



AAUW Members Attend Latest Annual Legislative Day at Arizona Capitol Museum



Please see detailed story on page 4.

***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



I was pleased to see so many of you on February 21 at the Arizona State Capitol. I thought it was a great day and want to thank all those who helped pull the event together. And now we are in the throes of preparing for our Spring Forum on April 13. We hope to see you there!

I'm not sure whether you are aware of the AAUW National vote beginning in April to Open Membership to all regardless of educational attainment. We have voted on this before and the vote was close, but it did not pass. Only 23 percent of our national members voted on the issue. This time we would like to have a majority of people vote so that we can truly measure our willingness to be an inclusive organization.

Our AAUW Values are Inclusive . . . Intersectional . . . Intergenerational . . . Empowering. If we exclude capable, committed, intelligent, responsible women from our organization, are we being truly inclusive?

I understand that most of us worked incredibly hard facing institutional, economic, and cultural barriers to achieve our degrees. We earned them and should be rewarded for those efforts. That said, there are many successful, incredible women who did not have the opportunity to go to a college or university or chose to begin their careers in a different way. They have also had those same barriers that we who are members of AAUW faced. Our organization could benefit from their energy and from their commitment to the ongoing empowerment of women.

This does not minimize our ongoing efforts to support education at all levels. It simply further aligns our membership requirements with our mission and values.

We won't be changing our name either. The YMCA was originally named the Young Men's Christian Association - the YMCA is now open to men and women regardless of religious affiliation. We can simply be AAUW with an expanded membership.

There is a national website for this issue: OpenUpAAUW.org. Please read it for further information. Voting will begin April 3. You will receive an email ballot. Please, please vote. While I support the Open Membership amendment, I want you to make up your own mind as to how you wish to vote. Regardless of your position on the issue, please cast your ballot.



Have a great Spring!

Yours in AAUW EmPowerment,
Becky Gunn



LEGISLATIVE DAY – 2024



Richie Taylor



Bram Resnik



Zaida Dedolph-Piccoro



Sarah Brown



Adrian Fontes



On February 21 at the Historic Senate Chambers at the Arizona Capitol Museum, almost 50 AAUW members representing six Branches attended the latest annual Legislative Day. The day began with a welcome to the Capitol from AZ Secretary of State Adrian Fontes. His history of the Capitol was also framed with an intense defense of free and open elections.

The day was moderated by Jodi Liggett who introduced the “Budget and Policy Outlook: The Governor’s View” panel consisting of Sarah Brown, Director of Strategic Planning and Budget, and Zaid Dedolph-Piccoro, Health and Human Services Policy Advisor. Both are part of Governor Hobbs administration. The discussion went into great detail about the budget, attempts to balance that budget, and Hobbs’ priorities including funding of schools and ESA, childcare assistance, and healthcare. Meaningful questions were asked by AAUW members and well answered by the presenters.

Local Anchor and reporter for Channel 12 News, Brahm Resnik, followed with a discussion of not only his life as a reporter, but also about the state of politics in Arizona. Filled with thoughtful memories, he brought to life the transformation that has occurred over the past 20 years in our State. Questions again were asked and answered.

After a very short break, the group heard from Richie Taylor, Communications Director for the Attorney General’s Office. He outlined the duties of the Attorney General, the priorities of the office as well as the issues impacting the State of Arizona.

For those who were interested in signing up for Request to Speak, Betsy Flaten offered her assistance by showing them how to sign up at the Senate sign-up terminals. About 15 people remained in the historic Senate chamber to ‘munch and learn’ about Signature Collection for AZ for Abortion Access ballot measure.

Responses from those attending were overwhelmingly positive. Individuals appreciated the open question sessions as well as the depth of the presentations. It was a good day for AAUW in Arizona.



REGISTER FOR THE AAUW ARIZONA SPRING FORUM

DATE: Saturday, April 13, 2024

TIME: 9:00am -3:00pm

PLACE: Unitarian Universalist Church 17540 N.
Avenue of the Arts Surprise, Arizona 85378

THEME: Issues in Public Education

REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/D/E/1FAIPQLSFBHBY295TZ1SV_K3YPRFCSXJY2A7EXNCPFCIASVRH1UWBDLQ/VIEWFORM?USP=SHARING](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIPQLSFBHBY295TZ1SV_K3YPRFCSXJY2A7EXNCPFCIASVRH1UWBDLQ/VIEWFORM?USP=SHARING)



COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

Supporting the Education of Women and Girls

College/University Connections

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

NCCWSL 2024 REGISTRATION IS OPEN

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

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.

March Zoom Meeting will be March 27 at 4 p.m.

April Zoom Meeting will be April 24 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.

***From Girdles and Gloves to the Glass Ceiling and Beyond:
AAUW Women Share Stories of How They Changed Our World!***



**Saturday, March 23, 2024
Unitarian Universalist Church
17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ**

**9:30 am Registration
10:00 am Program, Lunch Included
2:00 pm Closing Remarks**



As a participant, you will:

- Join with other women in remembering our journeys through an era of significant change for women.
- Start writing down your personal stories to be shared and preserved.
- Learn a simple recipe for writing your stories using *The Cameo Life Stories* method.
- Learn how to join a women's Cameo Circle or memoir-writing group of AAUW members to help inspire you enabling, you to meet your writing goals.
- Learn about the AAUW "*We Made History*" Project, and the plan to archive our stories to preserve a realistic and complete history of women's lives in America.
- Leave the workshop with **two** written personal stories and a plan to continue recording and sharing your history.

Remember: It wasn't just a few luminaries who opened doors for women over the past 70 years — it took **ALL OF US**, in ways big and small, in many different areas.

YOUR STORY IS IMPORTANT!

-----REGISTRATION FORM-----

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____
Telephone _____

Registration closes March 15, 2024. Registration postage marked after March 15th OR IF YOU REGISTER AT THE DOOR, the cost will be \$25.00. Space is limited so get your registration in early.

Please make your **\$20 check payable to: AAUW-NWV**. Lunch and materials are included. Mail your check and registration form to: Sharon Phelps, 13303 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ, 85375-4115.

_____ I cannot attend this workshop but am interested in this project.



AAUW “We Made History!” Project Questions

Following are some questions to help you remember your work and personal experiences and the role you played, in ways big and small, in changing the world for women and girls. Additional questions will be provided at the March 23 workshop (see announcement, page 7). You may want to check out the Cameo Life Stories Questionnaire for Women at cameolifestories.org and/or explore Gail Collins’ excellent book *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*. Collins also published a helpful companion volume *When Everything Changed: A Keepsake Journal, Preserve and Share Personal Memories of the Way Things Were*.

- ✚ As a girl, what did you dream of becoming when you grew up? What were you told you could or could not do? As a young woman, what support did you receive in reaching your goals, including attending college? What obstacles did you face?
- ✚ Where did you attend college and why? What vocations did you pursue after college? What support did you receive in those occupations? What obstacles did you face? How did you handle challenges or such hurdles as pay inequity, quotas, subtle sexism, sexual harassment, sexual assault and so on?
- ✚ During your work life, did you participate in any organizations which supported you in your goals? (e.g. AAUW, professional associations, National Organization for Women, fraternities) What actions did you take, if any, to assist other women or girls (including daughters or other family members) in achieving their work or personal goals? (e.g. mentoring, helping a child attend college, volunteering with a girl’s organization, etc.)
- ✚ At what point in your life did you realize that women and girls were not always afforded the same opportunities, support or rewards as men and boys? What caused your awareness of inequities?
- ✚ At what point did you make a personal commitment to make the world fairer for women and girls? When did you join AAUW? How do you feel about being a member of AAUW?
- ✚ Have you shared many stories of your life with others? Have you told stories of your challenges to your daughters, sons, nieces, nephews, spouses or friends? Why or why not? Was it ever helpful for you to learn stories from other women of how they handled difficulties in their work or personal lives? (e.g. from personal contact, from books, from movies and so on)



East Mesa

by Janice Dill
President

Off the Grid with Carol Dunbar

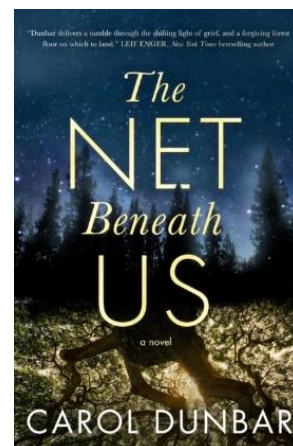
The East Mesa AAUW Branch hosted an author/scholar luncheon on Saturday, March 2 at Leisure World in Mesa. Over 100 guests enjoyed a wonderful lunch, dessert and fellowship.

Our speaker for the event was Carol Dunbar. Carol is a working writer and former actor who left her life in the city to move off the grid in Northern Wisconsin. She spoke about her life in the deep woods and the twelve-year process of writing her first novel **The Net Beneath Us**.

All luncheon attendees received an autographed copy of her first book. Her second book, - **A Winter's Rime**, was published in Fall 2023. The audience was captivated by Carol's story, and her talk was concluded with a question-and-answer session.

In addition, eight of our twelve scholars attended the luncheon, as well as Becky Gunn, our state AAUW president. Becky's comments were

inspiring and insightful. One young attendee remarked that she was going to join AAUW after hearing Becky's comments. Carol is pictured during her presentation, and she posed with her in-laws Vivian and Bob Dunbar.



Carol, Vivian, and Bob

Green Valley

by Sharon Rezc Andersen Co-President
Green Valley Branch

Green Valley AAUW has just completed our annual fundraiser, in a celebration titled: Luna (d) Fest replacing LunaFest because the films were not available this year. Comedian Nancy Stanley of the Estrogen Hour, offered laughter to the large crowd in attendance. Last year we provided six scholarships to Pima Community College students from the fundraiser, and hope to do the same this year.

In March we will celebrate International Women's Day and Women's History Month. The 2024 theme for International Women's Day is to rally behind the call to "Count her in: Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress, with live music, drumming and voices of women who have accelerated progress. This is a day we unite with women around the world.

Attending legislative day was informative for the six of us who appreciated learning from speeches given by the younger generation that addressed education, health care, women's health and the media. All speakers provided political perspectives for the future of our state.

Our Branch will be celebrating **50 years** at the April general meeting. We will honor past presidents while celebrating achievements made throughout the years.

Our membership is growing since the downturn during the pandemic. We currently have 113 members; most are extremely active in making our Branch vital in the community. Quality programs have advanced our membership and our 13 AAUW Interest Groups provide opportunities for smaller group meetings. We believe we have experienced a successful year!

WOMEN MAKE HISTORY EVERY DAY AAUW



CEO Gloria L. Blackwell

"Outstanding Woman" for Women's History Month

AAUW is thrilled to see CEO Gloria L. Blackwell recognized as one of

Diverse Issues in Higher Education's 40 Outstanding Women

This honor celebrates her exceptional leadership and commitment to advancing equity and education for women and girls.

Ms. Blackwell joins an impressive group of professionals who are making a difference in our communities, and we are proud to have her leadership.

Northwest Valley

by Marge Whitman
President

Our AAUW-NWV January meeting featured Dr. Theresa Leyba Ruiz, a first- generation college graduate and past president of Glendale Community College. She was one of 21 persons chosen to be on President Biden's National Advocacy Commission. She is currently Senior Vice President of "Education Forward Arizona." The organization strives to close achievement gaps and advocate for state-level funding for those with greatest need. The organizational goal is for 60 percent of Arizonans, ages 25-64, to have some post -secondary credential. This education benefits the individual, the community and has fiscal benefit for the state. Ruiz's Hispanic background involved her in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. If an institution has Hispanic population of 25 percent or more, they can apply for title grants which benefit all enrolled students. Her message emphasized Education is the Key and it is a worthy, important investment.

February 10, 2024, AAUW-NWV presented a fashion show at Briarwood Country Club. Nearly 200 members and friends attended the dinner and fashion show. Baskets were raffled and a 50/50 raffle took place. There were several silent auction items. The proceeds exceeded \$4,000. It was very good to be together again after the Covid epidemic limited our gathering.

On February 15, 2024, our branch hosted an outstanding, deeply moving program presented by our Public Policy committee. "Caught in the Vise" was beautifully explained by Jodi Leggett, Bonnie Boyce Wilson and Kathleen Gillespie. Jodi taught us that Planned Parenthood is the greatest tool to decrease the number of abortions, and education for women is the key to a stable family and country.

Planned Parenthood teaches women how to prevent pregnancy and it is pregnancy that creates the need for abortions. Sixty-five THOUSAND rape-induced pregnancies estimated in the 14 states that outlawed abortion in the 18-month period after Roe versus Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court (JAMA, January 24, 2024). Who will welcome these children?

Bonnie B Wilson served as director of Foster Care in Colorado prior to moving to Arizona. She revealed the plight of women and children in the state of Arizona.

A single mother with two children receives \$100 a month cash, \$700 in food stamps, and \$215 for utilities. A child raised in foster care has a difficult life. Dr. Kathleen Gillespie, a mental health therapist, shared the dilemma women face dealing with abortion.

Thoughtful questions brought by the audience enriched the program. Many of us felt closer to each other as we listened and wept at the misfortune of so many women. The cause of abortion is pregnancy and banning abortion does nothing to stop pregnancy.

In our March General meeting, we are preparing to write accounts of our heritage and our legacy. As members of AAUW, we can reflect carefully on how blessed each of us is to have an education. So many women have been denied that opportunity.



Photo taken at Arizona Capitol Museum

Phoenix

by Pam Kohnken
President

The Phoenix Branch has been in existence since 1912 when it began as the College Club of Phoenix with 25 members. In 1930 the College Club became affiliated with AAUW and the Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1939 the College Club name was dropped and the group became AAUW. Through the later years, the Phoenix Branch became involved in educational programs, legislation as well as funding scholarships for local women at Phoenix College.

However, time has caused some changes. Membership, meeting attendance and overall group participation has declined significantly.

Therefore, the AAUW Phoenix Branch has approved the merger with the AAUW Scottsdale Branch effective July 2024. Final scholarship grants of \$765 were given from the Martha Hoyt Memorial Scholarship Fund to each of the 5 Phoenix College Students selected.

We will continue are monthly meetings through May with more outstanding speakers being presented.

The Phoenix Branch looks forward to joining the Scottsdale Branch to further the AAUW goals of supporting women in education.



*Photo taken at
Arizona Capitol Museum*



March 12 Equal Pay Day 2024

**Each year, this symbolic day is used
to raise awareness around and
combat the impact of pay inequities.**

**Equal Pay Day 2024 is on March 12
and marks the current state of the
gender pay gap for women:**

**84% for full-time, year-round
workers and 78% for all workers
(including part-time and seasonal).**

Prescott

by Carol Dosse,
President



75th Anniversary Celebration

AAUW: Celebrating 75 Years of Community Service in Prescott

The Prescott Branch of the American Association of University Women celebrated 75 Years of community service to women and girls January 13 at the Center for Spiritual Living.

Attendees recalled AAUW Prescott's role in bringing to life projects such as the following:

- ✚ Yavapai College Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center
- ✚ Stepping Stones Agencies' advocacy services
- ✚ Girls' Rock-It Day STEM experience
- ✚ The Reality Store® career/life simulation
- ✚ 35,000 in scholarships awarded since 2007

President Carol Dosse (top left) led the group in honoring past presidents, including (top, second left) Anne Barton, Cathy Cunningham, Edi Taylor-Richards, Annette Schiller, Becky Gunn, Penny Briner Ewell (bottom left), Lynne Murphy, Lynn Ray and Gail Shay.

Briner Ewell recognized Dosse for her leadership in positioning AAUW Prescott for its next 75 Years.

Expanding its advocacy for women and girls, the organization announces an Opportunity Award to help female students at . . .

Yavapai College

Prescott College

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Opportunity Awards are given to help female students attend educational conferences and seminars.

**For more information, log on to
aauwprescott.net.**



Scottsdale

by Karen Ramos
President

The Scottsdale Branch has been very busy this Spring. Our February Branch meeting featured **Scottsdale Mayor David Ortega**. The mayor spoke about his path to politics and some of the issues he is dealing with in the City of Scottsdale.



Mayor David Ortega

The mayor was introduced by Dr Eric Leshinskie, President of Scottsdale Community College. It was an honor to have the mayor speak to our Branch. During his remarks, the mayor thanked AAUW Scottsdale for supporting his annual Constitution Contest the last two years in September. Members of the Scottsdale Branch judge the entries and help out at the awards ceremony.

Our annual Author's Luncheon was held on March 6. This event is our fundraiser for local Scholarships at Scottsdale Community College. The luncheon is held at the Artichoke Grill, where the meal is prepared and served by Scottsdale Community College Culinary Arts students.

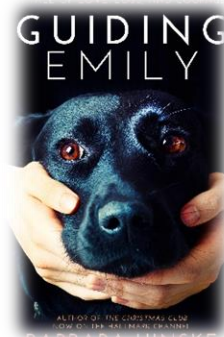


Barbara Hinske

Thirty-nine members of the Scottsdale Branch enjoyed a delicious lunch and heard from our guest author **Barbara Hinske**.

Barbara is an attorney who left the practice of law to pursue her career as a full-time novelist.

Her novel **Guiding Emily** was conceived during a tour of The Foundation for Blind Children. It's about a woman who goes blind and how she achieved independence with her guide dog, Garth. She was inspired and moved by their mission and is donating half of her proceeds from the book to the Foundation. Barb is also the author of the bestselling **Rosemont** series and the murder mysteries in her **'Who's There?'** collection. Her novella, **The Christmas Club**, was made into a 2019 Hallmark Channel Christmas movie. **Guiding Emily** was also made into a Hallmark movie and was on the Hallmark Channel Saturday, March 2. Barbara told us about her career as a writer and provided three of her books for our raffle. Program Vice Presidents Judy Hubbard and Gail Stempel also made and raffled three gift baskets. It was a successful event and attendees remarked that this was one of the best author presentations we have had.



We are also busy collecting books for our Adopt-a-Book program. The Scottsdale Branch has supported this effort for over 13 years, donating books to a Title 1 school in Scottsdale each year. Program Coordinator Linda Nance and a team of volunteers go through the books to make sure they are suitable for donation. The books are then brought to the school in late April. The last few years, we have been able to donate a book for each child in the school and even some extras for the library. Each book has a bookplate with the AAUW logo with a space so the child can write their name in the book. It's a great way to make sure that deserving children have a book to read over the summer. We have heard from teachers that for some of these children, this is the first book they have owned.

Southeast Valley

by Beth Zdeblick
Co-President, Sr.



AAUW Southeast Valley branch held a period-packing event on January 15, 2024. Members packed 200 period packs for young girls attending six Chandler Unified District Schools. This event is focused on reducing Period Poverty in our community

Period Poverty is the lack of access to safe and hygienic menstrual products during monthly periods, inaccessibility to basic sanitation services or facilities, and menstrual hygiene education.

Facts About Period Poverty

- ✚ 16.9 million women live in poverty in the U.S. and menstrual products are not covered by SNAP or WIC.
- ✚ Menstruators spend \$13.50 per month for their period needs.
- ✚ Nearly 1 in 5 girls leave school early or skipped school because of no access to menstrual products.
- ✚ 21 states, including Arizona, consider menstrual products to be a luxury, and are taxed.
- ✚ 84% of teens have missed school, or know someone else who has, due to access of menstrual products.
- ✚ Tampon Tax is a sales tax on feminine hygiene products.
- ✚ Women spend on average 2535 days menstruating, or about 7 years.

On February 2, 2024, AAUW Southeast Valley Branch held our 2nd Annual Happy Hour Fashion Show Fundraiser.

This year the event was sold out and featured SEV members modeling stylish clothing provided by Judy Wear boutique. In addition to the fashion show, guests enjoyed Happy Hour appetizers, a silent auction, a raffle, and learning about the AAUW SEV Scholarship program.

Thanks to the support from our members and guests, the branch raised \$10,000 which will support 10 \$1000 scholarships for talented women to further their education.

These scholarships will be awarded by our scholarship committee to women attending Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

Pictures below are AAUW SEV Branch members modeling during the fashion show.



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

Righting Wrongs: 20 Human Rights Heroes Around the World

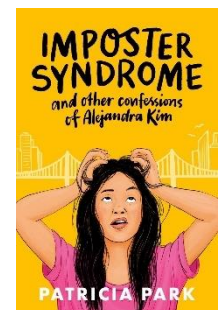
Robin Kirk, is the author of numerous books, including The Bond Trilogy: The Bond, The Hive Queen, and The Mother's Wheel. Her nonfiction book for kids, Righting Wrongs: 20 human rights heroes around the world, profiles some of the visionaries behind human rights. Kirk is a Faculty Co-Chair of the Duke Human Rights Center at the Franklin Humanities Institute and is a founding member of the Pauli Murray Center, which explores the legacy of this Durham daughter and examines America's past of slavery, segregation, and continuing economic inequality. She is a professor of the practice in Duke's Department of Cultural Anthropology.

Note: This is a great book to suggest to the very young in your families.



Imposter Syndrome and Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim

Patricia Park, is an Assistant Professor of Literature at American University, a Fulbright scholar in Creative Arts, and Jerome Hill Artist Fellow. She is the author of the acclaimed adult novel, RE JANE, a Korean American reimagining of Brontë's JANE EYRE named Editors' Choice by The New York Times Book Review; Best Books of 2015 by American Library Association; O, The Oprah Magazine pick; NPR "Fresh Air" pick; and others. She has written for The New Yorker, The New York Times, Guardian, Salon, and others.



ARIZONA SUN

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

Newsletter Co-editors

Dorothy Alexander – ddalexander13@gmail.com – 317-607-8856

Ronda Clark – rondagclark@gmail.com – 206-384-2662

Next Deadline: August 31, 2024

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/>