



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

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

## *Ready for that change of pace?*

We welcome another beautiful Upper Peninsula (U.P.) summer!

AAUW-Marquette members enjoyed a heartwarming May program meeting featuring our Martha Griffiths Award winner, Hannah Mahn, and AAUW

members' favorite poetry. A Zoom [link](#) to meet Hannah and view Poetry Night is available using passcode AAUW#2021 through June 15, 2021. Tune in to enjoy uplifting conversation and inspiration.

Renxin Yang shared her poetry in Mandarin and English. Renxin is our featured AAUW member in this month's newsletter (page 5). Judy Puncoschar shared a poem "Be Dangerous" for teachers by Sigmund Boloz. The poem is not available online, so listen to the AAUW program before June 15.

Ruth Ziel received a round of applause and unanimous votes for a second term as Financial Vice President.

AAUW-Marquette Board members held their final meeting of the current fiscal year on May 27, 2021. Mark your calendars for September 9 "Welcome back!" meeting and September 20 for our book sale preparations meeting. Renee Leow has a book sale update on page 4.

Stop by the new Peter White Library art gallery to see the work of AAUW member, Elsa Clement. A few photo teasers are on page 6.

We wrap-up our fiscal year with a standing ovation for Marge Forslin's artistic editing of AAUW-Marquette newsletters! We will not have a July or August newsletter, so please enjoy a Happy Fourth of July! [Fire danger](#) is expected to be high across the U.P. this summer. Fireworks are beautiful and fun, but soak your fireworks areas with water and keep a hose handy.

## **New Adventures all around!**

Your AAUW board voted to continue its board meetings via Zoom during the upcoming fiscal year, which is important



because your AAUW-Marquette President Judy Puncoschar will soon be "Farmer Judy."

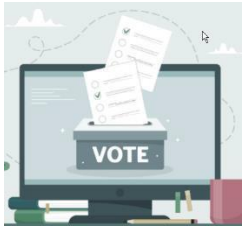


She will be moving to Nebraska in June 2021 to help her sister care for their mother.

The board is most grateful that she will remain our AAUW-Marquette president and guide our expected return to face-to-face AAUW operations with online access. We wish her happy new beginnings in Nebraska!

May you all enjoy a safe and happy summer!

*AAUW Board and  
Judy Puncoschar, AAUW-Marquette President*



## 2021 AAUW National Election Results

The AAUW national membership achieved a quorum of 5% of eligible voters within three days of voting in AAUW's 2021 National Election. Overall, 22.85% of eligible AAUW voters cast a ballot.

AAUW public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters. Julia Brown was re-elected as AAUW-National board chair. Malinda Gaul was re-elected as vice chair. Joseph Bertolino and Michigan's Elizabeth Haynes retained their board seats. All elected positions are three-year terms.

The AAUW board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement received 63% of the vote, which was less than the two-thirds majority required to enact a bylaws change.

Michigan AAUW voters were 64% in favor of open membership. Wisconsin AAUW voters were 74.5% in favor of open membership. The highest percentage of votes in favor of open membership occurred in Maine (93%), Puerto Rico (92%), and Alaska (91%). The lowest percentage of votes in favor of open membership occurred in Oklahoma (40.6%), New Hampshire (40.9%), and Florida (41.3%).

Since 64% of Michigan votes were cast in favor of open membership, more AAUW Michiganders were disappointed by the outcome than were joyful; however, regardless of your voting position, we share a steadfast commitment to AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy, and we share AAUW's vision to achieve equity for all. Hold fast to our shared AAUW commitments as we continue striving together toward diversity, equity, and inclusion.

An interactive [map](#) has the percentage of voters in favor of open membership by state. Click [here](#) to see the AAUW branches by state.

— Judy Puncocar

## 2021 Hospitality in the Clubhouse



As the branch rep for both hospitality and the clubhouse, I am happy to report good news. As of July 1, clubhouse members are able to

return to life as it was. This means we may serve food, use and wash the dishes, and operate at capacity (60 persons). We may also make our own decision about whether we require masks for our program meetings. I had completed the Hospitality schedule for Fall 2020, so I will begin confirmations there, and make changes as necessary. If you were on the list, I will contact you. If you were not on the list, and have not served the branch recently, I will contact you!! Many hands make light work, and this is a fun way to meet other branch members.

Note: Outside groups/events will not be permitted use of our dishes, cutlery, and must supply their own. The rental cost has also increased to \$100 for 4 hours.

Yesterday's Treasure sale is set for Saturday, December 4, 2021. We will again be asked to sign up to help.



### Garden Help--

Judy Ashby, who has worked with the Master Gardeners, is asking for just one hour of your time. Please call her to schedule at 906- 250-4302.

*Meg Goodrich, Hospitality Chair*

## 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 or bring them in the fall to the next meeting you attend in person. In the past, they brought in hundreds of dollars for us. During this time of the pandemic, we, like many organizations, are finding our funds down, while needs are increasing.



# In-Person Programs?!

**All ideas are welcome, even if they seem crazy, silly, or impossible.**

I am so excited that it's time to plan IN PERSON programs for our 2021-2022 season. I appreciate everyone who stuck with us online during 2020-2021, but I am glad that we can go back to seeing one another or possibly even being together.

I have two requests as we prepare for next year's monthly meetings:

1. Please volunteer to help organize a program (or two). It would be great if we were able to divide the programs so that no one had more than one or two programs to organize.
2. Please share program/event ideas. It's okay to contribute ideas even if you aren't able to take the lead on organizing the event or invite presenters.

**Please join me online on Thursday, June 17, at 7 pm to share ideas and identify priorities** for the calendar of events. All ideas are welcome, even if they seem crazy, silly, or impossible.

**Join Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83076949746?pwd=aDNJMzNESs0Nkd4OGhrSVpXN01XQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 830 7694 9746

**Passcode:** AAUW

**By phone:** +1 301 715 8592 US

As you think about things you would like to learn about or discuss, consider [AAUW's priorities](#):

1. Education
2. Workplace and Economic Equity
3. Leadership

I hope you can join us for the planning meeting. If you cannot, please share your ideas by email ([lwarren@nmu.edu](mailto:lwarren@nmu.edu)) or phone/text (773-791-7803).

As always, we will continue to follow CDC and State of Michigan COVID protocols. We anticipate being able to have in person meetings, but we will return to Zoom if we need to.

*Leslie Warren, Vice President Programs*

## Public Policy News

*Cheers!*

### **The Senate Confirmed Kristen Clarke to head the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division**

AAUW joined 55 organizations—for gender justice, reproductive health rights, justice and anti-violence-- in sending a strong letter to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in support of Kristen Clarke's confirmation. Kristen Clarke is the first woman and the first black woman to head this division.

Clarke will oversee several Sections in the Division: the Employment Section which litigates discrimination cases under Title VII; the Educational Opportunities Section which sees Title IX claims; and the Criminal Section which handles cases under Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances and prosecutes hate crimes. Disability rights, gender justice, voting rights, immigration and housing cases are also covered by this Division.

Kristen Clarke brings 20 years of experience advancing equal justice in state, federal and national civil rights organization. She most recently was Director of the respected Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law. This group was on the forefront of combating the alarming rise in hate crimes, white supremacy, and voter suppression. They held law officers accountable for violating the rights of peaceful Black Lives Matters protesters. She defended racial diversity policies in higher education and fought attempts to eviscerate policies which prevented housing discrimination.

After these past four years, the Department of Justice is in dire need of strong leadership to rebuild trust in the agency's ability to protect the rights of all people in America. We need to return to the rule of law and rectify the systemic harm and trauma the Department has inflicted on people of color. It is a tall order but Kristen Clarke's proven civil rights leadership, her experience and expertise will serve our country well.

Every Republican on the Judiciary Committee opposed Clarke's nomination. When the vote was brought to the floor of the Senate, one lone Republican, Susan Collins, supported her confirmation. Clarke was confirmed by a vote of 51-48. John Kennedy (R LA ) did not vote.

*Boo!*

### **In Michigan, a Republican sponsored bill expanding Michigan's third grade read or flunk law to fourth**



## graders next year was approved by the Senate Education committee.

It is likely Governor Gretchen Whitmer will oppose this legislation. In 2022-2023 the law would revert and apply only to third graders. State Superintendent Michael Rice opposed this legislation. He said: "Local school districts need to work with families to focus on reading supports and minimize retentions and the adverse impact on children." A spokesperson for Whitmer stated, "Instead of holding students back, we advocate for boosting third grade reading scores by increasing access to high quality pre-school, hiring and retaining excellent educators and literacy coaches...." It should be noted that the bill did not contain any money for carrying out these measures.

*Yea!*

## The Governor and the Legislature agreed on a budget.

*Public Policy Representative  
Karlyn Rapport*

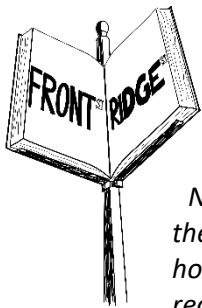
**FINALLY!!**

## Front Street Book Fair

Thursday, September 23 - Saturday, September 25

*Calling all gently read books, CDs, DVDs, games, puzzles and YOU!*

Even though no cliché springs to mind, I do know I cannot say *the third time is the charm* or even *three strikes and you're out* in regard to the reorganization for the next AAUW-Marquette academic scholarship fundraiser, however, there is a NEW, FOURTH DATE scheduled for September 2021.



Luckily, with the rescheduled date(s) comes community partnerships, fresh ideas, and even a new name and new logo for the event (*left*).

*NOTE: The small graphic below is for the same event, but this was a place holder logo PWPL used in their most recent newsletter.*



Although you may have already heard, on behalf of the book sale committee, I am pleased to announce the newly-named, **Front Street Book Fair** is being

planned as a dynamic partnership between AAUW-Marquette, the Friends of Peter White Public Library, and even the Landmark Hotel.

## The Front Street Book Fair will begin on Thursday, September 23 and end on Saturday, September 25.

The event will include two book sales: our sale at the First Presbyterian Church and a second sale in the community room of Peter White Public Library hosted by the Friends of Peter White Public Library. In addition to the simultaneous sales, other special events including readings for all ages by local authors and even a book appraisal session (our version of the Antique *Book Roadshow*) will be held at the Women's Federated Clubhouse.

Furthermore, book hunters will be able to enjoy book-themed cocktails and food featured at the Landmark Hotel and other nearby venues during the event. As you can image, this endeavor has and will continue to take a lot of planning and with that in mind, the book sale committee asks for your assistance to pull this off in the successful fashion we have come to expect.

Please ask your ask your friends and family to donate their gently read books, CDs, DVDs, games, and puzzles for the sale while you promote the event by direct contact or by using your personal social media accounts via Facebook, Instagram, etc. In addition, I invite you to come to a presorting party which will expedite the week-long sorting process at the church (more information to follow later in the summer).

Finally, please attend the potluck supper and Front Street Book Fair kickoff **Monday September 20** at the church and plan to return during the week for as much additional time as you can spare to make the **Front Street Book Fair** a success and wonderful community event!

The joint Front Street Book Fair committee will consider and adopt all safety measures as well as follow necessary safety protocol(s) to keep our AAUW members, volunteers, and the community safe. For now, do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions, need immediate book sale goodies picked up before the presorting party in September, or if you simply want to add your creative juices to the planning process. You can reach me at (906) 250-5503 or [rmleow@charter.net](mailto:rmleow@charter.net) Please know that I am able to respond much more quickly to a text message than an email.

Be well and have a good summer,

*Renee Leow  
AAUW Book Sale Chair*

## Meet AAUW Member Renxin Yang



I love poetry. It's been part of me since childhood. It has accompanied me through the past twenty-six years or so teaching as a sociologist at NMU.

Writing poetry is therapeutic. Whenever I feel strongly about something, words just flow out of my heart. Sometimes it's like writing a diary.

A few years ago, I selected over four hundred of my poems and organized them into a three-volume trilogy:

- I. *Floating Willow Flowers*;
- II. *The Native Spirit*;
- III. *Light & Shadows*:  
*Conversation of the Soul*.

Most of the poems were utilizing poetic language to describe sociological observations of the diverse and complex human and natural world, and some on my childhood memories and personal experiences in the life journey. Currently, I'm in the process of translating the published poems to share them with those who also love poetry. Here is a short poem:

### Retreat

You and me,  
face to face,  
walking backwards,  
further and further,  
until it's an ocean away.

### 你和我

你和我  
面对面  
各自后退  
渐行渐远  
直至被海洋隔断

The vaster the ocean,  
the closer we get,  
back to back,  
as the Earth is round.

海洋愈浩渺无边  
你我愈来愈近  
背对背，因为  
地球是圆的

April 2010

二零一零年四月

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Emily Tinder, Senior Student Assistant,  
Central U.P. and NMU Archives, member of AAUW-NMU

### This Month in AAUW History-1961

Usually, May was a time when AAUW slowed down for the year to take a well-deserved summer vacation. After the annual used book sale wrapped up in late April, members took a break and did not resume holding events until the new school year picked up in September. Fortunately, the archives' database had one old photographic negative from May with a nice story to tell.

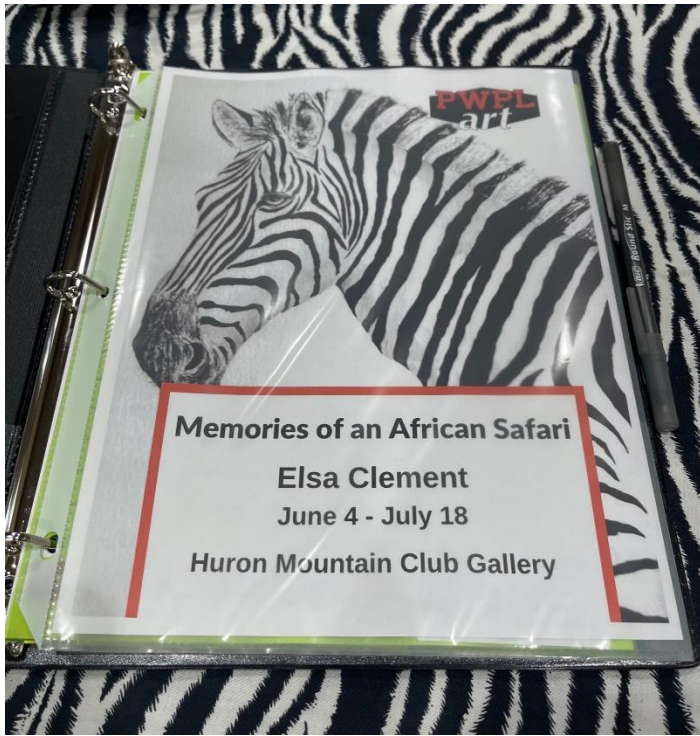


Seventy years ago, in May of 1961, the AAUW Marquette branch and **First Lady Elizabeth Harden** hosted a reception that honored women graduates. Although the photograph from the event is grainy and overexposed, it shows some of the students and women being celebrated at the Harden home at 537 W. Kaye. Reporting from the Mining Journal states that three area high school students who received superior marks in Northern's recent forensics festival performed their pieces; also speaking was past-AAUW Michigan president, Mrs. C.M. Humphrey Jr. of Ironwood.

Edgar Harden had become president of Northern Michigan College in 1956, and from the start he worked with his wife, Elizabeth, to expand Northern's relationship with the greater Upper Peninsula. This reception was one of those countless attempts to strengthen bonds between students, graduates, and community leaders of Marquette.



# Memories of an African Safari



AAUW member Elsa Clement has a must-see gallery exhibit of African Safari drawings at the Peter White Library. Her interactive exhibit is in the Huron Mountain Club Gallery through June and July. Learn interesting biology facts and live vicariously through Elsa's breathtaking interactions with encountered animals during her safari. The drawings are beautiful and fun for both children and adults. Elsa is interested in offering her art pieces for sale with money going to AAUW scholarships.

