



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

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

## Notes from the President

by Carol Steinhaus



Winter and holiday greetings to all the AAUW Marquette Chapter members!! Your board members were very productive during the November 30 board meeting, and I'll encourage you to read this newsletter thoroughly to recognize and enjoy what board members have been doing!

As highlights, however, I want to mention the following:

- 1) We're working to encourage as much membership meeting attendance as possible. We realize that winter/early dark hours can create a problem for some. We hope you'll consider sharing rides to meetings—giving someone a ride or seeking a ride if that would make it more likely for you to attend. We're also considering what it would cost for technology and effort to "zoom" membership meetings. Would you be interested in attending by Zoom? That cuts out some hospitality aspects but does allow "attendance" and a shared experience.
- 2) Les Bek and her committee of Laurie Lotter and Karen Rudisill worked hard to find appropriate ways to spend money that longtime member Kathy Davis had solicited in her mission to provide STEM education for girls. Look for Les's report on Page 4 of this newsletter. Many of us remember Kathy and her passion for STEM; and we're thrilled to be able to find some possible steps for putting this money into use for that! Our thanks and hearty "congratulations" to members of this committee. This has been in the works for quite a while.

- 3) Laurie Lotter, Recording Secretary, has volunteered to provide a summary of membership meetings in each subsequent newsletter. For some reason, historically, board meetings had minutes but not the membership meetings. We'll see how this works, but it should be helpful to all. Thanks, Laurie!!

Overall, there is a lot going on, and your board members are truly diligent, dedicated, and thoughtful. However, there is at least one area, hospitality, where we could use your help. Please feel free to step forward with ideas, suggestions, and offers of help! We're all in this together and want to make our chapter warm, welcoming, and the best group we can make it.

Carol Steinhaus  
Marquette Branch President

## Membership Meetings

by Ellen Koski

### OCTOBER...



Having met with Delta Kappa Gamma, the professional organization of women educators in September, in October we enjoyed excellent presentations by three outstanding students in

NMU's **Global Undergraduate Exchange Program** ("Global UGRAD"). Pictured here with program faculty members. *L to R: Lila Isleib (NMU International Programs c/jfice), Thippaphone "Noina" Phommavong from Laos, Sanur Jujuyeva from Azerbaijan, Nataly Zuniga Sosa from Honduras, and Dr. Ellen Doan (NMU International Programs c/jfice)*

### NOVEMBER...

Thank you to our members and guests for your engagement at our recent program in November on

**Homelessness in Marquette County.** For those that missed it, the program was an eye-opening and insightful discussion about the needs and resources available for people (including individuals and families) experiencing homelessness in our communities.

We learned that there are multiple forms of resources available, many willing to meet people wherever they are in their lives; however, paperwork and policies abound causing delays and even more barriers for our community members in need. Most often these barriers stem from policy decisions at the state and federal levels.

Please take some time to learn more about this issue and talk with your lawmakers about how to ensure equitable policies that benefit ALL members of our community. Check out these resources for more information:

- **Community Action Alger-Marquette** Homelessness Solutions: <https://www.communityactionam.org/homelessness-solutions>
- **Janzen House:** <https://janzenhouse.com/>
- **Michigan Balance of State Continuum of Care:** <http://www.miboscoc.com/>

## DECEMBER...

There is no meeting in December but mark your calendars for January's program on Childcare in Marquette County.

## JANUARY...

### NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, January 11, 7 pm**

Women's Federated Clubhouse  
104 W Ridge St, Marquette

### Childcare in Marquette County

We will hear from local community leaders and members about the range of needs for childcare throughout our area, and what is being done to incentivize childcare providers to start and grow their businesses.

The clubhouse doors will be open by 7:00 pm for time to socialize and to grab a treat, and the program will begin at 7:10. As a reminder, programs

are open to all, including members, nonmembers, guests and other organizations.

**Please share this program announcement with anyone in your circle you think may benefit—including prospective members!**

Attendance is free, and we welcome the entire community to join us. We encourage everyone to actively participate in this meaningful discussion.

*Ellen Koski*  
**2023-2024 AAUW Program Chair**

## Public Policy News

### *What we need at this moment*

*by Karlyn Rapport*

Our AAUW branch's book group is reading "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. The hero, Eliabeth Zott is a gifted research chemist. The novel is set in the 1960's. You can laugh and cry as this indomitable woman uniquely faces what we all have seen of sexual harassment, put downs, pay discrimination and worse. Garmus gives us such wonderful characters in a comic novel that is just what we need at this moment.

The **Paycheck Fairness Act** would have helped, but in reality, we still are waiting for that day to come. Also, November 30, 2023 was **Native Women's Equal Pay Day**. Native women earned 55 cents on every dollar paid to white men in 2022. High unemployment, poverty, violence, limited access to health care, are barriers Native Women face. They are overrepresented in low paying jobs.

AAUW is asking us to push the Paycheck Fairness Act. (HR 17) ( S 729) to benefit all women. On average women working full time are paid 84% of what men are paid. The gender pay gap persists. The Paycheck Fairness Act would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act of 1963 which allows employers to justify paying workers unfairly. It would prevent employers from retaliating against employees who discuss their wages. It would prohibit reliance on salary history to set wages. There would be more robust remedies for employees who suffered discrimination.

## *Pick up the phone and call*

Pick up the phone and call Senator Debbie Stabenow, 202-224-4822, Senator Gary Peters, 202-224-6221 and Representative Jack Bergman, 202-225-4735. **Ask them to Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.** Or go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and find the **Two Minute Activist**. Fill out a very brief form and press a button.

Happy Holidays all!

*Public Policy Representative  
Karlyn Rapport*



The AAUW Book Group will meet on Thursday, December 7th at 12:30 to discuss the popular book, ***Lessons in Chemistry*** by Bonnie Gamus. For our January 4th meeting, we'll be reading ***The War That Made America*** by Fred Anderson. Our book selections are diverse, and the discussions are always fun and stimulating.

This year, in an effort to better accommodate members' availability, the Book Group added a couple of evening meetings to the schedule. If the 12:30 time is an obstacle for you, please consider joining us on April 4th at 7pm for a discussion of ***Dinners With Ruth*** by Nina Totenberg.

Contact [karen.rudisill@gmail.com](mailto:karen.rudisill@gmail.com) for more info and/or to receive email updates regarding the meetings. ***We love to see new faces!***



## *Hospitality at Membership Meetings*

Thank you to our members who have served in this role so far this year. It is always a delight to gather in person and share a few treats and a beverage. We are still looking for two members to host the final meeting of the year, in May.

The Board will commit to sending out a meeting reminder notice the week of the meeting and has asked that the hostesses continue to make individual reminder phone calls, as well. As in advertising, there is no such thing as too much PR!

Enjoy your holidays, and we'll meet again in the new year!

*Meg Goodrich, Hospitality Chair*

## **NMU Scholarship "Just Ask" Campaign Exceeds Goal!**



*by Les Bek*

Where did that campaign name come from anyway?

I remember several years ago members of our Board were discussing our finances and particularly the funds we raise for our annual scholarships. For our entire existence as a branch, we have raised our money through our Spring Book Sale. That was the way it was done. However, we realized that putting all the fundraising eggs in one basket was no longer the way to go if we were to continue to meet our current and future fundraising goals.

Some options were tossed about and then came the suggestion, why don't we just ask? So, our annual membership and friends **Just Ask Campaign** was established. This is done by letter that is included each year in the membership Blue Book with an invitation to extend 'Just Ask' to asking other than AAUW members who may also support our mission. Is there someone you can think of to "just ask"?

December marks the official end of this year's campaign. We are happy to report that we have **exceeded our \$3,500 goal**. Bravo and thank you. But as any good campaign will tell you, donations are accepted throughout the year. We know each year the scholarship needs are great and the more we get the more we can give.

Thank you,  
**Les Bek, Co-Chair, Fundraising**

Consider a holiday gift toward a scholarship:  
**Mail to: Ruth Ziel, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette,  
MI 49855 Memo: Scholarship**

-----NOTICE-----

*Consider this a teaser of what is to come  
in 2024-2025*



## **AAUW-Marquette Branch STEM is once again in motion!**

After a period of dormancy, our commitment to supporting STEM programming and encouraging young girls to consider careers in the STEM fields, we are back with a plan.

With an ample treasury and heartfelt gratitude toward the memory and initiative of our member Kathy Davis, we are thrilled to give her passion action once again.

A STEM Work Group of AAUW-Marquette members has reviewed STEM programming offered by NMU Seaborg Center/U.P. MiSTEM and MTU Mindtrekkers and shared options for consideration with our Board of Directors. Approval was given at the November meeting for sponsorship contributions to two initiatives. The sponsorships help with the direct cost of hosting the events that align with our mission and provide positive exposure of our AAUW-Marquette Branch.

The first is **Camp Infinity** (July 22-26, 2024) - This is NMU's first year bringing this program to our region. They are forging a new partnership with the Michigan Council of Women in Technology. They are planning to offer week-long experiences for three different grade bands (Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, and Grades 6-8) in a day camp setting and anticipate serving at least 60 female students.

The second initiative is **OneUP Mindtrekkers** - A newer initiative for U.P. 8th grade students that started in the 2022-23 school year with four sites across the U.P. (Houghton, Escanaba, Gwinn, and Sault Ste. Marie). This is a high energy, hands-on, career exploration event - think 'science fair, meets career fair, meets carnival.' This is a partnership with MiWorks, Michigan Tech, MiSTEM, and others. This one-day extravaganza similar to the one pioneered by our Kathy Davis. Projected to be at NMU Fall 2024, Winter 2025.

Both of these offer top-notch content, coordination, and implementors. Our AAUW-Marquette STEM Work Group sees this as an evolution of our earlier objective to encourage young girls to explore pathways to STEM field careers to their being comfortable and confident that those are places they belong.

Stay tuned to this developing story as formal Agreements of Engagement are detailed. You will learn more about volunteer roles for AAUW-Marquette members and promotional opportunities for our Branch in future updates.

*Les Bek Co-Chair, STEM Work Group*



## **Tadych's MarketPlace (Econo) Receipts**

**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

Receipts must be turned in within 2 years of the purchase date. Bring eligible receipts to any in-person meeting you attend, or mail or drop them off to me at 617 W Hampton St, Marquette 49855.

*Meredith Kulisheck*

## **Help Farmer Judy Think Spring**

**As she goes from grains to grazing**



*by Marge Forslin*

I had a chance to visit Judy Puncocar at her home in Nebraska this fall. Yes, that really *is* our

former AAUW president in the photo driving her John Deere 4040 and drilling pollinator seeds with her Great Plains drill.

**Always striving to make the world a better place,** Judy is changing crops on her farm over to native grasses, etc. and she will rent her fields to other farmers to graze their cattle. The bees that come will live there rent free as they produce honey for Judy's sister Becky to harvest and sell.