

## Gaylord Area Branch

Advancing equity and  
education for women and  
girls since 1976.



Winter, 2017

### When the Gaylord Area Branch Meets:

Unless otherwise announced, the 2nd Wednesday - from September to June at noon

### Where the Gaylord Area Branch Meets:

Unless otherwise announced,  
University Center  
80 Livingston Blvd.  
Gaylord, MI 49735

### Website/Facebook/Email

<http://gaylord-mi.aauw.net/>.

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWGaylord/>

[aauwgaylord@gmail.com](mailto:aauwgaylord@gmail.com)

## Officers of Gaylord Chapter:

- **President, Margo Noss:**  
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- **Membership VP, Ashley Ochoa:**  
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- **Advocacy Group Coordinator, Julie Marlette**  
[juliem6575@gmail.com](mailto:juliem6575@gmail.com)

## Tech Savvy Conference Registration begins February 14



On April 29, AAUW Gaylord Area Branch will be holding the 4th annual Tech Savvy Conference for girls from 6th-9th grades. The conference will take place at the University Center and Gaylord High School. The conference highlights STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects with hands-on workshops and other presentations designed to inspire girls to pursue education and careers in math and science.

The conference has nine workshops planned for this event, of which each student chooses two. Several colleges will be represented, and there will be a panel discussion/question-and-answer segment with women who are working in STEM-related fields. While the girls are attending the workshops and presentations, adults will have the opportunity to attend sessions about STEM education and careers.

This is the branch's largest annual event and requires the help of many members and friends. Jessica Hellenberg is the volunteer coordinator.

Students who have aged out of the event and interested adults can contact her at: [hellenberg09@gmail.com](mailto:hellenberg09@gmail.com).

The next Tech Savvy planning committee meeting will be at 12:30 pm on February 25 at The Congregational Church

## Woman Making History Luncheon

In March, the AAUW Gaylord Area Branch will be holding its 25th Woman Making History Luncheon. At this event, the branch honors a woman who has made a difference in our community. Among the past recipients are Pegi Jenkins, Bonnie Vance, Jill Miner, Betsy Hogan Sanders, and Judge Patricia Morse.

Renee Elias, the chair of the event, will be holding a committee meeting on February 7 at 12:15 pm at Alpine Tavern in Gaylord.

At this event, a silent auction of baskets donated by members takes place. This is one of the branch's biggest fund raisers and allows at least four scholarships to be granted to deserving women from the community. Most of the baskets are themed, such as a couple of movie DVD's with a bottle of wine, popcorn, and a few other items for "Date Night at Home". Another basket might contain many kinds of chocolate. Others might be for a quilter or a knitter. Mary Tomaski, the organizer of the auction, will be sending out a request for baskets with some suggestions.

**Next Branch Meetings: February 8th, March 8th and April 12th.**

## Advocacy Group

The newly-formed AAUW Gaylord Area Branch Advocacy Group held its first meeting in January.

The group discussed what it means to “advocate” in the context of AAUW’s three national public policy priorities: education equity, economic equality, and individual rights. The group also reviewed proposed legislation in Michigan in each of those areas, and talked about the biggest issues facing women in Otsego County. It was noted that “women’s issues” are really issues that impact families and the local economy, and should be addressed as such.

Based on the discussion, the group decided to focus its initial efforts on pay equity and benefits (such as child care and sick leave) that have a disproportionate impact on women in the workforce. The next steps will be to gather relevant county-wide economic data, check on the status of pay equity/benefits bills and other activities at the state level, and research how AAUW’s salary negotiation skills training might be integrated into Tech Savvy.

Any AAUW GAB member interested in learning about and addressing inequalities and opportunities that affect local women is welcome to join the Advocacy Group by contacting Julie Marlette at [juliem6575@gmail.com](mailto:juliem6575@gmail.com)

## Meet and Greet Membership Event

The AAUW GAB membership committee has scheduled a “Meet and Greet” to encourage women to join our organization. The event will be at the Gaylord Council for the Arts from 4:30-6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 3. It is scheduled to coincide with Equal Pay Day 2017, which takes place the April 4. This date symbolizes how far into the new year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. Pam Alexander will be making a presentation about the inequality of pay between women and men doing the same jobs. Watch for the e-blast that will be sent to confirm the “Meet

and Greet” membership drive.

Also, the Membership Committee welcomes new member, Helen Mate.

## Christmas Gifting

The AAUW GAB over \$700 towards gifts for three deserving local women who needed help. Stacy Burns of the Women’s Resource Center recommended the three women. One recipient’s most pressing need was for gas cards to pay for her college commute, and another needed baby diapers. The branch presented them with some cash, and many gift cards. The women were very surprised and very appreciative.

## Website Members Only Page

AAUW GAB has a members only website. If you have forgotten the password for this page, please email Jessica Kane ([jeskane@gmail.com](mailto:jeskane@gmail.com)) or Ashley Ochoa ([ashley\\_lynnmi@hotmail.com](mailto:ashley_lynnmi@hotmail.com)). On the Members Only section of the website there are a number of useful resources that we encourage all members to explore:

- **Member Opportunities for Involvement:** This section outlines a range of opportunities for participation to suit every member, those who have constraints that allow for minimal participation, as well as others who are looking for more active involvement.
- **Meeting Minutes:** View copies of our minutes from the last year.
- **Member Contact Information:** Contact information (email, phone, address) for all Gaylord members.
- **Member Profiles:** Get to know your fellow members better. This document includes photos as well! Starting in Feb 2017, new members will receive the survey link to enter their information for their Member Profile. Check out the document and if your information is missing or incorrect, email [jeskane@gmail.com](mailto:jeskane@gmail.com) and she’ll send you the survey link.
- **Budget:** View a copy of our branch’s fiscal year 2016-2017 budget.

## Facebook

There are a variety of ways for members to be involved on Facebook. Check out these tips :

- **Like the Public Page:** “Like” our public-facing Facebook page. You can find it at: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Gaylord/>
- **Follow the Page for Frequent Updates:** If you would like to see posts from our AAUW GAB page in your news feed on a regular basis, you can click on the “Follow” button right next to the “Like” button. There you can select In Your News Feed “See First.” You can also turn notifications on here, so you’ll receive notifications about this page’s activities.
- **Like and Share:** PLEASE like and share our posts whenever you see them. This increases the reach of our posts and makes it more likely that it will show up in other people’s (AAUW members and non-members alike) news feeds.
- **AAUW GAB Closed Group:** There is also a closed Facebook group for AAUW GAB members only. This is a more informal page where members post things that they think other members might find interesting, but not particularly related to AAUW. If you’d like to be part of this group, make sure you are Ashley Ochoa’s ‘friend’ on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ashley.lynnmi>). Then send her a private Facebook message asking to be added to the closed group.

## Book Group

The Book Group usually meets at noon on the third Wednesday of each month at the Congregational Church on South Otsego in Gaylord. The February book is *Hillbilly Elegy* by JD Vance. This non-fiction book chronicles the struggles of poor whites, especially those trying to raise themselves into the middle class. It is felt that this book might shed light on the recent presidential election.

Anyone is welcome to attend the book group for the discussion. Contact Brenda Brummel at [brendabrummel@me.com](mailto:brendabrummel@me.com).