

## Celebrating 50 Year Members by Carol Arnosky

We are excited to celebrate Paula Jones and Christine Ferrando who are both 50-year members of AAUW Midland Branch!

Paula Jonas has been a member of our branch since 1965. During this time, she has been Recording Secretary, NCCWSL committee member, Twig (monthly newsletter) Editor, and chairs of Independent Readers and Decorative Arts. She also worked at our semimanual book sale for many years. Paula states "I value the connection AAUW provides to the community and the emphasis it places on education at all times and at all levels."



*Paula Jonas*



*Christine Ferrando*

Christine Ferrando has been a member of the Midland Branch of AAUW since 1972. Her activities at the branch level include serving as branch president, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president of programming (currently), delegate-at-large, and public policy chair. She chaired several AAUW Used Book Sales, served on the Midland Branch Scholarship Committee for women and girls, and chaired several study groups including Reading for Fun, Decorative Arts, and Explorers. The many years in AAUW have provided Ferrando with life-long friendships and has given her many opportunities to join them in helping empower the lives of women and girls.

Our branch is very fortunate to have many current members who have devoted 50 or more years to the AAUW Midland Branch and they are: Mary Lou Angelotti, Ruth Blair, Christine Dunn, Eileen Finzel, Marjorie Haskell, Cathy Heng, Carol Hoerneman-Plaush, Betty Huntress, Mary Sydney Matuska, Alice Morgan, Pam Murchison, Sharon Salinger, Carol Sarnacke, Nan Skochdopole, Jane Wirth, and Laura Young.

## Fun Tales from the Book Sale Sort Room

by Carol Arnosky

Jane Wirth is on a first name basis with the Produce Guy at Meijer. She has been picking up banana boxes for many years, as our book sale has grown. This was the first year that she also found a bonus: A nice ripe banana in one of the boxes! She took it home and shared it with her husband Dave (aka Box Man). We also had a question from a mall walker who stopped to ask if the boxes were actually full of bananas and commented that it must have been a very hungry monkey! We explained that the 250 banana boxes each contained 30-40 books, so what he saw was 10,000 books for our sale.



*Jane and the banana boxes*

## Have You Voted? Title IX Basics

by Jane Wirth, Public Policy Chair

### There are two voting deadlines ahead:

- A special election on May 7 for renewal of the operating millage for Midland Public Schools. Visit your usual precinct to vote unless you have requested an absentee ballot which should already have arrived in your mailbox. Return it by mail or deliver it to city hall by Election Day and be sure you sign the envelope!
- AAUW's election period ends May 15. Exercise your privilege to vote for national officers, bylaws amendments, AND the question on opening AAUW's membership to all who support our mission. Your directions for voting either came to you via email or you received a paper ballot via mail.



**Basics regarding Title IX.** “Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education, protecting staff and students in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. This includes local school districts, colleges and universities, for-profit schools, career and technical education programs, libraries, and museums. music, choir, sex education classes, and sports involving bodily contact are exempt from Title IX, as are religious institutions if the law would violate their religious tenets. Admissions policies at private undergraduate institutions are also exempt.”

Source:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-title-ix/>.

For additional reading:

<https://www.aauw.org/issues/education/title-ix/>.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-applauds-updated-title-ix-rules-from-u-s-department-of-education/>.

**This year AAUW is “awarding \$6.25 million to 260 exceptional fellows and grantees** to achieve their academic and professional goals or lead community-based projects that empower women and girls!” Midland Branch contributions to our national association over the years have helped enable the significant base that supports this activity. Be proud!!

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## The Passing of Sharon Lane – Former Midland Branch President

by Chris Ferrando

Long time AAUW branch member, Sharon Lane passed away peacefully on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2024. Born in Defiance, Ohio, Sharon was a devoted educator and a lifelong learner. She earned her cadet teaching degree from Slary Slanse College, a Bachelor's Degree from Defiance College, and a Master's Degree in English from Purdue University. Her passion for teaching extended to Purdue where she taught English composition before moving to Midland.

Sharon and her husband moved to Midland in 1970. In Midland, Sharon continued her dedication to education, teaching elementary school and leaving an impact on her students. Beyond the classroom, Sharon was known for her vibrant personality, quick wit, and boundless generosity. She was an active member of the bridge community and participated in numerous reading groups. Sharon was named the Branch Gift Honoree in 1986 and was President of the Midland Branch of the AAUW from 1993 – 1995.

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### Mark Your Calendar

May 11, 2024 – State Convention at the Detroit Marriott, Livonia  
May 16, 2024 – May Branch Meeting, Midland Country Club, 12:00 pm  
April 3-May 15, 2024 – Vote on opening AAUW membership  
September 27-29, 2024 – Used Book Sale

President: Carol Arnosky • 1<sup>st</sup> VP Program: Chris Ferrando  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership: Judi Cox • The Twig Editor: Annette Clapp

Websites: <https://midland-mi.aauw.net> <https://aawumi.org/> E-mail: [aauwmidland@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmidland@gmail.com)