

President's Message

Cathy Corbin-Mannino



I would like to thank our Co-Program Vice Presidents, Gail Parsons and Patti Allen-LaFleur, and all those who volunteered to assist in making our Spring Conference such a success. We were fortunate to have four

intelligent and inspiring speakers. For those of you unable to attend, I will share with you some of my very brief take-aways from each speaker.

Deborah J. Vagins, Senior VP, Public Policy and Research, AAUW: Sometimes pay equity is affected by the fact that men ask for a raise/higher pay four times as often as women, one of the reasons for AAUW's focus on gender equity and the creation of their programs Work Smart and Start Smart. Women tend to drop out of AAUW when they get into their careers and then return later to AAUW when they retire. To boost continuity in membership, there will be support for online branches to upgrade and expand their online training programs about salary negotiations, pay equity, and sexual discrimination in the work place.

Amber Gould, National Education Association State Director: She asked members to contact her directly via email at amber.d.gould@gmail.com with concerns/ideas regarding improving AZ education. Amber encouraged us to participate in the RTS (right to speak) process and is willing to set-up any branch member for the program if you send your name, email address, and a request to participate to her.

Linda Alepin, Founding Director, You as a Global Leader: As you know, Linda is currently doing an excellent job of orchestrating the AAUW AZ strategic planning process. It is outlined on the state's website. Click on [this link](#) to access this document.

Sue Marceau, International Management and Journalist: By popular demand, Sue has made her PowerPoint presentation, *Power Politics: Successfully Advocating for Social Change* available to us. Click [this link](#) into your internet browser/search engine.

This is my last column as Co-President. It has been a busy, year and it was such a pleasure getting to know many of you on a more personal basis. I will be serving on the board in another capacity, as recording secretary, and trust that these new relationships will continue to develop and deepen. We have much to do together. Have a wonderful summer!

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Planning for The Fall Forum 2019 Is Already Underway

By Ann Mitchell

The count-down is on for the Fall Forum 2019, October 25-26. Six months from now AAUW members from many of the fourteen branches state wide will gather in Surprise and Sun City West for the Fall Forum activities.

On Friday, October 25, out of town members and their guests can check-in at the Quality Inn and Suites in Surprise. Just down the street, the Tivoli Gardens Restaurant will host the state board meeting followed by a Welcome Reception and dinner.

The Fall Forum will be on Saturday, October 26, and held at Briarwood Country Club (pictured) in Sun City West. The morning will start with registration and a Continental Breakfast. Speakers will address the issues facing Arizona women and could include higher education, gender pay gap, student debt, immigration, ERA, or health concerns. Attendees will be treated to a delicious plated lunch.

The Northwest Valley Branch Fall Forum Committee is looking forward to hosting this important AAUW-AZ function. Watch for more details, some surprises, and a registration form in the months ahead.



Fall Forum
Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26
Briarwood Country Club
Sun City West, AZ

Ask AAUW-AZ Ready For You!

Attention!

New & Continuing Branch Board Members

A special **Leadership Panel** of experienced AAUW leaders from across the state is waiting **to help** with any of your AAUW questions or problems.

EASY TO USE & NO COST

Send in your specific leadership questions or problems to [the State Corresponding Secretary](#) and in a couple of weeks check the [Leadership Tips](#) page of the AAUW of Arizona Website to see the replies.

No names will be included.

Everyone needs a new idea or some extra help once in a while.

Give **ASK AAUW-AZ** a try!

Save the Dates

Save the Dates	
Aug. 15, 2019	Submissions deadline for Fall 2019 issue of The Sun
Sept. 1, 2019	Fall issue of The Sun published.
Oct. 12, 2019	Flagstaff Fall Public Policy Luncheon
Oct. 25, 2019	AAUW AZ board meeting, Tivoli Gardens Restaurant
Oct. 25-26, 2019	Fall Forum hosted by AAUW-Northwest Valley in Surprise and Sun City West

College Connection Team Wrap-up

by Ann Mitchell

Members of the **College Connection Team** wrapped-up the year by attending evening events at Ottawa University and Estrella Mountain Community College.

On April 8, 2019, students at Ottawa University in Surprise were inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education. Four of the students that AAUW mentors have supported were selected as new officers. The formal candlelight ceremony was conducted according to specific guidelines. Students who could not attend in person were inducted via the internet. A dessert reception followed the ceremony for the students and their families.



College Connection Team Member
Joan Meagher and Dr. Amy Hogan.



L to R: Ashley Smith, President; Adrian Vancleaf, Vice President; Dr. Amy Hogan, Academic Dean of AZ; Dr. Kim Coffman-Romero, Dean, School of Education; Jada Alyssa Cruz, Membership Chair & Historian; Lisa Buccigrosse, Professor and Chapter Coordinator

College Connection Team Attends Women Rising Induction Ceremony

By Ann Mitchell

Estrella Mountain Community College Advisors, Allie Cervantes and Tracy Tanner, invited members of the College Connection Team to the Women Rising Induction Ceremony on their campus April 19. The event included professional, individual and group photographs, a delicious Mexican dinner sponsored by Grand Canyon University, and the induction ceremony. Both on the program and in person, AAUW was acknowledged as a community partner. The Women Rising Chapter includes 18 students. Of that number, two were selected to attend the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders known as NCCWSL. The Conference will be held at the University of Maryland on May 29-June 1, 2019. Close to 900 female college leaders attend this career- and life-changing event.



February Legislature Day a Success

By Harriet Young

A full house of AAUW-AZ members crowded the Historic Supreme Court Chambers of the Arizona Capitol Building for our annual Legislature Day.

This year was particularly memorable since we had been meeting since December to develop our legislative agenda: full funding for public education, pass the ERA, end gender harassment, full access to healthcare for women, and equal pay for equal work.

We had sent post cards, made phone calls, and organized email chains to urge our legislators to enact our agenda. Alas, most of our legislators followed a

leadership that is directly opposed to these goals.

During our morning at the Capitol, House Whip Athena Salman, visited us and celebrated the election of a record number of women to the legislature. She urged us to stay engaged for 2020. She brought greetings from House Majority Leader Charlene Fernandez and noted that we had five women leaders in the two houses of the legislature, a record.

At the next session of Legislature Day held in the Historic Senate Chambers, we met two experienced lobbyists, Joachin Rios of State Innovation Exchange (SIX) and Rivko Knox of the League of Women Voters. Both gave us excellent ideas for improving our future impact on the Arizona Legislature.

Following our program, we dispersed to visit our individual legislators, share a table at lunch, and then attend the opening of the sessions in both houses where we were introduced by one of the members. Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai gave a particularly warm introduction to our delegation in the Senate.

It is both educational and motivating to see our elected officials in our public institutions and to remind them of the voters they represent.



AAUW Members Invited to Flagstaff Branch Annual Public Policy Luncheon

By Susan Peters

The Flagstaff branch is excited to announce an outstanding speaker for its 2019 Fall Public Policy Luncheon on October 12. Ms. Mitra Shahri, a lawyer from Portland, Oregon, who specializes in employment discrimination and sexual harassment cases, will present *Female Power: From Status Quo to MeToo! It's never too late to make things right!* In the afternoon, Mitra will lead a workshop to discuss how to respond to harassment and bullying behavior.

Mitra grew up in Iran, moved to the US, and succeeded in medical malpractice law in Los Angeles. But after she suffered sexual harassment and discrimination herself, she switched to employment law and was active in harassment suits involving Hollywood celebrities and movie studios. In 2002 she moved to Portland and established a successful Employment Law Firm.

Mitra is a member of the National Speakers Association and occasionally does stand-up comedy. She has twice been voted the *Funniest Lawyer in Oregon*. The ABA recently listed Mitra as “one of the most fascinating lawyers of 2018”. We hope members from all AZ AAUW Branches will plan to attend and invite interested friends to do so as well. The date is set for October 12, 2019. The exact time, place, and ticket availability will be determined soon. Watch for your invitations in the coming months and [click here](#) for more information as it is updated.

**Become
a Two-Minute Activist!**
**Receive urgent e-mail notices
to contact your members of
Congress right in your inbox.**
**[Join the AAUW Action
Network today!](#)**

The ACTION in Community Action Is Up to Each Branch

By Claudia Greenwood



Three branches have consistently used AAUW State Community Action funds in their efforts to help uplift the young women in their communities. Branches are encouraged to explore ways in which they can support young women in

their communities. The programs need not be elaborate to be effective.

Kudos to Tucson and Northwest Tucson for their partnership with the League of Women Voters to develop the excellent program *Running and Winning*. Over the years, hundreds of students have been introduced to women who have been elected to state and local positions. The goal of the day-long workshop is to encourage young women to become engaged in civic affairs.

Prescott also continues its mentoring efforts in partnership with Yavapai College. Encouraging students from the rural school systems in Yavapai County to continue their education beyond high school has been their primary goal. Graduation rates and college admission numbers have increased dramatically since the inception of the programs.

The opportunity to apply occurs only once a year, on March 15. Applications for 2021 must be submitted to the new Community Action Chair, Mary Jo Blum of the Northwest Valley branch, by that date in 2020. All necessary instructions and forms are available on the state website.

Remember: The ACTION in Community Action is up to each branch! Step up and help uplift young women in your community.



New AZ Strategic Plan Process Passes Second Milestone

By Linda Alepin

The Arizona State AAUW strategic planning process is in full swing. At the recent Spring Forum, the second step of the process ***Dream*** was completed.

The *Dream* phase was composed of three sessions, two in person and one done virtually.

One format used was a visioning session looking backward from 2024. It used Appreciative Inquiry questions:

- We made a real difference in women's lives by...?
- What attracted a diverse set of members?
- What contributed most to sustaining a feeling of belonging for current members?
- The most significant factor that allowed AAUW to create something exceptional was...?
- The bold decisions that allowed for forward action were...?

There were many outstanding answers to these questions. Overwhelmingly, they projected that AAUW will orient itself to attract younger people including through our online presence and by launching mentoring approaches. We will expand our programs to meet more community needs, building our reputation as an organization of **action**. We will continue to value the ideas and volunteer contributions of our members. We will launch new partnerships and collaborative efforts.

A second, highly interactive format was used at the Spring Conference. This time, in-person participants were asked to think about their favorite AAUW activity and why they cared about it. People were then divided into groups around each activity and brainstormed how their "cares" could help attract new members.

Some highlights of the discussions: Book clubs, an organic way to pull in members; Public policy, education on issues leads to action; Communication, become recognized as the "credible source of research and information impacting women, girls, and families"; Scholarships, outreach to students by being at retail stores where they shop.

The strategy committee plans a two-day meeting in July when they will take all the information generated

from *Discover* and *Dream* and complete the two final phases, *Design* and *Deliver*.

If you would like to contribute any thoughts, please send them to Linda, the incoming president of the Tucson branch.

(NOTE: For results of the first step of the strategy process ***Discover***, see the [AAUW Arizona Strategy Plan Proposal](#).)



Using Social Media to Attract Young Professionals

By Linda Alepin

A pilot program to attract young professionals to AAUW membership was conducted from December to April by the Tucson AAUW branch. With the assistance of three graduate student volunteers, social media campaigns were conducted on FaceBook and Instagram. While the initial idea had been to highlight state and national policy issues on the Facebook and Instagram sites, the publication of a New York Times article in January started a focus on the "she-roses" of 2018. The first post was as follows: "We have seen some amazingly strong women speaking truth to power and fighting for change, often against powerful odds. In our upcoming series, we will be featuring six feminist sheroes of the year 2018." The women included Michelle Obama and Kirsten Sinema among others.

The idea then morphed into featuring women from the University of Arizona on the AAUW Tucson Bulletin social media pages. The student volunteers recruited their favorite professors to be profiled in future posts. We ended the series for this year with a post about another New York Times article, *What Happens When Women Stop Leading Like Men*, by Tina Brown. The campaign has a following of 206 followers, and each post is getting upwards of 50+ likes. That is only a start for a social media campaign.

Our next campaign starting in August (with the start of school) will be about the burnout generation, the millennials. This series will lead to yet another one about the gender wage gap to promote our Start Smart sessions.

If you would like to learn more about this approach, please contact Linda Alepin, Tucson.



Branch Reports



East Mesa Branch Granted Nearly \$250,000 in Scholarships

By Joanne Walen

The AAUW East Mesa branch distributed \$230,000 in scholarship money this year, both for local scholars (\$104,000) and a nationally named Fellowship (\$120,000), along with a grant to Mesa Public Schools for the STEM Odyssey Space Integration Module (SIM) for \$6,000.



Dr. Violet H. Larney,
1920-1916

We think this is a big deal for our community!

For over thirty years, the hard-working, dedicated members of this branch have raised \$214,000 for 175 local scholars and a national Fellowship of \$120,000 through various fundraisers such as fashion shows, garage sales, direct donations, and an annual Scholarship Author's Luncheon.

In 2016 we received a windfall endowment from our founder and first branch president Dr. Violet H. Larney who left 44% of her estate when she passed away to the AAUW East Mesa branch. The earnings on those endowed funds are designated for a perpetual fund for scholarships, fellowships, and other AAUW charitable activities and are the reason we were able to make such great contributions this year. Our members have worked with diligence to provide scholars with financial aid. Violet's legacy has provided the "icing on the cake" for our scholars.

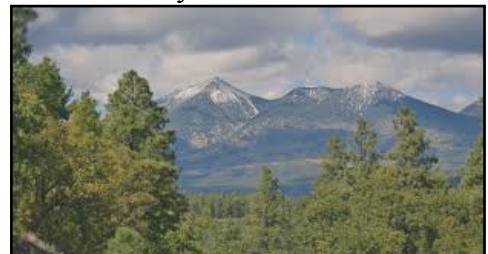
In addition to raising funds and vetting the applications for those scholarships, each local recipient has an AAUW member serving as her mentor to provide advice and support throughout the duration of her award. Some of the recipients are just beginning their college experience while others receive support further along in their college experience.

AAUW leads the nation in advocacy for women, especially in the areas of pay equity, leadership, empowerment, education and training.



Flagstaff Recaps Year's Programs

by Sue Peters



This past year, Flagstaff branch members have enjoyed several inspiring gatherings. Our Fall 2018 Public Policy Luncheon hosted presentations by AZ Secretary of State Katie Hobbs and Felicia French (then a candidate for AZ House) on *What Do Women Bring to Public Office*. Many local candidates, politicians, friends, and members attended.

We hosted author Nancy McLean who spoke on her recent book, *Democracy in Chains*, an eye-opening look about extremist efforts to suppress voting rights, take over college campuses, and subvert democracy. We met for a fun White Elephant Party

at Christmas time. And in the fall and spring we held our Naked Lady events (from the imagination of President Ann Griffin), a well-received clothing exchange. The Naked Lady events encouraged folks to donate lightly used clothing and to buy something “new” as well. Leftovers were donated to our local clothing center for women in need.

Member Lisa Martinez is an accomplished painter and hosted our annual Sip and Paint evening. Participants expressed their inner Van Gogh spirit while partaking in some appropriate libations.

In January we instituted monthly meetings on hot topics. So far, we’ve had a panel discussion on **gun control** (including representatives from Moms Demand Action); **women in religion**, featuring two local Christian pastors; and a meeting at the synagogue on the recent rash of **hate crimes** against Jews as well as Muslims and others. These meetings will continue in the fall as we identify more topics that will educate and empower women in our community.



Scottsdale Branch Happenings

by Karen Ramos



The Scottsdale Branch has had an exciting spring. We conducted another successful **Adopt-a-Book** drive and collected over 400 books for Scottsdale’s Hohokam Elementary School (a Title I school). This means that every child at the school will receive a book of his/her very own to take home and read this

summer. The books were delivered to the school on May 8. Each book has a book plate and a bookmark identifying that it was donated by AAUW Scottsdale Branch. Our thanks to Joan Gold for coordinating the Spring Adopt-a-Book drive.

Save Our Shoes

Our Board of Directors approved supporting a shoe drive to raise money to supply an area dedicated to hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) learning activities at Scottsdale’s newly refurbished Navajo Elementary School (Title I school).



We will be collecting gently worn shoes over the next several months. Our goal is to have these shoes collected by the end of November. We hope to collect 150 bags, each with 25 gently worn pairs of shoes from members, friends, and family.

Our Board also agreed to support **Artie’s Fit Market**, a food bank at Scottsdale Community College to help students in need. The FIT Market is a collaboration between faculty, students, staff, and administration in response to a growing trend of hunger on college campuses. A food drive will be conducted in the fall of 2019 among members of AAUW Scottsdale to help SCC students experiencing food insecurity.

Our annual Celebration Brunch and Installation of Officers was held at Mimi’s Restaurant in Scottsdale on May 11. Our Installation was conducted by Cathy Corbin-Mannino, State Co-President. The Scottsdale slate of officers for 2019-2020 includes Jennifer Quinn and Joan Gold, Co-Presidents; Mary Shuh, Membership Vice President; and Teri Harrison, Finance Vice President. These newly installed officers will join the Board effective July 1, 2019.



Southeast Valley Transitions to Next Board

By Joyce Ellenbecker

With summer approaching, many of our members are leaving the area until September or October. I really appreciate the dedication and accomplishments of all the members of the 2018-19 Southeast Valley Board.

Our new Board, which takes over July 1, has five new members with some returning members switching jobs. I look forward to working with this new combination and with my new Co-president, Mary Humecke.

Those of us who stay for the summer are looking forward to activities such as combining the evening and daytime book groups into one afternoon book club. We will also continue lunch bunch and singles dining group as well as other social activities.



Green Valley Ends Year on an Up-Note

By Kathy Davisson

Green Valley AAUW is ending a very successful year. We added 29 new members this year due in part to our outstanding monthly programs that were of interest to our members and others in our community. In addition, our fundraiser allowed us to award two substantial scholarships to women who are in need of assistance to continue their education at Pima Community College. One scholarship recipient is in a nursing program, and the other has a goal of earning a master's degree in hydrology. We're thrilled to be able to support these hardworking and resourceful women.

Our final program prior to the summer recess features a speaker from the [Green Valley-Sahuarito Samaritans](#) who will be providing us with updates on immigration issues. While we do not hold

general membership meetings in June, July, or August, several of our interest groups will continue to meet and provide opportunities for our members to stay connected.

We were thrilled to host AAUW AZ co-president Joanne Walen at our April meeting. Thanks for making the trip 'south', Joanne. GV AAUW looks forward to an informative, exciting, and productive 2019-2020.



Safford Branch Reports

AnnJi Craig-Wooten

On April 29, the Safford Branch had the pleasure of hosting State President Joanne Walen at a luncheon meeting. Our branch is a small one with only ten members and we were interested in finding more about AAUW at the state and national levels. We were impressed with Joanne's passion for AAUW. Joanne joined us on our field trip to Mission Gardens and San Xavier Del Bac. Paula Price organized this excursion and arranged for knowledgeable guides at both places. Joanne, we greatly appreciated your visit to our Safford Branch!

Lastly, our branch hosted its book scholarship recipient at a barbecue and potluck dinner on May 20.



LtoR: Paulette LeBlanc, AnnJi Craig-Wooten, Charmayne Dobbs, Monika Ragland, Bee Lancaster, Joanne Walen, and Dorine Chancellor

State Branch Links/Contact Information

Statewide Branch Websites/Contact Info

Have you visited local branch websites around the state?

Don't miss an opportunity to be inspired by other branches in AZ!
Use the links below to check them out or click [AZ State Branches](#)
to find information about each one.

[AAUW Northwest Tucson](#)

[East Mesa](#)

[Flagstaff Branch on Facebook](#)

[Glendale Facebook Page](#)

[Green Valley](#)

[Northwest Valley](#)

[Phoenix](#)

[Prescott](#)

Safford: email AnnJi Craig-Wooten: presidentsafford@aauwarizona.org

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