



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

President's Message ~ Lu Deline, President

As this AAUW fiscal year ends, a special thank you to all members for helping Midland Branch as we navigated our way through a pandemic. It was challenging at times, but we all pulled together to mark another successful year.

The innovative Zoom meetings with AAUW, AAUW Michigan and Midland Branch kept us connected. Midland Branch utilized our Zoom subscription for general meetings (including elections), book club meetings, other interest groups, and Branch board meetings to name a few.

Our traditional spring luncheon at the Midland Country Club was a joyous time shared with friends while enjoying a delicious menu. A genuinely nice way to close the year. Our guest speaker, De'Ondre Hogan, presented the many ways he will be guiding MPS as its first Diversity Director. We are looking forward to another program with Mr. Hogan with a progress report as MPS proceeds with implementation.



De'Ondre Hogan, MPS Diversity Director



Last, but not least, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the wonderful tribute you paid me with Chris Ferrando's presentation and a beautiful bouquet of flowers. It was a great year to be an AAUW member.

Thank you, members, for supporting our mission in so many ways. Have a great summer and we will see each other again at our September meeting.

Used Book Sale, Sept. 24-26 2021!

It has been a LONG 18 months! Covid-19 forced us to cancel three book sales! Infection rates have declined significantly due to the vaccine, so we now feel it is safe to have a book sale this fall. Also, in accordance with CDC recommendations, the State of Michigan has relaxed many restrictions which will enable us to have the used book sale.

Announcements will go out to the membership and community when more details are available. For now, start collecting books and reserve those dates to help with the sale. Everyone is excited to get working on the book sale again!

Looking forward to stacking books.



Rainy Day Fund & Member Donations Assured Scholarships

Liz Kapla, Finance Vice President

The Midland Branch's 'rainy day fund' or savings account has been a wonderful advantage during this past year. Our branch traditionally puts \$8000 into our scholarship fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation each year to support four scholarships for women. We also send \$7000 to the national organization each year to help with AAUW's mission at the national level.

We have been able to make these contributions each year because of our very successful book sales. We have now missed three sales, so we used rainy day funds and the very generous donations to the scholarship fund this year that many of our members made. Our ultimate goal is to grow our scholarship fund until it becomes self-sustaining. We wish to thank each one of you for your generosity.

Our other expenses include general meetings, insurance, and such things as helping fund the Equal Pay Day billboard on the highway and the MCTV election debates. All our spending is aimed at supporting the mission of AAUW. Thank you for your help.

Membership Renewal ~ Judi Cox, 2nd VP Membership

Renewing AAUW memberships is underway. If you have not taken the opportunity to renew your membership, please check your email for an invoice in the next few days. You may renew online, or please send your check directly to Liz Kapla, Finance Officer. Her address will be on the invoice. We are optimistic about the used book sale this Fall and meeting in person once again.

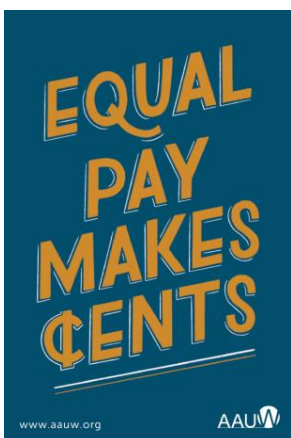
Fifth Graders Learn About Gender Equity and AAUW

Carol Arnosky ~ incoming Branch President

AAUW-Midland was recently asked to talk to a great group of fifth graders: The Gender Equity Ensurers. I met with them via Zoom, and we discussed many issues, from Breaking the Glass Ceiling to the current U.S. Women's substandard soccer pay and benefits issues and the NCAA Basketball discrepancies (which they had heard about and followed). I told them about our organization and the AAUW national initiatives, Work Smart and our scholarships, and other ways we are all promoting Gender Equity. I received a very nice thank you note, and they said they learned "so much about AAUW and we will definitely use it in our report to educate others about AAUW, too".

The group will ask their teacher to "share our final project with you so you can see what we have done and how we are slowly changing the world!"

Kudos to these fifth graders and their teachers!



2021 AAUW Midland Branch Scholarship Recipients

Judi Cox ~ Midland Branch Scholarship Chairperson

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



Graduating Senior Woman Scholarships:

Grace Chae— Grace graduated from H.H. Dow High School with a 3.87 GPA. While attending school she was active in track and field, as well as the school orchestra as a violinist. Grace plans to attend the University of Michigan in pursuit of a S.T.E.M. degree as a software engineer where she hopes to make a difference by “creating software that provides safety, ease, and efficiency in people’s lives.”

Taylor Todd – Taylor graduated from H.H. Dow High School with a 3.93 GPA and dual enrolled at Delta her senior year. While attending high school she was a member of Pom and the Midland County Youth Leadership program, where she participated in student led classes. Taylor plans to attend Grand Valley State University in pursuit of a Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree where she aspires to be a part of helping individuals in the medical field by providing “the basis of a patient’s diagnosis” through imaging.

Woman in Transition Scholarships:

Emma Johnson – Emma graduated from Houghton High School. She is an activist and an educator. She is attending Central Michigan University in pursuit of a Master in History. Emma attended Delegation #62 where she met with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists as well as the United Nations of Jerusalem. Through her time with Delegation #62, her journalist job, and her studies in history, she feels she has been afforded “background knowledge and techniques for...communicating ideas to improve society.” She aspires to be a professor where she hopes to teach, write books, and “consult for military occupation and social movements”.

Lyndi Smith – Lyndi graduated from Pleasant Grove High School, where she was active in soccer, swimming, basketball, and field hockey. She is a single mother of 5, who in recent years has returned to school in pursuit of a Management of Information Technology major with a minor in cybersecurity, which she hopes to apply in the healthcare setting. Lyndi is currently attending Northwood University for this degree.

The 2020 AAUW Scholarship Selection Committee consisted of reviewers David Wirth, Terry Townley, and Carol Sarnacke. Judi Cox represented the AAUW Midland Branch during this process. This Committee evaluated 22 Graduating Senior Woman and 14 Woman in Transition applications. Each reviewer used a matrix with points awarded for academic achievements/merit, extracurricular activities, work experiences, potential benefit to society, family financial need, and application preparation. The review Committee selected 6 candidates from each category which were then forwarded to the Midland Area Community Foundation for final selection.

NCCWSL Update ~ Carol Hoerneman-Plausch, College/University Liaison

Due to the COVID-19 concerns, the 2020 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) was postponed. Our 2020 NCCWSL scholarship winner Sasha Boileau chose to join the 2021 Virtual Conference.

Here is a note from Sasha: **Reflections on NCCWSL Virtual Conference**

"I really enjoyed the NCCWSL virtual conference! There were many powerful speakers; one that really helped me was the financial information panel where we learned about managing our money and how to finance the beginning of our adult lives, which I personally needed guidance on. I am from a very poor background and finance knowledge about topics such as savings, stocks, and credit score are not something I am well versed in. We learned quite a bit about how to build a good credit score and how this helps to act both responsibly and independently. It makes it easier to get loans and advance your life as many of us are getting our first homes, apartments or getting our first cars and getting our first career level jobs. Some methods we talked about were things like buying a small amount, like \$35 worth, of items on your credit card that you know you can easily pay back at the end of the month to better your credit score. It helped to make credit cards less frightening and less 'off-limits' in my mind. I feel like I am able to take more control over my finances in order to reach my goals. We also talked about the importance of being in control of our own funds, being involved and active and outspoken if there is a partner involved in our money. I truly value that empowering lesson and the practical advice and strategies they offered."

"YOUR SPECIAL DAY" Interest Group ~ Barb Galloway



We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our members. Almost \$600.00 worth of gift cards have been donated to our newly created interest group. We are now able to provide birthday cheer for those staying at Shelterhouse. Brightening a child's special day with a birthday cake and a gift or bringing a smile to a woman on her special day with a bouquet of flowers and a gift card is our goal. We have three birthdays this month and one coming in July. Our deepest appreciation for making this possible.

We are always looking for others to join our group. Members choose a birthday to be responsible for and then arrange for the cake, etc. and deliver the gift to the Shelterhouse. Please contact Pauline Pittsley.

Your Special Day, a Shelterhouse Project is the name for this new Midland Branch group.

President: LuEllen DeLine ~ 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando

2nd VP Membership: Judi Cox ~ The Twig Editor: Pauline Pittsley

Web sites: <https://midland-mi.aauw.net> <https://aaummi.org/> E-mail: aaummidland@gmail.com