



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

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



## *President's Report*

Everyone, this has again been a busy month for AAUW. Earlier this week, the board met and discussed many interesting items, including how to handle “tributes” to past members. We also dealt with some activities where we are coordinating with other groups such as Zonta and League of Women Voters. Our secretary, Laurie Lotter, does a wonderful job with our minutes and we are all pleased that she is willing and able to attend the statewide meeting on May 11, with financial support from our branch. Thanks, Laurie!!

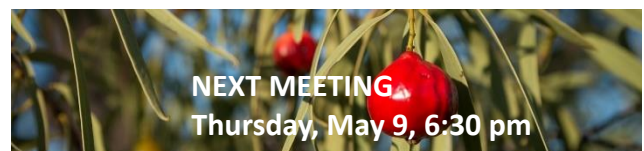
The big effort recently was the annual book sale. Pat Pellett stored book donations for months, Renee Leow did incredible work with many hours and miles of gathering donations, putting up signs, sorting books, etc. Many on the board and many members were helpful in multiple ways. This is a lot of effort to raise money for the scholarships we give out annually. I suspect that fewer people are buying books, which may result in fewer books being donated in the future. We may need to consider other types of fundraisers in the future. We all appreciate the efforts of such a dedicated team. Reading is such an important skill and such a valuable pastime for many of us. It was fun to collect some money and see some wonderful books as people checked out!

Our country is facing challenges of many types and in many different areas of our society. You may have noticed in the news that this year's Marquette Blues Fest will be the last one. Event organizers have gotten older, and no one has stepped up to take over running this event. Northern Center for Lifelong Learning (NCLL) is having similar issues.

Our branch will only be strong if members attend meetings, and some are willing to participate in leadership efforts. Ruth Ziel, who has served our branch as Treasurer for years, wants to step down from that role. She has offered to train a new treasurer and will get that person off to a great start. PLEASE CONSIDER helping our branch by taking on this role. Doing so will help you be engaged and interested in our branch activities. Martin Seligman says that to have a flourishing life, 3 core features are necessary: positive emotions, engagement, and interest, and meaning and purpose. I sometimes think that too often, we simply sit back and coast when being more active would help organizations and would also help us as individuals. Help the branch, and perhaps also help yourself!

I am looking forward to our end-of-year social on May 9. Hope to see you there for food, conversation, and a great program on a related topic!

*Carol Steinhaus*  
**AAUW Marquette Branch President**

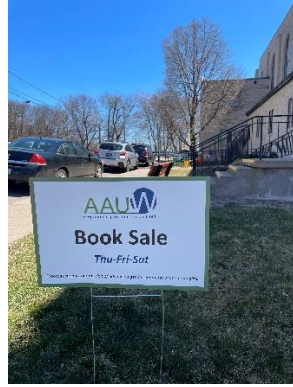


**Federated Women's Clubhouse,  
104 W. Ridge Street, Marquette**



We will be joined by Pamela Valdez, Indigenous Food Warrior, and employee of the Marquette Food Co-op, for a cooking demonstration.

*Ellen Koski, Program Chair*



## Spring Book Sale Is Now in the Books!



Today, (Sunday) the church social hall has **COMPLETELY** been cleared by our tireless and enthusiastic AAUW members who boxed and distributed the unsold books throughout our generous community. The clean-up was nearly effortless because the remaining inventory was significantly reduced after the sale by our friends at the First Presbyterian Church, St. Vincent de Paul resale store, NMU graduate students for their lending library and Friends of Peter White Public Library. In addition, the remaining inventory was donated to Bay Cliff Health Camp, inmates at the Marquette County jail, Goodwill, Little Friends Child Center and to residents at Jacobetti Home for Veterans.

The 2024 AAUW Spring Book Sale can be labeled *Easy-Peasy* and earned a little more than \$3,500

from a steady stream of foot traffic including more attendees at the pre-sale and for the Super Saturday events as well as increased total sales on Thursday and Saturday (compared to 2023 sale statistics.)

Planning is underway for the 2025 sale including new (and yes, exciting) potential opportunities. So, please save the date of May 1st-3rd for the 2025 sale as well as your games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and gently read books.

*Renee Leow, Book Sale Chair*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



The **deadline** for applications for our scholarships for non-traditional women students at NMU is **June 1**. The application is available on our website. <https://marquette-mi.aauw.net/scholarships/>

*Meg Goodrich, Andrea Ingmire,  
Kay Payant, Ruth Ziel*

## Our STEM Mission

Years ago, our member **Kathy Davis** led us on a mission. That was to provide young girls with an opportunity to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. As a former math teacher, Kathy had witnessed firsthand the lack of support she and then others to follow her would have in what is referred to as the hard sciences. She envisioned a day at Northern Michigan University that would bring middle school girls to a place of learning and inspiration. She would raise funds to cover costs so finances would not be a barrier, paying for lunches, transportation, and substitute teacher fees. She identified female presenters who would also serve as role models. Kathy enlisted the help of our membership to take up many supporting roles on the day of the event. This did not happen just once, it happened more than once.

Kathy passed away in May 2020. I went to her home and received the box containing her STEM materials. Letters to potential funders, notes, schedules, and programs from past events. I told her husband Bill that I would take care of these things, I would keep her mission alive. She left us a significant treasury.

I began conversations with my fellow program co-chair Leslie Warren. What should we do next? What model for implementation? We kicked the can, picked it up and put it back down. Then COVID 19 became a household term.

We emerged and regrouped. We shifted our thinking; times had changed even before COVID 19. Progress had been made since Kathy's early efforts. More groups and organizations were focusing on young girls and STEM, research was documenting the successes and continued gaps. We then began to see our mission as not only educating and inspiring young girls to pursue higher education and careers in the STEM fields, but we were also seeking to have them feel comfortable at the table. We wanted them to raise their hands and have a voice.

Rather than revisit creating an event, we sought to partner with the many credentialed groups who shared our mission. In fall of 2023, we found that partner in the Seaborg Center at Northern Michigan University. Many conversations were held, and options reviewed. Our Board of Directors approved the following support:

#### **Camp Infinity (July 22-26, 2024) –**

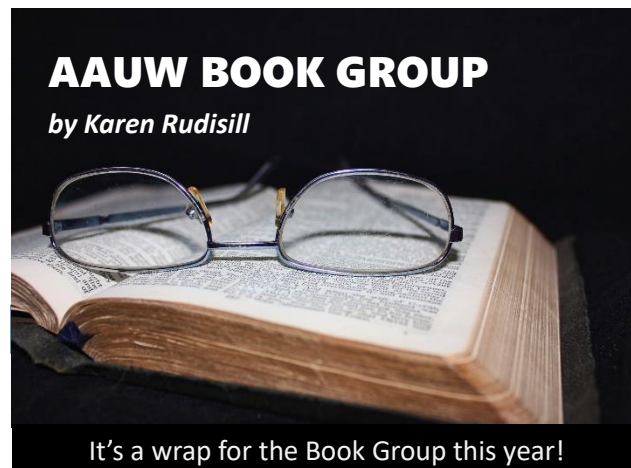
A partnership with the Michigan Council of Women in Technology (MCWT). A week-long experience for three different grade bands (Grades 2/3, Grades 4/5, and Grades 6-8) and anticipate serving at least 60 female students. Sponsorship will provide scholarships, reduced camp fees, food, and supplies/materials expenses. Instructors are trained by MCWT, local women role models in the field. This is a day camp model. \$2,500

#### **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). Served over 2,000 students by providing 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. \$7,500.

Currently, we have \$766 remaining in our STEM account. It will serve as a seed for future endeavors. No further fundraising is planned. Today, we say to Kathy and to each of you . . . mission accomplished.

*Les Bek, Co-chair STEM*



The AAUW Book Group is currently in the process of submitting titles for our 2024-2025 book discussions. Nominations in all genres are accepted, with the only criteria being that the person nominating the book must have read it. We'll meet on May 16th to vote for 8 books and then go on hiatus until our September 5th meeting. Look for our 2024-2025 reading list in the Blue Book this fall and email Karen Rudisill ([karen.rudisill@gmail.com](mailto:karen.rudisill@gmail.com)) if interested in more information. We'd love to have you join us!



#### **Collecting and Tallying Grocery Receipts**

**from Tadych Marketplace** (formerly Econo)

*By Meredith Kulisheck*

*This is a job that could easily and logically be shared by two (or more) people.*

**ONE PERSON** could collect the receipts. That person would circle the subtotal and date printed on each receipt. If there are any purchases that are not allowed, those items (*The store provides a list of the items, mostly alcoholic beverages*) must be circled and then subtracted from the subtotal to give the **allowable** total. Finally, that allowable total amount



is written on the receipt and the receipts are bundled in bunches of approximately 25.

**THE OTHER PERSON** then using either an adding machine that produces a tape or a spreadsheet to find the total for each bunch of receipts. That tape or spreadsheet column is stapled to the bunch of 25 receipts. Finally, the total of those totals is calculated and printed on a page along with the information indicating that the receipts are from AAUW and who should be contacted when the check is processed. The receipts and the page of information is turned in at the courtesy desk at Tadych Marketplace.

If you have questions, please give me a call or send an email or text.

*Meredith Kulisheck, [mkulishe@nmu.edu](mailto:mkulishe@nmu.edu)  
906-226-2372 (land line) 906-360-9244 (cell)*

## Public Policy News

**Good news:** The U. S. Department of Education issued Title IX rules which strengthen protection for students experiencing sexual harassment. The guidelines also ensure pregnant parenting and LGBTQ+ students have equal educational opportunities. The new Title IX rules reverse some standards Betsy Devon's put in place in 2020. Now survivors will not be subjected to unnecessarily traumatic procedures, but due process will be maintained. These guidelines reaffirm Supreme Court rulings protecting LGBTQ+ students from sex-based discrimination. The rules go into effect August 1, 2024.

Congressional challenges are expected. Tell our delegation the sex-based discrimination has no place in education. Ask them to support the final Title IX rules and have them go into effect August 1. You can do this easily by going to Two Minute Activist at AAUW.org

While we applaud the issuance of Title IX rules, the Department of Education rollout of Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) has been

horrendous. Delays occurred as a result of overhauls made to the aid application system. Congress passed laws mandating changes in 2019 and 2020. The overhaul was intended to make FAFSA simpler and easier to use and make more low-income students eligible for aid. Instead, there are bugs in the system leaving some students unable to apply. Parents encountered websites that did not load, buttons that did not work. There was no way to correct mistakes in the application. Colleges and universities are not able to know how much money is available.

These changes should have made 610,000 more students eligible for Pell Grants; 1.5 million students could have qualified for \$7,395, the maximum amount of aid. Instead, fewer students are going through the frustrating process.

AAUW needs to send a strong letter to the Secretary of the Department of Education, Miguel Angel Cardona urging him to fix this bureaucratic mess and make this his top priority. Access to higher education and students' futures are on the line.

Even though this is a national disaster, Michigan students are among those suffering as a result of this mess. Contact Michigan House Representative Jenn Hill 517-373-0498, Representative Betsy Coffia 202-785-7700 and our US delegation, Congressman Jack Bergman 202-225-4735, Senator Debbie Stabenow 202-224-4822, and Senator Gary Peters 202-224-6221.

*Public Policy Representative  
Karlyn Rapport*



**AAUW Marquette Branch to  
Partner with League of Women  
Voters (LWV) Of Marquette County**

AAUW Marquette Branch decided at its general membership meeting May 2023 to pursue partnerships with like-minded organizations. As a result, we have invited members from other organizations to join us for our membership meetings. The board also designated some funds to support partnership missions.

Specifically, we agreed to partner first with the LWV of Marquette County for the **June 28, 2024 Candidate Forum** they are planning for the 109th district, which is our State Representative Jenn Hill's district. We will pay the \$100 fee for the use of the Marquette Township Hall for the forum. Our members will receive a letter from the LWV inviting them to the forum, with instructions on how to submit questions of the panelists, and acknowledgement of our partnership.

We will have space for an information table at the forum. Members interested in helping will be welcome. Judy Warner has already volunteered! We will need a person or two to staff our table and answer questions about our organization before and after the forum. General help is always welcomed for setup and clearing up.

Please contact me, Ruth Ziel, if you are interested in participating. My contact information is in the Blue Membership Book.



## Membership Renewal Time for FY24/25 (Deadline June 30)

AAUW National will begin sending out renewal notices to members of AAUW Marquette Branch at the end of April 2024. The heading will be AAUW: It's Time to Renew Your Membership. There will be a link to the AAUW website. The email will have a video embedded in it which will explain the online renewal process. Please make sure to renew both State and Local branches. Check your spam/junk folder if you are wanting to renew online and don't see the email. I cannot send you a link but would be happy to help you access the online process. As always, you may still send a check made out to AAUW MQT to me, Ruth Ziel, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855 and I can renew your membership. Dues are a total of \$118 with the following breakdown: National \$72, State \$12, Local \$9 and clubhouse \$25. **The deadline for renewal is June 30, 2024.**



### 100 Years Old Janet Louise McKie June 28, 1923 ~ February 29, 2024

Long time AAUW member, Janet McKie passed away this February at age 100. Janet was one of the AAUW Puppeteers who provided many years of enjoyment for the elementary school children in our area. Ann (Hilton) Fisher remembers: "Janet was always the princess. There might be discussion about who was going to handle the difficult cow in Jack and the Beanstalk, or who was going to play which dwarves in Sleeping Beauty, but there was never any question about who was going to be the beautiful princess."

Janet had many passions and interests. She was a great conversationalist and loved to exchange ideas, was non-judgmental and accepting of everyone. She liked to have a good time and shared a beautiful smile. Karlyn Rapport remembers: "Janet McKie opened her home and her heart to our family when we moved into the neighborhood. I could count on Janet for considered, thoughtful parenting advice and information about Marquette. My children loved playing in the neighborhood thanks to Janet's creativity. At the time other neighborhoods were closed to us because of our religion. Janet's hospitality meant a great deal to us."

We were fortunate to have had Janet as part of our AAUW Branch.

Submitted by Sue Payant