



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

Website: <http://marquette-mi.aauw.net> Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)

Spring
is in
the Air
and passion is in our voices.



AAUW-Marquette members met at our April 8, 2021 program meeting to discuss AAUW-National's proposed Open Membership bylaws change. AAUW-Marquette members were willing to speak of their deepest values and heartfelt thoughts. Together, we pursued an opportunity for deeper understanding through honesty, good humor, and trust.

I compiled our viewpoints and shared a summary with our branch members and at an April 15, 2021, AAUW-Michigan Open Membership meeting. Several Marquette branch members attended the AAUW-Michigan meeting.

I hope the summary encompassed your personal views and values and helped to inform your vote. Lived experiences cause us to perceive and express our values differently. Not everyone has the luxury of composing a life that aligns with our deepest values. I urge you to be patient with others and yourself. Vote your values and strive to stay in AAUW.

The last AAUW-Marquette program meeting of this fiscal year is on Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 P.M. Please join us for Poetry Night and listen to poems of social justice, equity, and women's rights and enjoy the poetry of our branch members and Upper Peninsula colleagues.

Welcome spring and new beginnings with a smile!
Wishing you the best,

*Judy Puncochar,
AAUW-Marquette President*

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 7pm

POETRY NIGHT SPECIAL

Join us online at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, to wrap up the year with a special Poetry Night. Bring your favorite social justice, women's rights, or inspirational poem to read. Watch your email for announcements of special guests.

I'll read a poem from the collection *Indivisible: Poems for Social Justice*, edited by my former Illinois librarian colleague Gail Bush.

There are also plenty of online sites to find poems to inspire you:

- Poems by Contemporary Women Poets, <https://poets.org/womens-history-month>
- Poetry and Feminism, <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/146073/poetry-and-feminism>
- 25 Feminist Poems to Provoke and Inspire Nasty Women Everywhere, <https://bookriot.com/feminist-poems/>



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88485554186?pwd=RO1GWndtNFJmVmJsZHp1RkVtY0FTZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 8555 4186

Passcode: poetry

Join by phone.

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

*Leslie Warren
Vice President,
Programs*



Open Membership Proposed Bylaws Change

AAUW-National has proposed a change to the bylaws on individual eligibility for membership to join AAUW. If the bylaws change is accepted, eligibility for membership would no longer be dependent upon a completed degree. **An individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual AAUW dues shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.**

The proposed change is sought to align AAUW's mission to advance gender equity by allowing access to membership to persons without college degrees. AAUW-National maintains that exclusionary membership requirements do not promote equity for all women and girls.

Language has been added to the Dues section to give the AAUW Board of Directors explicit authority to set a dues rate of \$0 for students or any other category of membership the Board deems appropriate.



Learn more by reading
AAUW-National's
[Open Membership Toolkit](#).

Voting for AAUW Proposed Bylaws Change

Online Voting for Open Membership ends on **May 17, 2021** (5:00 p.m. ET).

If you have not yet voted and need your AAUW ID number and/or voting pin number, you may call 800-326-2289 or e-mail your name and address to connect@aauw.org and obtain the necessary information to vote.

Can you Help?

Econo receipts NEVER EXPIRE

Please continue to save your Econo receipts and *mail them or drop them off* to Meredith Kulisheck, 617 W Hampton St, Marquette bring them in the fall to the next meeting we can all attend in person. In the past, they brought in hundreds of dollars for us. During this time of the pandemic, we, like everyone and every business, are finding our funds down, while needs are increasing.



Natasha Trethewey, Poet Laureate was at PWPL

Hats off to AAUW members **Karlyn Rapport** and **Pat Micklow** for helping to sponsor [Natasha Trethewey's Peter White Library](#) poetry reading on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

Thank you for bringing such a powerful description of our country's current and historic cultural experiences through poetry to the Upper Peninsula.

According to Wikipedia, [Natasha Trethewey](#) was born on April 26, 1966. She was appointed as [United States Poet Laureate](#) in 2012 and again in 2013. She won the 2007 [Pulitzer Prize in Poetry](#) for her 2006 collection *Native Guard*, and she is a former [Poet Laureate of Mississippi](#).



Do you have a favorite book you'd love to share with the AAUW Book Group? The group will be meeting on May 20th to vote on 8 books for discussion in 2021-2022. Novels, mysteries, biographies, memoirs, non-fiction--lots of genres to choose from.

Our book topics this year were diverse: a female pope, Kentucky packhorse librarians, a president, a Greek goddess, Churchill, immigrants, and Native Americans. Something for everyone! The Zoom discussions were lively and fun, and I think we were all glad to be introduced to some books we might have otherwise missed.

Nominations for the 2021-2022 book ballot are now in progress. If interested, please reach out to Karen Rudisill (karen.rudisill@gmail.com or 906-361-0327) for more information. New members welcome!

*Karen Rudisill
Book Group Committee Chair*



2021-2022 Slate of Officers

Ruth Ziel has accepted the call for a second term as Financial Officer and if approved, will be available to be installed at our May meeting.

Continuing the second year in their first terms:

- Program (**Leslie Warren**)
- Membership (**Les Bek** and **Susan Shaver**)
- Recording Secretary (**Carol Steinhaus**)
- Corresponding Secretary (**Pat Pellett**)

President (**Judy Puncocar**) will continue her second year in her second term.

*Meg Goodrich, Les Bek, and Margie West
Nominating Committee*

[AAUWMI Board Statement 4/22/21](#)

Proposed Changes to Michigan Election Laws

The American Association of University Women supports by policy and practice open and fair elections. We endorse election laws that promote equitable political participation and representation. AAUW advocates for vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including expanding voting rights.

In consideration of these policy positions, the AAUW of Michigan supports making permanent some of the emergency voting measures undertaken in the 2020 elections due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Michigan had record turn-out of voters in an election that was fairly and accurately conducted according to many subsequent lawsuits, reviews, evaluations, and audits.

While election law must balance security with accessibility, we are concerned that approximately 30 percent of registered voters chose not to participate in the November 2020 elections. That problem should be the top priority for lawmakers in Michigan rather than proposals to erect more barriers to wide voter participation.

We oppose measures that would restrict convenient in-person or absentee voting. We oppose measures that would make it more difficult for American citizens and Michigan residents to register to vote, obtain a ballot or cast a ballot. We oppose measures that would weaken the ability to fairly count and certify election results.

We urge lawmakers to cast aside their party affiliation and support only those election law changes that would enhance the prospect of wide voter participation in secure and fair elections.

Martha Griffiths Award 2021

AAUW-Marquette Awards Committee received six inspiring nominations for the 2021 Martha Griffiths Award. The award is given to a high-achieving NMU student who will earn an associate or bachelor's degree in 2021 and has high involvement in her discipline and the community. Nominees may receive the Martha Griffiths Award only once. All nominations included exceptional praise for the nominees' campus leadership and public civic involvement.

The Martha Griffiths Award is in honor of one of Michigan's most influential women legislators in the last half of the 20th century. Martha Griffiths was known during her 10-term congressional career for her exceptional work with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, getting the Equal Rights Amendment to the House floor for a vote in 1970, and her implacable determination.



This year's Martha Griffiths Award recipient is **Hannah Mahn** who will graduate *summa cum laude* in May 2021 with a double major in [German Studies](#) and [Political Science](#) with a [Pre-Law](#) concentration and [Lower Division Honors](#). Hannah is co-president of Women for Women and a Residence Hall advisor. She has supervised student participation in community-wide activities such as the Pride Festival, Women's Marches, and campus-wide voter registration efforts and has led activities to raise awareness of the gender pay gap and sexual assault. After graduation, Hannah plans to create a safe environment for LGBTQIA+ youth in her hometown and complete a yearlong internship with an Alternate Correctional Facility. Her long-term plans are to attend graduate school.

The Martha Griffiths Award comes with \$500 in cash, publicity in the local newspaper, and a framed certificate with Hannah Mahn's name as recipient of the 2021 Martha Griffiths Award. Hannah was nominated by Drs. Anna Zimmer and Jon Sherman of [NMU Languages, Literatures and International Studies](#).

NMU Provost Kerri Schuiling thanked AAUW-Marquette for its vigorous support of NMU students.

Meet AAUW Member Beverly Matherne

It's National Poetry Month and that calls to mind poet Beverly Matherne, now professor emerita of English at Northern Michigan University.



Beverly reads at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

After careers as high-tech journalist in San Francisco and tenured drama specialist at Kansas State University, Beverly began to specialize in poetry at NMU in 1993.

She is the author of six bilingual books of poetry, *Bayou des Acadiens / Blind River*, from Éditions Perce-Neige, her most recent title.

Faithful to her origin in a Francophone family near New Orleans, Beverly pens her poetry in either Cajun or Parisian French with equal grace, alongside facing pages of English. Special exhibits featuring her books attest to the acceptance of her approach: the Shakespeare and Company Book Exhibit, in Paris; the Poets House Publication Showcase, in New York; and the book exhibit at the National Library Association Conference, in Chicago.

Though retired, Beverly continues to publish. In 2020, for example, her award-winning poem "Pink Geraniums" appeared in *Universal Oneness: An Anthology of Magnum Opus Poems from Around the World*, consisting of 360 poems by 360 poets from 60 countries. Four new poems are forthcoming in April and September of 2021 in *Verbal Art and Phenomenal Literature*, both peer-reviewed, print journals with an international distribution.

Beverly's work has been the subject of academic scholarship; for example, she is one of eight writers, including Samuel Beckett and Vladimir Nabokov, whose bilingual writing process is the subject of a completed doctoral dissertation from University of Paris III.

Widely travelled, Beverly has done over 350 readings across the U.S., Canada, France, and elsewhere in Europe. Special venues where she has read include Shakespeare and Company in Paris and the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium at the United Nations in New York.

She has won seven first-place awards, including the Cecil Hackney Literary Award for Poetry, and has received four Pushcart Prize nominations. Nominated for U.P. Poet Laureate consistently, she is a one-time first runner-up and many-time finalist.

Locally, Beverly has garnered important awards: the Excellence in Scholarship Award from NMU, the Outstanding Writer Award from the Marquette Arts and Culture Association, and a special award for her contributions to Cajun culture from our own AAUW.

While at NMU, Beverly served as director of the Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing in English, director of the Visiting Writers Series, and poetry editor of *Passages North* literary magazine.

She holds a Ph.D. in Drama from Saint Louis University and M.A. and B.A. degrees in English from University of Louisiana, at Lafayette.

Currently, she is completing a full-length book of poetry and restoring her Victorian home in Ishpeming, the historic Butler House.

To celebrate her retirement, Beverly enjoys a good-humored stop at The Cajun Village in Sorrento, Louisiana, where she poses in the Gatorville shack, stark contrast to her elegant home here.



For more, see beverlymatherne.com