



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

Website: <http://marquette-mi.aauw.net>

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)

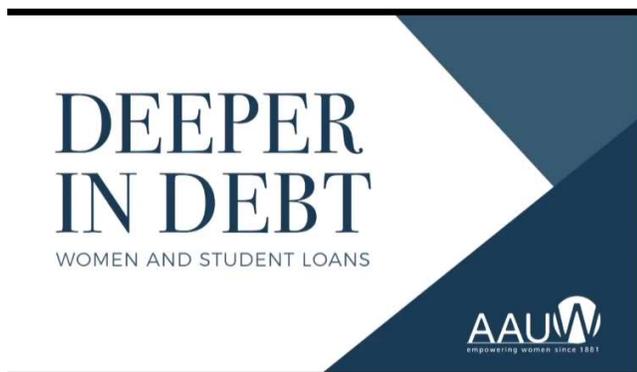
From the President

You will notice that our March branch meeting is a week later than usual, to accommodate those who are on NMU's Spring Break. On Thursday, March 15 we will have a meeting with several worthwhile reasons to attend! 1) Ruth Ziel will present on the very timely issue of Women and Student Debt. See article below. 2) Marge Forslin will share a non-partisan Promote the Vote campaign and how we can help. 3) The Book Sale committee will have sign-up sheets for both the Potluck Work Bee, and duties during, before, and after the sale. Posters will also be available. 4) In addition, we will have several guests, including our Martha Griffith's Award Recipient for outstanding senior woman in her major. All good reasons to meet up again soon.

*Regards,
Meg Goodrich*

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 15, 7 PM
Deeper in Debt



On Thursday, March 15, at 7 pm at the Federated Clubhouse, Ruth Ziel will share with us timely analysis and information based on a recent AAUW national study of the effects of college student debt in America, focusing especially on women. A college education has long been viewed as the great equalizer -- the road to better jobs, better income and home ownership. But the cost is rapidly escaping the grasp of less affluent students and is crippling the futures of those encumbered by debt.

A major contributor to the problem is the decline in state funding for public colleges and universities. At its peak, in the 1980s, state funding covered two-thirds of the actual cost of tuition at public institutions, with students and families providing the remainder. That ratio is now reversed: the burden of two-thirds of the cost of tuition must be born by the student and (where possible) her family. For those with insufficient means, the shortfall typically must come from borrowing, both federal and private. And, with tuition consuming so much of whatever dollars may be available, students can find themselves suffering from food insecurity and even homelessness while they struggle to complete their studies. Then, upon graduation, the student is faced with an immediate need to start repaying a daunting amount of debt. And she faces great financial peril if she encounters any interruption in employment.

This is a women's issue. Statistics show that women students typically need to take on more debt than do men. And because of the gender pay gap, they must repay it more slowly and so at greater cost. In fact, today nearly two-thirds of the total outstanding student debt in the United States is owed by women. The burden of this debt can hamstring these women for many years. And, statistically speaking, all these problems are more acute for women of color.

After surveying the national data, the program will turn to a local focus, examining some of the challenges facing students at NMU and strategies employed by the university to try to overcome these impediments.

This important program will provide much food for thought as well as possible action. Come listen and learn and engage!

S.T.E.M. Program

Volunteers Needed

The S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Program is our donation to 180 6th and 7th grade girls in schools at Alger and Marquette county. We raise money from organizations and businesses. We pay all the

expenses for the event. This will be held on Friday, May 11, 2018, at the Seaborg Center at NMU. We do this every other year.

We need some volunteers to help distribute the papers to the girls and teachers, direct the girls to their classes, help serve lunch for everyone, check out the classes, etc.

We need 6 volunteers from 8:30 a.m. To 12:30 p.m. We also need 4 volunteers from 11:30 a.m. To 2 p.m. Please let me know if you can come and help or if you need more information.

Kathy Davis, 228-4197

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

Cheers and Jeers for the Department of Education

CHEERS: The U.S. Department of Education plans to open a Title IX investigation at Michigan State University to assess the institution's response to sexual misconduct accusations regarding the sexual misconduct by faculty member Larry Nassar. The University made changes in its response to sexual harassment and violence in 2015 after a Title IX investigation. Now this investigation is looking at compliance with the Clery Act. The Department of Education Office for Civil Rights is joining the offices of Federal Student Aid in looking into systemic issues. AAUW supports this comprehensive review.

JEERS: On the other hand, the U.S. Department of Education is considering backing a proposal that protects student loan debt collectors from the laws that were put in place to protect borrowers from abusive and deceptive practices. It prohibits state governments from regulating companies that collect student debt on Department of Education's behalf. This proposal reverses a position by the Department of Education allowing states to hold federal student loan service accountable.

Equal Pay?

At the state level, Mary Pollock testified on behalf of AAUW opposing SB 353 which would prohibit local governmental bodies from setting standards for job interview information requirements for employers. The State of Michigan has no standard on asking pre-employment questions about salary. HB. 4516 amends the Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act to prevent a Michigan Employer from inquiring about past compensation and benefits during the hiring process. Asking questions about prior salary and benefits perpetuates the wage gap faced by women and

people of color. We want employers to pay what the job is worth to their organization.

The White House Budget includes cuts to education and training investing in the work force. Cuts are afoot for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) also known as food stamps. Please call legislators and ask them to end the thoughtless cuts to programs which help families survive and pull themselves out of poverty.

I am still waiting for more suggestions on how we can bring attention to Equal Pay Day, April 10. Please email your suggestions to: krapport@chartermi.net.

*Karlyn Rapport
Public Policy Representative*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Jane Ryan



I grew up in East Lansing, Michigan and in May will join my EL high school classmates for our 60th reunion. I attended U of M engineering school in the era when women were not encouraged or welcomed into engineering and although I did well academically, I decided not to follow that

career path. Quite happily I returned to East Lansing and earned my BA in history in 1962 at Michigan State, and taught middle school for a year while my husband, Randy, completed his veterinary medicine degree. After two years in the west while Randy served in the Veterinary Corps, we returned to Michigan and in 1968 moved to Marquette so that Randy could pursue his veterinary career and the family could enjoy the many benefits of life in the Upper Peninsula.

Spreading coursework out over several years while raising two sons, I earned a MEd from NMU in 1981. I substitute taught, taught full-time at the "original" alternative high school, several years on the MGH Youth Unit, and then for many years at Graveraet Middle School.

The League of Women Voters was my first volunteer activity in Marquette and it proved to be a wonderful way to meet like-minded women and learn about the community. Its mission appealed to my history and political science background, but when it disbanded, I was drawn to AAUW. I've been a member off and on, and here I am joining again. I support the goals of AAUW and greatly admire it as an organization.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION



As you prepare your taxes for 2017, **\$46 of your National dues is tax deductible** as a contribution to AAUW's 501(c)(3) education fund. Most of us pay dues of \$95--\$49 to National, \$12 to State, \$9 to our branch, and \$25 for membership in the Federated Women's Clubhouse. The amount of your donation toward our Scholarship Campaign is also tax deductible.

BRITNEY REESE 2018 Martha Griffiths Award Recipient

The Marquette Branch of the American Association of University Women gives an annual Martha Griffiths Award to a high-achieving female senior at NMU. The award is in honor of one of Michigan's most influential women legislators in the last half of the 20th century. Martha Griffiths is known for exceptional work with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and for getting the Equal Rights Amendment to the House floor for a vote in 1970.

The Martha Griffiths Award received 27 inspiring nominations. All 26 nominees (one candidate was nominated twice) have accomplished remarkable work at NMU. We applaud NMU's 27 nominators. We will have an opportunity to meet several of our nominees and nominators at our March 15 meeting. These outstanding female undergraduates have demonstrated exceptional potential to create positive outcomes in our society.

This year's Martha Griffiths Award winner is Britney Reese, nominated by Professor Jeffery Horn of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department. Britney receives an award certificate, a recognition dinner at our Book Sale, and \$250 in cash.



Britney is from the Upper Peninsula town of Rock, Michigan. She is a Computer Science major and a Mathematics minor who excels with technical material and problem-solving skills. Britney demonstrated her outstanding abilities in mathematics and computer programming in a Discrete Mathematics course of 30 students. The professor accidentally assigned a homework problem well above the ability of most undergraduate mathematics majors. Britney was the only student to answer the question correctly, and she shared her approach with the entire class. She had rediscovered an approach proven only in the middle of the twentieth century.

In addition to her top academic performance in the traditionally male-dominated field of Computer Science (and finishing her major in just three years), Britney found time and energy to make steady and significant contributions to outreach within the local community and State of Michigan. She developed the entire public web interface for the registration system to the Michigan Math Prize Competition, which received over 1,000 participants statewide. For the last three years, she led several group discussions with grade school children during their visits to the Northern Evolutionary Robotics Laboratory.

Britney assumed technical leadership roles and headed a team of male NMU Robotics Club members who built and programmed the new quadruped walking robot for the Northern Evolutionary *Robotics* Laboratory (NERL). She led in deciphering the programming interface of a vintage computer (Timex-Sinclair) and wrote a working program for the computer for NERL. Rarely had an undergraduate student mastered Computer Science technical material and applied this knowledge to so many novel situations.

Britney's work for the Michigan Math Prize competition and her support of NMU as host of a statewide event demonstrated her ability to deliver high-visibility technical solutions to a large audience, on time, and in the service of her discipline, university, community, and fellow students. Britney's exceptional leadership, enthusiasm, and problem-solving skills in the field of computer science will position her to inspire future generations of women to achieve successful careers in a highly relevant, decidedly challenging, and typically male-dominated field. Congratulations, Britney!

Judith Puncochar
College/University Relations/NMU

Please bring your Econo slips to the next meeting.

The First Ladies Social of 2018



Host Les Bek as First Lady Edith Wilson

... is in our herstory book!

Our February program “First Ladies Social” proved again to be engaging and educational. With time travel and imagination on our side, host First Lady Edith Wilson welcomed former First Ladies Abigail Adams, Betty Ford, Julia Grant, and Lady Bird Johnson. Twenty-five AAUW members and guests learned about the influences and causes of these First Ladies in contrast and comparison to the varying eras. From Abigail Adams, an advocate for women entreating her husband to “remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors....All men would be tyrants if they could....we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or Representation.”

Approximately 175 years later, from Betty Ford, “the overarching theme of my years as First Lady was equal rights for women. I worked hard to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. On my final day as First Lady, surrounded by a White House filled with cardboard boxes, and staff gathering for bittersweet

goodbyes, I passed by the empty Cabinet room table. I had always wanted to dance on that table. It was



my what-the-hell moment. Some have referred to as a Tabled Resolution.”

A creative twist to the evening was Marge Forslin’s sharing of Betsy Ross’s role in changing the planned design for the American flag from six- to five-pointed stars. Marge Forslin taught attendees how to create Betsy Ross’s five-pointed stars with a single cut. Contact Marge for the pattern, if you are interested.

Les Bek, Program Co-Chair



ABOVE:
AAUW members Meredith Kulisheck, Jane Ryan, and Sue Payant listen intently as the special guests tell their fascinating stories.



LEFT:
Karlyn Rapport as First Lady Betty Ford



Host First Lady Edith Wilson with Ruth Ziel as First Lady Abigail Adams



Donate Your Used Books to Help Us Fund Scholarships

Spring cleaning? Don't discard those used books; instead, donate them to benefit scholarships for women.

Every year, the Marquette Branch of the American Association of University Women offers scholarships to women to help further their studies. As NMU student Jessica Barber, a 2017 scholarship winner, described, "My AAUW scholarship is making it possible for me to complete my associate degree in Surgical Technology and bachelor's degree in Clinical Health Science. Ultimately, I dream of using my education to help patients with safe and effective surgeries, and I'm grateful to AAUW for helping this dream come true."

Funding for scholarships like these is dependent on proceeds from the AAUW's annual used book sale, this year scheduled for **April 26 through 28**. The sale, in turn, depends on contributions of used books from the whole community.

Beginning March 13, 2018, please donate used books at any of four Marquette locations:

- Marquette Community Credit Union, 1230 W. Washington
- UP Medical Center, 1414 W. Fair (main entrance near information desk)
- River Valley Bank, 1101 N. Third
- First Presbyterian Church (Bluff Street entrance)

For more information or for special arrangements for large-quantity donations, please phone Jackie at 250-6170 or Pat at 250-5392.

*Renee Leow and Marlene Woo-Lun
2018 Book Sale Co-Chairs*

AAUW's StartSmart TRAINING 2018 "Women to Women" LeadHerShip

"Women for Women" is an NMU Housing and Residence Life student group located in Halverson Hall. The group is comprised of women who seek to promote education, service, and leadership throughout the NMU campus and the community at large. The organization works together with local community organizations on issues related to health, sexuality, equality, empowerment, and civil rights to raise awareness of societal concerns.

On Sat 24-Feb-2018, [Women for Women](#) hosted AAUW's [StartSmart](#) training at their second annual LeadHerShip workshop. StartSmart is a national AAUW financial negotiations training program for women. AAUW-Marquette member Janel Crooks facilitated StartSmart at the LeadHerShip workshop.

StartSmart presents AAUW's research on the gender pay gap and allows women to learn the significance of negotiations on closing the gender pay gap. Newly



graduated women during their first year after commencement are paid significantly less than their male

counterparts are for the same work. Women who negotiate could increase their salaries significantly and obtain better benefits packages.

During the LeadHerShip afternoon workshop, participants practiced their StartSmart negotiation style through facilitated discussions and role-play guided by Janel. Ten women actively gained confidence and honed their skills and ability to identify and articulate their personal work value.

For more information on the LeadHerShip series, contact Brooke Tharp (btharp@nmu.edu), who is a coordinator of the Women for Women student group. For information on StartSmart, go to <https://salary.aauw.org/start-smart/>.

*Judith Puncochar
College/University Relations/NMU*