



FALL FORUM COMING NOVEMBER 1

Theme: “Hands off our History and our Future!”

Where: Cottonwood Country Club, Sun Lakes, Arizona
Home of our AAUW SE Valley Branch
(The location is south of Phoenix off the I-10.)

The AAUW SE Valley Branch and their members will be our hostesses. We have two dynamic speakers on women’s history secured, and we are also working on an impactful speaker from Arizona state government.

Please accept our invitation to spend a day with your friends and share enthusiasm for being a woman in 2025.

by Marge Whitman

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

AZ – AAUW STATE BOARD 2024-2025

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President's Pen

Becky's Musings



While it isn't officially summer yet, I am going to wish you HAPPY SUMMER anyway. Many of the Branches in our state of Arizona are largely on hiatus. That said, there are issues and events that still need our attention as an organization.

Our National organization has just begun the implementation of a two-year strategic plan which addresses the most critical issues relating to education and the potential closure of the Department of Education. Historically we have been the advocates for graduate level university opportunities for women. We must acknowledge that NOW there are threats to educational institutions that are tangible. AAUW's Strategic Priorities address that issue.

I request that you take some time and read all about the Strategic Plan on the national website. Log in and it's the first thing you see. Click on the link and you will get the summary and then there are tools developed by AAUW leadership to help us understand what we can do to help actualize the priorities that will impact our children and grandchildren.

Sometimes it feels as if our local priorities don't receive enough attention from the National leaders, but they are becoming more aware of how 'all advocacy is local' and want to be sure that they improve their communication with the Branches. Know that what we do locally for education, for STEM, for Women's Rights aligns with the overall purpose of AAUW. I know I joined AAUW because I cared about the issues. So did you. Yes, it is a social network, but it is grounded in our purposes and values.

As I leave the Presidency for the State organization, I feel that there is an emerging energy from all of the Branches – large and small. We know that our energy, our commitment to education, and women's rights are incredibly important.

Thank you all for your commitment to AAUW. We need more women to join us in our mission to empower women. Think about asking your friends to consider joining us; think of asking your daughters or granddaughters to join. We could use some of that youthful energy and optimism.

Welcome to our President for FY25-26, Karen Ramos. I have worked with her for over two years, and she is an excellent leader, listener, advocate and a good woman. I truly believe she will lead our organization forward.

With appreciation for all of you,
Becky Gunn





East Mesa

by Janice Dill, President

East Mesa Update

The East Mesa Branch installed officers at their April meeting, the last of the season.

Officers installed were:

Janice Dill, President (2nd two-year term)

Sarah Martin, Program Vice President

Elain Prom, Membership Chair

Molly Brenza, Secretary

Mary Karen Scullion, Treasurer

Sandy Williamson, Scholarship Chair

**Betsy Flaten and Lynda Godkin
Public Policy Chairs.**

Our summer activities are limited, we have a book club organized by Marje Perkins, and a summer lunch bunch organized by Mary DeChesnay.

Our welcome back ice cream social will be held October 22, and our first regular meeting will be Wednesday, November 5.

About AAUW

We are tenacious and trailblazing —
advocating for women and girls
since 1881 and into the future!

AAUW 2025 Strategic Plan

AAUW's 2025 Strategic Plan outlines how we'll advance equity for women and girls by expanding access to higher education, advocating for inclusive policies, and strengthening our nationwide member network.

Green Valley

Nancy Puckett, Co-President

Time flies, as the saying goes, and another AAUW year has raced by. For the Green Valley Branch, it has been a productive, fun, and rewarding year.

Member recruitment and retention continue to be priorities for Green Valley. With 20 new members since this time last year, we are now the 3rd largest branch in Arizona. And under the auspices of National's Shape the Future program, we were able to provide three free memberships this year. Recipients were selected from among those current members who successfully recruited new members in 2024-2025. Recipients were acknowledged and thanked at the May General Meeting, reinforcing the importance of member recruitment.

Our Community Action Grant, Keep Our Girls in School, is one of our Branch's most valued and most rewarding initiatives. Through the grant, this past year we delivered almost 1600 feminine hygiene products and 80 pairs of underwear to Continental School. Project coordinators worked with the school nurse and attended an all-girls assembly where the project was explained. The membership is proud of the Keeping Girls in School effort, and many contribute in a variety of ways. For instance, members of our Needles and More group sew fabric bags so that the girls can carry their products discreetly. And now aware of the need, members have over the year generously donated additional hygiene product for other groups in the community also in need, including the Amado Youth Center, a local foodbank, and to the women of the Tohono O'odham reservation.

Our support of St. Andrews Children Clinic in Nogales is also a project close to the hearts of our members. On the first Thursday of every month, except for July, members line up and assemble 80+ sandwiches and package them individually with an apple, a bottle of water and a snack bar. We provided an estimated 1,000 lunches for the children in 2024-2025 with funding for the effort coming from the sale of members' donated jewelry. Feedback and thanks from mothers and children are not uncommon and always heartwarming.

Earlier this year, a group of members was also able to travel to Nogales to see the medical care efforts first hand and to experience how much the lunches are needed and appreciated.

This year GV Branch enjoyed a long list of interesting presentations. Most recently, at the May 20 General Meeting, our presenter was Maria Velasca, Director of the First Navajo Gallery: RC Gorman in Tubac. Maria gave an interesting talk about Gorman's family history (his father was one of the Navajo Code Talkers in WWII) and his artistic techniques. This program had a strong member representation, but also a surprising 25 non-member locals attending. These interesting programs have sparked interest and helped our membership grow.

This year, our branch also continued two important traditions: the raising of flags along a prominent street for Martin Luther King Jr Day and, on a Saturday morning in February, an enthusiastic group convened on a busy corner to protest violence against women and girls.

Our fundraising event this year, FundFest: A Celebration of Women in Music and Words, had strong ticket sales, which help support the Branch Scholarship Program, done in conjunction with Pima Community College. In support of that scholarship program, members and non-members gave generous donations in addition to ticket sales. This especially meaningful in that there is no tax deduction possible. Donations were truly gifts given in the spirit of enhancing women's education.



With a record number of applications this year, those donations made it possible for the Branch to award 6 scholarship of \$1500 each. We hope we have helped them move closer to achieving their goals—and their dreams!

The Green Valley Branch will not meet again until September, but members will stay engaged with ad hoc groups addressing record retention, reviewing policies and procedures, and brainstorming fundraising ideas for 2025-2026.

Those staying around for the monsoons can play mahjonn, check out the summer book group, or meet up with the lunch bunch the first Friday of the month.

This is the end of my first term as co-president. I was very new to the organization when this term started. I am lucky and extremely thankful that I had Amy Perlick as a teacher, mentor and guide. I still have so much to learn, but Amy also helped to instill in me a dedication to the

Branch and the organization. And my good luck and gratitude continue; I am looking forward to working with co-president Gerry Peterson in the coming year.

If the end of the year is a time to look back and review accomplishments, it is also a time to look forward. May 2025-2026 be a year of success and satisfaction in working toward, in all our diverse ways, the goal of gender equity for women and girls. And in the meantime, have a wonderful summer!



Amy Perlick, 2024-2025 GV Co-President swearing in new Board members for 2025-2026.



GV's Women's Culture group at its year-end meeting / potluck lunch - Hosted by Sharon Rezac Anderson.

Prescott

by Miriam Haubrich, President

Prescott AAUW has been busy this spring by preparing for healthy flowers, scrubs and trees. Several other programs took us back to women in Prescott's colorful history.

Prescott's Public Library invited us to share our mission and vision during their 50 years celebration "Fest in the West." The heat was on, but no one complained. All our volunteers enjoyed this opportunity to share the word about Prescott AAUW.

Everyone is looking forward to several months to enjoy vacations, family gatherings and casual lunches with AAUW friends.

Lastly, we are starting **a new community service project** –

FOOD NEIGHBORS

This is where our members, friends and neighbors collect nonperishable food items to put in our green bags for local food banks.



**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER,
SEE YOU IN THE FALL!**



Scottsdale

by Alice Buck, President

Scottsdale Branch finished our 2024-2025 year with a flourish—our annual thank you and installation luncheon. Each year the Board treats our members to a free lunch, this year at Red Lobster, and we installed our new officers for the coming year. We celebrated great growth in our membership; we are just about to 100! And we are looking forward to more growth next year as we read and discuss books as well as lunch together over the summer—our two favorite AAUW pastimes.

Very often the book each child is given is the first book they have ever owned of their own. This is truly a heartwarming thank you to see the joy on their faces for our members who work on this project all year long.

Over the past year we collected children's books and delivered over 450 to our adopted Title I school, Navajo Elementary, near the end of the school year through our Adopt-A-Book project.

And as the summer progresses, we will be busy planning for the new program year, lining up venues and speakers, doing our best to tune into what will best move our members to action in line with our AAUW mission, fully aware of all that is happening both here in Arizona and in our nation. We know that AAUW can be a force for positive change and we'd like that to be our guiding light for the coming year.

AAUW Celebrates the Talent & Voices of Women Artists

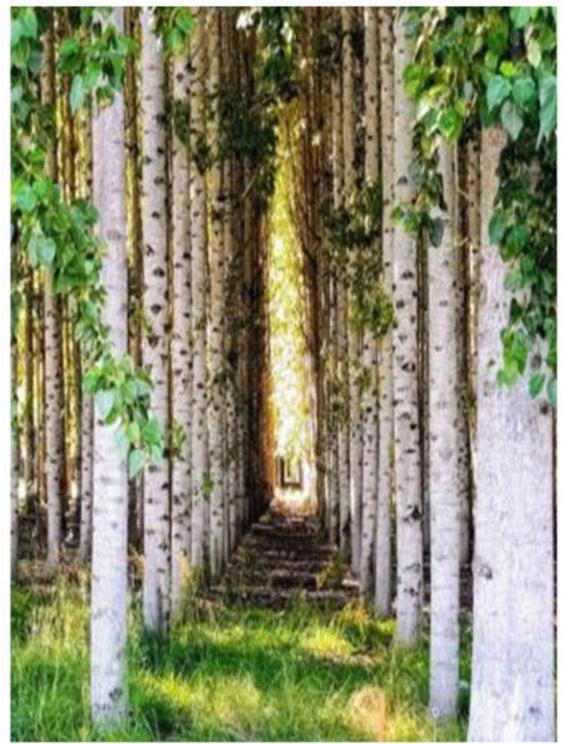
AAUW is thrilled to announce the winners of the 2025 AAUW Annual Art Contest! This year's contest showcased an incredible array of talent from our members, and we are excited to feature the winning artworks in our exclusive notecard collection, which will be mailed to members this spring.

We invite you to explore the gallery at AAUW.org to view the entire selection of outstanding entries we received this year. Your support and participation help us celebrate and promote the creativity of AAUW members.

Below are just two of the many winners.

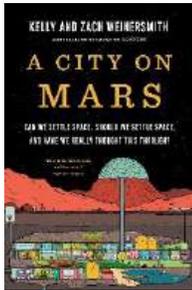


Nelda Reid
“Summer Blooms”



Monique Farland
“Light Through the Trees”

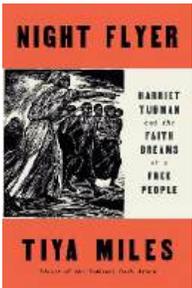
AAUW SUGGESTED BOOKS



A City on Mars

By Dr. Kelly Weinersmith and Zach Weinersmith

A City on Mars investigates whether the dream of new worlds won't create nightmares, both for settlers and the people they leave behind. In the process, the Weinersmiths answer every question about space you've ever wondered about, and many you've never considered.



Night Flyer

By Dr. Tiya Miles

Harriet Tubman is among the most famous Americans ever born and soon to be the face of the twenty-dollar bill. Yet, often she's often a figure more out of myth than history, almost a comic-book superhero. This story offers us powerful inspiration for our own time of troubles. Now, thanks to Tiya Miles, she becomes an even clearer and sharper signal from the past, one that can help us to echolocate a more just and sustainable path.

ARIZONA SUN

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Newsletter Co-editors

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

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

Please submit all articles to both emails.

Please format in Microsoft Word and photos as Jpeg.

USEFUL LINKS

AAUW Arizona State

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