

President's Message

Shirley Talley, Co-President



This will be my final President's Message for the AZ Sun, and I'm a bit overwhelmed at all the great things that have happened in these past two years. I've learned so much from this experience and in the process

I've met and worked with some remarkable women on many projects and programs. In preparing for and executing our quarterly Board of Directors' meetings and by attending many AZ branch meetings, I've developed skills that I never would have dreamt of without holding this position.

In October 2015, we partnered with ASU in presenting a 3-day Voter's Rights Conference at ASU West Campus. It was a full day of civil rights films, then a round-table discussion with Dreamers and 1960's activists. On Friday evening a dinner was held to honor many AAUW members who had participated in the Selma Voting Rights activities in the 60's. On

Saturday, we had speakers addressing the importance, benefits, future, state, and national government actions on

Voters Rights. This was a barn-burner of an event and those who attended came away energized by their new-found knowledge.

In April of 2016 we had a conference in Oro Valley, hosted by Casas Adobes and Green Valley branches,

I'm here to testify boldly that the women of AAUW AZ are encouraging, supportive, and willing to work tirelessly covering my back and keeping the ball rolling to make a difference in the lives of women and girls.

where we shared experiences in our leadership roles at both branch and state levels. Many important ideas were exchanged and evaluated. These can be found on the web-site soon on a Leadership Development page. In November of 2016 we had a terrific Fall Forum with many notable speakers. The discussion focused on Arizona educational inequities and threats to women's healthcare and ended with plans of action to make a positive difference in the state. We had record attendance at both 2016 events.

In addition, I've tried to communicate with each of the branch presidents many times through the two years and found that all branches have more in common than one might think. Highest on their list

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is finding the right people to take on branch leadership positions.

I'm a living, breathing example of feeling the same things you are feeling . . . I don't have the skills! I don't have the time! Most importantly, I have a fear of getting out of my comfort zone! I'm here to testify boldly that the women of AAUW AZ are encouraging, supportive, and willing to work tirelessly covering my back and keeping the ball rolling to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. This state board has been incredible to work with and has helped me grow in ways I would never have imagined. So please give yourself a kick in the pants and take on a branch position – you'll be amazed at the fun you'll have learning new skills, finding time and energy to do the job, growing strong, lasting friendships, and boosting your self-confidence by the experience. I strongly encourage each of you to give it a try. Start small and grow. You'll surprise yourself!

I sincerely thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Co-President these past two years. I'm looking forward to continuing my involvement with my branch and the state and to seeing each of our members stepping up to work on mission.

Don't miss our exciting last Board Meeting of the year on April 14. See the registration flier in this newsletter.

Important Websites Promoting Education in Arizona

Arizona School Boards Association Tracey Benson:

<http://azsba.org>

Bringing Up Arizona, Richard Gilman:

<http://www.bringinguparizona.com>

Expect More Arizona:, Erin M. Eccleston:

<http://www.expectmorearizona.org>

Adopt-a-classroom, Michael Ellegood:

<http://www.adoptaclassroom.org>

Resolution Initiated at Fall Forum is Finalized

As a result of the information gained at the 2016 Fall Forum on the current state of education funding in Arizona, the board resolved to draft an official statement on AAUW-AZ's position regarding school choice in Arizona. Below is the final document.

A Resolution on School Choice from the American Association of University Women of Arizona

The concept of school choice:

1. Provides parents with input and decision making regarding their individual child's education.
2. Provides hope for all Arizona children to receive a quality and equitable education.

However, the concept of school choice has created inequities such as:

1. Promotes greater segregation of schools which betrays our constitutional rights.
2. Diverts state monies into private, charter and parochial schools which is undermining the delivery of equitable education to all students.
3. Shortchanges district public schools and educators leading to a loss of educational equity for those remaining in district public schools.
4. Eliminates accountability because private, parochial and charter schools do not adhere to the same regulations and oversight required of district schools which has led to vast differences in administration costs and exploitation by for-profit entities.

In short, the result of Arizona's form of school choice has resulted in mechanisms to funnel money from taxpayers to profits for private individuals and companies.

Therefore, AAUW of Arizona strongly opposes school choice *as enacted in Arizona* and supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. AAUW advocates adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students. We furthermore call for complete fiscal and academic transparency for and by all entities which provide educational services in the state and which receive public monies or the diverted public monies from taxable revenue (i.e. tax credits).

See the accompanying paper, School Choice and Educational Equity for All Arizona Youth, written by Joye Kohl, NW Valley Branch member, to provide background and in support of this resolution.

Legislative Day at the Arizona State Capitol

September 21, 2017

by Janet Larkin, AAUW Scottsdale

Wow, another inspiring Legislative day for our AAUW members from throughout the state! I think just about every branch was represented from Flagstaff down to the Tucson area. We started out with our usual Meet and Greet over coffee and Munchkins in the Historic Supreme Court Chambers.

Joining us were Devin Rankin and Quiana Dickenson from Arizona List. They shared with us later, in the Historic Senate Chambers, how they could help anyone wanting to get involved in the electoral process, from licking envelopes to running for an office. They each encouraged women to turn their passion into action and invest in what they believe in. Quiana noted that women have to be asked "...eleven times before they seem to have the confidence to step up." Hopefully, the 11 students

from Flagstaff and one from Scottsdale Community College were listening!

Leading off our first session was Katie Hobbs from District 28. She encouraged us to go ahead and speak to our legislators and not to make assumptions as to where they might stand on an issue. When we respond to blanket emails from our legislators, we should personalize them in order to get the attention of the receiver. She is pleased that her SB1355, the Sex Assault Bill of Rights, puts an emphasis on processing the Rape Kits that provide evidence and also notifying the victims of the results. How do we make our voices heard? Hobbs encouraged us to keep coming down to the Capitol. And remember...they work for us!

Jodi Liggett from Planned Parenthood never fails to energize. She reminded us that no tax money goes for abortions. Educating and supporting women with their family planning and providing the means for contraception is what reduces abortion, and keeps teens on an education path. Colorado has seen a 30% reduction in both abortion and teen pregnancy by providing free contraception.

After a short break, Speaker of the House, J.D. Mesnard from District 17 and State Senator Sean Bowie from District 18 joined us in a discussion about our education dollars going to public schools vs each student receiving an amount, a little over \$5000, to use at any educational institution with Empowerment Scholarships. I think we had way more questions than time, since we didn't get to the Home Schooling or the separation of church and state issues. As J.D.Mesnard stated, all the legislators want the best education for their children and it's their Number One priority. How we get there makes the difference. Senator Bowie seemed to think that minds are made up about this important issue. Oh my! **Pictures on Page 12.**

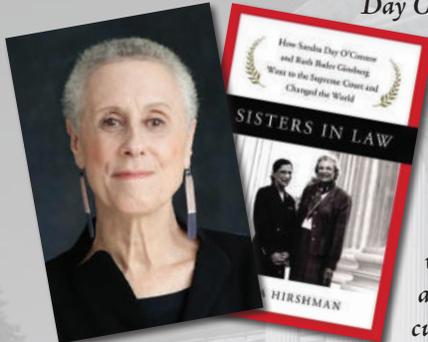


Spring Event



Special guest speaker **Linda Hirshman**, Supreme Court lawyer and author, will be speaking about her celebrated new book "Sisters in Law."

Ms. Hirshman will share the fascinating story of the intertwined lives of Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first two women to serve as Supreme Court justices.



She reveals the relationship between Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg—Republican and Democrat, Christian and Jew, western rancher's daughter and Brooklyn girl—transcends party, religion, region, and culture.

She shares the legal details with warm personal anecdotes that bring these very different women into focus as never before. Meticulously researched and compellingly told, it is an authoritative account of our changing law and culture, and a moving story of two remarkable women.

There will be a Q&A and a book sale/signing immediately following her presentation.

All branch officers and members are encouraged to attend this fun event with the Board of Directors.



Private guided tour of the amazing Arizona Historical Museum



Docent-lead tour of the Sandra Day O'Connor House



Lunch in the Pavilion of the Arizona Historical Museum

April 14, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Arizona Historical Society Museum

**1300 N. College Ave
Tempe, Arizona**

Map and additional information on 2nd page

.....Registration Form Please Print Clearly.....

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

AAUW Branch: _____ Office: _____

- Museum tour and lunch with Linda Hirshman (includes O'Connor House Tour) \$37
- Lunch with Linda Hirshman \$30. (no tours)
- Late Fee \$10

(No registration available on the day of the event) Total: \$ _____

Please check food preferences (if any) Gluten Free Vegan

A late fee will be assessed for registrations received after **Saturday, April 8.**

Send your registration with a check made payable to AAUW of Arizona to:

Margaret Noser
10903 E. Michigan Ave.
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248



State Board Nominees



Submit Bios

Joanne Walen

**Nominee for Co-President
Two year term (2017-2019)**

AAUW Branches: East Mesa and Reno, NV



Joanne retired to Arizona 26 years ago after a 30-year teaching career in Reno, Nevada. She began her college years in Middlebury College, Vermont, intending to major in languages and become an

interpreter for the UN. Her first experiences in the French language lab laid to rest that ambition. She transferred to the University of Nevada, Reno where she received her BA and MA degrees in English Literature. She and her late husband Wally were "snowbirds" for 10 years before their grandson graduated high school and was recruited to play baseball for Mesa Community College. It was then they decided he needed to come to Nana's & Poppa's house for pot roast on Sunday nights, so they extended their stay in Arizona to year-round, becoming Arizona residents in 2008. After Wally's death in 2011, Joanne was looking for fulfilling ways to spend her time and AAUW seemed a good fit. After her second meeting, she was asked to be the newsletter editor for the branch, which led to further involvement as President-elect the following year. Joanne is committed to the AAUW mission and promoting women's issues, especially for her three granddaughters and new great granddaughter.

Deborah Dillon

**Nominee for Co-President
One year term (2017-2018)**

AAUW Branch: Prescott



Deb Dillon is the current president of the 220-member Prescott affiliate of AAUW as well as their public relations chair. Prior to her stint as president, Deb served as co-vice president of membership. Deb also actively participates in

six of AAUW Prescott's interest groups.

In addition to her responsibilities with AAUW, Deb is very active in the community. She teaches and takes classes through the OLLI program, where she is vice-chair of their Curriculum Committee. Deb is a volunteer for Trauma Intervention Programs (TIP) and serves on the Prescott Unified School District Bond and Override Oversight Committee.

A retired alternative high school principal, Deb is passionate about providing quality education for all students. In 2011 she was awarded the National Dropout Prevention Center's Crystal Star award for her work with at-risk students.

Deb holds a B.S. in journalism from Iowa State University; an M.S. in guidance and counseling from the University of Nebraska, Omaha; and an EdSpec from North Dakota State University in educational administration. Deb and her husband Mark are the parents of two adult sons.

Gail M. Garrison

**Nominee for Corresponding Secretary
One year term (2017-2018)
AAUW Branch: Green Valley, CA and OR**



**Education/
Professional:**
Gail was raised in Rhode Island and received her undergraduate degree in Education from Rhode Island College and a Master's degree in Education-Counseling and

Personnel Services from the University of Maryland. After teaching for 6 years, Gail moved to California with her husband where she worked in the real estate field holding a Broker's License and then on to Oregon, where for 16 years she was with a CPA firm in the areas of individual taxes and payroll. Retiring to Arizona in 2003, Gail transferred her AAUW membership to the Green Valley branch. She currently is a volunteer with the AARP Tax-Aide program.

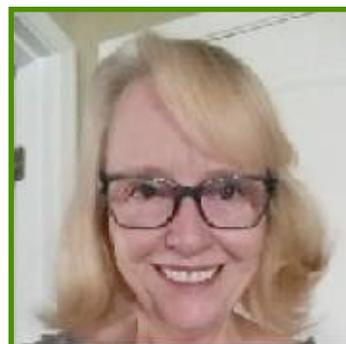
AAUW Experience:

Gail first became a member of AAUW in California in 1970 and has retained her membership for over 40 years. She has served in several capacities, including president of branches in both California and Oregon. State AAUW offices include Recording Secretary, 4 years as Treasurer and Chair of Branch Special Projects. As a member of the Green Valley Branch, Gail's positions have included Treasurer and AAUW Funds and Finance Advisor. She is currently nominated for the position of Treasurer-Elect for 2017-18.



Mary Rea

**Nominee for Vice-President, Membership
For a Second two-year term (2017-2019)
AAUW Branch: Oro Valley and MI**



Mary Rea became Oro Valley's membership vice president in September 2015, filling the position when the elected MVP moved out of state. She is also the MVP in her home branch, Casas Adobes,

Tucson. Before moving to AZ, Mary was active in the Ann Arbor, Michigan branch having served in many capacities including branch president.

Mary has a Master's degree in Education. She taught elementary school for 30 years before retiring and particularly enjoyed encouraging a love of books. When not engaged with AAUW, Mary can be found at thrift shops, estate sales, art galleries, gardens, or collapsed with a historical novel.

Save the Dates!	
April 14, 2017	Board Meeting/
April 14, 2017	Spring Event! Don't Miss this! (See Flyer, pg 4)
AAUW National Convention	June 14-17, 2017 in Washington D.C.
June 20	Summer edition of Sun published late late to report on National Convention
August 15, 2017	Submissions due for Fall 2017 edition of Sun
September 1	Fall edition AAUW AZ Sun published

Margaret Noser
Nominee for Recording Secretary
Second two year term (2017-2019)
AAUW Branch: South East Valley and WI



**Education/
Professional:**
Graduate of the University of Minnesota in child psychology, with post-graduate work in special education and Montessori education. Margaret has taught in a

number of Montessori schools from the inner city projects of St. Paul, MN to the shores of Lake Michigan in the small town of Manitowoc, WI. For nine years she was head teacher of the Montessori Lab School at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN, and has acted as instructor of Special Education, student teaching at the University of Minnesota. Margaret was a perceptual-motor therapist with N.C. Kephart in Fort Collins, CO. Along with her husband, she also owned a small Arizona business for 10 years.

AAUW Experience: Margaret joined AAUW in 1985 in Wisconsin and has served as branch newsletter editor, membership directory editor, educational equity initiative chair, program vice-president, and president (two terms), as well as chair of various interest groups. She also served on the AAUW of Wisconsin board as newsletter editor for four years. After retirement, Margaret served on the Southeast Valley Branch as co-president, public policy chair, college/university chair, advisor, nominating chair, and as website manager for five years. She is currently serving on the AAUW of Arizona Board as recording secretary.



2017 AAUW National Convention
Scholarships Awards Announced
June 14-17 Washington, DC

The AAUW of Arizona wants to help you attend the National Convention in Washington DC. Please go to [our state website](#) for details on how you can apply for reimbursement of up to \$500 to offset the expense of this event. There are deadlines for getting this grant money. The date each application is received will be a factor in the selection process. In the event there are not 14 branches applying, we will consider additional applications and may award second scholarships to branches until all allocated funds are used.

Please consider attending one of these conferences at the convention as an AAUW of Arizona representative. You will learn great things that will transfer to you at your branch level.

To all Convention goers!

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

8 a.m.–noon

Conference of State Fundraising Chairs

8 a.m.–noon

Conference of State Presidents

8 a.m.–12:30

Conference of State Program Vice Presidents

More Great News!
NCCWSL Reimbursement Scholarship
Available for Women in College!

The state Board of Directors overwhelmingly set aside \$4500 specifically for the purpose of reimbursement funding for the **2017 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders**.

Please help get the word out to any and all college women who might be interested in leadership training. The [interactive application](#) is on our web-site at aauwarizona.org.



Branch Reports



The Women's March on Washington – Green Valley Rally January 21, 2017 By Elizabeth “Libby” Beyrer

The day was cold and blustery, but the rain held off until just a few minutes after 11 when the rally ended. I couldn't tell how many people were there because I was standing next to the street the entire time, but people were everywhere. My best guess is 500 – 700--a remarkable number for our retirement community which has a population of 24,000! According to the local newspaper, this was one of the largest rallies ever held in Green Valley.

People were up and down all the sidewalks, in the medians and constantly crossing back and forth in the intersection, displaying their signs. I was astonished and thrilled at how many drivers honked their horns and waved thumbs up as they passed through the intersection.

Not only was the turnout phenomenal (many AAUW members were present), but the signs were, too. In addition to the many signs supporting women's rights and addressing every social justice concern, there were humorous ones such as “Now You've Pissed Off Granny,” “Make Russia Great Again,” and “Real Men Grab A Vacuum, Not a Pussy.”



The women in this picture are AAUW members: left to right: Fred D'Angelo, Elizabeth “Libby” Beyrer, Susan Kirk, John Sjoval, Gaylord Harter and Linda Harter, who is kneeling.

On January 21, 2017, at least **half a million people descended upon Washington, D.C.**, to march for gender equality. Millions more joined in sister marches across the United States and around the world. **Never content to sit out history, AAUW members were right there front and center. Go to [this link](#) to see pictures and comments from around the country on this monumental day!**

Casas Adobes Stays Active

by Pat Lee

The Casas Adobes Tucson Branch has had a wide-ranging series of activities so far this year. We again co-sponsored the local Running and Winning event introducing high school girls to the possibility of running for office. Additionally, we heard one of our members speak about her career as an occupational and psychotherapist, a presentation on Lawrence of Arabia, an examination of how the turbulent times of the 1960's were reflected in the art and culture of that era, and stories of immigrant families facing detainment and deportation.

Many members and guests enjoyed our holiday luncheon at Skyline Country Club, complete with wonderful harp music. In March, the speaker at our annual AAUW Funds luncheon and raffle is Stephanie Murphy, an American Fellowship recipient. Also in March, our Scholarship Committee reviews applications for the scholarships we present each year to re-entry women students at Pima Community College.

Our monthly book discussion is very popular and other interest groups are also active. Recently, the Foreign Screen and Cuisine group attended an interesting movie at the Jewish Film Festival in Tucson, followed by supper at a great deli.



Think "Out of the Box!"
Put AAUW-AZ \$ in!

**Apply for Community Action Funds
by March 1, 2017!**

**Didn't make the deadline?
Contact Claudia for help!**

Contact Claudia Greenwood
atcommunityaction@aauwarizona.org

East Mesa Branch Reports In

by Joanne Walen, President

On Saturday, February 4, 2017, the East Mesa Branch held its 8th Scholarship Fundraiser, (Author Luncheon) and had a most enjoyable time with entertainment by Tempe author Donis Casey who spoke about her work. We also successfully sold 18 baskets through our silent auction, jewelry, cookie and soup ingredient jars, and offered a raffle for the "Best of the Best." Although we have been focused on the fundraiser, we haven't been ignoring our other mission-driven events.

At our first evening meeting in February, our speaker was Lori Regnier from Starbright Foundation, a safe home for children who have been trafficked. It is the only home in the Valley for children under the age of 17, which is rather surprising, since the average age of a trafficked child is 11 years. Lori told us some heart wrenching stories of the children her organization has helped, and we responded with donations of money, quilts, and lice kits, all of which are badly needed.

For Women's History Month in March we offer a free film to the community on two different days (with free popcorn, also). This year's film is "The Hunting Ground" about sexual harassment on campus. Also in March, we welcome Carolyn Warner as a speaker on "The Future of Education" from her perspective as a former Superintendent of Public Instruction in Arizona and now an education consultant.

April winds down our year with our annual luncheon when we install new officers.

**Have you visited the State Website?
Don't miss this great site! The link
can now be seen at the top of every
AZ Sun page! Or click here:
www.aauwarizona.org**



Scottsdale Branch Keeps National Mission at Forefront of Activities

by Karen Ramos

The Scottsdale Branch has a history of supporting efforts that align with the Mission of AAUW, “Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.”

Supporting Our Mission of Education

The Scottsdale Branch is currently collecting books for donation to students in grades K-5 at Pima Elementary School as part of our **Adopt-a-Book** Program. This program is conducted each year to provide books to children at Title I schools. Many of these children have no books at home. The books they receive encourage them to read and share the books they receive with their siblings. Over 550 books have been collected, and each donated book will have a name plate showing it was donated by the Scottsdale Branch of AAUW. In addition, each book will have a bookmark including the Scottsdale Branch logo. (See illustration to the right.)

Supporting our Community

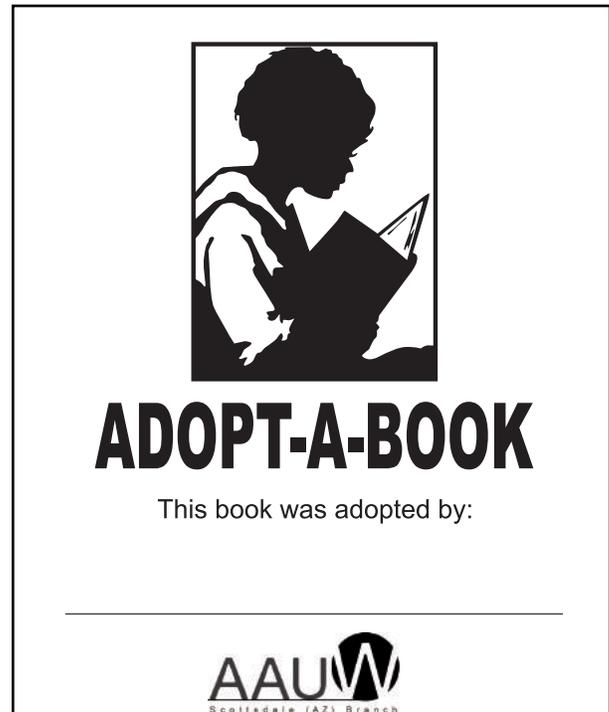
At a recent meeting, the Scottsdale Branch hosted BACA, *Bikers Against Child Abuse*. Following the meeting, the Board voted to donate \$200 to help support the organization’s efforts. The donation was earmarked to provide physical and emotional support to local children who are victims of child abuse. The bikers make themselves available to the child to ensure that they are safe and also provide ongoing support during court cases. More information can be found at <http://bacaworld.org/>

The Scottsdale Branch has also continued to support *Mary Ellen’s Place* with a donation of backpacks containing toiletries to be given to the homeless women veterans they serve. Toiletries were collected at Branch meetings and the backpacks assembled by members of the Branch’s Community Action Group. They were delivered by Janet Larkin, Kirsten Paterakis and Peggy Owen. More

information about *Mary Ellen’s Place*, a program of *Veteran’s First*, is available at [at this link](#).

Supporting Our Mission of Philanthropy

The Scottsdale Branch held its annual Holiday Tea to support the **AAUW National Fund**. Branch members were sent a letter in November asking them to donate to support this fund during our holiday event. In addition, a silent auction, including themed baskets donated by the Branch’s various Special Interest Groups, raised additional funds. A scarf, jewelry sale and a White Elephant raffle, brought the total donation to the fund to over \$3,200.



Phoenix Branch Outlines Its Programs for Remainder of Year

by Mary Beth Lemons

The Phoenix Branch of AAUW holds its meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Beatitudes, 1610 West Glendale Ave., in Phoenix.

The meetings for the remainder of the year are as follows:

March 21st - We will have Vicki Hill, Phoenix City Prosecutor. She has been City Prosecutor since March 2016 and has more than 20 years experience in municipal law, specializing in police body camera technology, behavioral health cases, and domestic violence.

April 18th - The speaker will be Dianne Post, Attorney, discussing *Current Issues concerning Separation of Church and State*.

May 16th - The program will be given by Dana Kennedy, State Director for Arizona AARP, who will speak about challenges in the Arizona State Legislature on aging issues.

June 20th – This annual presentation is presented by Mary Jo Pitzl and is entitled *Legislative Wrap-up*.

AAUW Phoenix Branch presents

Memories of World War II: When We Were Children

A Reader's Theater Presentation
& English Tea honoring
Author, Phoenix Branch member, Nancy Bell



This story, told through the memories of a young girl who grew up in a small Mid-western town during World War II, shows the depth of the innocence of these children, 6-10 years old. Though the war was not fought on American soil, and there were no air raids or bomb shelters, the war had a profound effect on their young lives.

With Forrest Bechtel, Myrna Stephens, John Shackelford, and Judy Schwiebert

Saturday, March 18th at 1 pm
At Crossroads Methodist Church,
7901 N Central Ave.

To reserve your place send your check payable to AAUW for \$25 to Lesli Jones, 10613 N 23rd St. Phoenix 85028
Donations greatly appreciated

*All proceeds will support scholarships for women attending Phoenix College
Questions? Contact Kathleen Preece at (602) 717-3894

The Phoenix Branch is also sponsoring the above Readers' Theater presentation to support its annual Spring Fund Raiser.

Attendees at the December 7th, 2016 launch of the City of Tempe Work Smart Workshops. The **City of Tempe** has contracted with AAUW National to provide **8,000 women in five years** the opportunity to learn how to negotiate their salary. Find more information at the [City of Tempe website](#).



LEGISLATIVE DAY: Photo 1: Legislative Day volunteers prepare for the day; **Photo 2:** Participants assemble for LD program in the Old Senate Chambers. *Front Row -AZ List Representatives (l to r) Quiana Dickenson and Devin Rankin* **Photo 3:** Senate Minority Leader Katie Hobbs addresses group; **Photo 4:** Jody Liggett of Planned Parenthood; **Photo 5:** Senate Majority Leader J.D. Mesnard; **Photo 6:** Jane Adrian speaks with NAU students

