

# Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW  
February 2022

<http://redlands-ca-aauw.net>  
Issue 7, 11 Issues Annually



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



## Erica's Tidings

Dear AAUW Friends,

We are into 2022, and I hope it turns out to be better than the past two years. I just returned from spending the holidays with my sons in Portland, where we had several inches of snow. It has been many years since I've had a white Christmas since we moved to Redlands from Chicago 33 years ago. We all hoped that we would be through with the Covid Pandemic, but the Omicron variant reared its ugly head just in time for the new year. It feels like we're going back 2 years. I'm so sorry that Omicron forced us to go back to a virtual Branch meeting in January.

I am writing this prior to our January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, but I'm looking forward to using Twilea Evans-Carthen's talk to start making our Redlands AAUW Branch more diverse, attracting more young women and women of color.

Our up-coming 2022 meetings should be exciting, and I'm looking forward to (hopefully) seeing you all in person again.

January 8<sup>th</sup> was scheduled to be the memorial for Nancy Ruth White, someone whom many of us loved and admired. Because of Omicron, the memorial has been postponed until February 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at the San Bernardino United Church of Christ. Since this is an election year, I'm hoping that many of us will work toward a big voter turn-out in November. Nancy would have been working with us. She was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters. Again...Happy New Year.

Erica

## February Branch Meeting

You are invited to a **Zoom meeting.**

When: Feb 5, 2022 9:45 AM

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcodOutTgqGdzQ2dk2laZeYXR01S786THo>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### 2021-2022

Tuesday, 3/1 5:30 pm

Saturday, 4/2 9:00 am

Tuesday, 5/3 5:30 pm

Saturday, 6/4 9:00 am

## February Branch Meeting: #SisterCircle

The **#SisterCircle** presentation will highlight how a group of powerhouse women connected through a single text and a good idea during the difficult situations they all faced as educators at the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic. **#SisterCircle** models a sustainable way to build community and connection with other women, relying on one another's strengths and passions. As they continue to develop and sustain this model, their message is resonating with women across the state who seek the same sort of supportive network. We are all wired for connection and **#SisterCircle** is here to examine how in a world where competition between women is often the focus, we really are better together!

~Nerni Miller, Coordinator

## The #SisterCircle women

**Pam Gildersleeve-Hernandez** has served in the field of education as a superintendent, teacher, and non-profit CEO. She is the founder of Heart Forward Leadership, an organization focused on bringing out the best in education professionals. Her experiences as an educator, second language learner, and child who experienced poverty inspire her passion to



**Pam Gildersleeve-Hernandez** continued

intentionally embed people-first practices into the work we do. Pam has presented and led workshops on 21st Century learning, special education, systems change, the use of technology to enhance and accelerate student learning, as well as wellness, mindful movement. In addition to having her work recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and Future Ready, Pam served as part of the transition advisory team for California Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, and has presented at many conferences throughout the state and country. She is currently working with the King City Union Elementary School District and pursuing her doctorate in Organizational Leadership at the University of Massachusetts Global.

**Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin** serves as the Deputy Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education. She has 31 years of experience in public education as a champion of equity and access. Martinez-Poulin most recently served as Superintendent of the Whittier City School District. Previously, she held key positions in Orange County as an Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, elementary school principal, and high school assistant principal. She also has taught high school English and elementary school in LA County. Martinez-Poulin earned her doctorate degree from the University of Southern California, where she conducted research in mentoring and leadership. She has been recognized for her service and dedication with the 57th Assembly District, 2021 Distinguished Women of the Year Award: Honoring Resilience and Excellence, and for her work during the pandemic to support students and staff.

**Dr. Rosa Isiah** currently serves as Director of Elementary, Equity, and Access in NLMUSD. Dr. Isiah is passionate about equity and social justice, multilingual education, leadership, and closing opportunity gaps for historically underserved students. Dr. Isiah's experiences as an immigrant, an English learner, and a child in poverty add to her passion for her work. Dr. Isiah is the founder of #WeLeadEd Twitter chat and the WeleadED BAMradio radio podcast focused on Ed Leadership and Social Justice. Dr. Isiah co-authored five books on the whole child, equity, leadership, and the power of relationships, including *Beyond Conversations About Race* (2021). Dr. Isiah contributes her voice to blogs, podcasts, articles, and books on social justice, diversity, equity, access, and women in leadership. Dr. Isiah was the recipient of the Loyola Marymount University 2019 Leader for Social Justice Award. Dr. Isiah is a Solution Tree Culture and Equity, English Learner, and Parent Engagement professional development associate. She has also presented on social justice topics at conferences including AMLE Guatemala City and Hawaii, UCLACenterX Math Parent Project, San Diego County Office of Ed, NY SPED Collaborative, ASCD, ACSA Region 14, CA League of Schools, ISTE, EdSurge, Future Ready, and CALSA. Dr. Isiah serves as an Advisory Board member for the Center for Antiracist Education (CARE) and for the Alliance for Excellent Education Future Ready Schools.

**Veronica Godinez** is currently a Principal at Lincoln Elementary School with the Pomona Unified School District. She has had 16 years of teaching and administrative experience. She has served as an elementary, middle school, and high school teacher in Southern California and/or Southeast Idaho and an elementary and middle school principal experience as well in both states. She also has experience teaching at the university level. She taught for the University of Redlands, preparing student teachers in multiple and single subject programs. She has served on several boards but most recently completed a term with CUE, a national non-profit organization serving educators across the state of California. And she served on several committees with the organization: Executive Board, Administrators, Lead Learners, and the Equity & Access Learning Networks. Ms. Godinez was selected by Tom Tolkerson, Superintendent of California, to serve on the Computer Science Advisory Committee for the Department of Education. This spring, April 2021, she was a guest speaker for the Coding + Math Strengthen K-5 Math Skills w/Computer Science, a partnership between the Oakland Unified School District, the Kapor Center, and the University of California, Berkeley, Graduate School of Education Leadership Programs, and the BE3: Berkeley Educators for Equity and Excellence. Just recently she was recognized by the CALSA organization as the Administrator of the Year for Region 5 (LA County).

**Dr. Lynmara Colón** is currently the Director of English Learner Programs and Services PWCS, Manassas VA. She brings the perspective of a teacher, assistant principal, and principal—positions she has held since joining education in 2003. As principal of an elementary school in 2014, she served over 1,000 students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade and was able to increase reading engagement by leading a culture of literacy, personalized learning, and collaborative learning teams. Lynmara believes all schools should be run like Disney, providing magical experiences to every student regardless of their background. She now heads the office that provides comprehensive registration services to English learners and immigrant children, including translation and interpretation services, to a school division serving over 90,000 students. These students represent 124 countries and 149 languages.

**Jessica Gomez** is currently the Proud Principal and Chief Storyteller of Alice Birney Elementary School in the Colton Joint Unified School District. She has 20 years of experience serving Title I communities, 11 of those as an elementary school principal. She is a wife and mother of a middle school daughter and a high school son. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and her master's degree from Claremont Graduate University (CGU). Jessica is the 2021 ACSA Region 12 Elementary Principal of the Year, is a Creative Leadership Solutions associate, serves on the Future Ready Schools® (FRS) Advisory Board for the principal strand, is a Fellow for the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Center for Women in Leadership, serves as a CUE Lead Learner sharing her passions and leadership work, and is one of the founding members of WeVideo's Leadership Instructional Hub. Jessica is a leader that strives to have her passion and tenacity compel those in her presence to transform school cultures and climates. Her hope is that she can inspire others to be the best they can be.

**Zandra Jo Galvan** has served as Superintendent of the Greenfield Union School District since August 2017 and has worked in public education since 1993. She is passionate about serving communities and breaking students free from the cycle of poverty. Superintendent Galvan has been spotlighted on several State and National podcasts and is routinely on superintendent panels and at conference speaking events highlighting hot topics in education. She thrives in engaging other professionals around topics of relationship-building, emotional intelligence, organizational leadership, social justice, and equity, dismantling racism, challenging the status quo, social-emotional wellness, innovative technology, sisterhood circles of empowerment, and uplifting our next generation of scholars to flourish in a world that they challenge and design. Superintendent Galvan is the president of California Association of Latino/a/x Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA), on the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 10 Board of Directors, a member of the National Superintendents Roundtable (NSR), and a mentor, coach, and keynote speaker for the national American Association of School Administrators (AASA). She possesses a B.A. in Liberal Studies from Fresno State, an M.A. in Curriculum & Instruction from CSUMB, an M.A. in Educational Leadership from SJSU and is earning her Ed.D. from the University of Southern California. Go Trojans!



**Redlands STEM Conference Committee**  
*requests your help stuffing student letters.*



**12:30 p.m. Saturday February 5th**  
**OUTSIDE at the pool house on Lynne Ct**  
*~Kathryn Brown 510-220-1876*



**Branch Officers:** **President:** Erica Wilson, **President-elect:** Patricia Stubbs, **Communications Vice President:** Priya Vedula Engel, **Hospitality Vice President:** Eileen Sanborn, **Membership Vice President:** Susan Shodahl, **Program Vice President:** Martha Lehman, **Secretary:** Nerni Miller, **Treasurer:** Ellen Weiss, **At-Large Board Members:** Judy Dods, Mary Lou Guerrero, Barbara Simmons

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

The deadline for the **March newsletter** will be **February 5th**. Send your articles to the editor via email to [news@aauw-redlands-ca.org](mailto:news@aauw-redlands-ca.org)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 1pm Bridge	3	4	5 <b>ZOOM</b> <b>9:45 am</b> <b>Branch Mtg.</b>
6 6pm California Cuisine 1	7	8 6pm CHAT	9	10	11	12
13 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	14  6pm Board Mtg.	15	16 <u>TBD Hiking</u> Noon I Am, Therefore I Think	17	18	19 9am STEM packet
20	21  1pm Bridge	22 7pm Public Policy	23 1 pm Bunko	24 3 pm STEM walk through @ UofR 1pm, 4pm & 7pm Reading & Rainbow	25	26 <u>TBD Hiking</u> 9:00am STEM walk through @UofR
27	28		<b>Save the Dates</b> First Week March, Mon & Wed, Great Decisions Wed, March 2 Redlands STEM Conference Sat. March 26 Beaumont STEM Conference Spring 2022 LUNAFEST Sat. April 30 AAUW California Annual Event			

AAUW Redlands Board Meeting  
2/14 6:00 pm Zoom

~Erica Wilson

#### Bridge Groups

2/2 and 2/21 1pm

~Contact coordinator Dorothy Nordquist

#### Bunko

2/23 1pm

~Patty Ahearn

#### California Cuisine and Conversation I

2/6 6pm Host & address will be sent by email.

~Kathy Toister

#### California Cuisine and Conversation 2

2/13 5:30pm

~Patty Ahearn

#### CHAT meeting

2/8 6:30pm Zoom

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

#### Hiking Our Hills & Mountains

USUALLY 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday.  
Contact Erica and Kathy to be added to distribution list.

~Kathy Toister & Erica Wilson

#### I Am, Therefore I Think

2/16 "Hate" facilitator: Erica Wilson  
Meets 12 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge  
(Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Redlands.

#### I Am, Therefore I Think continued

~Toni Mommerger & Barbara Simmons

#### Public Policy

1/27 7pm

~Cassie MacDuff

#### Reading and the Rainbow

2/24 *Transcription* by Kate Atkinson

1pm host: seeking volunteer

4pm: Self facilitated Zoom session

7pm host: Stephaie Hrlan

Reservations are not required.

~Amy Bisek & Kathryn Brown

#### Redlands STEM Initiatives

#### Redlands STEM Conference

2/19 9am Packet University United Methodist Church  
940 E. Colton Ave

2/24 3pm walk through @ UofR

2/26 9am walk through @ UoR

Conference: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at UofR

#### Beaumont STEM Conference

Saturday, March 26, 2022 at San Geronio Middle School in Beaumont

~Kathryn Brown



## Condolences

In sympathy and friendship, we send our condolences to Martha Lehman on the loss of her mother.

## Membership news

**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR YEARBOOK:**

Susan Bentley

## Hospitality Birthday Club

Please let us know if we missed anyone!



### February Birthdays:

Rosemary Conway  
Kay Dobbartin  
Judy Elder  
Ginny Evans-Perry  
Janice Jacobson  
Cheryl Jordan  
Loes Knutson  
Lisa McCarty  
Kathleen Presnell-Best  
Renaë Reiswig  
Nelda Stuck  
Karen Watkins  
Denise Westcott

### August Birthdays:

Heather Abushanab  
Gail Anderson  
Cid Breyer  
Peggi Cook  
Roslyn Dunn  
Marion Golson  
Joyce Heitmeier  
Martha Lehman  
Valerie Lichtman  
Ann Marshall  
Betty Meltzer  
Toni Momberger  
Cathy Curtis Odegard  
Jane Roberts  
Anne Sandel  
Susan Shodahl  
Susan Willis

***Watch our January Branch Meeting  
on AAUW Redlands Website  
under "Recorded Zoom Meetings"  
<https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/meetings/>  
or click on the YOUTUBE  
link <https://youtu.be/Jz7284HyyDY>.***



## The 2022 Art Contest through January 31

In the art world women are underrepresented and undervalued. 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.

Entries for the 2022 art contest will be open from January 5 to January 31. Voting will be open from February 2 to February 16. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring!

For more information on submitting artwork or to peruse last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest page](#).

### Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship application window is now open!

The AAUW - Redlands Branch is accepting applications from women with previous college experience, whose schooling has been interrupted and who have now returned to school to complete their degree program. The applicant must reside or attend school within the Redlands AAUW Branch region. The area served by the Redlands Branch includes Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Cherry Valley, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Mentone, Redlands, and Yucaipa. The selected recipient(s) should have clearly defined educational goals and be currently enrolled in an associate's, bachelor's or post-graduate degree program.

Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for students enrolled in an associate's degree program and in the amount of \$2,000 for students enrolled in a bachelor's or post-graduate program. Previous applicants are encouraged to apply.

Applications may be mailed to:  
AAUW - Redlands Branch  
Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship  
PO Box 7678  
Redlands, CA 92375-0678

Or emailed to [nernimiller@gmail.com](mailto:nernimiller@gmail.com)

For further information please contact Nerni Miller

Deadline to submit applications is  
February 28, 2022

## Great Decisions Interest Groups

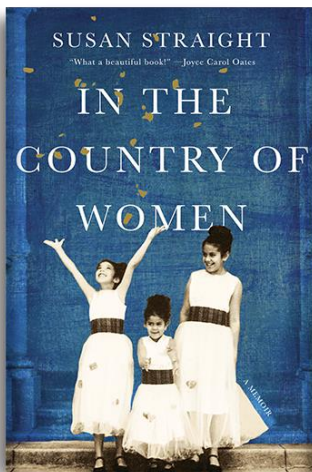
The 2022 Great Decisions discussion groups will once again be meeting in person! This year The Great Decisions book has 9 different articles on 9 different foreign policy topics. The paperback books are developed by the American Foreign Policy Association and are published in January of each year, so the topics are very timely. It has been the mission of the Foreign Policy Association, for over 100 years, to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S foreign policy and global issues.

There will be two discussion groups, one on Monday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. at Sue Wallace's home and one on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at Sue Ferguson's home. The meetings will begin the first week in March and run for 9 weeks. Simply notify Sue Wallace if you want to join the Monday afternoon group or Sue Ferguson if you want to join the Wednesday evening group. If you would like to join either discussion group but have not ordered a book through Sue Ferguson, it is still possible for you to purchase one. Please go online to [https://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/), click on Bookstore tab and choose Great Decisions 2022 Briefing Book, which runs \$35.00 plus shipping. We look forward to another year of thought-provoking discussions and gaining a greater understanding of global issues.

~Sue Ferguson



## Author Book Discussion - Contemporary Club, March 24 at 6:30 p.m.



In conjunction with Smiley Library and the Frugal Frigate, we're excited to announce a live Community Book Read and Discussion with Susan Straight, the author of *In the Country of Women: a Memoir*. The event will include a discussion of Susan's books, as well as time for Susan to sign your copy of her book(s). It will be held at the Contemporary Club on Thursday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m.. The Contemporary Club is located at 173 S. Eureka St., in Redlands, behind the library and the Lincoln Shrine.

*In the Country of Women: a Memoir* is Reading and the Rainbow's book selection for March. It was named one of NPR's Best Books of the Year. "Straight's memoir is a lyric social history of her multiracial clan in Riverside that explores the bonds of love and survival that bind them, with a particular emphasis on the women's stories . . . The aftereffect of all these disparate stories juxtaposed in a single epic is remarkable. Its resonance lingers for days after reading." —San Francisco Chronicle. Additional information about Susan Straight and

her works can be found at [www.susanstraight.com](http://www.susanstraight.com).

As a result of this unique opportunity, we are canceling our live 1:00 afternoon session in March and replacing our evening session with this event. Please note that the book discussion is at 6:30 p.m., not our usual 7:00 p.m.. We will continue to hold our 4:00 p.m. afternoon Zoom session for those unable to attend the evening event although you'll want to note that Susan will not be in attendance on the Zoom call. All AAUW members and members of the community are welcome to attend this author event, not just our usual Reading and the Rainbow participants. If you would like to read her work prior to the event, the Frugal Frigate has on hand a large supply of her books, both in hardcopy and paperback. *In the Country of Women: a Memoir* is available through Kindle and via Audiobook as well.

We hope to see you there!



Susan Straight,  
author of *In the  
Country of  
Women: a Memoir*.

~Amy Bisek & Kathryn Brown

## January Branch Meeting



## Thought for the Month



**Speaker:**  
**Twillea Evans-Carthen**



***Diversity is  
being invited  
to the party.***

***Inclusion is  
being asked  
to dance.***

***~Verna Myers***

***Equity is how much space on the floor  
you get.***

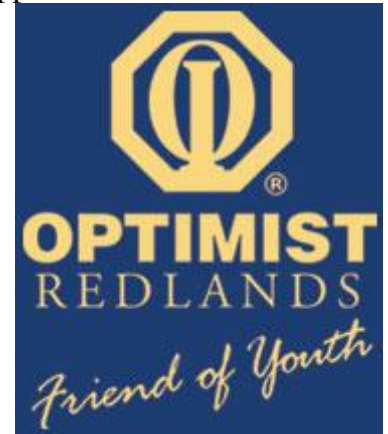
***Belonging is being asked to help choose  
the music.***

## Respectful Communication Guidelines

- R** = take **RESPONSIBILITY** for what you say and feel without blaming others
- E** = use **EMPATHETIC** listening
- S** = be **SENSITIVE** to differences in communication styles
- P** = **PONDER** on what you hear and feel before you speak
- E** = **EXAMINE** your own assumptions and perceptions
- C** = keep **CONFIDENTIALITY**
- T** = **TRUST** ambiguity because we are NOT here to debate who is right or wrong

## STEM Donations

The Optimist Club of Redlands and the Redlands Community Foundation have been long-time supporters of the Stem Initiatives.



We received a \$3,000 donation from The Optimist Club in January.

At the virtual Branch meeting on January 11, Lynn Whitmer presented us a \$2,000 check.



**THANK YOU OPTIMISTS and  
REDLANDS COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**

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

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Issue 7, February 2022



Happy Valentine's  
Day ♥♥