

A poster for AAUW Legislative Day. It features a central text box with a background of stars and stripes, flanked by clusters of blue, red, and white stars. The text inside the box provides details about the event.

Save the Date

AAUW
of Arizona

Legislative Day

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

**Arizona Capitol Museum
Historic Senate Chamber**
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona

Registration: 8:30am
Program: 9:00am - noon

Theme: Women's Health – Legislation,
Initiatives and How AAUW is Involved

Space is limited so register early to secure
your spot using the link below.

<https://forms.gle/Eksn53iT2jh84auP8>

<https://forms.gle/Eksn53iT2jh84auP8>

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

Empowering Women Since 1881

AZ – AAUW STATE BOARD 2023-2024

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President's Pen Becky's Musings



At the beginning of a new year, we tend to reflect on the past year, but even more we think about what we want to happen in the near future. I believe that 2024 will be a seminal year in many of our lives. We live in a fractured world. Wars. Political division. Rights denied. Climate eroding. We as individuals and as an organization cannot just moan and complain. We need to consider seriously what we might do to change our direction positively. We can do so knowing that the world is filled with good people, that many of us have the time and resources to become active in issues that impact us. We must have hope. There are reasons to hope; if we do not hope, then we might well sit on our hands instead of getting up and writing that letter to the editor, or calling your Senator, or passing around petitions, or attending school board meetings, or simply learning about the issues and considering what you can do about it.

AAUW is joining a coalition of like-minded organizations in support of Reproductive Health. This is an issue that directly impacts us – for one of our rights that we perhaps took for granted has been taken away capriciously. Our children and their children are affected by the Dobbs decision and the various States' reactions. We can do something about it . . .first, we need to get the Abortion Petition on the ballot . . .that means gathering signatures, becoming notaries, donating to the cause. This will be our focus at Legislative Day on February. 21. There is more information on page 1 of this issue about the event.

Another issue impacting our future is how public education is being eviscerated monetarily, but also is threatened by censorship of various points of view as well as potentially banning books. This topic will be the focus of our Spring Forum. Now, though, we can work to protect our education system by attending school board meetings and also by working to elect State Legislators in swing districts to perhaps in the future fully fund PUBLIC education.

There have been times lately when I've been overwhelmed, frankly depressed, at what is happening in the world, but I've discovered that positivity is essential in rising above those negative emotions and getting involved . . . making things happen. I admit my efforts as an individual may not mean much, but if all of us work in tandem on the issues that matter to us, we can and will have an impact . . .

In AAUW Solidarity,
Becky Gunn



Thank you for your faith in me and your patience with my learning process.
My door/phone/email is open for business.



COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

Supporting the Education of Women and Girls

College/University Connections

by Suzanne James, AAUW-AZ Recording Secretary and Chair – College/University Relations

Just want to alert branches on Upcoming 2024 NCCWSL. Details are coming soon on the AAUW.org website.

Attend NCCWSL

May 30 – June 1, 2024 - The University of Maryland, College Park (DC metro area)

AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking at our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

The mission of AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is to foster a moment that ignites a powerful movement. Year after year, our conference brings together hundreds of college women from across the nation for an immersive multi-day experience of leadership training, inspiration, and networking. We strive to cultivate an inclusive and equitable space where attendees can enter as passionate leaders and depart with the skills, confidence, and perspective necessary to pursue their goals and drive meaningful change. (AAUW.org)

This is to invite all AAUW-Arizona branch College/University Connections Chairs and Scholarship Chairs as well as any interested member to join our ZOOM virtual meetings as follows:

Every Fourth Wednesday at 4 p.m.

January Zoom Meeting will be January 24 at 4 p.m.

February Zoom Meeting will be February 28 at 4 p.m.

Please email Suzanne James suzannejames@gmail.com to get the Zoom meeting details. The same Meeting ID and Password has been set up for the 2023-2024 AAUW year every 4th Wednesdays of the month at 4 p.m.

Thank you, and don't hesitate to contact with any of your questions, ideas, suggestions, and agenda items, etc.



What To Know About the Arizona for Abortion Access Act

by Bonnie Boyce-Wilson - Northwest Valley Branch

The Arizona for Abortion Access ballot measure amends the Arizona constitution to include the right for a person to make their own decision on abortion.

This measure would ensure Arizonans are able to make decisions about abortion with their health care provider. It also states that the government cannot limit abortion prior to the point at which a fetus could survive outside the womb unless a healthcare provider determines the abortion is needed to preserve a pregnant person's life or health.

Nine in ten Arizonans agree that each of us should have the freedom to decide how and when we start or grow a family, free from political interference. No matter how Arizonans personally feel about abortion, they know every person should be able to make their own decisions with their doctors and those they love and trust.

Abortion is safe and common. One in four people who can get pregnant will have an abortion at some point.

What to Know About the Arizona for Abortion Access Campaign

The Arizona for Abortion Access campaign is being led by trusted reproductive rights advocacy organizations: ACLU of Arizona, and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona: NARAL pro-choice, Affirm Sexual and Reproductive Health; Arizona List, and Healthcare Rising Arizona.

Previous ballot initiatives have been challenged in court by well-funded and powerful opponents, even with major support from Arizona voters. While 383,923 valid signatures are required to get this measure on the ballot, the campaign aims to collect over 600,000 signatures to ensure voter support is indisputable. The deadline to submit signatures is July 3, 2024.

For more information see the website for ACLU Arizona at [<acluaz.org>](https://acluaz.org)



East Mesa

by Janice Dill
President

East Mesa news - we were able to be a part of a new resident orientation at Leisure World in Mesa, and have gained more members. We are working to put together a welcome packet and a new member orientation before the end of January.

Our Public Policy, Diversity and Inclusion group had a speaker from the Mesa School Board in December and we are working on ways to support diversity and inclusion in the Mesa Public Schools.

Again, we invite you to our Author/Scholar luncheon on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Carol Dunbar, author of "The Net Beneath Us" will be our speaker. In addition, our scholars will be present to tell of their experiences this school year.

For more information on the luncheon, contact: Janice Dill, East Mesa President.
janicekdill@gmail.com

Tickets will go on sale February 1.

AAUW.org Invites us to Act Be an Informed Voter

This year **2024** promises to be eventful, with many of our key policy issues impacting gender equity being decided in Congress, in statehouses, and at the ballot box. Start this year off right by making your own commitment to be a well-informed and engaged activist and voter. Here are three ways to do it:

Invite three friends to become a Two-Minute Activist! Share this message to help AAUW build momentum for positive change in 2024.

Engage on the state level! Throughout the year, states and branches engage on key AAUW issues at play in their state legislatures. Elected officials work for you, the voters—so urge them to stand up for gender equity, reach out to an AAUW branch near you, and see how you can get involved.

Make sure you are ready for elections this year, including upcoming state primaries and caucuses. Confirm your voter registration to ensure state's primary and presidential election dates for 2024.

Green Valley

by Amy Perlick

Co-President Green Valley Branch

The Board of the Green Valley Branch has selected Sharon Rezac-Anderson as Interim Co-President to serve the remainder of Linda Enterline's term until June 30, 2024. Linda passed away on October 31 and is greatly missed as a leader and friend.

In November, the Green Valley Branch enjoyed hearing from Kevin Gosner from the University of Arizona about Ruth Seeger and Elizabeth Cotton, two women pioneers in American folk music of the 1950s and 1960s.

In December, we heard from Fred D'Angelo, also of the University of Arizona, about the challenges and complexities of Artificial Intelligence.

Our Public Policy group heard a very informative program on ranked choice voting in December, and in January will run a voter registration training in the hopes of registering new voters at Pima County Community College.

January 15, 2024, marks the 14th year that members of the Branch will be raising 96 flags on the main thoroughfare in Green Valley in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday.

On Saturday, February 10, members of the branch will participate in the Annual Rally to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

Our annual fundraiser for student scholarships will take place on Saturday, February 24.



**Kevin Gosner, University of Arizona
Speaker at November Meeting
Sharing Information about Ruth Seeger
and Elizabeth Cotton**



**Fred D'Angelo, University of Arizona
Speaker at December Meeting
Sharing Information about
Artificial Intelligence**

Northwest Valley

by Marge Whitman
President

At the November 16 General meeting, through a values clarification exercise, members shared their preference for three of the national AAUW priorities. The choices aligned in the same order leaders selected at the AZ AAUW meeting on November 4. Specific details regarding healthcare, education, and employment are the priorities.

The Northwest Valley branch has been busy in the community and raising funds for scholarships. Pherne Lewis coordinated service at a local food bank and the AAUW volunteer response has been terrific!

Karen Bunting, our previous president, is working with leaders in two Dysart public schools. The focus of the effort is children “in need” at a Title One school. Members rallied with significant financial support in December; the principals at the two schools plan to attend our January meeting and the funds will be presented to them at that time.

Kathleen Gillespie, a new member, donated scholarship funds she earned playing her violin at a local business.

Gloria Fried, also a new member, when asked by her daughter what she wanted as a Christmas gift, replied “a donation to AAUW-NWV!” Her daughter quickly responded and was pleased that her employer matched her donation! It’s good to have 501c3 authority because businesses donate to these organizations.



**Janet Kafel, Nancy Flann, Kathy Long,
Fran Pletschet, Pherne Lewis, Kate King,
Melinda Lewindowski**

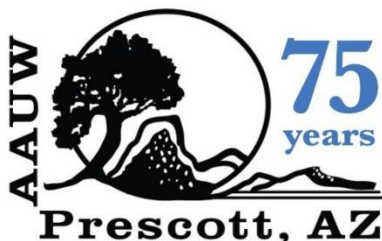
Opportunities for 2024

- ✓ Continue fighting for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency through pay equity and paid family leave policies.
- ✓ Advocate for a strengthened Title IX and a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.
- ✓ Pursue policies that advance full access to civil rights for a diverse society.

**Meghan Kissell, Senior Director,
Policy & Member Advocacy – AAUW.org**

Prescott

by Carol Dosse,
President



75th Anniversary Celebration

Prescott will celebrate 75 years as an AAUW Branch in 2024. We began in March 1949 with 26 members and currently number 141.

A 2012 Centennial program script and PowerPoint has been updated for presentation at our January 13, 2024 meeting. An accessories "sale" to benefit our new Opportunity grant and a special hospitality celebration will add to the festivities.

A commemorative logo was created by Kelly Mann, a talented graphic designer who is the daughter of a long-time member Pat Mann.

Branch Awards 2023

Prescott awards three outstanding members at our Holiday Branch. This year we honored:

- Ongoing Stamina (10 year or more member):
Cathy Cunningham
- Mover and Shaker (4 - 9-year member):
Penny Briner Ewell
- Rookie of the Year (3 years or less member):
Miriam Haubrich

We are fortunate to have so many worthy members who serve our branch and the AAUW mission.

DID YOU KNOW?

Art Professions

Only a third of artists represented by commercial galleries are women and women working in arts professions are paid on average 74 cents to every dollar paid to men. This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest—to give women artists the attention they deserve.

Membership

AAUW is a community of more than 170,000 people standing strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

Scottsdale

by Alice Buck
President-Elect

In November and December, Scottsdale Branch continued our tradition of fundraising to support our national and international efforts to bring equity in education and the workplace to women and girls through the grants and fellowships with our Red Envelope Drive. We also enjoyed the season of giving at our annual Holiday Luncheon at McCormick Ranch Golf Resort with the Silent Auction and jewelry, wine and gift basket sales to raise additional funds for the national grants and fellowships.

Our November Branch meeting was a special tour of Scottsdale's Mustang Library given by the Interim Library Director where we were able to visit the entire building and gain wonderful insight as to all the resources available there.

On November 30, Scottsdale Branch members Viva Ashcroft and Jane Adrian attended the roll out of the new national and state chapter of Reproductive Freedom for All Arizona (rebranding of National Abortion Rights Action League--NARAL) at Changing Hands Bookstore in Phoenix. (See photo on right.)

Our January Branch meeting will be the wonderful women of The League of Women Voters. 2024 is an election year and we are eager to get as much information as possible from the women who have all this information! This is a very important year, and the primaries will be upon us soon, so we scheduled this in January.

We are also hoping to schedule into the meeting training for the reproductive health initiative signature gathering campaign.

And, of course, we are all looking forward to AAUW Arizona's Legislative Day on that will be on February 21; this should be an exciting and information-filled day.



Branch Members Jodi Liggett (Arizona Center for Women's Advancement--ACWA) and Jane Adrian (AAUW Arizona Public Policy Chair) with Kris Mayes, Arizona Attorney General.



Southeast Valley

by Beth Zdeblick
Co-President, Sr.

The Arizona Association of University Women Holiday Funds Brunch was held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at the Sun Lakes Country Club. It was a wonderful success. Those in attendance enjoyed the festivities. Sharon Gale's beautiful Angel center pieces were lovely, and the brunch was delicious. Our Arizona State President, Becky Gunn, shared her personal history and the vision for the future of AZ's AAUW.

Jodi Ligget spoke about the battle going on in Arizona regarding abortions. Will AZ keep the 15-week ban or go back to the 1846 territorial law of completely prohibiting abortion? She gave us an inside look into her approach to the steps needed to interact with the legislature. She talked about the AZ constitutional change that signatures are being collected for now and the uphill battle that it is facing the current AZ legislature. Jodi is incredibly knowledgeable and articulate, and she presented the issues facing the state in a nonpartisan way.

Our generous members donated over \$3,000 to the various national funds which allows AAUW to support areas such as education and leadership. Now more than ever, we as members of AAUW must support the important work done by our national organization.

AAUW was founded in 1881, and they continue to work tirelessly on behalf of women and girls to advance laws, policies and practices that ensure equity in education, employment and economic security-and equal justice for all.

We will start 2024 off with a repeat service project, a Period Packing Party, at our January meeting. Members really enjoyed the initial service project that included an informative and fun quiz with kitschy prizes. All period product packs go to local middle schools to combat "period poverty" and ensure girls are able to attend school consistently.

Mark your calendars for a late afternoon into early evening "happy hour" on February 2 and join us for our second annual Happy Hour Fashion Show which last year was a sell-out success. The Happy Hour Fashion Show is our big fundraiser for local scholarships and we've reserved a much larger venue, the Cottonwood San Tan Ballroom in Sun Lakes, for this fun event. All members, guests, and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend this delightful happy hour that includes hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a fashion show presented by Judy Wear.



Our Second Annual Happy Hour Fashion Show

Friday, February 2, 2024

Cottonwood Ballroom

Raffle baskets, Silent Auction, 50/50

Tickets are now on sale to attend the HHFS.

Tickets - \$30 each and \$240 for a table 8

Books by AAUW Fellows & Grantees to Add to Your Reading List

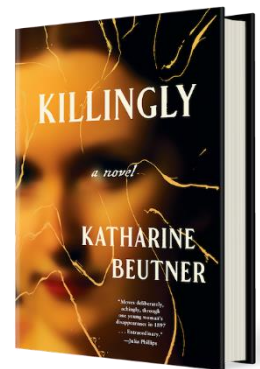
Nightbloom

Peace Adzo Medie, is a scholar and writer. She is Senior Lecturer in Gender and International Politics at the University of Bristol. Her research addresses gender, politics, and conflict in Africa. She is a co-editor of *African Affairs*, the top-ranked African studies journal, and of the Oxford Studies in African Politics and International Relations book series. Her debut novel, *His Only Wife*, was a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, a New York Times Notable Book of 2020, and a Time Magazine Must-Read Book of 2020.



Killingly

Katharine Elizabeth Beutner, is an author and an assistant professor of English at the College of Wooster in Ohio, where she also runs the online eco-writing literary journal *The Dodge*. Her novel *Alcestis*, a retelling of the Greek myth, was published by Soho Press in February 2010. *Alcestis* won the Edmund White Debut Fiction Award from the Publishing Triangle in 2011 and was also a finalist for a Lesbian Debut Fiction Award from the Lambda Literary Association and the BSFS Compton Crook Award.



ARIZONA SUN

**Four issues—September, November, January, and March—
of The Sun are published each year.**

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Next Deadline: February 29

Please submit all articles to both emails.

Please format in Microsoft Word and photos as Jpeg.



USEFUL LINKS

AAUW Arizona State <https://www.aauwarizona.org/>

AAUW National <https://www.aauw.org/>