



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

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

Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)



AAUW-Marquette's program committee rang in the 2021 New Year with a fabulous January 14 program and digital tour of worldwide New Year's celebrations. Les Bek, Meg Goodrich, Renee Leow, and Leslie Warren created an impressive technological sightseeing tour of several international festivities. The program was complete with a variety of music and colors and a surprise gift bag of New Year's tiaras, noisemakers, confetti, and delicious drinks and treats.

A heartwarming pre-recorded tribute by Pat Pellet honored our friend and long-time AAUW member, Kathy Davis. Following the program, AAUW members shared additional memories of Kathy and her remarkable contributions to our branch. Kathy's husband, Bill Davis, was an honored guest at our program. We also remembered former AAUW President Karen Hakala.

We applaud the creativity and technological successes of our inspiring program committee! Thank you for bringing in 2021 with good cheer because outgoing 2020 met incoming 2021 with vengeance.

The continuing COVID pandemic has ravaged our hospitals, cities, and nation with record-breaking coronavirus outbreaks and deaths in January 2021. Vaccines are now available. The AAUW Board encourages all AAUW members to obtain the requisite two COVID vaccinations as soon as possible. In Marquette County, register at the Marquette County Health Department.

Stay well and continue a wonderful start to a Happy New Year.

*Judy Puncochar,
AAUW-Marquette President*



Next Meeting Thursday, February 11, 7pm RURAL EDUCATION



*JKL Bahweting
Anishnabe School
Sault Ste Marie*



*Bothwell Middle School
Marquette*

Please join us on Zoom at 7:00 on Thursday, February 11, to explore issues related to rural education. We will be joined by award-winning teachers from Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie:

- Cameron Bancroft - Bothwell Middle School (Marquette) STEM teacher
- Tan-A Hoffman - JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School (Sault Ste. Marie) elementary teacher; 2021 Regional Teacher of the Year

The conversation will begin with five questions:

1. What teaching and learning challenges do rural communities face?
2. What advantages do your students have in a rural community?
3. What differences, if any, do you see for male and female students?
4. How can we support STEM education for girls in the UP?
5. If you could change one or two things about rural education, what would it be? Why?

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87192468046?pwd=bDcxS0EvcGJKaVY1L091TFBTS3Radz09>

Meeting ID: 871 9246 8046

Passcode: education

Join by phone

1 312 626 6799

*Leslie Warren
Vice President, Programs*

TIME CRITICAL INPUT

Proposed AAUW Bylaws Change for Open Membership

AAUW-National is proposing a change to the AAUW Bylaws to eliminate degree requirements for new members. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Individual comments on the proposal are due on or before **February 5, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.** Click to [Comment Now](#).

Read more about open membership with AAUW-National's [Open Membership Toolkit](#). **AAUW-Marquette will discuss open membership via Zoom at our April 8 program.**

Voting on proposed bylaws changes will occur April 7 through May 16 and close on May 17, 2021.

AAUW-National wrote a [rationale](#) in support of the proposed change.

Thank you for your review of this information. We look forward to seeing you at **our April 8 program**.

Judy Puncochar, AAUW-Marquette, President

PUBLIC POLICY

Public Policy Priorities

If you are quick...

...you can comment on AAUW's Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023 by going to [aauw.org](#) and fishing around the membership bylaws tool kit for the public policy priorities. **Do so by February 5.** I am pleased with the proposed changes which address structural and systemic racism and the need for accurate collection of high quality data. These changes can help us better direct policy decisions. I asked for the inclusion of a stronger statement guiding how AAUW will deal with conspiracy theorists, hate and sedition. In the broader sense, these issues are covered by the proposed public policy priority changes.

Michigan House Representative Donna Lasinski met with Michigan AAUW's virtual lobby corps She tried to pass a measure requiring legislators to renounce conspiracy theory views prior to their being sworn in,

but she was not successful in this. Representative Lasinski spoke candidly about safety issues at the Capitol. We are one of a few states nationwide that does not have metal detectors at entrances to the Capitol. Concealed carry weapons remain a threat.

The Global Gag Rule

In the midst of a zillion crises, on January 28, President Joe Biden rescinded the Mexico City Policy, AKA the Global Gag Rule on abortion. In 2019 Trump expanded the ban to cover all U.S. health aid, meaning no U.S. funding could go to any organization which made abortion referrals or discussed abortion as an option. Because reproductive health and sexual health services are integrated in health clinics, HIV programs, maternal health, water and sanitation programs, this draconian ban caused health clinics to close and vital programs to be cancelled.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation lost \$110 million. This money could have prevented 4.8 million unintended pregnancies. Marie Stopes International (MSI) Reproductive Choices* lost \$30 million. They say the money could have prevented 1.8 million unsafe abortions and 20,000 maternal deaths.

Biden's action is an important one in favor of women's health.

Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act

You have heard this before. The Paycheck Fairness Act closes loopholes which allow employers to justify unfair pay. It creates remedies for discriminated employees. It prevents employers from retaliating against workers who discuss salary. It prohibits use of a salary history to determine wages. It provides training and assistance, data collection and funds for research. We are still earning 82 cents on the dollar men earn if we are "lucky." Please call our legislators and ask them to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. Maybe this time.....

Seeing all of you on Zoom is a treat. Be well. Enlist in the [Two-Minute Activist](#) program at [aauw.org](#) and advocate for women and girls.

*Karlyn Rapport,
Public Policy Representative*

*Marie Stopes International Reproductive Choices is an international non-government organization providing contraception and safe abortion services to 37 countries around the world.

2021 Equal Pay Day

Equal Pay Day for all women should have been December 31, 2020, but the average woman in the United States must work far into 2021

to earn the same money that the average man made in 2020.

Equal Pay Day in 2021 is

March 24. Click [here](#) for statistics.



- Asian-American Women – Feb 23, 2021 (\$0.87)
- **All Women – Mar 24, 2021 (\$0.82)**
- Black Women – Aug 3, 2021 (\$0.63)
- Native Women – Sep 8, 2021 (\$0.60)
- Latina Women – Oct 21, 2021 (\$0.55)

Judith Puncochar, President

AAUW Member: Nina van den Ende



2021 Tom Baldini Scholarship Award Winner

Let us congratulate our very own AAUW-Marquette Member Nina van den Ende as one of [two 2021 Tom Baldini Scholarship recipients!](#)

The Tom Baldini Scholarship was created in 2018 by [Connect Marquette](#) to recognize members of the Marquette community who have demonstrated leadership ability to encourage community and civic engagement. The scholarship honors the memory of former Mayor Tom Baldini, who was a champion for the City of Marquette and an advocate of education as a former Marquette Area Public Schools (MAPS) teacher and MAPS School Board member.

Nina says, "This award is special for many reasons but even more special because my mom had Tom Baldini as a teacher and my aunt went to school with him at NMU."

After graduating from Marquette Senior High School in 1990, Nina completed her Master of Science degree in Nursing in 2008 from NMU. She currently works as a nurse practitioner at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. She loves working with "heroes".

Nina is a devoted volunteer in the Marquette community. She has served on the Marquette Traffic

Advisory Committee since 2015. Nina coaches several children's sports teams, including basketball, soccer, and track and field, and she is on the Marquette Little League Board. She was a volunteer nurse and Girl Scout Troop leader at Powell Township School. In her spare time, Nina is an avid runner and advocate of Marquette's amazing trail system. She also loves to read and host a book club. She remains an active member of the Community Presbyterian Church of Big Bay, where she grew up. Nina is a member of the League of Women Voters. She joined AAUW-Marquette in 2019 after she and her mother attended our November 14 program, *Mentoring Young Women as They Launch Their Careers*.

The annual Tom Baldini Scholarship includes a one-year [Connect Marquette](#) membership, attendance to the 2021 Professional Development Conference, and a ticket to a Marquette Economic Club dinner.

Congratulations, Nina!

AAUW-Marquette Board

A JANUARY CELEBRATION



Did you know that our January Celebration program on January 14 was *actually* New Year's Day in Russia for Russians who attend the Orthodox

Church and still use the Julian calendar? Several dozen AAUW-Marquette branch members attending our January Celebration learned several fascinating facts about celebrations of *New Years Around the World*, via Zoom. Live and pre-recorded skits featured Renee Leow, Les Bek, Leslie Warren, and Meg Goodrich as on-the-scene reporters, with lots of creative costume changes!

We gave a true team effort, each of us contributing unique skills via several Zoom planning meetings, emails, and two masked clubhouse practices. Many thanks go first to Renee, who said, "Heck yes! We can pull this off!" She recruited her son's help in learning how to videotape and edit. With newfound confidence, we then snagged our Program Chair, Leslie Warren, who added her creativity and technical savviness to the mix. Finally, we HAD to recruit our own favorite MC, Les Bek! Extra kudos to both Leslie and Les, who had to go "live" while Renee and I performed behind the camera.

Speaking of the camera, thanks to Marge Forslin for the loan of her projector. We also thank Peter

Goodrich and Ian Bek for their cameo performances. Renee gets extra thanks for coordinating and preparing the two dozen surprise gift bags to add to our grand finale, and Ruth Ziel gets thanks for collecting our "ticket" money.

If you missed the celebration...

you may click [here](#) to view the recorded performance. The passcode is Women2021! Use the passcode as written with the capital letter and exclamation mark through February 17, 2021, after which time the link will be unavailable.

Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgotten? Nope. It was great to see so many smiling faces again. Thanks for joining in the fun.

Regards, Meg Goodrich

Just don't throw them away!

Econo receipts NEVER EXPIRE

Please continue to save your Econo receipts and bring them to the next meeting you can attend in person. They bring in many hundreds of dollars for us.

Especially in this time of the pandemic, we, like everyone and every business, are finding funds down, while needs increase. You could also mail them or drop them off to Meredith Kulisheck, 617 W Hampton St, Marquette, if you prefer.



AAUW Introduces Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit

AAUW National recently launched its [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit](#) to help branches expand our efforts toward our achieving equity. The toolkit features definitions of key

terms and concepts, such as diversity, inclusion, intersectionality, and allyship. It also gives specific tips for having difficult conversations along the journal to cultural competence and for planning the branch's diversity efforts.

According to the national website, "The AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) resources aim to

identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within AAUW. These resources present guidelines for how AAUW branches, national members, student members and individual members can demonstrate an understanding of AAUW's mission, values, goals and strategic plan."

During a webinar in December, the AAUW leadership emphasized that this toolkit does not have a section on recruiting strategies to bring in a more diverse membership. Instead, they said that our organization, at all levels, needs to start by developing strategies that demonstrate a commitment to equity and create an inclusive space for current and future members. Membership initiatives can be successful after that.

The toolkit recommends several steps that branches can take to [maximize diversity and inclusion efforts](#):

1. Appoint a diversity officer
2. Create a diversity and inclusion committee
3. Create a diversity and inclusion plan to help our efforts be organized and connected to broader goals

As we start our planning, the toolkit also recommends an environmental scan, asking us to examine our recruitment, retention, and programming. By understanding where we are currently, we are in a better position to agree on realistic and achievable goals.

AAUW's next diversity and inclusion webinar, "Creating a Diversity Structure and Planning for Success," will be Thursday, February 11, at 3:00-4:30 pm. [Registration is required.](#)

*Leslie Warren
Vice President, Programs*

The AAUW-National statement following the January 6 storming of the Capitol is available [here](#).



RACISM



AAUW OF MICHIGAN

Statement on Racism

We condemn racism and its associated discrimination against Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). It is the root cause of today's injustices. Prejudice and inequality – including economic inequity – cannot be passively ignored. There can be no justice or equality when

BIPOC are seen as less deserving of basic human and civil rights. AAUW has been a leading voice in American in the fight for equity for women and girls, and we especially recognize the additional challenges facing BIPOC women and girls. AAUW of Michigan is committed to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. We will work collaboratively to give access for all people to the opportunities and resources needed for optimal health and safety. As Dr. Martin Luther King stated, "Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity."

Art by Reece Girser
Design by Silascon Reinhardt

2021 NATIVE AMERICAN CRITICAL ISSUES CONFERENCE

MARCH 11-13, 2021

HOSTED ON ZOOM
REGISTER AT MIEC.ORG

ISHKODE (FIRE)

Fire warms our dwellings, cooks our food and is an essential element for our lives. Fire can also burn our dwellings down; unchecked wildfires can destroy wildlife, our lives, and crops. The four elements, Fire, Water, Earth, and Wind are around and in us every day. Implementing our traditional teachings is a process seeking to achieve balance, balance between Fire's life giving and destructive properties, balance between spiritual and practical manifestations, balance in our understanding of Creation. This year's Critical Issues Conference will explore beneficial uses and dangers that Fire brings to our children, families, and communities. Foods, medicines, governance, and a sense of self, wellbeing, and community all are part of our experience with Fire.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR. ARNE VAINIO
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INDIAN COUNTRY

Arne Vainio, M.D. was born to a Finnish father and an Ojibwe mother as one of seven children. When he was four years old, his father committed suicide and poverty followed. He credits less than a double handful of people for changing his course and advises we are all that person for someone who might be lost. After working as a many different jobs, he began a career in medicine in 1985 as a professional firefighter/paramedic. He has been a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation since 1997, and is currently serving as a member at large for the Association of American Indian Physicians Board of Directors. Arne has won multiple awards for his service including: Indian Health Service National Directors Award 2008-2009; National Diabetes Physicians Recognition Award 2010; and, Association of American Indian Physicians Physician of the Year 2017.

Sponsored by the Michigan Indian Education Council, miec.org
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