

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
March 2022

<http://redlands-ca.aauw.net>
Issue 8, 11 Issues Annually



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



Erica's Tidings

Hello again AAUW Girl Gang,

The notion of a "Girl Gang" is particularly relevant. At our February 5th branch meeting, I was very excited to hear the "#SisterCircle" women talk about how they built and continue to sustain a community and connection with other women. This is a model we may be able to use in our own attempts to tighten our connections with one another and to make Redlands AAUW an even more extraordinary Branch.

In this regard, the Public Policy Interest group is working on an application to identify the Redlands Branch as a "5-star Branch." We have always been one of California's extremely active branches but have never been recognized as such. What we discovered is that we are not recognized because we have never applied. What we also discovered in looking over the criteria for being considered a 5-star branch is that we have already fulfilled many of the criteria. Our current focus on Diversity is an important step in reaching the benchmark for being considered a 5-star branch. If you are interested in helping us reach this goal, contact Public Policy Chair, Cassie MacDuff.

On Thursday, February 3rd, the Racial Justice group met to continue the discussion on Diversity. The State and National AAUW organizations have made DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) a top priority, and we hope our Branch will be among those working actively on these important issues.

continued on page 3

March Branch Meeting "Find the Others: A Guide to Service"

We are pleased to announce that our speaker for the Branch meeting on Tuesday, March 1, will be **Dr. Mario C. Martinez**, the Naslund Endowed School of Education Dean at the University of Redlands. Dean Martinez is a first-generation college student who earned a Ph.D. in policy and leadership studies from Arizona State University and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin. His academic writing focuses on state-level higher education policy. As dean, Martinez is working to deepen partnerships to advance the school's mission-centered emphasis on justice and equity for all. Dr. Martinez grew up in a mountain community in Northern New Mexico and currently resides in Redlands with his spouse Sara. They enjoy reading, attempting ballroom dances, and debating issues at the dinner table when any of their four children are in town.

We are excited to be able to welcome Dean Martinez and to learn more about the initiatives in educational equity that he is leading at the U. of Redlands. As a reminder, the lecture portion of our meetings is open for others to attend, so if you know someone who might like to hear this talk, please let them know about it.

~Ellen Gruenbaum

~Kathryn Brown



March Branch Meeting

When Tuesday,
March 1, 2022
Social 5:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Program 6:45 p.m.

Where

University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu Chef's Choice Dinner Buffet

Chef's choice chicken
entrée; vegetarian
entrée; starch;
vegetables; salad, rolls;
dessert; coffee/tea

Cost Members and
guests: \$25

Registrations for
dinner: Please email
[rsvpmeeting@aauw-](mailto:rsvpmeeting@aauw-redlands-ca.org)
[redlands-ca.org](mailto:rsvpmeeting@aauw-redlands-ca.org) or call
909-362-4955 by
Monday, February 21,
2022, to make a dinner
reservation. After
February 21st, dinner
reservations will be
made on a space-
available basis.

Reminder:

*A reservation made is
a reservation paid.*

**Members and guests
are invited to attend
the speaker portion of
the meeting free of
charge. Chairs will be
available.**

Branch Meetings **2021-2022**

Saturday, 4/2 9:00 am
Tuesday, 5/3 5:30 pm
Saturday, 6/4 9:00 am

Monday, February 21

RESERVATION DEADLINE for March 1 brunch meeting

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 pm Branch Mtg.	2 STEM Redlands Conference 1pm Bridge	3	4	5
6 6pm California Cuisine 1	7 1pm Great Dec #1	8 <i>International</i> <i>Women's Day</i>	9 7pm Great Dec #1	10 6:30pm Racial Justice	11	12
13	14 <u>1pm Great Dec #2</u> 6pm Board Mtg.	15 6:30pm CHAT	16 12pm I Am, <u>Therefore I Think</u> 7pm Great Dec #2	17 4pm Speech Trek	18	19 9am STEM Meeting
20 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	21 <u>1pm Great Dec #3</u> 1pm Bridge	22 7pm Public Policy	23 <u>TBD Hiking</u> <u>1pm Bunco</u> 7pm Great Dec #3	24 4pm & 6:30pm Reading & Rainbow	25	26 STEM Beaumont Conference TBD Hiking
27	28 1pm Great Dec #4	29	30 7pm Great Dec #4	31		

Save the Dates

Spring 2022 LUNAFEST

Sat. April 30 AAUW California Annual Event

AAUW Redlands Board Meeting

3/14 6:00 pm Zoom

~Erica Wilson

Bridge Groups

3/2 and 3/21 1pm

~Contact coordinator Dorothy Nordquist

Bunco

3/23 1pm

~Patty Ahearn

California Cuisine and Conversation I

3/6 6pm Host & address will be sent by email.

~Kathy Toister

California Cuisine and Conversation 2

3/20 5:30pm

~Patty Ahearn

CHAT meeting

3/15 6:30pm Zoom

~Katherine Gifford 798-7565 literacy@akspl.org

Great Decisions (see page 6)

1pm Mondays & 7pm Wednesdays

~Sue Wallace & Sue Ferguson

Hiking Our Hills & Mountains

USUALLY 4th Wednesday and 4th Saturday.

Contact Erica and Kathy to be added to distribution list.

~Kathy Toister & Erica Wilson

I Am, Therefore I Think

3/16 "Hopelessness" facilitator: Jenna Guzman-Lowery

Meets 12 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge

(Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4th Street, Redlands.

~Toni Momberger & Barbara Simmons

Public Policy

3/22 7pm

~Cassie MacDuff

Racial Justice 3/10 6:30 Zoom

~Erica Wilson & Ellen Gruenbaum

Reading and the Rainbow (see page 7)

3/24 *In the Country of Women: a Memoir*

4pm: Self facilitated Zoom session

6:30pm live Community Book Read & Discussion

Contemporary Club 173 S. Eureka St, Redlands

Reservations are not required.

~Amy Bisek & Kathryn Brown

Redlands STEM Initiatives

Redlands STEM Conference (see page 7)

Conference: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at UofR

Lunch reservations due by noon 2/19 to Denise Westcott or

Linda Browning

\$20 (cash or check) or \$21 (if paying online) link below

<https://redlands-ca.aaup.net/online-payments/>

3/19 9am committee meeting at Kathryn Brown's home

Beaumont STEM Conference

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

Beaumont

~Kathryn Brown

Speech Trek Contest (see page 6)

3/16 4pm

~Patty Ahearn

Erica's Tiding *continued from page 1*

I am also looking forward to the March 24th discussion with the author Susan Straight about her book *The Country of Women: a Memoir*. This discussion will take place, in conjunction with the Smiley Library and The Frugal Frigate, live at 6:30 at the Contemporary Club 173 S. Eureka St. This book is the March Reading and the Rainbow selection, but everyone is invited to attend. March also brings our two 2022 STEM Conferences, which will be held on March 2nd at the U of R and March 26 in Beaumont.

Hope to see you back live, soon, but until then, stay safe and enjoy March. ~Erica

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 April newsletter is **March 5th**. Send articles and photos to the editors via email to news@aauw-redlands-ca.org



March 8, 2022

Campaign theme is **#BreakTheBias**

Imagine a gender equal world.

- ✓ A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination
- ✓ A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive
- ✓ A world where difference is valued and celebrated
- ✓ Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all **#BreakTheBias**.



Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions -
- all day, every day.

- ✓ We can break the bias in our communities.
- ✓ We can break the bias in our workplaces.
- ✓ We can break the bias in our schools, colleges, and universities.

Together, we can all **break the bias** - on International Women's Day (IWD) and beyond.

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

Mary Jane Auerbacher, a 46-year member of AAUW and president in 1996, died Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, at the age of 99. She was an AAUW Named Gift Honoree in 1984.

She was organist for her church up until about ten weeks before she died.

She was an only child, born in Los Angeles. A graduate of Los Angeles High School, she majored in English and history for two years at the University of Redlands, graduating in 1945 with a degree in biology and a teaching credential.

She taught herself to play piano before beginning organ lessons when she was a sophomore at the UR. She became the first graduate who was not a music major to play in the university's Commencement Recital.

(*continued*)



Mary Jane celebrated her 99th birthday at the September 2021 Redlands Branch meeting

Mary Jane Auerbacher *(continued from page 3)*

Following graduation, she worked as a teacher in the Coachella Valley in a migratory camp, with 44 children in her first-grade class.

Mary Jane met her husband Fred the first day she began as organist at the Highland Congregational Church. They married in 1946 and had three daughters.

The family traveled to Europe frequently and lived in Vienna in 1957-1958, so the children could attend public school and learn the German language, also taking advantage of concerts and museums.

A second time the family lived in Neuchatel, a French canton of Switzerland.

She was one of the founders of Valley Preparatory School where she taught music for more than 20 years. For 30 years she prepared a monthly cultural history for the students, including in-depth research and field trips into major museums in Los Angeles.

She originated the Alternate Christmas Fair at First Baptist Church and taught Sunday School there for 30 years, also serving as Sunday School Superintendent. She was a circle leader for the American Baptist Women and president for that group and the Inland Association of American Baptist Churches, both twice.

Among the churches she served with music have been the Cucamonga Lutheran Church, Garden Presbyterian, Rialto Presbyterian Church, Colton Methodist Church, and Yucaipa Presbyterian Church. She directed the junior and senior choirs at the Highland Avenue Lutheran Church in San Bernardino and bought them an organ and bells for their hand bell choir.

She was a member of Spinet (the 125-year-old music organization in Redlands) since 1945, serving as president 1975-77. In the early days, she and a Spinet friend worried that young children weren't coming to UR concerts and went to see Wilbur "Pop" Showalter as music teacher at the high school about busing children from the schools to the concerts. He agreed to make those arrangements, and so began concerts for children by the orchestra.

Mary Jane was a past dean of the American Guild of Organists and president of P.E.O. Chapter VP. She received the UR Town and Gown "Woman's Place is Every Place" Award in 1994 in the category of philanthropic service.

She was a board member of the Redlands Chamber Music Society, which organized Sunday afternoon concerts in the Prospect Park Carriage House.

She served as a docent for the San Bernardino County Museum, interpreting exhibits to school children.

She served from 1977-2001 on the board of the Redlands Community Music Association (Bowl), and in 2002,

she was declared an honorary lifetime member of the board. While serving, she provided dinner for the board meetings and cooked, baked, and served a feast for the RCMA's annual Major Donor Reception. She received the Bowl's "Hero of the Arts" award at their annual dinner in 2013.

AAUW Redlands Branch was celebrating its 50th year the year she served as president. She organized and directed AAUW's Redlands Recorder Group for some 45 years and later led the Great Discussions group for many years.

She was a member of the Cosmos Club, a group of women who write papers on a variety of subjects. At one of the meetings, she wrote on Renaissance dances, and the Recorder Group then played dances for the members.

In August 2012, her Richard Neutra-designed home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination papers noted "The Auerbacher home is particularly compelling because the original owner, Mary Jane Auerbacher, still resides in the house." She shared her home for the 2011 YMCA Holiday Home Tour.

Circa 1995 Mary Jane was one of 218 men and women community leaders invited to autograph the quilt titled "Those Who Made a Difference in Redlands." Under their name, all signers were asked to write a word or two listing how they would want to be remembered in a hundred years. Of all her activities and accomplishments, Mary Jane wrote "A.A.U.W. President."

~Nelda Stuck



Mary Jane celebrated her 97th birthday at the September 2019 Redlands Branch meeting.

Welcome



Keita Wangari

Keita moved here from the Bay area about 6 months ago but has connections to Redlands starting in 1984 when she attended the University of Redlands until 1987. She returned 20 years later, working at Esri for 8 years before relocating to work at Google in 2015. Now Keita is back, works remotely for Google, has 2 boys (Valley Prep alums) in college, and collects vintage 3D viewers as a hobby. Keita was also a 2009 AAUW grant recipient.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR YEARBOOK:

Keita Wangari

Donita Remington

Hospitality Birthday Club

Happy Birthday to all our March birthday ladies. Please be sure to join us at the branch meeting, so we can recognize you and present you with a little gift!



Diane Bennett
Margaret Galligan
Betsy Grimes
Ellen Gruenbaum
Debbie LeDoux

Jan Negron
Rita Reading
Ellen Schollenberger
Linda Serros
Sharen Wilbur

Nominees for Elected Office

Elections will be held in April.

President:	2022-2023	Patricia Stubbs
Co-Presidents Elect:	2022-2023	Heather Abushanab Marilyn Shankar
Membership VP:	2022-2024	Amy Bisek
Secretary:	2022-2024	Marion Golson
Treasurer:	2022-2024	Sue Ferguson
At-Large:	2021-2022	Rosemary Conway
At-Large:	2021-2022	Joyce Heitmeier
At-Large:	2021-2022	Sarah Van Tassel

Nominating Committee:

2022-2023: Erica Wilson, chair

Susan Bangasser, Viktoria Norberg, Kathy Warren

2022-2024

Mary Lou Guerrero, Nerni Miller, Paula Ferri-Milligan

~2021-2022 Nominating Committee

Sue Wallace, Chair
Sharon Bealer,
Susan Bangasser,
Viktoria Norberg,
Maria Rossi,
Eileen Sanborn,
Kathy Warren



The 2022 Art Contest Voting thru February 16



Redlands Branch member, **Denise Westcott**, has submitted two paintings to the 2022 Art Contest:



*Cape
Gooseberries*

My Iris Garden

The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring!



VOTE

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/art-contest/>

Speech Trek

Our branch is sponsoring a Speech Trek Contest on March 17, 2022. It will be at 4:00 on Zoom. This contest is open to all Redlands High School students whether from public, private, home, or continuation high schools.



AAUW California
Speech Trek

The topic for 2022 is "Has the United States lived up to its pledge of 'liberty and justice for all'? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity, and inclusion in a high school setting help insure liberty and justice for all?"

The speech is to be 5 to 6 minutes with a 30-second grace period on either side. A \$300 prize will be awarded to the first-place winner. Second place will receive \$200, and third place will be awarded \$100.

The winner will compete with other branch winners in the state contest.

Some of our branch members are available to mentor. If you know of any high school students that would like to participate, please encourage them to register below to receive the contest forms.

<https://bit.ly/RedlandsSpeechTrek>

If you have questions, please email the Speech Trek Chair, Patty Ahearn.

Hiking Our Hills and Mountains

We had a fabulous hike in January - crystal clear sky, fantastic views from multiple directions, and the strong winds paused just in time for our hike.

The next "Fourth Saturday of the Month Hike" is scheduled for February 19, 2022. Look for an email with details about one week before.

If you would like to be added to the email list, please let me know at bktoister@aol.com

~Kathy Toister



Photo left to right:
Ellen Weiss,
Amber Costa, Kim
Cousins, Alison
Rodriguez, Linda
Bidaki, Abe Bidaki,
Donita Remington,
Bob Toister,
Nick Costa, Sally
Trost and Susan
Shodahl

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 on March 7th and March 9th and will run respectively. 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, it is still possible for you to purchase one. Please go online to 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

Watch our February Branch Meeting on the AAUW Redlands Website

under "Recorded Zoom Meetings"

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

or click on the YOUTUBE

link <https://youtu.be/ycTZ90m8LHw>

Watch the January 29th Southeast Interbranch Council Meeting.

click on the YOUTUBE link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d6UZg9gI68>

Redlands STEM Conference Wednesday, March 2nd

- *We are in the final stage of planning*
- *8th grade girls & school staff are looking forward to the 2022 Redlands STEM Conference*
- *Thanks in advance to the 90+ volunteers who make this branch project HAPPEN*
- *LUNCH reservations: due by noon 2/19*
Contact Denise Westcott) or Linda Browning
\$20 (cash or check)
or \$21(if paying online) [link below](https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/online-payments/)
<https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/online-payments/>

There is still time to get involved!

- *Volunteer as a Guide or Host or Lunch helper: contact Linda Browning*
~ Kathryn Brown, Chair
Redlands STEM Conference



Redlands STEM Conference Committee thanks our wonderful volunteers for stuffing student letters on Saturday, February 5. Thank you in advance to the volunteers who will assemble conference packets on Saturday, February 19

Tech Trek 2022



Times they are changing - again.

It was hoped that Tech Trek would be a residential camp this year. University of California San Diego is not participating. Whittier College is, but they warn that may change in the next few months. There will be 2 virtual camps this year scheduled for June 19-14 and July 24-29, 2022. It has been decided that we would offer only the virtual camps to students this year.

It is the committee's hope that we can send 16 girls to the virtual camps. The cost is \$500 per girl.

We would like to select 4 girls from each of the following schools:

Nicolet Middle School
Banning Unified School District
San Geronio Middle School
Beaumont Unified School District
Parkview Middle School
Yucaipa-Calimesa Unified School District
Clement Middle School
Redlands Unified School District

The committee is excited to start contacting schools, getting students recommended, having them apply, and finally interviewing the girls and getting them registered.

~Marilyn Shankar & Denise Westcott
Tech Trek Co-Chairs

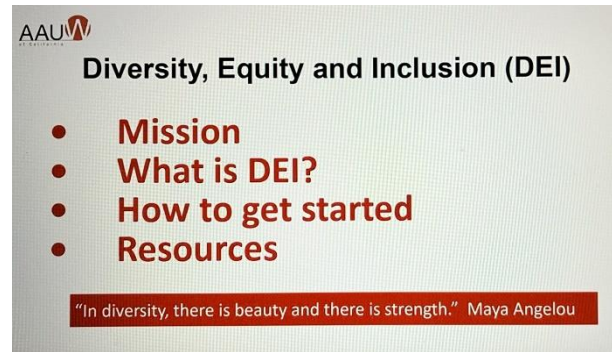
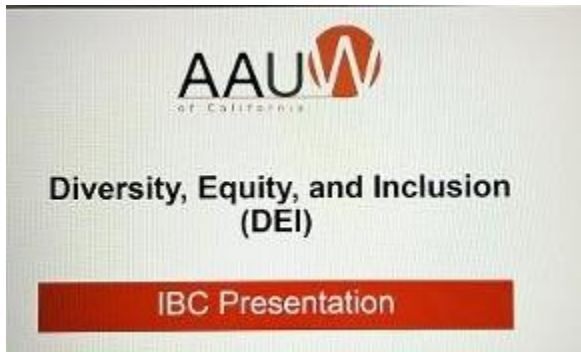
Author Book Discussion - Contemporary Club March 24 at 6:30 p.m.

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.

continued on page 9

Southeast Interbranch Council promotes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



On Saturday, January 29th, several of us had the chance to Zoom-in to hear an exciting presentation at the Southeast Interbranch Council meeting. Our own Patty Ahearn, who chairs the Council, tipped us off about this opportunity to ramp up our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ("DEI") initiatives by hearing from AAUW's California DEI Committee. The speakers, Janice Lee and Elaine Johnson, stressed the importance of each AAUW branch becoming more aware of and committed to understanding, valuing, and accepting diversity (which they defined as all aspects of human differences), and to promoting equal treatment, so that all of our members, potential members, and allies feel respected and included.

Some branches are new to DEI initiatives, while others, like ours, have promoted interest groups to learn more about racial justice issues. Our Redlands Racial Justice Interest Group, has been meeting, studying, and discussing for over a year, and we have learned a tremendous amount and discussed deep feelings. Although we plan to continue learning, we also embrace the need to engage more with actions, both to challenge racial injustice and institutions in society and also to achieve more awareness, diversity, and inclusion in our own branch and communities.

We were pleased to learn from the speakers Lee and Johnson that the statewide AAUW has also made this a priority and is actively reaching out to councils and branches to promote DEI initiatives and offer resources and advice. Lee and Johnson encourage the branches to do several things. First, we should identify the most relevant DEI challenges in our branch. Next, we should develop a committee to initiate actions and appoint a DEI Coordinator. From there we can turn to the rich set of resources the national AAUW organization has put together. Any of us can have a look at this wonderful Toolkit, at [AAUW.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/). It has basic education about the issues, a video, ideas for getting started on more organized work on diversity, and a library of suggested readings for those who want to learn more.

Here in Redlands, the Policy Committee, under Cassie MacDuff's leadership, has initiated pursuit of the 5-Star recognition for our branch, which has led to the idea of appointing a volunteer to shepherd DEI initiatives, and I have agreed to take that on for an initial period. Looking forward to more discussions and goals! If you are interested in helping, I invite you to join us at the next meeting of the Racial Justice group, on Thursday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m.

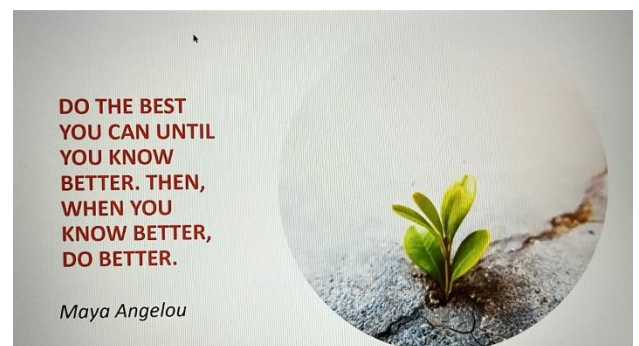
~Ellen Gruenbaum, Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Watch the January 29th Southeast Interbranch Council Meeting.
click on the YOUTUBE link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d6UZg9gI68>

@5:50 to watch #InclusionStartsWithI

@9:19 to watch the AAUWCA DEI presentation



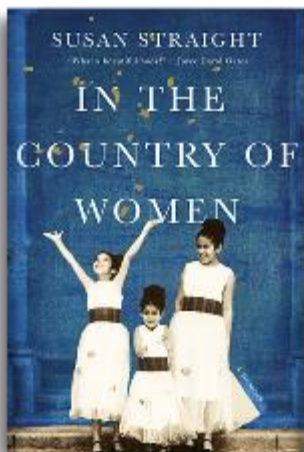
Redlands Branch, AAUW
P.O. Box 7678
Redlands, CA 92375-0678

Branches and Twigs
Issue 8 March 2022



continued from page 7

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



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!

~Amy Bisek & Kathryn Brown