

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



Celebrate the Season with the Midland Branch

December 5, 2019, 10:30 am GAD Library Community Room

You are invited to a Festive Holiday Brunch catered by Panera. Feast on savory soufflés, fresh fruits, assorted pastries, coffee, tea and holiday punch. Brunch will be served at 10:45 am. The cost is \$10.00 for members and guests. **Reservations are required by December 1.** For the brunch, make checks payable to AAUW – Midland Branch and send to Liz Kapla, 1205 Bayberry Lane, Midland, MI 48640. Contact Liz: ekapla@charter.net or 631-7365.

Janine Ouder Kirk, Executive Director of Shelterhouse, will present *Rebuild and Renew*. She says “Shelterhouse works hard every day to empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence by providing refuge, hope and healing. The issues of domestic and sexual violence occur in all types of families and communities. Shelterhouse provides free, high quality, trauma-informed services which utilize best practices in the fields of domestic violence and sexual assault, and serves community members through education and prevention, providing service in local schools.

Shelterhouse has outgrown its current facility, turning away, on average, 377 families needing shelter each year over the past 5 years due to being over capacity. Services to clients are up 26% this year over last, and crisis line calls increased by 25%. We are building a new, state-of-the-art, trauma-informed domestic and sexual violence housing and service facility with 15 living areas for clients and their families.”

If you would like to donate to the Shelterhouse Rebuild & Renew Capital Campaign, there are several ways you can do it: (a) make checks payable to Shelterhouse (memo line put Rebuild & Renew Capital Campaign) and send to Liz Kapla (do not combine brunch cost and donation in one check), (b) donate at the AAUW Brunch, or (c) donate online at shelterhousemidland.org; mention you are an AAUW member.

President's Message *Jane Wirth, Co-President*

Our branch has started the year with an exciting effort by our Membership VP, Lu DeLine, to take advantage of an AAUW National membership special. As a result our branch has **11 new members!** Lu introduces you to them later on in this issue of TWIG. Do welcome them at our general meetings and in your interest groups.

AAUW National is re-sizing itself and accomplishing its redefined mission with fewer staff and reduced resources. However, Kim Churches, CEO, is heralding our goal of gender equity for women across our country as a conference speaker and via numerous media appearances. AAUW is a significant voice for gender equity.

We're approaching scholarship season and I urge you to spread the word especially about our **Women in Transition Scholarship** for women who have had a break in their post-secondary education. Or perhaps they have determined they need a change to their career path. We offer two \$2000 scholarships for this special group of women. Check our website midland-mi.aauw.net under the “scholarships” tab.

It's also time to look around your family or your neighborhood and encourage a college woman student leader (or potential leader) to apply for our \$1500 scholarship to attend the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**. Previous attendees rave about the experience. See page 2 of this issue for details.

As we head into this holiday season, **we're thankful for the efforts** you as members give to our Used Book Sale. It is a true team effort that allows us to look with great pride at the contributions (approximately \$20,000) our branch makes to the betterment of women locally and nationally. **Thank you!**

Branch Offers \$1,500 Scholarships to Attend 2020 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

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 2020? The conference dates are May 27—May 30, 2020 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Our Midland Branch must be ever vigilant to notice and encourage today's young college women to dream big and take advantage of this NCCWSL Leadership Scholarship. Deadline to apply for the scholarship is January 29, 2020. All the information for this scholarship is on the application form found on the Midland AAUW website <https://midland-mi.aauw.net>. Then click on "scholarships" tab. Address other questions to Carol Hoerneman Plaush cchp43@gmail.com.

Consider AAUW Funds for Your End of Year Contributions

Jane Wirth & Pauline Pittsley, Co-Presidents

You may be considering your year-end contributions this month and AAUW would be a worthy organization to receive your generosity. You can specify your contribution to "AAUW Funds" and allow our leadership to use it where the need is greatest. This allows AAUW the greatest flexibility to respond to the challenges facing women and girls and to sustain the viability of the organization. You may search out individual funds at aauw.org and be specific about their use. Contributions at the national level are fully tax-deductible.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund has long been a favorite for donors; endowment funds like this one now stand at \$120 million, a level to sustain them for years into the future. Therefore, donors are encouraged to direct contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund. Let's channel our giving to support the AAUW mission most effectively.

At the local level, our Branch's used book sale proceeds fund four scholarships for local women and one Midland Believes scholarship for a student who is a first generation college student. Contributions to this effort can be directed to the Midland Area Community Foundation specifying the AAUW Scholarship Fund - either the endowment fund or the spendable fund; they also are tax deductible.

To those of you who contributed last year or during this year - a hearty THANK YOU!

Branch Officer Nominees Sought

Barb Galloway, Nominations Officer

The Nominations Committee is seeking to recruit members for election as Branch officers for terms beginning July 1, 2020. The following officers will be elected at the Branch Annual Meeting, March 2020:

President (2020-21); **Membership Vice President** (2020-22); **Finance Vice President** (2020-22);

Delegate-at-Large (2020-21); and **Nominations Officer** (2020-21). Please give thoughtful consideration to becoming an officer if you are contacted by a committee member. Committee members are: Barb Galloway, Chris Ferrando, Liz Kapla, Ruth Copp and Lu Ellen DeLine.

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

Michigan Citizens Redistricting Commission

Judy Donahue, Public Policy Chair

According to Michigan Secretary of State, Jocelyn Benson, applications are now being accepted for the Citizens Redistricting Commission. An application is available online at www.redistrictingmichigan.org. Secretary Benson states that "all applications must be printed and notarized before being returned to the Michigan Department of State by June 1, 2020". Statewide, Secretary of State branch offices are offering free notary services for this application starting in December. Otherwise, please visit Michigan.gov/FreeNotary to find free notary services.

Done in a Day ~ Kerry Buell

Several Branch members have signed up to be hosts for Zonta's Homewalk. They invite you to join them on either December 7 or 8, from noon – 5:00 pm. The Homewalk is Zonta's fundraiser to provide scholarships for women and grants to area nonprofits. The five tour homes will be lavishly decorated for the holidays. Every volunteer host is given a tour of the home and assigned to an area. Hosts generally stand in the home during the walk, though we can provide a spot to sit if needed.

Each volunteer gets a ticket to tour the other homes on the day they are not volunteering. Please sign up with Kerry Buell at k2buell@aol.com or 989-835-4542 to participate. Indicate if you can work either date or just a specific date. You will be contacted by email, so please provide your email if you are not currently receiving messages for Done in a Day events.



Membership ~ Lu DeLine, 2nd VP Membership

AAUW's member renewal deadline was extended to October 31. Our member renewals were terrific this year. Four members did not renew for various reasons. Eleven new members joined Midland Branch in September. The net gain in membership is seven. Our roster now stands at 65 branch members and 16 life members, for a total of 81 members. Our members who helped with recruiting did a great job. An updated member directory is in progress and will be distributed shortly.

Meet Our New Members – great additions to our Branch!

Carolyn Graham, a prior member of AAUW, has rejoined the Midland Branch. She is a Midland resident and has lived in Hong Kong and Tokyo. Carolyn and her husband Gary have two daughters, Cynthia and Angela, and five grandchildren. Now retired, Carolyn taught Special Education and was a bookkeeper in various locations around Midland. Carolyn is very busy with volunteer activities which include several at First United Methodist Church, the gift shop at the hospital, currently holding offices and sitting on two volunteer boards at the hospital. Carolyn is a member of Daughters of American Revolution and a P.E.O. chapter. She enjoys reading, sewing, and doing counted cross-stitch as time permits.

Nancy Jewitt was born in Missouri, raised in Iowa, and moved to Midland in the fall of 1966 after she and her husband finished school. Nancy's husband worked for The Dow Chemical Company until he retired in 1995. Nancy worked as an accountant for Mears CPG in Rosebush, Michigan. In 1999 they moved near Indian River, Michigan. Nancy's husband passed away in 2016 at which time she decided it would be better to move to a less isolated area. Midland became her home in the fall of 2018. She has two sons, one in Ohio and one in Lansing. Her 3½ year old English setter still thinks he is a puppy. He is her work in progress, probably permanently. Nancy's hobbies are reading, yoga, playing bridge and pinochle, shopping and exploring the web.

Ann Moe grew up in Rogers City and graduated from Rogers City High School in 1959. She attended Alma College and graduated in 1963. Ann took additional classes at the University of Michigan and Central Michigan University. She taught in Midland and Tecumseh elementary schools. Ann married, and had two children. Eventually divorced, she worked at a graphic arts agency in Saginaw, plus several ad agencies in Midland. Ann went into business for herself, writing, editing, and proofreading. She remarried in 1997. Ann's son David, lives in a small village near Copenhagen, is married, and has a son. Her daughter lives in Midland and works at MidMichigan Medical Center. While in high school and college, Ann was in the concert and marching bands. Currently, she is busy with her church and is honored to have served at regional and national levels, meeting many faithful, intelligent, and well-educated people. Plus, she got to travel, which she (generally) loves! Currently, Ann serves on the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Board.

Kari Battaglia was born and raised in Midland. She is a 1978 graduate of Midland High School. She attended the University of Miami in Florida for her undergraduate work in Marine Science and Economics. At U of Miami she was in the marching band and studied music. Kari did her graduate work in Economics at North Texas State University (now University of North Texas). She has lived in Denton, Texas since 1984 and has been a member of the Economics Department faculty at UNT since 1986. Kari is married with five children, four boys and one girl (Larabeth). She likes to travel, read and sew.

Larabeth Battaglia was born and raised in Denton, Texas. At 24, Lara is our youngest member. She was raised in a home filled with music, dogs, cats and four older brothers. Lara graduated from Southern Methodist University in 2018 with a degree in Music Education. Her instrument is a double bass. She loves Michigan and spent many childhood summers at her grandparent's cottage near Lake City, MI. Her love of Michigan was enhanced with four summers spent at Interlochen Center for the Arts near Traverse City. At Interlochen she was honored to perform with the World Youth Symphony Orchestra. Lara will continue her music studies pursuing a master's degree in performance starting in 2020. Lara's time is spent with practice and more practice on her bass, with time out for her cat, Kitty.

Suzanne Ostahowski was born and raised in Midland. She earned a degree in Math/Computer Science from Michigan State University. She worked as a Systems Analyst for Dow Chemical. After her children were born, she decided she really wanted to teach. Suzanne got a secondary education degree and a Masters degree from SVSU. She taught at Dow High for 18 years and retired 2 years ago. She currently works part-time tutoring students in math. She is married to Mark Ostahowski and they have two children, Dan and Kate, and one grandson. They also have two flat-coated retrievers that keep her active. Her hobbies include cooking, baking, reading, kayaking and canoeing, hiking and backpacking, and working with glass.

Tina Predmore lived in Detroit, then moved to West Branch for her sophomore/senior years of high school. Tina joined the Air Force and moved to Texas and Mississippi for training. From there she lived in: California, Ohio, California, Japan, Kentucky, Germany, and now in Midland. As a military spouse, due to the transient nature of her husband's career, she worked in jobs across a myriad of industries. She currently works for the US Army as the Soldier and Family Assistance Program Manager in Lansing, Michigan. Her husband served in the Army for 25 years. He retired and now works for the Veteran's Administration. Their daughter Kayla moved overseas, got married and had a baby. She graduated with honors from the University of Illinois. Daughter Sarah graduated from the University of Illinois and is teaching at a middle school in Illinois. Kevin is currently a senior at H.H. Dow where he is in the marching band and was accepted into Symphonic Band. He also volunteers for organizations inside and outside of the school. Tina's hobbies include reading and volunteering. She is interested in personal development, leadership, community building, and empowering others.

Patti Devlin moved to Midland from Brighton MI in 2018 after she retired. Her husband, Brian, is still working in Lansing. Patti was a contract employee at U of M hospital as a Medicaid Advocate. Her team assisted under/uninsured patients in obtaining health coverage. Patti has three stepchildren; Henry (24), Charles (21) and Grace (19). She loves to travel to new places. Patti and Brian like history and their trips usually are to places of historical interest to them. Patti is deep into planning for their trip next year to Paris, Normandy and Provence.

Annette Clapp is from the Midland area and has only lived outside of Midland while attending Michigan State University. Annette is a Multisystemic Therapist at Community Mental Health for Central Michigan working with teens on probation and their families. She previously did crisis intervention work at the same agency and has worked there for 10 years. She and her husband, Andy, have two little ones. Linnea is three and Beckett just turned one. They are very fun but keep their parents running. Annette and Andy are currently remodeling their home so Annette does not have much time for hobbies right now, but likes to read when she can find time.

Melanie Kline lived in Queens, NY and attended Hunter College in NYC graduating with a BSN. She had always done maternal child health nursing, and was a Personal Health Services Supervisor for Central Michigan District Health Department before she retired. Melanie came to Clare MI as a newlywed. There she and her husband raised two sons. They also have two wonderful daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren ranging in ages from 21 to 9. The three oldest grandchildren are in college. Melanie and her husband lived in Clare until July, 2015 when they move to Midland. The following year, Melanie's husband died in October, 2018. Melanie is very involved in her church's women group on the local, zone, and district level. She holds offices on the zone and district level. She loves to read, do crossword puzzles, and enjoys watching sports on TV - especially football and baseball.



**Wishing you a Joyful
Holiday Season**



Mark Your Calendar

December 5	Thursday, 10:30 am, Christmas Luncheon, GAD Library Community Room
January 23	Thursday, 10:00 am, General Meeting, GAD Library Community Room
January 29	Deadline to apply for NCCWSL scholarship
March 1	Deadline for Branch scholarships
March 19	Thursday, 6:30 pm, Annual Meeting
May 15-16	AAUW MI State Convention at the H Hotel
June 4	Thursday, 11:30 am, Spring Luncheon

Co-Presidents: Jane Wirth & Pauline Pittsley ~ 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando
2nd VP Membership: Lu Ellen DeLine ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

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