



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

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

Convener's Corner

How do we know when convening by committee is working well? When everyone involved does her job so well, there is nothing more to add!!

Please read all about recent board decisions contributed by Andrea Ingmire (scholarships); Carol Steinhaus (bylaws) and of course, all of our other Branch news. This is a board and Branch I am proud to be a part of.

I wish you all the best during these fun and hectic holidays. See you all again "zoomily" in January as we party-in the New Year.

Meg Goodrich
November/ January Convener

Calling All Bookworms!!!

AAUW Book Group is one-third of the way through our book list for 2022-23, and we've had some great discussions. The line-up for the next few months is: ***The Trials of Phillis Wheatley...*** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Jan 5), ***Virgil Wander*** by Leif Enger (Feb 2) and ***The Agitators*** by Helen Wickenden (Mar 2). Meetings begin at 12:30 p.m. (location varies), and we always have a Zoom option. Please contact Karen Rudisill for details if interested. We'd love to see a few new faces!

Karen Rudisill, Book Club Chair
karen.rudisill@gmail.com

Second Annual

Virtual Game Night Extravaganza

It's time to brush up on your feminist trivia and practice your virtual charade moves! Our second annual Virtual Game Night Extravaganza is coming up on Thursday, January 12, 2023. We're moving the program online to give everyone, **including our snowbirds**, the opportunity to participate. The more, the merrier!

January 12, 2023 | 7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87581650454?pwd=c2JKS3UzR09GWXcydm0vLzZaaElzZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 8165 0454

Passcode: aauw

Like last year, there will be fun and exciting prizes. We don't know what they are yet, but we're sure they will be great! Also, if you have ideas for prizes, please contact Leslie Warren (lwarren@nmu.edu).

Leslie Warren, Program Vice President



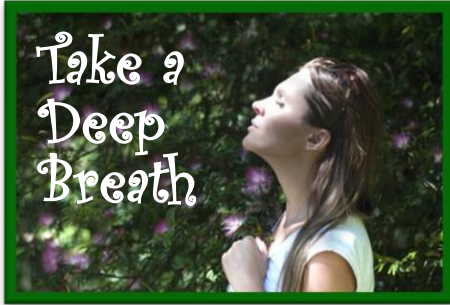
Tadych's MarketPlace Receipts

Formerly Econo

UPDATE: Receipts dated prior to December 6, 2021, will no longer be accepted, and receipts must be turned in within 2 years of the purchase date. Please bring eligible receipts to any in-person meeting you can attend, or you can mail or drop them off to me at 617 W Hampton St, Marquette 49855.

Meredith Kulisheck

Public Policy News



Take a deep breath, then sigh and for a few minutes, wallow in hope. Maybe we can inch closer to achieving AAUW public policy priorities. Maybe our fragile democracy, women's rights, human rights can be protected.

Hopeful signs: The Respect for Marriage Act passed with bipartisan support!!! This landmark legislation grants protection to same sex and interracial couples. These marriages were at risk after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade and Justice Thomas took aim at same-sex marriages. The bill passed the Senate by a 61-36 vote, 12 Republican Senators joined Democrats. The House passed the bill on December 8, 258 -169. An amendment was added clarifying the fed would not recognize polygamous marriages. Nonprofits and religious organizations would not be required to provide services, goods or facilities to solemnize or celebrate same sex marriages. It does require states to consider people married legally in any state as long as the marriage was valid in the state where the marriage was performed. This bill provides same sex and interracial married couples security. Thirty -nine Republicans joined Democrats to support this bill. Representative Jack Bergman voted Nay. The Respect for Marriage Act repealed the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act which defined marriage as the union between 1 man and 1 woman and allowed states to fail to recognize same sex marriages performed in other states.

AAUW is pushing for the passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. It passed the U.S. House with bipartisan support 315-101. Representative Jack Bergman is listed as "not voting" on this bill. Many pregnant workers are being forced out of the

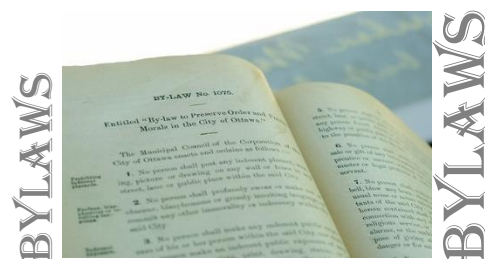
workplace. H.R. 1065/ S 1486 requires employers to make reasonable accommodations that would allow pregnant workers to keep working. You can use the Two Minute Activist at aauw.org to quickly write to senators to support S 1486.

Remove the deadline to ratify ERA Your urgent attention is needed:

Please call our Senators to vote on SJ Res 1 **now** in this lame duck session. This Resolution would **remove the deadline to ratify ERA** clearing the path to include ERA in our Constitution. The house voted twice to remove the timeline. Representative Jack Bergman voted Nay.

The Senate has not even scheduled a vote on this. If the Senate recesses without attempting a vote, we will have to start over again to remove the timeline with a Republican controlled House of Representatives. In the face of escalating Supreme Court attacks on women's rights it is imperative that you call Senator Chuck Schumer 202-224-6542 and our Senators Debbie Stabenow 202-224-4822 and Senator Gary Peters 202-224-6221. Next year will mark 100 years since ERA was initially proposal in Congress. We deserve better.

Karlyn Rapport
Public Policy Representative



The state AAUW group requested that all chapters update their bylaws and submit them to the state group for approval. Our branch's board tackled the job; updating our bylaws hasn't been done since 2012. The board spent the majority of a meeting on this and got about halfway through them.

A subcommittee of Marge Forslin, Meg Goodrich, and Carol Steinhaus volunteered to continue that

work and they have sent our revisions to Jan Van Gasse, a state board member who has offered to assist in this process. We hope to have revisions done, approved by the board, and hopefully ready for all members to approve updated bylaws by the annual meeting.

STAY TUNED!!

Carol Steinhaus, Bylaws subcommittee member



AAUW's NMU SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

Wish List

It is the season when the question is often asked "What is on your Wish List?" We want to gift someone, and we want to know something they would like. Many organizations will have a Wish List throughout the year to let us know the types of things they are wishing for.

As a member of the NMU Scholarship Campaign Committee, I can tell you one wish on my list. I wish we would reach our \$3,500 goal. When we do reach that goal, we will be granting wishes of young women with financial barriers to higher education. It feels great to be able to grant a wish whether it is big or small. I doubt we can begin to measure the inspiration our wish answering will have.

We have \$600 to go.

I *wish* we could make that happen.

If you are looking for a Wish List, consider our NMU Scholarship. Thank you to all who have contributed in many ways to getting us this close.

Write your check to AAUW–Marquette Branch and mail to: Ruth Ziel, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855 Memo: Scholarship Thank you!

***Les Bek, NMU
Scholarship Campaign Co-Chair***



On December 12 the AAUW Board of Directors met in a special

session to discuss the future of the AAUW need-based scholarship and Martha Griffiths award. The scholarship committee presented the Board of Directors with two recommendations: eliminate the Martha Griffiths Award and change the focus of the need-based scholarship to non-traditional students.

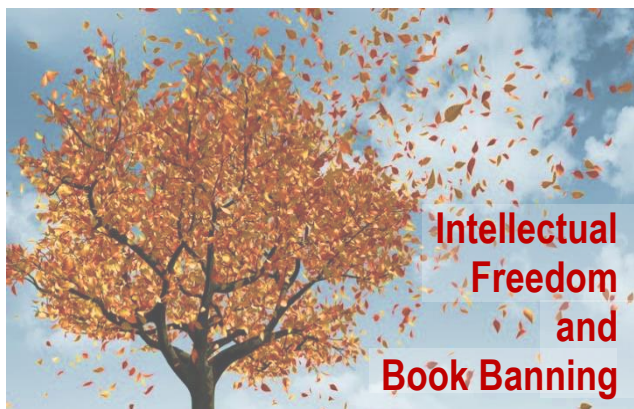
The Martha Griffiths Award has been presented to an outstanding senior at NMU since 1982. The award amount has changed over the years, ranging from \$75–\$500. While this award was created to honor the work of Martha Griffiths it has become unwieldy to execute. In the past two years the scholarship committee began to question if the award was in keeping enough with the mission of AAUW, or if those dollars should be funneled into the need-based scholarship also provided by our chapter. After a comprehensive discussion, the board members in attendance voted unanimously to eliminate the Martha Griffiths award and donate \$500 from operating funds to the need-based scholarship.

The board then discussed ways in which the AAUW of Marquette could continue honoring Martha Griffiths and her legacy. The options presented include an annual Women's History Month presentation including Martha Griffiths and renaming the advocacy newsletter column in her honor. Anyone who has ideas on how the AAUW Marquette Branch can continue to honor Martha Griffiths should bring their ideas to Meg Goodrich.

The scholarship committee also recommended changing the focus of the need-based scholarship to non-traditional women. In 2022, the committee received 35 applicants for this scholarship. Past precedence included taking into consideration extenuating circumstances such as divorce, dependent children, eldercare, etc. The scholarship committee realized that any applicant who applied as a non-traditional student ended up ranking higher than those who were traditional students. The Board of Directors expressed support for this idea and

discussed at length the meaning of the term non-traditional student. This scholarship is for non-traditional women at NMU, therefore the board decided to link the definition used in our AAUW scholarship to the one used at NMU <https://nmu.edu/dso/CommuterHome>. The board voted unanimously to make this change to the scholarship focus. The scholarship committee will continue to revise and improve the application process leading up to 2023 application period.

*Andrea Ingmire,
Scholarships and Awards
Committee Member*



A summary of our November program

Many thanks to everyone who joined us in November to discuss intellectual freedom, the current book banning crisis, and the important role of libraries in our communities. Special thanks go to our three guests:

- Jessica Holman, Director of Negaunee Public Library and School Librarian at North Star Montessori Academy
- Andrea Ingmire, Director of Peter White Public Library
- Dr. Kia Jane Richmond, NMU Professor of English

Libraries and schools around the country are being forced to defend their patrons' rights to read books that reflect our diverse society. Books that feature LGBTQ+ characters, characters of color, and honest portrayals of US history are particularly vulnerable right now.

Librarians are being forced to defend themselves against accusations that they are [“grooming” children for exploitation](#) and abuse.

In Michigan, for example, the Patmos Public Library lost two millage ballot initiatives because Jamestown Township voters want to force the removal of several LGBTQ+ books. The property tax in question accounted for 80 percent of the library's revenue. [Bridge Michigan](#) reported on December 8 that “a Michigan Republican congressional district chair suggested on social media that a public library embroiled in a controversy over LGBTQ-themed books should be ‘shut down...by force.’”

Our guests discussed steps that libraries take to prepare for book challenges, including having strong policies in place so that decisions are made thoughtfully and fairly by professionals and boards. You can read Peter White Public Library's [Material Selection and Intellectual Freedom Policy 6 2022](#) and [Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials 11 2021](#) on its website.

Kia Richmond provided multiple resources illustrating the current crisis and providing support for English teachers.

<https://restoreottawa.substack.com/p/mde-lgbtq-student-project-1-safe>

National Council of Teachers of English,
<https://ncte.org/resources/ncte-intellectual-freedom-center/>

ACLU letter to Michigan Schools,
<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2022/11/02/book-bans-aclu-letter-michigan-schools/69610614007/>

Banned Books Week: What Titles Have Been Removed From Some MI Schools?
<https://patch.com/michigan/rochester/banned-books-week-what-titles-were-challenged-rochester-schools>

The Michigan Library Association's MI Right to Read Initiative is supporting libraries, their patrons, and their communities in the fight for intellectual freedom. You can learn more, including ways to support the work, at <https://www.mirighttoread.com>

Leslie Warren, Program Vice President