



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

General Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, February 18, 7:00 pm

Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Abolitionist Project Works to Eliminate Human Trafficking in Great Lakes Area



Darlene Anderson, chair of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Michigan Abolitionist Project (MAP) will speak on human trafficking in Michigan at our February 18 Zoom meeting. The mission of the Michigan Abolitionist Chapter is “to grow the movement of people and organizations working to prevent and end human trafficking in Michigan and beyond.” MAP defines human trafficking as a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his or her will. Members of MAP also help victims to use their gifts and talents to prevent them from becoming victims again.

Michigan reports hundreds of human trafficking cases each year ranking among the 10 worst states in the nation. The Michigan Legislature has passed several reforms on human trafficking; the most recent initiative helps survivors protect themselves through an address confidentiality program. The Michigan Legislature will continue to work on human trafficking legislation in 2021-2022. They want to make sure that trafficking victims are treated like victims and not criminals.

The national organization of AAUW is working on this issue. AAUW wants more effort from all states to pass legislation to defeat this problem. AAUW says all states should have statutes in place that address protecting victims, prosecution and prevention. Protection must include provisions that cover safe harbor, victim assistance, civil remedies, the ability to vacate convictions for survivors and strict hotline postings requirements. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Midland Branch members are invited to participate in this Zoom General Meeting.

Branch members will receive the link to the meeting on February 17th via E-Blast.

President's Message ~ LuEllen DeLine

Reaching Out....

Please contact Barb Galloway if you know of anyone in our branch that needs some kind words. Barb will send a card out to them from our membership. During these stressful times, a thoughtful gesture can be much needed and appreciated. Contact Barb.

Thank You...

Last fall we posted a notice in the Twig that Midland Volunteers-Recycling would gladly accept returnable bottles and cans from those who don't want the hassle of returning them to stores during the COVID-19 lockdown. Contributions have increased considerably; the director reports they are averaging \$500 a month. Thank you to those members who donated recyclables. If you want to donate, the center is located at the city landfill, 4305 E. Ashman St.- open Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4 pm and Saturday 9 am - 1 pm.

Branch Officers to Be Elected at the Annual Meeting

Barb Galloway, Nominations Officer

The Nominations Committee, consisting of Ruth Copp, Chris Ferrando, Deb Kaiser and Liz Kapla, extend their appreciation to the following candidates for the slate of officers for 2021-23. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting on March 18, 2021.

President (2021-2022): Carol Arnosky

1st Vice President-Program Development (2021-23): Chris Ferrando

Recording Secretary (2021-23): Barb Galloway

Nominations Officer (2021-22): Ruth Copp

Communications Officer (2021-23): Teresa Beadlescomb



Winter Mini Fundraisers for Scholarships

“Puzzles & More” Trudy Dutot, Used Book Sale Chair

This has been a tough year for our used book sales. The 2020 Spring and Fall sales were cancelled because of Covid-19, and so far it doesn't look like we can hold the Spring 2021 sale. As a result, our scholarship funds are very low. As soon as we are able we will resume our book sales. In the meantime, we are looking to raise some money for scholarships by having small fundraisers within our branch.

Last September we had a small book sale. We raised almost \$300 from that sale. Now Gina Pederson has graciously donated 68 puzzles to sell to our members. They range from 500 to 2000 piece puzzles. The puzzles are in excellent condition. If you are not a puzzle person yourself, you might know someone who is. The puzzles would make great gifts for many who are homebound these days.

This fundraiser is in the planning stages, but we wanted to give you advance notice to watch for it. **An email detailing the sale and procedures will be sent separately.** As always, we will follow Covid protocols.

Another way to contribute to our scholarship fund would be to make a donation.

Would you have purchased books at the book sale? Please consider a contribution commensurate to what you may have spent at the sales we were unable to conduct. Checks can be made out to AAUW Midland Branch, noting that it is for the scholarship fund. Send checks to Liz Kapla, Branch Treasurer.

Or to qualify for a tax deduction, make checks payable to Midland Area Community Foundation (specify “AAUW Scholarship Fund” in memo line.). Mail to MACF, 76 Ashman Circle, Midland, MI 48640. You can also go to MACF's online donation page to make donations with Visa or MasterCard. Find it at www.midlandfoundation.org

Mark Your Calendar

February 18	Zoom meeting - 7:00 pm
March 18	Annual Meeting, Midland Country Club - time to be announced
April	No meeting
May 20	Spring Luncheon, Midland Country Club - time to be announced
	President: LuEllen DeLine ~ 1 st VP Program: Chris Ferrando
	2 nd VP Membership: Judi Cox ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

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