



The Twig

Midland Branch Newsletter ~ February 2022

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

General Meeting Speaker to Address Branch Concerns February 24, 1:00 pm

In light of continuing Covid concerns, this will be a Zoom meeting
so you can participate in the comfort of your own home.

Earlier this year your branch leadership expressed particular interest in AAUW's public policy priorities related to: voting rights, family and medical leave, reproductive health decisions, freedom from violence, and access to quality, affordable health care among other priorities. A lively presentation concerning these issues by Mary Pollock, Government Relations Coordinator AAUW MI, will inform and energize us. Mary will also update us on the most relevant bills before the Michigan legislature. Guests are invited to participate in this Zoom meeting. Guests should send their emails to Carol Arnosky at with the subject: February Gen. Mtg. Branch members will receive reminders for the meeting. Members and guests will receive the link to the meeting via e-blast on February 23.

President's Message ~ Carol Arnosky

Work continues for our branch to achieve Five Star Recognition from AAUW Michigan; our board has tasks related to Programs, Advancement, Communications, Public Policy plus Governance & Sustainability. With regard to the last Star, we are looking for a Diversity and Inclusion officer.)

We are reaching out to our sister AAUW branches in Saginaw and Bay City for future meetings collaboration to achieve the Program Star, and continue to build our social media presence for the Communications Star. Thank you to everyone involved!

February is the month of Love. "All You Need is Love", "Love is in the Air", "Puppy Love", "Endless Love" ... no matter what your favorite Love song is, I hope you hear it this month and Love!

Branch Scholarships Given a Boost ~ Jane Wirth, Past President

Wonderful ideas take shape on the golf course—why not the Farmers' Market! A Branch member and I both approached a stand at the market on a Saturday morning last fall, she engaged me with the comments that she had been a member of the branch scholarship selection committee; she knew there were numerous students in need of support for further education and the cost of college continues to increase. She and her husband wanted to add to our four branch academic scholarship awards! Could that be worked out?

Several options were discussed at two subsequent meetings "at the market" and the involvement of the Midland Area Community Foundation, where she and her husband have a donor-advised fund, and our branch scholarship chair, Judi Cox, ironed out details.

The Midland Branch is most grateful to accept an additional \$500 for each of our four academic scholarships over the next five years. This contribution will raise those four awards to \$2500 each. The basic awards come from the success of our used book sales, of course. If you, too, might be inclined to supplement our branch scholarship fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation, contact Judi Cox.

Branch Officers to be Elected at the March Annual Meeting

Ruth Copp, Nominations Officer

I would like to give a big thank you to the committee whose effective contacts created this slate of officers. The Nominations Committee, consisting of Lu DeLine, Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, and Liz Kapla, extends its appreciation to the following candidates for the slate of officers for 2022-2024.

President (2022-2023): Carol Arnosky - Carol joined AAUW in 2015 after retiring. She is a graduate of Florida State University and the University of Houston (MBA). She worked for 25 years at Tenneco Oil Company and The Dow Chemical Company. She is the current Branch President and has been Communications Officer, a member of various interest groups and the Used Book Sale.

1st Vice President-Program Development (2022-2024): Chris Ferrando - Chris joined AAUW in 1972. She is the current VP for Program Development. Chris has served the Branch in many roles including: President, 1st VP Program Development, General Meetings Chair, Used Book Sale Chair, Interest Groups Chair, and chair of various Interest Groups including Reading for Fun and Explorers. Chris received her B.S. in elementary education/sociology and her M.A. in remedial reading. She taught at Douglas Elementary School in Garden City, MI and at Chestnut Hill in Midland.

Vice-President-Finance (2022-2024) - unfilled at this time

Recording Secretary (2022-2024): Mary Crane-Franek - Mary is the current Branch Communications Officer. She has also served the branch as President, 2nd VP Membership, Secretary and 1st VP Program Development. She joined AAUW in 2004. Mary retired from The Dow Chemical Company after 31 years in Business/Marketing Communications. She volunteered at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in Bay City.

Nominations Officers (2022-2023): Ruth Copp and Barb Galloway - Barb joined AAUW in 2010 and is currently the Secretary. She has served as 2nd VP Membership, Parliamentarian, Delegate-at-Large, and Nominations Officer. Barb co-chairs the Reading for Fun interest group and is chair of Matinees-and-More. Barb earned a B.A. degree in art history from Michigan State University. She worked at Jacobson's in East Lansing as department manager and assistant personnel director. In Midland, she managed the Book Nook..

Ruth joined AAUW in TX in 1984 and in Midland in 1986. She has been Delegate-at-Large, Secretary, and is currently Nominations Officer. She chairs Book Lovers, and participates in Matinees and More, the new Shelterhouse group, Reading for Fun, Explorers, and BIBBS (Books-in-Bag) reading group as well as helping at the Used Book Sale. Ruth has a B.A. in English and Sec. Ed. with a French teaching minor from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, and an MAT in reading from SVSU. She has taught high school English in NJ; substituted in MPS (grades 7-12); been adjunct in English at Northwood University; and Lecturer of English at SVSU. Her interests are reading (particularly nonfiction), crosswords, and traveling.

2nd VP Membership (2022-2024): Judi Cox - Judi joined AAUW in 2017 and is the current 2nd VP Membership and the scholarship liaison. She is also vice-president of Sigma Theta Tau—Theta Chi chapter, a nursing honor society. Judi earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Mid-Michigan Community College, a Master of Science in Nursing from Walden University, and is finishing a Ph.D. in nursing with a specialty of nursing and online education from Walden University. Judi has been a nurse since 2007 and has worked in long-term care, medical surgical, oncology, emergency care, imaging and diagnostics, and in COVID services. Currently she teaches as an Asst. Professor of Nursing at SVSU, and is a registered nurse at Covenant Health System. She volunteers for the Midland County mobile pantry, SVSU's Writing Center, and domestic and international medical missions. She

Communications Officer (2022-2024): Teresa Beadlescomb - Teresa joined AAUW in 2019. She is a member of Reading for Fun and helps with the Used Book Sale. She has a B.S. in psychology from Eastern Michigan University, a Master of Library Science from Wayne State University, and a Master of Social Work from Wayne State University. Teresa earned a Doctor of Social Work from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She is currently an Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, at SVSU. Before SVSU, Teresa was with Henry Ford Behavioral Health, Washtenaw County Mental Health and Washtenaw County Juvenile Court. She enjoys kayaking, reading, golf, live jazz, and art museums.

Delegate-at-Large (2022-2023): Annette Clapp - Annette joined AAUW in 2019. She has helped with the Used Book Sale and is looking forward to getting more involved in AAUW. She received her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from SVSU, and her Master of Social Work from Michigan State University. She worked for Community Mental Health for CMU for ten years doing family therapy and crisis intervention and is now a school social worker.

Diversity and Inclusion Officer ~ Carol Arnosky, President

This is a new board office for 2022. The Diversity and Inclusion officer will collaborate with the state Diversity and Inclusion officer. It will be an appointed office renewable every 2 years. Since this is a new position, the officer will be involved in developing guidelines with help from the State DI officer. As in the past, the City of Midland and Midland Public Schools can be very helpful with programs or ideas. Please let Board President Carol Arnosky know if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Featuring Our Interest Groups

This month Chris Ferrando tells us about the Explorers Interest Group.

The Explorers Interest Group evolved from the Decorate Arts Interest Group. The group met to design and craft various pieces of art. Each member took a turn at teaching an art project. Some of the most memorable projects were in designing and creating jewelry, making macramé belts and purses, designing and making Japanese's Print Designs to be framed, Christmas and Easter ornaments as well as a Bonsai Tree. We occasionally took trips to various art museums. It was the difficult and frustrating adventure of making the Bonsai Tree that led the group to take a different approach to the Arts. After many discussions, it was decided to explore the various art and other venues in the Tri Cities and beyond.

Explorers Interest Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except June, July and August) at 10:00 am. We "explore" a wide range of fascinating events in the Tri-Cities and beyond. Lunch (optional) and discussion follow the program. Some of our noteworthy exploring adventures include: touring the Alden B. Dow Home & Studio, Whiting Forest & Canopy Walk, learning about the care of the terminally ill at the Toni & Trish House, visiting the Rock Steady Boxing Studio to learn how boxing helps fight Parkinson's Disease, all the local museums, a demonstration of the Letourneau organ at Memorial Presbyterian Church, lunch at an Amish home in Clare, and a tour of the Midland Water Plant.

New members and guests are always welcomed. Contact Chris Ferrando.

Mark Your Calendar

February 24, Zoom meeting at 1:00pm

May 6-8, Spring Used Book Sale

April 29 & 30, AAUW-Michigan Annual Convention

President: Carol Arnosky ~ 1st VP Program: Chris Ferrando

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

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