



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

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

2022 *THE NEW YEAR*

January *Game Night Winners!*
February *Women's Safety*

Leslie Warren, Les Bek, and Meg Goodrich hosted a rousing evening of interactive camaraderie in January!

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Miller**, our winner with the most points earned during the games. She earned first choice of three prizes. Elizabeth will receive special VIP seating at our next in-person event. Her throne will be spectacular; we assure you will agree.

Sue Payant and **Karen Rudisill** were lucky winners of the drawing that included everyone who won points. Sue chose the lovely movie night basket created by Les Bek. Karen will indulge herself at Donckers with her prize.

Game Night was a spectacular success filled with education. We learned, for example, that **Elizabeth Miller** and **Ann Hilton Fisher** are exceptionally good at online charades.

No one answered all trivia questions correctly, but some came close, and all were amazed by our friends' tidbits of knowledge:

- **The Bechdel Test** measures of the representation of women in movies, asking whether the film includes at least two women who talk to each other about something other than a man.
- **Betty White's father** was born in Neguane.
- **Actress Hedy Lamarr** was inducted into the National Invention Hall of Fame for her work creating a frequency hopping system that laid the groundwork for wireless communication.
- **Ada Lovelace** (1815-1852) first computer programmer.

Many thanks to **all our Game Night participants** for an evening filled with **good cheer and laughter!!**

NEXT MEETING: via Zoom
Thursday, February 10, 7 pm

Women's Safety

Darcie Forslund,
Sexual Assault Program Coordinator
 at the Women's Center

Please join us online on Thursday, February 10, at 7:00 pm for a discussion of women's safety. Darcie Forslund, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator at the Women's Center, will talk about issues in our community.

The conversation will start with three questions:

- How is women's safety supported in the Marquette area?
- How has COVID affected that support?
- What can community members do to help prevent or respond to violence against women?

Please bring your thoughts, questions, and ideas for this important topic.

WOMEN'S SAFETY

Thursday, February 10, 2022
7:00-8:30 pm

Join by computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81964441936?pwd=cjFLY2E3M3JWTTBpVEFKSElyTkFEz09>

Meeting ID: 819 6444 1936

Passcode: 401965

Join by phone:

1 929 205 6099

Member Accomplishments

AAUW Golden Award to Karlyn Rapport ...



Photo credit: Karlyn's daughter-in-law, Rabbi Gaylia R Rooks.

Because AAUW of Michigan will be celebrating its centennial at its Convention in April 2022, the Golden Award was created to honor all members who joined the organization fifty or more years ago. These members also have demonstrated a commitment to the mission of achieving

equity for women and girls and have participated in AAUW branch/state activities

Karlyn joined AAUW-Marquette on July 1, 1958. She has been a continuous AAUW member for 64 years.

Karlyn is a frequent featured speaker for the Marquette Women's Marches and Equal Pay Day. She currently serves on AAUW-Marquette's Board as Public Policy Representative and on AAUW-Michigan's Public Policy Committee and Virtual Lobby Corps. Karlyn serves on the Women Center's Finance committee, Education committee of the Marquette League of Women Voters, and as a precinct captain for the Marquette County Democratic Party. She loves being part of AAUW-Marquette's book group and she proclaims, "AAUW keeps me going."

Karlyn Rapport's lifelong passion for more than six decades of activism is to provide access to health care, education, and community services for women and their families. She works tirelessly to support the AAUW-Marquette branch to enhance the self-achievement of women in the Marquette community.



Email your suggestion for an AAUW-Marquette Member Accomplishments article to newsletter editor, Marge Forslin.



Save THE date and Start saving the BOOKS

NOTICE:

The AAUW Spring Book Sale has been postponed to **September 22-24, 2022.**

All I ask is that ...

you pencil your calendars for September 22-24

along with

the potluck supper/book sale work bee Monday, September 19.

Okay, and I also ask that...

you remind your friends, family, and all others to save their books, CDs, DVDs, games, and puzzles for the September sale.

Even though the sale has been postponed, work continues on the book sale, and I am pleased to report that I have been working with our local bibliophile, Dave White, to sell some special books on eBay as well as doing a bit of research to make a valuation for other interesting books in order to create a rare and unique book section at the sale.

Again, please...

save the date, save your books, and tell your friends.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Give me a call at 906-250-5503 if you or someone you know might need an *early book pick up*, as I will be making those arrangements before the sale.

Thanks everyone for your support for all the good things we do together. **Be well!**

*Renee Leow
AAUW Book Sale Chairperson*



Public Policy News

Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again.

It was a long shot, but the Senate did not pass the **Freedom to Vote Act**. They had a public debate. Our Senators Stabenow and Peters supported it. But in the end the fact that the Senate did not modify the filibuster, secure enough votes for passage and save a democracy in peril is unconscionable. Shame.

There is promising news regarding ERA.

To refresh your memory this is the full text of the Equal Rights Amendment:

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article.

Section 3: The amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification

On January 27, 2020, Virginia was the 38th state to ratify ERA.

Before we got too excited, however, Trump's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) argued Congress had no power to remove the 7-year timeline for the ratification of ERA as prescribed in the preamble. Therefore, the 3 states which recently ratified were not valid. The United States Archivist was barred from certifying ERA as law.

On January 26, 2022, The Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel issued an opinion **affirming** the power of Congress to remove the deadline. Over 200 constitutional scholars signed a statement that Attorney General Barr's OLC opinion of 2020 is wrong and should be withdrawn.

Section 3 of ERA states that the amendment shall take effect two years after the 38th state ratifies. Therefore, ERA should be in effect as of January 27, 2022. Right????

What would it take for the Archivist of the United States to certify and publish ERA?

Advocates marched to the Department of Justice and delivered 62,000 signatures to Attorney General, Merrick Garland, asking him to withdraw the flawed opinion. Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia are suing the U.S. Archivist, David Ferriero to certify and publish ERA as part of the Constitution. The archivist's refusal is based on the 2020 OLC opinion. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution affirming ERA was validly ratified.

ERA was introduced 100 years ago.

Are we there yet? Garland must withdraw the flawed opinion. The most recent 2022 opinion is being defended in court. Then the archivist needs to do the last steps. I know many ERA advocates say that ERA is the law of the land now. To avoid further challenges to this needed amendment to our Constitution we have to press for the Department of Justice, the courts and the archivist to act. Passage of ERA during this administration would be a lasting legacy.

*Karlynn Rapport
Public Policy Representative*



Tadych's Receipts Success!

Thank you to AAUW members for continuing to collect what we knew previously as Econo receipts. The store name on the has changed to "**Tadych's Marketplace Foods**," but their generous Marquette tradition remains the same--allowing community organizations such as AAUW to earn money for their group by collecting and turning in their receipts

So please **KEEP SAVING RECEIPTS** and bring them to any in-person meeting you can attend, or you can mail or drop them off to me. Call me if you have any questions.

*Meredith Kulisheck, 906-226-2372
617 W Hampton St, Marquette*



Broken Neck Roller Coaster

By Carol Steinhaus
AAUW Board Secretary

While my broken-neck journey seems to inspire people, from my point of view, all I've done is survived to tell the tale.

I fell at the beginning of the second week of a two-week Road Scholar hiking trip in Switzerland. That trip was to be followed by a 1-week bus tour around Ireland, delayed by covid. The hike this particular morning had really difficult spots, including a series of boulders where each boulder was knee high compared to the one I was standing on. Given altitude and low blood sugar, I think I actually simply fainted, coming-to while rolling over at least 10 times, wearing a backpack and with my hands through hiking stick straps. Other hikers believe I rolled over 80 feet on a hill that was an 80% decline. That hill was the only one that day covered in knee-high bushes with no trees or no rocks. I'm lucky to be alive and not paralyzed. I found I could move my hands and feet, but my neck hurt. The leader had to run back down the trail to get to me (less steep than the hill), run back up, and call for a helicopter.

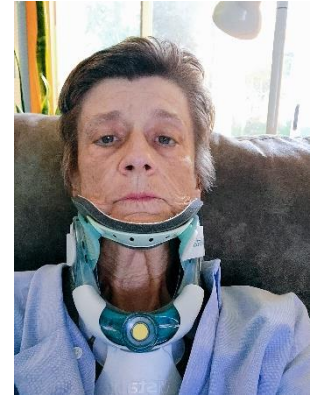


I was taken to a university hospital in Bern, about half an hour away, was operated on the next day,

and had a rod and eight screws put in by three surgeons, through vertebrae C2 through C5, having broken 2 through 4. I was asked whether they wanted me to have surgery there or whether I wanted to fly home first. I didn't want to risk the flights, so decided to have it done there.

I was in a cervical collar and in bed for several days in a room with 3 other women. One spoke only French, one spoke only Swiss German (of which there are several dialects and

Germans often have trouble understanding this language), and one, a younger woman who had crashed into the side of a mount while paragliding (breaking her right arm, right leg, and ribs on the right side of her body), thankfully



spoke German, French, English, and could understand the Swiss German. This felt like the United Nations, and she became the interpreter for everyone, including the medical staff. We managed to enjoy ourselves. I love international culture issues, so I enjoyed what I could of the situation.

After over a week, my daughter Heidi, who works for Medtronic, an international medical supply company and who speaks German fluently, was able to come and help me get home. "Fit to fly" paperwork for the airline, using the 2 covid tests I had brought, and coordinating the trip home with the Road Scholar people were things she handled which I had neither the patience nor the mental strength for at that point. I survived the 2-hour shuttle to Lucerne, a very uncomfortable 2-hour flight to Paris, and the 9-hour flight (thankfully, first class!), from Paris to Minneapolis where Heidi's family lived. Given the time zone difference, this was an 18-hour day that included a wheelchair driver who trained in the Gran Prix and dropped me in the chair about 6" from the airplane ramp to the floor of the airport. I was glad I'd had surgery and was glued and rodded together....

I stayed at Heidi's a couple of weeks and saw a spinal doctor there. This particular fellow spoke German

well, having spent each childhood summer with his grandparents in Switzerland!! He, however, informed me that it was likely the metal rod would have to come out. The US fuses bone and doesn't use metal, and he says "almost always" the screws come loose (Imagine me having loose screws----my kids absolutely howled!). He also told me I'd have to stay in the cervical collar, use a plastic collar for showers, and could sleep in a foam collar. Eventually, I got promoted to wearing the foam collar full-time, and after over 4 months, was released from collars totally. This meant I could sleep on my side rather than my back which, before this accident, I absolutely never did.

My son flew from Marquette to Minneapolis and drove me home in my car. At first, since I couldn't look down very far, couldn't hold things up very long, and couldn't mentally focus for long, I could only veg with TV. The most weight I could lift was 2 pounds. I couldn't turn my head at all in any direction, and body movement was limited. I couldn't for example, fill the dogs' water bowl or empty the lower rack on the dishwasher. I got a bladder infection that so weakened me I once went to bed at 6:30 for fear I'd fall if not in bed. Thank heavens my son was a big

help, coming over daily at first. What an adventure this has been for the whole family!

But now, 5 months later, I'm walking well, can drive because I can turn my body well at the waist (I can turn my head a big 1" in either direction and this may be permanent), and I'm getting physical therapy twice a week. I'm working on getting my strength back to where it was and considering going back to do the whole Swiss trip again (Road Scholar won't let me do just the second week), so I can conquer that particular hill. This has been a learning experience, like divorce was, that I wouldn't wish on an enemy if I had one. Emotionally, I've been a dented ping-pong ball from *this is taking forever*, and *I can't do A, B, or C*, to simply being thankful that I'm alive and moving. I've endured, and still do, physical pain in my neck and across my shoulders and upper back, but physical therapy is helping. Prior to this trip, I had just lost 1/3 of my body weight and was in great shape, or I wouldn't have been on that hike in the first place. I'm impatient with this whole process, but I'm determined to get in shape again. As far as I know, I only have one life to live and I want to enjoy as many activities for as long as possible, and that requires being fit. Hopefully, I will hike again!