



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

Dare I say, spring is (practically) here! Just in time for our final program of the year on Thursday, **May 10**. See the write-up below. Bring your friends!

**Book Sale**--Meredith has tallied up the Book Sale proceeds, and once expenses have been met, we will have \$3,792.98 to add to our coffers. "The sale this year was a major success!" declares Meredith. Total income was \$4,174.11; the average income for the past three years was \$3,181.44. Renee and Marlene did a stellar job in spreading the word, which clearly paid off. I believe we accomplished the set-up in record --by 3 pm Wednesday, all was nearly in order. Saturday noon, the "worker bees" arrived, and packed up remaining books by about 1:30 pm. Truly, many hands make light work.

**Opportunity**--speaking of Scholarships, Carolyn Myers is stepping down from chairing this committee. Please ask her what her duties are for this crucial work and consider volunteering.

**Officer Installation** will occur at our May meeting. The slate: President--Judy Puncocar; Treasurer--Meredith Kulisheck (again!); Program--Les Bek, Karlyn Rapport (again!); Membership--Leslie Warren and Taylor Susa (*a 2018 Martha Griffiths Award nominee*); Recording Secretary--Kay Payant; Corresponding Secretary--June Davis (again!); Outgoing officers--Meg Goodrich, President; Kathy Davis, Mary Snitgen, Membership co-chairs.

*Regards, Meg*

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 10, 7 PM

### BLACKROCK BOTS

The "Blackrock Bots" robotics team from Bothwell Middle School will demonstrate their technical skills and discuss their challenges on Thursday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Women's Federated Clubhouse, 104 W. Ridge, in Marquette. This program, sponsored by the Marquette Branch of the American Association of University Women, is open to the public. It's a great

opportunity to see these students put their robot through its paces and to admire their inventive tenacity.

"Robotics is the one varsity sport in which everyone can go pro," Senator Debbie Stabenow has observed. It is also a sport that relies heavily on mentorship from community members, which is an AAUW priority. To learn more about robotics, visit [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org)

*Ann Arnold, Program Committee*

MAY 11, 2018

## S.T.E.M. PROGRAM

*for 6th and 7th grade girls  
of Alger and Marquette Counties*

The S.T.E.M. Program for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls in Alger and Marquette counties is coming to the Seaborg Center at NMU on Friday, May 11. AAUW raises all the money so students and schools do not have any expenses. We have 180 students come with their teachers.

We pay for the transportation for the students from their schools, the substitute teachers for the remaining students at the schools so their teachers come with them to the Seaborg Center, the pamphlets (program list, enrollment forms, evaluation lists), lunch (for the students, teachers, and people participating in the programs), the keynote speaker, etc.

We do this every other year. We have done this in 2012, 2014, 2016, and now 2018.

A lot of the money we raise comes from organizations like the Rotary Clubs (Marquette Rotary, Marquette Breakfast Rotary and Munising Rotary), the Ishpeming Kiwanis Club, the Exchange Club, the Chapter ES PEO Sisterhood, Zonta, and the Lion's Club. We also receive money from some businesses like the Eagle Mine, Marquette Fox Motors, the Border Grill, UP Engineers and Architects, United Steel Workers Local 4974, Advanced Center for Orthopedics, and Range Bank.

We have AAUW volunteers coming to help enroll the students, direct the students to their class, serve lunch, and evaluate the classes. After the students

are enrolled they go to the keynote speaker and then they go to 3 classes. The classes are for S.T.E.M., science, technology, engineering, and math. We concentrate on engineering and computer science because only about 11% of these areas have women in these professions.

Contact me if you have any questions.

*Kathy Davis, S.T.E.M. Liaison*

## Computer Science Role Model for Girls

Britney Reese is a role model for girls in a field of few female role models. Britney completed her Computer Science studies at NMU in just three years. Each year she volunteered for a key role in NMU Robotics Club outreach activities and led several discussions with grade-school children who visited the Northern



Evolutionary Robotics Laboratory (NERL). She inspired groups of middle school girls to consider Computer Science as an interesting area of study.

Britney headed an otherwise all-male group of NMU Robotics Club members who built and programmed the new quadruped walking robot for NERL. She developed the entire front end (public web interface) of the registration system for over a thousand participants in a Michigan statewide computer competition.

Her abilities to inspire middle-school children and deliver high-visibility technical solutions to a large audience on time are indicative of Britney's leadership and professional qualities as a role model for girls and women now and in the future.

*Judy Puncchar*

## Book Sale (bs article)

***Everything I ever wanted to know about running an AAUW book sale... I learned with the assistance of some very capable women this year.***

As the seasoned AAUW members probably already know, this vital event begins long before any books are scooped up by voracious readers in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church. The Marquette Chapter of AAUW 2018 book sale started last fall when Marlene Woo Lun and I sat down with Meg to pick her brain and learn more about this incredible event. It was at that first meeting the two of us

united to become the invincible BS-d (or Book Sale duo.) The BS-d worked side by side to tame this daunting task with aid expertly given by other and more knowledgeable AAUW members by listening & drinking coffee at organizational meetings, helping to collect books donations, distributing interesting news articles, sending numerous email, becoming local television celebrities, volunteer procurement and distributing the sunny yellow posters around the community.



AAUW member Ruth Ziel sorts books.

The real book sale fun began when AAUW members and volunteers sorted and organized the books into their respective

categories. It is my opinion as a newbie, that there are longtime fans of the AAUW book sale and I witnessed the rhythm to this three-day event beginning at 2:00 pm on Thursday when eager customers started to line up in the hall way three hours early! Over 60 book hunters, including professional book dealers, rushed in when the doors first opened only to scoop up books by the armload and to haul them away on our squeaky metal carts.

After the free-for-all on the Thursday opening, the second day settled down to



many book lovers from the community who spent hours searching through the stacks for literary treasures while listening to jazz and laughing. The sale ended on Saturday and was a bargain hunter's paradise where excited readers could take home whatever they can fit in a bag for two bucks. I finally knew the sale was definitely over when a team of very experienced and disciplined volunteers "stormed" into the basement to expertly cram books of every shape and size into banana boxes in an extremely short window of time. The boxes were then happily distributed to St Vincent de Paul Society and to other worthy organizations within the community including Bay Cliff Health Camp, Marquette Women's Center, Marquette County Jail

and Jacobetti Veteran's Facility.

**I believe that the tenacity of the AAUW members and the generous spirit of our community are the secret weapons for the colossal success of the 2018 AAUW book sale that resulted in a net income of nearly \$4,200 or a 24% increase from the 2017 sale (and a 42% increase from the 2016 sale.)**

Finally, I think it is fitting a new name be given to the BS-d. I believe I will re-brand us to be the "book ends for the book sale" or the d-BS-d or dynamic-Book Sale-duo. See you all next year – YOU won't want to miss the fun!

*Renee Leow, 2018 Book Sale Co-Chair*



*Added success at the book sale: Petition circulators to get the Promote the Vote question on the ballot in November 2018 gathered 116 signatures*

## COMPUTER SCIENCE *and* WOMEN

Dr. Jeffrey Horn, a computer scientist from the NMU Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, attended the annual Book Sale Potluck on April 23, 2018. He praised AAUW-Marquette for offering the Martha Griffiths Award to high achieving women in non-traditional areas of study. He spoke of a steady decline in the nationwide number of women who are majoring in Computer Science.

The [National Center for Education Statistics](#) reported that women accounted for nearly 37% of all Computer Science degrees in 1984. In the last 27 years, the number of female Computer Science majors dropped by more than half. In 2011, women comprised only [17.6% of Computer Science degrees](#).

Jobs in Computer Science are projected to [grow 24%](#) from 2016 to 2026, which is faster than the average expected growth for other occupations. Yet, high school boys continue to [outnumber](#) girls by 4:1 in taking Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science exams. Computer Science jobs will be filled mainly by men without concerted efforts to attract women in Computer Science fields.

AAUW Marquette is working to reverse this trend. We sponsor a dynamic biennial STEM program for middle school girls to engage with science activities at NMU. This program would not be possible without

Kathy Davis and her tireless fundraising efforts and endless passion for STEM.

We are generating increasing interest in our annual Martha Griffiths Award for a high achieving female undergraduate from a non-traditional area of study. Dr. Horn is pictured with his nominee, Britney Reese,



*Britney Reese, 2018 recipient of the Martha Griffiths Award and Dr. Jeffrey Horn, a computer scientist from the NMU Department of Mathematics and Computer Science*

the 2018 Martha Griffiths Award recipient. Britney's major is Computer Science.

Notably, on May 10, 2018, our monthly meeting features the **Black Rock Bots – All Girl Robotics Team** at the Women's

Federated Clubhouse at 7:00 P.M. Please attend and show your rousing support for Marquette's All Girl Robotics Team. Your presence and interest in these experiences could provide pivotal influence for girls and women to pursue careers in Computer Science and STEM fields.

*Judy Puncchar*

## AAUW Hostess Committee 2018-19

Meg Goodrich and I (Kathy Davis) are now the Co-chairs of the committee and we need to recruit 12 more members' help on the Hostess Committees for next year.



The only dinners we have are on the September Salad Supper, the December Holiday Dinner and the April Book Sale Potluck. The other months we have dessert, coffee and tea in October, November, February, March and May. So far, we have all the people signed up for February and May, which is good news.

We need 4 people for September, 1 person for October, 1 person for November, 2 people for the December Dinner, 2 people for March, 3 people for April.

We will send a list to the chairs to tell them what their duties are; they need to get the Clubhouse open; bring some food to the event; perhaps add table decorations. The directions will explain where we keep keys to our cupboard in the kitchen where coffee, tea, sugar, Splenda, napkins, and paper plates are stored.



Directions also explain how to make coffee. Either one of us can meet with the chair if necessary.

Please take your fair turn at this Hostess opportunity to serve your branch. Many of our older branch members have been serving selflessly for decades.

Thank You! Please reply to:

*Kathy Davis, [kdavismgt@aol.com](mailto:kdavismgt@aol.com)*

## 2018 Martha Griffiths Award



AAUW Marquette Branch President Meg Goodrich presented the 2018 Martha Griffiths Award to Britney Reese of Rock, Michigan, at the annual Book Sale Potluck on April 23, 2018. Britney is an

NMU computer science major who graduates on May 5, 2018. Congratulations, Britney!

The annual Martha Griffiths Award is presented to a high-achieving female senior in a non-traditional field of study in memory of Martha Griffiths, a legislator, judge, congressional representative, first female lieutenant governor of Michigan, and staunch advocate for women's rights. Griffiths stated, "Before I leave this Earth, I would like to know they have given women the same benefits and promotions as men. All I want to be is human and American and have all the same rights and I will shut up" (Detroit Free Press, 1986). In 1964, Congressional Representative Griffiths successfully argued for the addition of the word "sex" to the Civil Rights Act.

## RECEIVING ECONO CHECK for over \$940



This is a picture taken April 17 when Meg and Meredith received a check for **\$941.92** from Econo Foods for the receipts turned in by AAUW members and friends. We receive 1% of the face amount on the receipts. Thanks for saving your receipts! **It is worthwhile!**



As always...  
please remember to  
bring your Econo receipts  
to the next meeting.

## From the Treasurer DUES are due

Dues are due by **June 30**. You should have received an email from National AAUW telling you the amount you owe for your dues. For most of you, that amount will be \$105. This is \$10 more than last year because National raised the amount we pay them by \$10. You are still paying \$12 for Michigan AAUW dues, \$9 for local dues, and \$25 for our membership in the Federated Women's Clubhouse.

The email gives you two options for paying your dues. You can send a check to me. Or you can pay National for the full amount by credit or debit card. National will send us the \$34 for local and clubhouse dues, and they will send MI-AAUW \$12 for your state dues.

Anyone who owes less than \$105 will be sent a bill for the appropriate amount.

*Meredith Kulisheck, Treasurer*  
*617 W Hampton St, Marquette, MI 49855*

## TWO-FOLD Increase in Nominations

The AAUW Marquette Branch announces a two-fold increase in nominations for this year's Martha Griffiths Award. In 2017, the AAUW-Marquette Executive Board received a record-setting 14 nominations. In 2018, the number rose to a record-shattering 27 nominations. The Board anticipates extraordinary levels of nominations again next year for this highly respected award.

We recognize the diligent work of the AAUW-Marquette Executive Board members in their review of these outstanding nominations. Judy

Puncochar (*left*) issues the call for nominations to faculty and staff at NMU. Meg Goodrich (*center*) chairs the review of the award nominations. Britney Reese (*right*) is the 2018 recipient of the Martha Griffiths Award.

An impressive number of NMU faculty and staff across many departments and units took time to



identify and recommend exceptionally qualified candidates for this award. The heartwarming number of nominations is a telling sign of our hardworking, supportive university community.

*Judy Puncchar*

## PR OPPORTUNITIES

*When the women of AAUW do things,  
the world should know about it!*

We accomplish all sorts of amazing feats, from monthly programs to STEM support to scholarships and beyond, and if we can publicize them appropriately then we not only increase our own impact, but also highlight our presence in the community and thus attract more women to our ranks.

As your PR representative, I'm always happy to help. But I can do a better job if you let me know, well in advance if possible, what you want publicized. I'm happy to work with your draft press release or to create a draft myself (for you to review and approve) based on your telling me the basics: who, when, where, what, and why.

"Well in advance" means different things for different news outlets; for the Marquette Monthly, for example, it's best if you send me information by the first day of the month preceding the publication date (thus, June 1 for the July issue). For other newspapers, television, and radio, there's much more flexibility, but it's still best to get me the information at least two weeks before an event being publicized.

I look forward to helping AAUW get the word out!

*Katherine Larson,  
[katherineblarson@yahoo.com](mailto:katherineblarson@yahoo.com)*

## What Are Our Chances for Having Common Sense Gun Legislation Enacted????

*AAUW recognizes gun violence is a public health crisis. As a public policy priority, AAUW advocates freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, work places and communities.*

In Michigan, gun rights advocates advanced SB 584 - 586. These bills allow concealed pistol licenses with additional 8 hours training to carry pistols in gun free zones including day care centers, schools, sports

arenas, bars, hospitals, college campuses and places of worship. SB 576 forbids schools and other public bodies other than the state from regulating firearms. These bills passed the Senate and have been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Let's hope the governor vetoes these bills.

The Michigan Supreme court granted oral arguments in two cases involving open carry of firearms in a school zone by concealed pistol licensees. The Appeals Court affirmed the right of a school district to ban guns on school property. It is concerning that the Michigan Supreme Court accepted these cases suggesting potential reversal of the Appeals Court decision.

Senator Rebecca Warren (D, Ann Arbor) introduced SB 668 allowing a spouse, former spouse, individual with whom he or she has had a child in common, and an individual with whom he or she has had a dating relationship or and individual residing or having resided in the same household as the petitioner to seek a Personal Protection Order to have police seize the weapons of the person if cause is shown. This bill would go a long way to reduce risk of a lethal outcome. This bill was referred to the Senate Operations Committee which is closely controlled by pro- gun advocates

As Clara Biolo Thomson so powerfully stated at the Town Hall meeting on April 29, she was born the year of the tragic assault at Columbine and still little is being done legislatively. What are the chances for common sense legislation? Let's hope that the bills loosening regulations on guns will not see the light of day. In the meantime, programs like "It Is OK 2 Say" will help identify and diffuse potentially dangerous situations. We need to keep pressing our legislators for meaningful action like SB668. Our high school students are powerful allies.

The Upper Peninsula Children's Coalition 's Conference," Mental Health Matters', Monday May 7 at NMU's Don Bottom University Center focuses on mental health of children and families. Presentations will include "Social and Emotional Competence: A Common Good", and "Changing the Path Using Best Practices." Clearly, we need to be addressing gun violence on a number of levels. We are members of this Coalition and can be proud of this effort to help children and all of us build resiliency. The conference includes discussion with legislators about public policy and its impact on the mental health of children. For more information go to [upchildrenscoalition.org](http://upchildrenscoalition.org).

*Karlyn Rapport*