



The TWIG

AAUW Midland Branch Newsletter

October
2023

President's Message by Carol Arnosky

By the time you are reading this, we will have had our successful book sale. Those of us who worked on it enjoyed all the interesting books that were donated, and we always marvel at the generosity of our community. Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale.

You've heard the saying "all politics is local". I urge you to pay attention and/or get involved at the local level. Local issues are what affect us every single day. Democracy is at its best when informed constituents are vocal and the need for growth and

change is expressed. You can watch City Council or Commission meetings, either in person or on MCTV. Read the Midland Daily News. Write letters to the editor. Become a Two-Minute Activist as Jane Wirth outlines in her article below. Apply for and attend the Midland Citizens Academy, held in January. I promise you will enjoy it and learn a lot about the city, no matter how long you have lived here.

I hope you will enjoy all Tricks or Treats that come your way in October!

October Branch Meeting by Chris Ferrando

Banned and Challenged Books at Libraries

Wednesday, October 18, 7:00 pm

Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

Community Room (lower level handicapped accessible)



Miriam Andrus, Director of the Grace A. Dow Library, will be our keynote speaker. Andrus possesses a Level 1 certification from the Library of Michigan. She received a Bachelor's degree from Brigham University and a Masters of Library Science from Clarion University. Andrus served as the director of the Big Rapids Community Library where she oversaw a variety of enrichment projects. Most recently, she directed the creation of a Seed Library and construction of the first literacy playground in Michigan. She has served on several regional and statewide boards and commissions related to literacy, library operations, and quality of life initiatives.

Andrus will address why attempts to ban some books from public libraries have increased in recent years. According to the American Library Association, there were 1,269 efforts to censor books and other resources in libraries in 2022. She will also address the issue why voters in one Michigan town defunded a library over a dispute related to LGBT content and why elected officials, parents and conservative groups including Moms for Liberty say they are advocating for book removals because the titles are inappropriate for children and students. Those opposed the bans are saying it's a disservice to students because it threatens First Amendment rights. Who is right? Who is wrong? Will the court ultimately decide this issue?

The Branch Program Committee welcomes members, guests and prospective members to the October meeting. Come and find out if your favorite book or author is on the banned list of books.

Program Committee: Chris Ferrando, Barb Galloway, and Liz Kapla

AAUW Fall Book Sale by Trudy Dutot and Pauline Pittsley

We truly appreciate everyone who helped with the sale. It takes a village: community donations and purchases, Target loaning us carts, Exchange Club help, Midland Daily News publicity, and our great UBS team. Gross sales were \$16,593, which, after expenses, lets us provide around \$14,500 in scholarships to women in our community.



People shopping for their next great read.



Ready for shoppers after weeks of hard work.



Movers Steve Arnosky and Mike Dutot (not pictured: Joe Sepesy)

Branch members, spouses, and friends listed below are to be thanked for their contributions towards the success of the sale. Special thanks to the Exchange Club for bringing out the filled banana boxes the night before the sale and for helping to put books out on the tables.

thank you

Wendy, Katy, & Dom
Altmeier
Carol & Steve Arnosky
Roxanne Brooks
Kerry & Kelly Buell
Sandy Collinson
Judi Cox
Judy & Tom Donahue

Trudy & Mike Dutot
Chris & Dick Ferrando
Barb & Tom Galloway
Berta Gebo
Robin Glenn
Mary Graiver
Mary Harding
Marge and Tom
Haskell
Carol Hoerneman-
Plaush

Marie Johansen
Paula Jonas
Jean & Bob Julier
Deb Kaiser
Liz & Roger Kapla
Jan Lanter
Ann Moe
Alice Morgan
Laila & Candy
Oudman
Gina Pederson

Pauline Pittsley
Joe Sepesy
Teresa Shannon
Peter Sinclair
Kim Steinke
Val Trabucchi
Nate VanBlancum
Sharon Voss
Donna & Roy Wedge
Allison & Neal Wilcox
Jane & Dave Wirth

Scholarship Recipients Update

by Carol Hoerneman Plaush, College/University Liaison

Our members were all thrilled that Kaitlyn Wilson, one of our scholarship winners to NCCWSL, attended our September Brunch to give her report and appreciation. Several copies of Olivia Getzinger's report and appreciation were on each of the tables at the Brunch!

Both women are very impressive recipients of our Student Woman's Leadership, NCCWSL Scholarship.



Carol Hoerneman Plaush and Kaitlyn Wilson