Believes* (MB) scholarships. The MB scholarships go to students who are the first in their family to go to college. Our Branch chose to support one of the MB scholarships in addition to our four usual scholarships. We work hard to raise money for scholarships and it is heartening to actually meet some of the recipients. As an aside, two of the recipients are going to college to become teachers!!

This is my last column as your president. I want to thank you for the honor of being your branch president this past year. I want to leave you with the understanding that the Branch is in good hands with the leadership of national President Kim Churches, Michigan President Deb Kennedy, and our new Branch Co-presidents, Jane Wirth and Pauline Pittsley. With their focus, high energy, and strong leadership skills, the AAUW mission will continue as a positive force for change to ensure equality for women and girls.

*I wish for all of you a summer of warm memories. Mary*

## Judy Donahue is the 2019 Named Gift Honoree

Jane Wirth, AAUW Funds

One of the wonderful traditions of our branch is naming a Named Gift Honoree each year—sometimes more than one. The first ones were named in 1946 and over 115 women have been so honored since. The honoree is selected based on significant contributions to both the branch and to the Midland community.

In the short time Judy has been a member of our branch, she has shown her passion for public policy and equal pay. Her contributions have been at the state, as well as branch, levels. In May, she attended a meeting with Governor Whitmer relating to equal pay to emphasize AAUW's concern. Judy has been instrumental in offering AAUW's \$tart\$mart workshop at SVSU. She is an active member of the Midland Area League of Women Voters where she will be Program Director next year. The branch is making a \$1,000 contribution to AAUW Funds at Judy's direction and in her honor.

## Membership News ~ Lu DeLine, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership

**Membership Renewal** AAUW's fiscal year begins July 1. The branch goal is to have all membership renewals completed by June 30. The first notice was sent May 15<sup>th</sup>. We have begun receiving renewals. The second notice will be emailed on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please renew as soon as possible.

**Welcome New Member** **Teresa Beadlescomb** joined AAUW Midland Branch at our May 23<sup>rd</sup> Spring Luncheon. We are happy you were at the April Used Book Sale and decided to join AAUW.

## News from May Virtual Lobby Corps Call

Judy Donahue, Public Policy Chair

**Midland Public Policy Chair's Report on Equal Pay Day Lobbying in Lansing**

Due to the MI Legislature not being in session on 4/2/19, Equal Pay Day, MI Equal Pay Coalition Lobby Day was moved to 5/22/19. Coalition member attendance was low, but spirits were high. About 15 legislators and aides, and Gov. Whitmer, addressed the Equal Pay Coalition members in attendance, stating strong feelings about their support for Equal Pay in Michigan. They were very grateful for the Equal Pay Coalition's lobbying efforts which try to help the pro-Equal Pay legislators' Equal Pay bills reach the Legislature for discussion. I met with Representative Annette Glenn to promote Equal Pay, Closing the Gender Gap.

**Attorney General Dana Nessel Strikes Down Key Provisions on New Signature Rules.**

A controversial measure approved during the MI Lame-Duck session of the 99<sup>th</sup> Legislature to impose new strictures on how petition signatures are gathered for initiated acts and proposed constitutional amendments runs afoul of the Constitution in several key areas, according to Attorney General Dana Nessel. The ruling, Opinion 7310, strikes down two of the main provisions of the measure that critics worried most about: limiting signatures gathered in a single congressional district to no more than 15% of the total signatures collected, and requiring the signatures be collected by congressional district instead of by city, township or county.

**Education – The Education Trust – Midwest**

A report released by The Education Trust – Midwest says that if Michigan does not take steps to improve the school system, it could fall from the current 35<sup>th</sup> place among the states in terms of fourth grade reading to 45<sup>th</sup> place by 2030. Officials with The Education Trust – Midwest said that economic, political and attitudes may currently be such that changes for improvement can be made starting now.

## Done in a Day – Kerry Buell, Done in a Day Chair

Here is a summer opportunity to fix lunches for the expected 250 children from Kindergarten to Sixth grade participating in The Salvation Army's SHARE Program. We would need 5-6 volunteers per day from 8:30 a.m. to about 11:00 a.m. to make sandwiches, cut fruit and bag lunches. The Salvation Army provides all the food; we just supply the woman power. Volunteers are needed for the week of July 22-26. I hope that we have enough women to do at least two days, Monday, July 22 and Tuesday, July 23. Let me know if you would like to participate on one or both of those days; call Kerry.

## 2019 AAUW Midland Branch Scholarship Recipients

Judi Cox, Midland Branch Scholarship Chair

The Scholarship Selection Committee, in partnership with Midland Area Community Foundation, is pleased to extend scholarships to the following four individuals.

### Graduating Senior Woman Scholarship:

**Hannah Ordiway** – Hannah graduated from Meridian High School with a 3.9 GPA and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Hannah plans to attend Ferris State University in pursuit of an Elementary Education.

**Karine Pratt** – Karine graduated from Bullock Creek High School with a 4.0 GPA and dual-enrolled at Delta, where she also maintained a 4.0 GPA. Karine plans to attend Northern Michigan University in pursuit of an Elementary Education degree.

### Woman in Transition Scholarship:

**Mary Jo LaRue** – Mary Jo graduated from H.H. Dow High School. She later returned to Saginaw Valley State University in pursuit of her Bachelor in Social Work. Mary Jo plans to further her degree with a Master in Social Work with an emphasis on health professions to become a hospice social worker.

**Elayne Smith** – Elayne graduated from Midland High School. She then graduated from Saginaw Valley State University with a Bachelor in Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish. Elayne plans to further her degree with a Master in Social Work with an emphasis on Humanities and social/behavioral sciences.

## Midland Believes Scholarship

The Midland Believes Scholarship, initiated in 2017 by Midland Area Community Foundation, is for high school seniors who would be first generation college students. This year, six \$2000 scholarships were awarded to area students.

Based on the success of the program, our Branch committed to support one of the scholarships for two years.

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

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