



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

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

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)



Greetings from your AAUW Board

Most of us were first-time Zoom users, but we held our first highly successful video-conferencing meeting on

Thursday, March 26 with a quorum of 10 board members. Your AAUW Board members are going to be able to continue working hard for you.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we will maintain business as usual, as much as possible, documenting our organization's and members' accomplishments. We decided to delay publication of our AAUW newsletter by one week to allow everyone extra time to gather information and write articles. We also postponed our April 24-26 book sale to fall dates to be announced as soon as safely possible.

The board gives a shout out to Renee Leow and Pat Pellet for their efforts to put up book sale posters, place book collection barrels around town, and gather books, only to take down book sale posters and pick up the book collection barrels following the board's decision to postpone the book sale. We send heartfelt thanks and virtual applause for your efforts.

AAUW member Dr. Kristen White graciously agreed to postpone the AAUW literacy program she had planned for us for March 12 until this fall. Governor Whitmer signed an Executive Order on Thursday, April 2, to suspend face-to-face learning at K-12 schools for remainder of the school year, so Kristen's program could offer timely support for the literacy needs of school-aged children.

All anticipated AAUW scheduled programs are tentative until Governor Whitmer sends an "all clear" signal to Michiganders. Our upcoming May 14 meeting, *Taking STEM to the Next Level*, has been postponed to a date to be determined, and the Board Workday is tentatively set for August 15.

We anticipate the next AAUW face-to-face time together could be our September Salad Supper, where we traditionally meet to celebrate another year of AAUW programming and striving toward

equity for women and girls. We will meet as an organization only when community meetings are again safe.

Until we meet again, we will remain in touch via email and video-conferencing and urge all members to exercise, practice sterile technique, adhere to social distancing, and remain cognitively and physically healthy and happy.

Judy Puncchar, AAUW of Marquette President

Protect
yourself
against
loneliness

Stay healthy and
practice successful
strategies to deal with
the social isolation and
loneliness associated

with the COVID-19 pandemic. Reach out to friends and family members through password protected Zoom meetings and email. Practice remaining well and happy to help with the transition to a post-COVID-19 "normal".

Higher levels of socializing, better self-rated health, and lower family strain are associated with positive effects on health and well-being in older adults (see [Hawkey & Kocherginsky, 2018](#)).

Write to Judy Puncchar...

jpuncch@nmu.edu for a summary of their five-year follow-up research project on a National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project.



Just don't throw them away!

Please continue

*to save your Econo slips and
bring them to the next meeting
we can all attend in person.*

Public Policy News

Pay Equity

First, we need to give a huge shout out to Judy Puncochar, Jackie Stark and Mining Journal reporter Christie Mastric for the article "AAUW Concerned about Pandemic's Effect on Women" in the Saturday/Sunday April 4-5 edition of the Mining Journal. If you missed it on page 3 A, go to www.miningjournal.net. The article includes the CEO of AAUW, Kim Churches statement on Equal Pay Day and Judy Puncochar's spot on perspective. Thank you.

We can mark equal pay days all year. The National Committee on Pay Equity added Mom's Equal Pay Day as June 4, 2020. African American Women's Equal Pay Day is August 13 and Native American Women earn what white men earned the previous year in like jobs on October 1.

Women in healthcare on the front lines in this COVID-19 crisis risk their safety to care for the critically ill. Women make up 78% of the healthcare field overall. When men join the ranks of fields dominated by women they are paid more and are more likely promoted to supervisory positions than women with the same credentials. . Men earn on average \$86,219 a year, women average \$45,976. Registered Nurses earn \$30.00 an hour on average. Men make up 10% of the nursing field and make \$6,000 more than their female counterparts.

In 2017, in the U.S., 1.7 million female health care workers and their children lived below poverty line. More than 7% lacked health insurance.

Health care workers are our heroes and they are overwhelmed. Despite the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), they are showing up, facing a pandemic with no end in sight. In this time in our country, all deserve more than our thanks, our applause and our admiration. Women health care workers deserve equal pay. All deserve higher wages and hazardous duty pay during this pandemic. There are so many hurting. As Kim Churches said, "Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by this crisis."

Fair and Equal Michigan

is a campaign to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ Michiganders in employment, housing, accommodation, public service, educational institutions. Sex as defined by the proposed

legislation would include gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Fair and Equal Michigan is trying to collect 340,047 signatures to send the citizen bill to the legislature. They had 100,000, then COVID-19 hit. We had petitions to sign for our AAUW Branch meeting which was cancelled. Current isolation calls for creative measures. If you are interested in signing the petition email me at krapport@chartermi.net. I will send you a petition and directions. You sign as the circulator and as the Michigan resident. If there are other registered voters in your home, they can sign in your presence. Even though there are only one or two signatures on the petition you can mail it in to Alex Cross. Fair and Equal Michigan 301 Fuller Ave NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Currently Michigan law allows companies to fire and landlords to refuse housing to a person simply because they are gay or transgender. The Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act protects everyone else, but it does not protect LGBTQ individuals. Visit www.fairandequalmichigan.com for more information.

Let us hope that when we emerge from this crisis, the lessons learned will help all of us move toward a more just society.

Karlyn Rapport, Public Policy Representative

Meet Your Board Members

Kay Payant, Recording Secretary



As your Recording Secretary, I take minutes at Executive Board meetings, prepare them for the Board, and for the AAUW Newsletter. Though not always an exciting job, the RS gets informed about almost everything going on in AAUW.

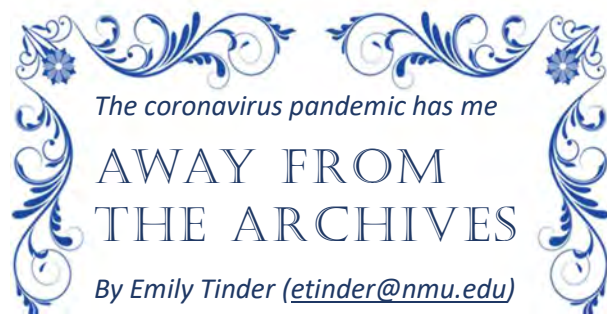
I am almost a native Yooper, having been born in 1943 across the Menominee River in Marinette, WI, to U.P. born parents. Growing up in Marquette in the

1950s was in some ways a typical small-town experience, but my naive impressions of the world were to change once I entered the University of Michigan in the fall of 1961. Having proclaimed to my parents that the UP was a hopelessly backward place, after college I found myself back here with a young family, teaching at NMU. My long and rewarding career was the right one for me, teaching two subjects I have always loved, English and history.

Retired for fifteen years now, my membership in AAUW, an organization that contributes to the betterment of the lives of women and girls, introduces me to new, dynamic women, as well as keeps me in touch with interesting women I've known for years.

My husband Ted Raymond and I love traveling and spending time at our camp at Lake Stella in Alger County. I enjoy reading: novels, history, travel, and noirish thrillers, especially the Nordic genre, as well as gardening, camping around the U.P in our small trailer, and biking.

Kay Payant, Recording Secretary



My daily life about three weeks ago involved waking up at 7:00, shuffling around in my dark dorm room trying not to wake my roommate, showering in our shared bathroom, and shoving some rehydrated eggs from the dining hall in my mouth before jetting across campus to class. From class, to work, to class again for the whole day.

On some nights I didn't return to my room, after all the club meetings and house dinners and on-campus events, until 10:00 that night. I would sit in the communal sunroom, reading or finishing up a paper for the next day until 12:00, my self-imposed bedtime. It started again the next morning, and I adored every second.

Now I haven't left my sister's house, downstate in Grand Rapids, in about three weeks... with a few exceptions. We went once to a grocery store 45 minutes out of town to get items that can't stay

stocked long enough here. They still didn't have toilet paper. And I go on almost daily trips around a walking path near the house; I always pass the other exercising strangers with a wide berth, and you can never get far enough from the highway to stop hearing the cars. I wonder constantly where they're all going.

But I'm starting to fall into a new normal. I wake up now when the sun, or the clouded light more often, shines through my guest room window. I choose from the fraction of my wardrobe here with me now and make myself a breakfast upstairs. I only brought two week's worth of items from my dorm, mostly my textbooks and food that would have gone bad. I left campus on Saturday, and at that point I thought with certainty that I would return to finish out the semester.

I thought I would return to my job, clocking in at the library and making my way downstairs to the archives to pick up right where I left off.

My RA was already rescheduling events, not cancelling them. Now I will only return to my home away from home to gather the rest of my belongings, hopefully in May. The best friends I have made in college, who have been living just down the hall from me for these past 2 years, will all be moving on to new living arrangements in the fall. They are what I'm missing the most now.

My classes have been altered to fit a distance learning path. My studio art course, making jewelry alongside masterful artists, now consists of me twisting paperclips into a necklace-shaped monstrosity with rusty pliers from my brother's toolbox. My energetic discussion classes, both Native American studies and history, are now either done in awkward one hour Zoom sessions or not at all; I am reading and writing the same papers, but they feel so much less alive. Geography, my final gen ed credit, now has recorded lectures and Lockdown Browser quizzes. I am adapting how I can and learning from these new experiences, but the tragedy is not lost on anyone I've spoken with.

The summer internships I've applied to have notified me that uncertain circumstances will postpone the acceptance process. My cousin's and boyfriend's Universities have postponed their graduation ceremonies until further notice. Never canceled, always postponed. And if I had to summarize how I felt about this all, I would say it feels like my entire life is postponed, too. I wonder every day when it will resume.

Memories of an African Safari

by Elsa Clark Clement

AAUW member Elsa Clement is a lifelong Marquette resident and retired science educator. An exhibit she prepared for display at the library was postponed when the library closed during the Covid-19 pandemic. She has nonetheless offered to share her drawings with us in the AAUW newsletter. We will publish several in the next few issues.

Elsa utilized her naturalist's eye to create wildlife sketches inspired by experiences during a Kenyan photography safari. These free hand sketches include short descriptions of her animal encounters.

Some are more comical depictions, and some have a mother/daughter theme.

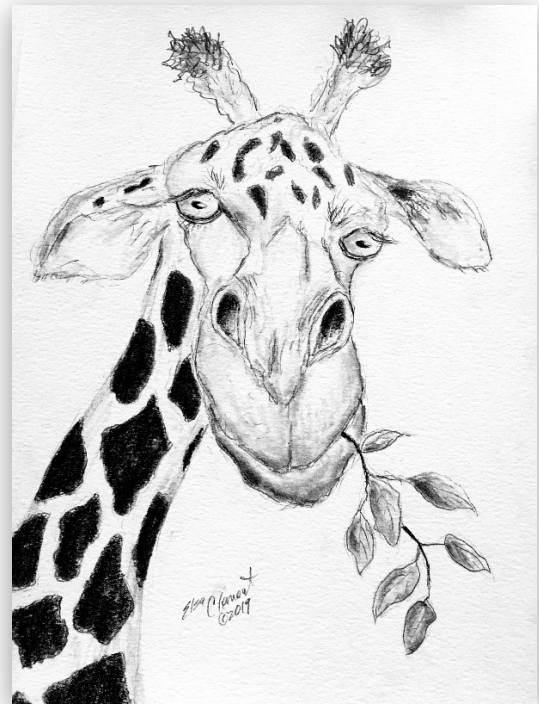
These African sketches were inspired by adventures experienced while photographing in Kenya's National Parks. Whether having your vehicle charged by a startled **rhino** or by a young **elephant** protesting your location as too close to his path, their aggressive actions promoted a respect for the power of these magnificent creatures. Hearing the haunting roars of a large pride of **lions** surrounding our tent during the dead of night was certainly a wakeup call to be remembered.

Listening to a **cheetah** gasping for each breath before it could eat its recently caught prey, made us aware of the extreme effort required to catch and haul an **impala** into the bushes to finally feast. Our first glimpse of the wildlife was actually a very pregnant **giraffe** browsing on small leaves attached to branches atop an Arcadia tree while skillfully using her long black tongue to avoid eating the tree's many large thorns. In just a few days a young giraffe would be delivered into the world by dropping to the ground from this mother in standing position. Only after seeing the many predators in the area, did I understand why a young giraffe would need to get to its feet right after birth and why the mother couldn't afford lying down during delivery.

There were **hyenas** which we saw raising their heads high to sniff the breeze. Lions too numerous to

count were resting barely visible in the high flowing golden grasses during the warmth of the day. We also saw **wild dogs** and **black backed jackals** all hoping to find easy prey. Other interactions between mothers and their young included a mother elephant carefully maneuvering herself so that we never had a clear view of the youngster and young **zebras** recognizing and following their mothers' familiar posterior striped markings as the herd galloped over the plains. The amazing thing is that these are just a fraction of the wildlife we were able to observe during our Kenyan adventure.

Elsa Clement





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You may recall this graphic from our April newsletter, celebrating how well we did using technology to conduct our board meeting while social distancing during the pandemic. Unfortunately, as the newsletter editor, I goofed on *my* technology management. I missed including an important article from Les Bek, our scholarship fund campaign chairperson. Please read and consider making a special contribution to the scholarship fund.

Marge Forslin, newsletter editor

AAUW NMU Scholarship Fund – More COVID-19 Impact

As AAUW members, we are knowledgeable about on-going economic challenges facing women in the workplace. Our annual Equal Pay Day brings a spotlight on the issue of these economic inequalities between men and women.

Now we need to shine that spotlight on the impacts of COVID-19 on economic opportunities for women. We could say, we've had it hard enough, but now this adds a very heavy new burden.

Realities are unfolding that indicate **more women** are not only expected to **lose their jobs but are expected to increase their parenting and caregiver roles**. A short connecting of the dots and it is easy to see that COVID-19 has become a detrimental multiplier for our women in need of scholarship financial assistance. COVID-19 has changed the rules for all. The most vulnerable remain even more so.

Please consider a donation or another donation to our NMU Scholarship fund and view it as an invisible piece of Personal Protection Equipment. You can view this donation as a special COVID-19 contribution for women who have plans for a promising future.

Thank you so much for **assisting young women pursue their educational goals at NMU in the name of AAUW Marquette**. Stay safe and be well.

Les Bek – NMU Scholarship Fund Campaign Chair

Make donations payable to:
AAUW Marquette;
memo NMU Scholarship.

Send to:
Ruth Ziel, VP Finance, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855