

# Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW  
Summer 2020

<http://redlands-ca-aauw.net>  
Issue 1, 11 Issues Annually



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

## The President's Corner – Sue Wallace



As we are entering our new year for Redlands AAUW, I would like to bring everyone up to date on where we are and where we are heading in this time of pandemic. This is definitely going to be a challenging year. The new and outgoing board met in June by zoom. Since we were not able to hold a June branch meeting, the new officers for next year were installed at that meeting. The board realizes that the quarantine will affect not only our ability to hold branch meetings but also our ability to hold fundraising events that are used to help fund our many programs. The board is working on ways we may be able to do some of those events online. As of now, we are working with the Footlighters to be able to hold our annual fall fundraising event for the AAUW Fund. We want to follow the guidelines of the state concerning large meetings but also make it a fun time for all. We are also working closely with Zonta and the Lunafest organization to develop an online webinar type event on September 18 to replace the Lunafest fundraiser we were forced to cancel in April. The board will be meeting this summer to try to develop plans for the September kick off branch meeting. If you have any ideas you would like to share with the board, you can contact the members-at-large, Barbara Simmons, Mary Lou Guerrero and Judy Dods. Board meetings are open to all. The August 10 board meeting will be held on zoom. If you would like to attend to present an idea, you can contact me to be added to the list of those who will receive a zoom invitation. If you have not renewed your membership, yet, please contact Ellen Cope, our assistant treasurer, who will be glad to help you. Despite the uncertainties of these turbulent times I am still very excited about our new year and hope we will soon be able to join together in person to hold our wonderful branch meetings and interest groups.

### **Branch Meetings:**

**2020-2021**

*Our branch meetings will be held either in person or electronically*

Saturday, 9/12 morning  
Tuesday, 10/6 evening  
Saturday, 11/7 morning  
Tuesday, 12/1 evening  
Saturday, 1/9 morning  
Saturday, 2/6 morning  
Saturday, 3/6 morning  
Tuesday, 4/6 evening  
Tuesday, 5/4 evening  
Saturday, 6/5 morning

## NEW 2020 Redlands Branch Officers:



President Elect  
Erica Wilson



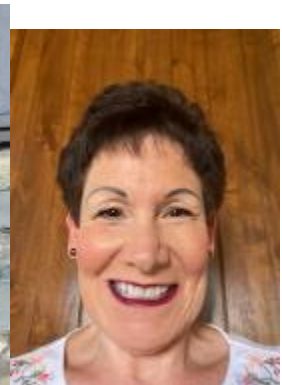
Communications VP  
Priya Vedula



Membership VP  
Shelley Bodner



Secretary  
Nerni Miller



Treasurer  
Ellen Weiss

## Summer Calendar

**BOARD MEETING:** August 10 Zoom AAUW Redlands board meeting (contact Sue Wallace)

### **BOOKGROUP:**

July 23 Zoom session at 7:00pm Warlight, by Michael Ondaatje (contact Amy Bisek)

August 6 Zoom meeting at 6:00pm "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo (see page 5) (contact Erica Wilson)

August 27 Zoom session at 7:00pm "Mrs. Caliban" by Rachel Ingalls (contact Amy Bisek)

## **Award Spotlight: Congratulations to Kim Cousins**



Kim Cousins, a professor and chair of the Cal State San Bernardino Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has been named the recipient of the 2019-20 Outstanding Professor award, the university's top faculty honor.

Every year, the announcement is made during a surprise visit to the winner's classroom or lab by CSUSB President Tomás D. Morales. This year the announcement was still a surprise, but it was done virtually. Led by Morales and Provost Shari McMahan, about 75 of the university community, including members of the cabinet, previous award winners, faculty and staff waited for Cousins to be allowed into the virtual

meeting, then cheered their congratulations to a surprised Cousins.

"Provost McMahan and I join the university awards committee in saying that Kimberly is a prime example, a stellar educator, researcher and leader in the CSUSB community who embodies the qualities that help all of us to excel and be better at our calling as scholars, educators and leaders," Morales said. "Her generosity, dedication, versatility epitomize the excellence and range toward which our entire faculty strive."

"You have excelled in every area of this award – teaching, research, scholarly activities and service and a particular note is the amount of the grants you have secured, which is rarely done at a comprehensive university," McMahan said. "But what I find most impressive is what you have done with them to transform the lives of our students and to advance our community in your discipline, all while serving as the chair of the department of chemistry and biochemistry."

A beaming Cousins gave her thanks for the award and the opportunity to work with students and faculty. "I really love teaching at Cal State San Bernardino. It's those students that really make a difference, make it worthwhile, and the great fellow faculty really make a huge difference," Cousins said. "I know there's a lot of talented faculty on campus and to get this award I am truly humbled."

### **Branch Officers:**

**President:** Sue Wallace, **President-elect:** Erica Wilson, **Communications Vice President:** Priya Vedula, **Hospitality Vice President:** Sue Ferguson, **Membership Vice President:** Shelley Bodner, **Program Vice President:** Martha Lehman, **Secretary:** Nerni Miller, **Treasurer:** Ellen Weiss

### **B&T Submission:**

The deadline for the **September newsletter** is **August 5th**. Send your articles to the editor via email to [news@aauw-redlands-ca.org](mailto:news@aauw-redlands-ca.org) or by email to Paula Ferri-Milligan

## Membership Matters

Annual dues for 2020-21 are \$110 which includes \$59 national, \$20 for the state, and \$31 for the branch.



There are TWO WAYS to renew:

### ONLINE:

You have been sent an invoice by email

From: "**memberinfo@aauw.org**"

Subject line: "**AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2021**"

**Click on the link in the invoice and renew using a credit or debit card**

### BY CHECK:

Check for \$110 made payable to AAUW Redlands

Mail to Ellen Cope

Any questions, or if you need the emailed invoice to be resent, please contact Ellen by phone or email.

Please update any changes/corrections to your contact information for the 2020-2021 yearbook by emailing corrected information to [membership@aauw-redlands-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-redlands-ca.org)  
**2019-2020 yearbook additions and changes are listed on page 7**

 **CLIP & ATTACH TO YOUR YEARBOOK**

**Priya Vedula**  
**Karen Wardell**

## Membership Matters

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than



a century. And now that we've won the fight to give women equal access to education, we're taking on one of the most defining issues of our time: gender equity.

## Family Service Association Back-to-School Project



Dear Members...don't forget that we are still collecting donations for our Family Service Back-to-School

project to provide school supplies for RUSD students this fall. I am extending the deadline a few days to give everyone a chance to remember to help us out with ANY size donation by July 30. Checks should be made out to AAUW with FSA project in the memo line. Please mail your donation to AAUW, PO Box 7678, Redlands, CA 92375-0678 Attn: Ellen Weiss. Thank you for your support of this worthy local cause. Stay well and safe!

*Dawn Romo, Project Chair.*

## Lunafest Rescheduled

The Redlands Lunafest has been rescheduled as a [remote event](#).



Enjoy Lunafest from the comfort of your own home while supporting the programs of

AAUW Redlands Branch and Zonta Club of Redlands.

[Purchase a \\$20 ticket](#) to our screening event, and you will be sent a screening pass to view the films.

<https://www.lunafest.org/screenings/redlands-ca-041720>

The screening pass is good for 24 hours beginning at 7PM on September 18, 2020 (Pacific Time!)

*~Heather Abushanab*

2021



Next year's Tech Trek Camps promise to be better than ever. If you would like to be part of the committee to select 7th grade girls from Banning, Beaumont, and Redlands Unified School Districts to go to the 2021 Camps at Whittier College and the University of California, San Diego, I would love to hear from you.

Most of the work is done January to April. People are needed to be school contact people, readers of the girls' essays, interviewers of the girls, and party planners for the young women and their parents prior to attending camp.

If Redlands Branch has an in person meeting in September you can sign up then. If everything is still virtual, please call or text me or you can email me,



## AAUW High School Scholarship Recipients



I am pleased to announce our three high school scholarship recipients. Due to COVID-19, there was no award presentation, so we do not have photos to accompany

this article. Our three recipients are so deserving of our \$500 scholarships. We wish them all the best, as they continue their education and pursue their dreams.

**Queennie Nguyen** is graduating from Citrus Valley High School. She knew from an early age that she wanted to work in the medical field. She developed a passion for trauma surgery. Only 19% of all surgeons are women. She hopes to change that statistic. She will be pursuing an advanced degree in molecular biology, cellular development, and neuroscience. Her ultimate goal is to become a trauma surgeon.

**Lorraine Booth** is graduating from Redlands East Valley High School. She was President and Treasurer of the Speech and Debate Club, as well as Leadership Club. She was a member of Ethnic News Club, Ecology Club, as well as Philosophy Club. Lorraine hopes to pursue a degree in environmental studies, combining business, economics, and environmental science. She has political ambitions also. She wants to advocate for women's equality, locally, nationally, and globally. She hopes to one day be Senator Lorraine Booth.

**Sachi Pawooskar-Almeida** is graduating from Redlands High School. She was active in Octagon Club, Rocketry Club, as well as on the tennis team. She enjoys singing and dancing as well. Sachi was a Teens Make a Difference Volunteer Award winner. She has a variety of interests: art, culture, community service, dance, music, science, singing, and sports. Sachi has always been creative, even as a child. She built her own toys, using PV pipes, clay, and discarded materials. Sachi hopes to pursue a career in biomedical engineering, which will combine her love for creating with her passion for helping others. She hopes to design some toy-tool-therapy technology that will help others.

It is our pleasure and honor to award them our 2020 high school scholarships. They each further AAUW's mission and goals.

~Theresa Lantz  
High School Scholarships

## CHAT Program Looking For Volunteers

**CHAT** (Conversation Helps Adults Transition) helps well-educated women in our community learn conversational

English. The group began when women from many countries who had moved to Redlands came to A. K. Smiley Public Library and asked for help with their conversational English. CHAT currently serves about 30 women by matching a conversational-English learner ("chattee") with an AAUW volunteer ("chattor").

All chattees meet the AAUW's educational requirements and several have joined our chapter. The chattees come from all over the world: Russia, China, Korea, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru and more. The CHAT volunteer is matched with a chattee and they set up a time to talk at their mutual convenience. Monthly group CHAT meetings are held over Zoom, so that everyone gets a chance to meet each other. Trudy Waldron and Katherine Gifford, the CHAT coordinators, are available to help you get started.

Five wonderful chattees are currently waiting for a conversational partner. The pandemic may have reduced our ability to travel, but through CHAT we have the opportunity to get to know women from around the world. If you are interested in volunteering with CHAT, please call 909.798.7565, ext. 4138 or email literacy@akspl.org.

We would love to welcome you to CHAT. We hope we will hear from you!



## Nancy Yowell Memorial

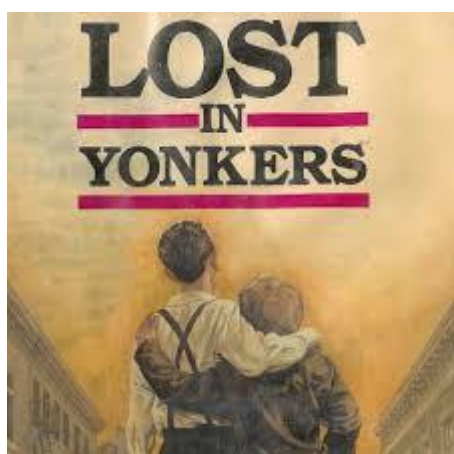


The 2019-2020 recipient is Raquel Zepeda. Raquel is a graduate student in the School of Education at the University of Redlands pursuing an Elementary Teaching Credential and Master of Arts in Teaching a Learning. We hope to have her as a guest at one of our fall meetings. Her appreciation of the scholarship is expressed in her lovely thank you note:

*AAUW Redlands,  
I'd like to thank the organization for the generous scholarship I have been granted. I will now certainly be able to attend school this summer during this otherwise difficult and uncertain time. The Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship empowers women and I hope to be able to do the same with the education it affords.  
Thank you,  
Raquel Zepeda*

The applications for the 2020-2021 Scholarship will be available in the late fall. If you would like to be a part of the committee that works to raise funds and select the recipient, please contact Nerni Miller at 951-595-1297 or nernimiller@gmail.com.

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## Time To Gear Up for 2021!



Our Redlands Branch STEM Initiatives programs (Redlands STEM Conference, Pass STEM Conference and Tech Trek) are going to happen in 2021--but we anticipate we will need to overcome some new

challenges in order to provide STEM experiences for our middle school girls. As of this writing, we are awaiting further information from the University of Redlands, Mt. San Jacinto College and our local school districts so we can tailor our 2021 programs to comply with their requirements and meet their needs. Many AAUW Redlands branch members with creative minds & can-do attitudes will be sorely needed! A planning meeting will be held in August; please contact Kathryn Brown to participate.



## Redlands Footlighters Theater Event : October 15

Enjoy a good laugh, courtesy of Neil Simon? Join your AAUW friends on October 15 for the Footlighters' staging of the 1991 Pulitzer-prize winning comedy, **LOST IN YONKERS**. The Footlighters crew has made plans to configure their auditorium to seat 75 people, thereby meeting social-distancing standards. The AAUW Footlighters Event committee will be busy planning our pre-performance wine, music and snacks party to ensure we also meet social-distancing and sanitary food service standards. Proceeds from this event will benefit our local Redlands AAUW Mission Fund as well as the national AAUW Fund. Tickets (\$35) will go on sale in August through Eventbrite or from any committee member. (If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Kathryn Brown. More details to follow





## Get to Know Your Board Member ... Nerni Mink Miller

I am delighted to be your new Secretary. I had heard about AAUW for years through my best friend's mother, Nelda Stuck, and after moving out of the area never anticipated that I'd return to be a part of this incredible organization.

I grew up in Redlands after my father retired from the Air Force when I was in 5th grade. I attended Smiley, Cope, Moore and Redlands High School. I loved growing up here and was involved in musical theater at the Redlands Bowl, in school and the summer program at the U of R run by Dr. Paul Little. Music was a huge part of my experience at Redlands High School where I was involved with Chamber Singers and Marching Band.

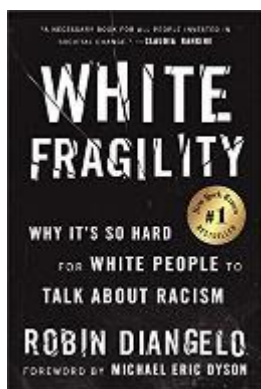
During the last semester of my senior year at UC Berkeley I decided I wanted to be a teacher. I spent that semester mentoring urban youth and it changed my life. Since my major was Art History and I was pursuing graduate school, that was not an easy phone call to make home. I am so grateful that my mom, a nurse, said come home, figure it out and do what your heart tells you! I received my teaching credential from the University of Redlands and have been an educator for 30 years, in both the private sector as a trainer for Houghton Mifflin publishing and as a teacher/administrator in a variety of public school settings. My Master's degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from CSUSB has opened doors for many opportunities, including being a founder of Santa Rosa Academy, a large TK-12 public charter school in southwest Riverside County. I now teach for the School of Education at the University of Redlands and supervise student teachers and interns each semester. This fall I will begin a new position with Hemet Unified School District.

My family moved to Temecula in 1999 when it was still a relatively new small town. We moved out to Wine Country in 2003 and love it. Our proximity to the beach means I get there as often as I can to read, walk and relax! My sons, age 22 and 24, are both pursuing first responder careers while finishing up college /training. My husband Chris grew up in Riverside and is a UC Riverside alum. He is a School Psychologist in Val Verde Unified and we have been married for 27 years.

Speaking to the branch last year about the work I do with For a Reason was an honor. In addition to accompanying students and teachers in Haiti, I have a part time position at my church working with ministries to cultivate a true spirit of welcome and openness, am a part of the Interfaith Council of the Temecula Valley and Temecula Unity, a non-partisan collaboration with the city, local business leaders and law enforcement.

I knew I needed to be a part of AAUW-Redlands branch after attending a meeting as a guest of Eileen Sanborn. I could tell right away that this branch is a special group of women. It was also a bit of a walk down memory lane as many of the faces I saw were people I had known growing up or during my early teaching days in Redlands. I feel like I have two hometowns, Redlands and Temecula. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your secretary. It's good to be home!

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## Reading and the Rainbow-August 6

We in the Reading and the Rainbow interest group, are inviting everyone in AAUW to join us in an extra book discussion of **"White Fragility"** by Robin DiAngelo, a powerful and timely book about racism and white privilege. The book is available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble or other on-line book dealers. It may have to be back ordered, since it has become a very popular book. So order the book as soon as you can.

The discussion will be held by Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 6 at 6:00. Depending on the response, we will meet together, then break out into smaller discussion groups, and return to the larger Zoom meeting to share our insights and feelings that came up. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to me and I will send you the Zoom link. I hope to see many of you there.

~Erica Wilson

## Discounts @ Office Depot <https://officediscounts.org/aauw/>



### What is AmazonSmile?

Did you know that Amazon will automatically donate .5% of your purchases to your favorite charity? The Amazon Smile program allows all Amazon purchasers, both regular and Prime, to designate a charity for their donation. AAUW Redlands is one of the charities you can support.

1. You can shop on either the Amazon or Amazon Smile website BUT you must purchase your items at the Amazon smile website. Regular Amazon or the mobile apps for Android or Iphone do not connect with the Smile donations. The Smile website is maintained by Amazon and your regular login works. The address is: <https://smile.amazon.com/>
2. Sign in using your regular Amazon username and password. Notice that your cart, shipping addresses, payment information are all identical to your regular Amazon account. You should notice that the Amazon logo in the corner says Amazon Smile.
3. Choose your charity. The first time you login, Amazon Smile will prompt you to select a charity. Of course, Redlands AAUW is a great one to choose! If you have previously chosen a charity and would like to change, hover over **supporting** and notice that there is a link to change the charity. This page is cool because it also shows how much your purchases have generated for the selected charity.
4. Search for items, place in cart and check out as usual. Your donation will be automatically calculated and applied.

*A few suggestions: If you purchase on the regular amazon website, the iPhone app or the Android app, NO donation is made on your behalf. I find the Smile website hard to view on my phone. To get around this, use the Amazon app to search and select items. After you have put items in your cart, just go to the Amazon smile page to check out. All of your cart item will be there!*

*You can put a shortcut to the Amazon smile site on your desktop to make it easier to get to the site. On an iPhone, visit the [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/). Hit share. Now click add to home screen. You will get a link to Smile on your home screen. For Android, go to the [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/) site. Click the three dots on the upper right by the address. Scroll down to Add to Home screen. This will put a link on your home screen.*

For more info go to: <http://smile.amazon.com/about>

~Becky Johnston, Communications Committee



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