

# Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW  
November 2020

www.aauw-redlands-ca.org  
Issue 4, 11 Issues Annually



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



## Sue's News

I know everyone is so glad this election year is about to come to a close. However, I want to take a few minutes to discuss the importance of voting, not just in this election year but whenever we have an election. In our system of government, we are privileged to have our individual rights protected by our Constitution. We have a tendency to stress our rights as citizens, but with those rights are also responsibilities. The most important of these responsibilities, as a good citizen, is to vote. A republican form of government depends upon an **educated** populace participating in the election process.

For women, especially, who did not even receive the right to vote nationwide until 1920, voting should not be seen as just a right but a responsibility. We need to pay our respects to those women who fought so long and hard to get us that right to vote by using it whenever we have an opportunity. Many people say, "I have no interest in politics." But that's not true. Everyone has an interest in politics because politics is how we decide who will represent our views in our political system. To refuse to participate by not voting is relinquishing your individual right to participate in our democracy. *Continued on page 2*

## November Branch Meeting

**When** Saturday,  
November 7, 2020  
Social 9:30 am  
Zoom  
Meeting & Program  
10:00 am  
Webinar

## Branch Meetings: 2020-2021

Tuesday, 12/1 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 1/9 9:30 a.m.  
Saturday, 2/6 9:30 a.m.  
Saturday, 3/6 9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, 4/6 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, 5/4 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 6/5 9:30 a.m.

## November Branch Meeting: **"#FreeBlackMamas"**

The second wave of Feminism brought significant gains for white and middle-class women, but black, brown, poor, and queer women were mostly ignored. Stahly-Butts will discuss the way in which the ideas of Black Queer Feminism and the prison abolition movement animate the politics of the Movement for Black Lives using #FreeBlackMamas as a case study in how the criminal/legal system targets black and queer women and the work of the National Bail Out Collective to address these injustices.

**Marbre Stahly-Butts, Executive Director of Law for Black Lives**, works closely with organizers, lawyers, and legal advocates to build a responsive legal infrastructure for movement organizations and to advance and actualize radical policy. Marbre is a founding member of the National Bail Out Collective, the organization behind the Free Black Mama's Movement. She also was a founding member of the Movement For Black Lives Policy Table and helped develop the Vision for Black Lives Policy Platform. Since graduating from Yale Law School, Marbre has supported local and national organizations from across the country in their policy development and advocacy. She joined the Center for Popular Democracy as a Soros Justice Fellow in Fall 2013. Her Soros Justice work focused on organizing and working with families affected by aggressive policing and criminal justice policies in New York City in order to develop meaningful bottom up policy reforms. While in law school, Marbre focused on the intersection of criminal justice and civil rights and gained legal experience with the Bronx Defenders, the Equal Justice Initiative, and the Prison Policy Initiative. Before law school Marbre received her Masters in African Studies from Oxford University and worked in Zimbabwe, organizing communities impacted by violence, and then in South Africa, teaching at Nelson Mandela's alma mater. Marbre graduated from Columbia University, with a BA in African-American History and Human Rights. Marbre is the daughter of Geraldine Stahly, Ph.D., who is a vital member of this AAUW chapter.



*~Barbara Simmons*

## Sue's News *continued*

I have for a number of years served as a poll worker in our elections. As a poll worker you are required to attend a two-hour training workshop before each election. A number of changes were introduced this year because of the pandemic. Every person was sent a mail-in ballot. You can use that ballot to vote or choose to do so in person. Polling places will be open for four days this time, October 31-November 2 from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and November 3 from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Masks are required. I highly recommend if you vote in person, take your mail-in ballot with you to surrender. If you choose to use your mail in ballot, my recommendation is to drop it in one of the official drop boxes or take it to the polling place on the four election days. No matter how you choose to vote, **VOTE!**

					November 2020	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6pm CHAT	4	5 5-6:30pm Start Smart	6	7 <b>Branch Meeting</b> 9:30am Social 10am Meeting
8	9 6pm Board Meeting	10	11	12	13	14 9am STEM meeting
15	16	17 9am CHAT	18 Noon I Am, Therefore I Think	19 1pm & 7pm Reading & the Rainbow	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 <i>THANKSGIVING</i>	27	28
29	30					

### AAUW Redlands Board Meeting

11/9 9:30am Social via Zoom

10am Meeting via Webinar

~Sue Wallace 909-522-7894

### CHAT meeting

11/3 6pm via Zoom

11/17 9am via Zoom

~Katherine Gifford 798-7565 [literacy@akspl.org](mailto:literacy@akspl.org)

### I Am, Therefore I Think

11/18 "Coping with Covid" via Zoom

*Sharing Strategies for Managing Your Life During a Pandemic*, Facilitator: Barbara Krause

12 -2 pm (12-12:30 social - brown bag lunch)

~ Viktoria Norberg 909-389-9826 &

~Ellen Schollenberger

### Reading and Rainbow

11/19 1pm & 7pm via Zoom

*The Other Americans* by Laila Lalami

~Amy Bisek 952-261-9908 &

~ Kathryn Brown 510-220-1876



### Start Smart workshop

11/5 5-6:30pm via Zoom

for University of Redlands students

*College/University Partnership Co-Chairs*

~Susan Bangasser 909-289-5353 and Pamela Ford

### STEM meeting

11/14 9am Contact Kathryn Brown

([attykbrown@gmail.com](mailto:attykbrown@gmail.com)) or phone/text (510-220-1876) to receive the Zoom link

**Branch Officers:** **President:** Sue Wallace (909-798-4347), **President-elect:** Erica Wilson (909-797-7938), **Communications Vice President:** Priya Vedula (989-400-3242), **Hospitality Vice President:** Sue Ferguson (951-312-4904), **Membership Vice President:** Shelley Bodnar (909-792-7181), **Program Vice President:** Martha Lehman (909-936-7819), **Secretary:** Nerni Miller (951-595-1297), **Treasurer:** Ellen Weiss (909-794-7941), **At-Large:** Judy Dods (909-794-2373), Mary Lou Guerrero (909-792-9410), Barbara Simmons (909-798-4070)

## B&T Submission:

The deadline for the December newsletter will be **November 15th**. Send your articles to the editor via email to [news@aauw-redlands-ca.org](mailto:news@aauw-redlands-ca.org)

## Hospitality Birthday Club

We are wishing these ladies a very **Happy Birthday** in the month of November.

Mary Blickensderfer  
Shelley Bodnar  
Jane Henry  
Sande Meith-Rask  
Kate Pretorius  
Marilyn Shankar  
Meena Spangrud  
Bea Yancey  
Sue Young



## College/University Partnership Zoom



*November 5: 5 – 6:30pm*  
*If you are interested in observing or helping answer questions, email Susan, and she will send you the Zoom link.*

The College and University Partnership Committee co-chairs are offering a Start Smart Zoom workshop for students at the University of Redlands. One of the issues AAUW addresses is economic security for women. The Start Smart Program helps women negotiate a fair beginning salary raise.

*~Susan Bangasser and Pamela Ford*  
[Sbangasser1@gmail.com](mailto:Sbangasser1@gmail.com) 909-289-5353  
*College/University Partnership Co-Chairs*

**✂ CLIP & ATTACH TO YOUR YEARBOOK**

**Ellen Schollenberger**  
c/o Pete Schollenberger  
226 W. Ave. San Antonio  
San Clemente, CA 92672

## I Am, Therefore I Think...Zoom

*November 18: Social 12-12:30*  
*Meeting 12:30*

“Coping with Covid” (sharing strategies for managing your life during a pandemic), facilitated by Barbara Krause.

Contact Viktoria Norberg, at [viktorianorberg@aol.com](mailto:viktorianorberg@aol.com), if you wish to attend.

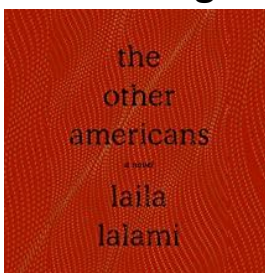
*~ Viktoria Norberg*



## Reading and the Rainbow zoom

*November 19: 1pm and 7pm*

*The Other Americans*  
*by Laila Lalami*



If you would like to be added to our Reading and the Rainbow email newsletter, which highlights meeting

dates, times, Zoom access details, and other important information, please contact me at [amy.bisek@gmail.com](mailto:amy.bisek@gmail.com). We'd love to have you join us to discuss this year's great books.

*~Amy Bisek*

## 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. For information on how to sign up, please click on <https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/amazon-smile/>







## STEM Initiatives Update

The STEM Committee met in September and October to undertake the process of planning our 2021 STEM conferences. Because we have been informed by Mt. San Jacinto College that our January 2021 conference cannot be held on campus (in-person classes are not possible), we are researching the feasibility of offering a virtual platform, distance-learning conference for the Banning and Beaumont middle schools. The University of Redlands has not yet made a final decision regarding the fate of our March 10, 2021, scheduled in-person conference on its campus; RUSD has indicated that if on campus, in-person learning is back in place for its 8<sup>th</sup> graders by March 2021, they will participate. We will be contacting YCUSD to learn whether they are in agreement with RUSD. For the present, the committee is proceeding with plans to prepare a virtual conference for use by all four school districts. ***The next STEM Initiatives meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday morning, November 14, at 9 AM. Contact Kathryn Brown if you would like to join the committee [attykbrown@gmail.com](mailto:attykbrown@gmail.com).***

AAUW National recently announced that for the 2021 Tech Trek season, camps in all states must be delivered on a virtual platform. Since the cancellation of the 2020 season, California Tech Trek has been working on alternative solutions, which includes a fully tested virtual platform option designed and implemented by our UC San Diego camp director. The commencement of the student selection process for the 2021 season is set for January. California Tech Trek has assured us that they are committed to the goal of returning to the residential Tech Trek camp model that has, since 1998, been AAUW California's premier STEM camp legacy.

~ Kathryn Brown 510-220-1876

## Redlands Lunafest 2020!

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Redlands Lunafest was held in a remote fashion this year on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Participants purchased a screening pass and were given an access code, allowing them to watch the films on-line during a 24-hour window from 7PM on September 18<sup>th</sup> to 7PM on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Redlands Lunafest is a collaboration between our branch and Zonta Club of Redlands. 154 tickets were sold, and some additional donations were collected. We are especially grateful to this year's sponsors: Pacific Western Bank, Dr. James Jesse, DDS, and Inland Environmental Associates. We appreciate the support of all our sponsors, but we are particularly happy to promote Inland Environmental Associates, which is owned and operated by our own AAUW Redlands Branch member Gabrielle Duff!!



We received lots of positive feedback on the event. More than half of the tickets were sold to people outside of both AAUW and Zonta; family and friends from both near and far were able to participate with this on-line format. Comments about the films include, "Best Lunafest yet!" and "Another great year!" Which film was your favorite? Did you enjoy the light-hearted Purl navigating a workplace where she was the only ball of yarn? Or did you relate to the basketball player yearning to be judged by her skill rather than her sex? Or perhaps the rant in Lady Parts hit home with you. Toni Momberger hosted a Zoom discussion a few days after the film festival, which was much appreciated and allowed AAUW members to share their thoughts on each film.

Redlands Lunafest 2020 grossed just over \$4000, earning Zonta and AAUW just over \$1800 each after expenses. The committee is pleased with this amount and hopes to improve on it in 2021. We are relatively sure that Redlands Lunafest 2021 will also be held in this format. We hope to encourage those of you who weren't able to participate in 2020 to give it a try. Planning for Lunafest 2021 will begin in January of 2021 with a target of holding the event in the spring. If you are interested in joining our planning committee, please let Heather Abushanab know.

Lunafest 2020 Committee

AAUW: Heather Abushanab, Gabrielle Duff, Marilyn Shankar, Sharen Wilbur

Zonta: Londa Carter, Amy Cranfill, Linda Derebery, Ellen Timothy

~Heather Abushanab



NANCY YOWELL  
MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP

*APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE*

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

APPLICANTS MUST RESIDE  
WITHIN THE REDLANDS  
BRANCH AREA

*APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2021*

For more information  
contact Nerni Miller at  
951-595-1297

<https://redlands-ca.aauw.net>

## Get to Know our AAUW Redlands Communications Vice President

Hi Ladies of AAUW! My name is Priya Vedula, and I am honored to be your Vice President of Communications! Twenty-seven years ago, I was born 8,000 miles away from Redlands, in New Delhi, India. My first language was Hindi, and my first word was “nani”, which means grandma. When I was just a few months old, my dad got the opportunity of a lifetime to pursue an internship in the state of New York. As the story goes, my parents left their home and their family behind with just a few hundred dollars in their pocket, in pursuit of the American Dream for their little baby girl. They were greeted by Lady Liberty as they entered the US. Little did they know that the journey to stability in America was going to be tumultuous. If you’re ever in the mood for stories about our adventurous (and sometimes harrowing) 5-10 years in the Bronx and Queens, *come chat with me!*

The events of 9/11 triggered our move away from the Melting Pot to the Land of Lakes--Michigan. My parents moved to serve the rural populations, and my sister and I went from listening to Britney Spears to listening to Leanne Womack and Reba. Life in the farmlands was beautiful and humbling but challenging in its own ways. Just before my senior year, I met a boy from Minnesota at summer school in Harvard. I was only 16, but I knew after just two weeks that he was the one I would spend the rest of my life with. To hear the struggles of an Indian-American relationship and how my family reacted to that situation, *come chat with me* ☺.

After high school, we graduated together from the University of Michigan in three years. I received my B.S. in Biology, and he received his B.A. in Political Sciences. Post-college, I had a little stint on American Idol, as one of a very small handful of Indian Americans to ever reach the top 80. I waited in line for 12 hours on a



cold, dreary day outside of a football stadium for the opportunity and went through four rounds before finally meeting Ryan and the crew. Yes, JLO is as beautiful and fierce in person as she looks on the screen. Yes, both Harry Connick Jr. and Ryan are as dreamy and wonderful in real life. *Come chat with me about it.*

Afterwards, we moved to Minnesota where my fiancé began law school, and I pursued full-time research as a microbiologist at U-Minnesota. During my time as a researcher, I was working on medications to prolong the lives of HIV/AIDS patients in Sub-Saharan Africa. My primary concern was not whether the medication was going to work but how a mother in a village would travel to her local clinic to receive it. Would she be able to afford it? Would she be able to keep up with the medication schedule and have enough nutrition to ensure she wasn't taking it on an empty stomach? These questions got me thinking about the barriers to healthcare and how to remove them. So, I pursued my Master of Public Health at Columbia University where I received my degree in Health Policy and Management with a specialization in Policy Analysis. My degree led me to Loma Linda University Health where I worked as a full-time Health Policy Analyst, research and educating about the various health issues in San Bernardino County and tangible policy solutions that would help expand access to oral health, mental health, and nutrition. I was so enamored by the power of policy that in 2018, I ran for City Council in Redlands. In 2018, I had the privilege to vote for the very first time, and that vote was for myself! The process was enlightening and empowering, so much so that I began finding more ways to get involved in the community as an advocate! In 2019, with the help of amazing community leaders like Mario Saucedo and Eddie Tejeda, I wrote Resolution 8022 "Healthy Redlands," which passed unanimously!

In the last two years, I have had the utmost honor and pleasure of connecting with so many of you as we serve our community in an effort for a more just and equitable society. I went into science for two reasons: 1) I found the human body fascinating, and 2) I wanted to be a woman in STEAM. AAUW encouraged and nurtured me in so many ways and gave me the confidence to achieve my dreams to pursue medicine as well as to encourage other women to take their seats at the halls of power by running for office or pursuing that science degree or work promotion! I am so excited to say that I am now a first-year medical school student here in San Bernardino County, and I was recently elected to serve as the delegate for the American Medical Association. I am looking forward to my role as VP of Communications, especially in this pandemic when finding ways to connect and communicate is imperative. I cherish teamwork and new ideas, so if you ever have any suggestions, advice, or comments for me, please bring them my way! I look forward to working with you all--you are my AAUW family!

## AAUW Redlands is on YOUTUBE

Our September and October branch meetings and the two Candidate Forums are available online.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4LKiwMGLPtJXI8FXI7FmMQ>

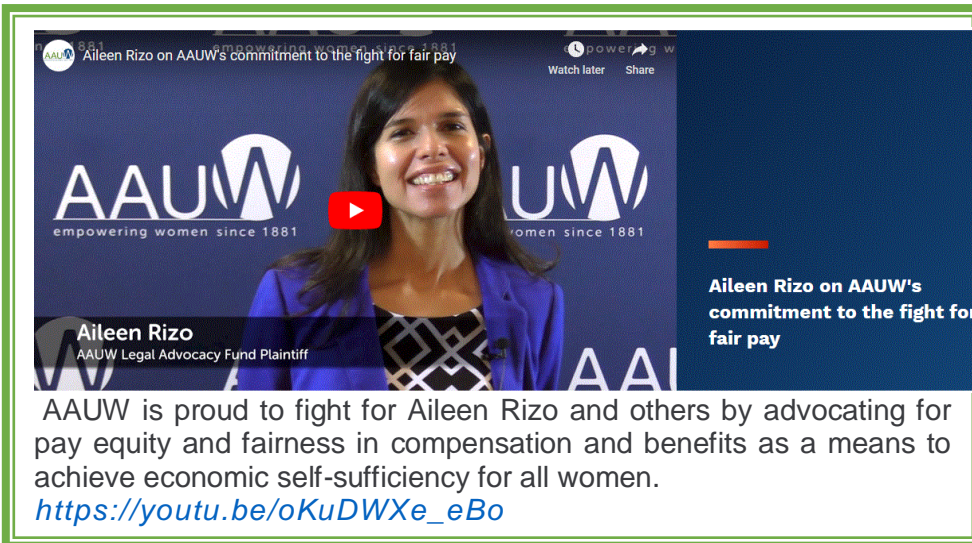
The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'Redlands Aauw'. The channel has 1 subscriber. The page displays a grid of video uploads:

- October 2020- AAUW Meeting**: 55:56
- September 2020- AAUW Meeting**: 1:17:37
- AAUW Redlands City Clerk and District 4 City Council...**: 1:40:13
- AAUW Redlands: Redlands Unified School District Boar...**: 1:19:50



Redlands Branch, AAUW  
P.O. Box 7678  
Redlands, CA 92375-0678

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Issue 4 , November 2020



AAUW is proud to fight for Aileen Rizo and others by advocating for pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits as a means to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.

[https://youtu.be/oKuDWXe\\_eBo](https://youtu.be/oKuDWXe_eBo)

Fund addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change. LAF was created in 1981 by AAUW members and has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system.

We support brave plaintiffs seeking legal redress for equal pay, Title IX, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and tenure denial violations. We allocate \$100,000 annually to help fund landmark cases, such as *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* and *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*, as well as cases with the potential to set future precedents like *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*.



## Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms

Unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can affect both women and men.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy