

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
May 2023

<http://redlands-ca.aauw.net>
Issue 10, 11 Issues Annually



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



President's Corner: Patricia Stubbs

I hope you were able to be at the Branch Meeting April 4th. It was a wonderful night. We received a grant for our STEM Initiatives from the Redlands Community Foundation. Jason Anderson, the San Bernardino District Attorney, spoke and it was very enlightening.

Our Redlands branch Speech Trek winner, Adrian Baek, gave his speech on *protecting and expanding voting rights*. Adrian placed 4th in the State-wide Competition. He is amazing. We awarded two of our members the Named Gift Honoree Award for service to our branch, Pam Ford and Martha Lehman. Yeah!! Well deserved, Ladies. We have one more Named Gift Honoree to be presented at our next branch meeting.

Thank you to those who purchased tickets to LUNAFEST at the branch meeting. Tickets can be purchased on our website <https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/> to attend in person or virtually. Please invite friends and enjoy Lunafest together. Thank you in advance for supporting our Redlands branch fund raiser.

At the branch meeting, we also approved next year's budget and elected our new slate of officers. Please join us for their installation at the June 3rd branch meeting. We are still on the hunt for a president-elect. I can tell you from experience that president-elect and president have been one of the best experiences of my life.

~continued on page 3

Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms

Created in 1981, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system. Legal Advocacy Fund Legal Case Support Grants are available to fund cases in state or federal court that address sex discrimination in employment or education and have the potential to set or reinforce precedent for future cases on gender discrimination.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/legal/laf/legal-case-support-grant/>



May Branch Meeting: "AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund"

For many years, the Redlands Branch of AAUW has emphasized support for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). In May, we will again be highlighting LAF and appealing to all members for donations. LAF Committee Chairperson, Deb Seibly, will update the membership on current cases and activities of the fund.

LAF challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. AAUW provides grants to support the legal aid clinics at the University of California-Irvine and the University at Buffalo School of Law. UC Irvine is using the funds provided by AAUW to support the Workers, Law and Organizing clinic. Learn more about the law school clinical programs AAUW is supporting. Two cases are outlined on page 3. Deb will discuss these activities in detail. Please continue to be generous in your monetary support of the LAF and the important work it does to help secure women's and human rights.

May Branch Meeting

When

Saturday
May 6, 2023
Social 9:00 am
Brunch 9:30 am
Program 10:15 am

Where

University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu

Breakfast Buffet: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Potatoes O'Brien, Seasonal Fruit

Cost

Members and guests: \$25

Reservations

Please call 909-362-4955 or email rsvpmeeting@aauw-redlands-ca.org by Wednesday, April 26. After April 26, reservations will be on a space-available basis.

Reminder: A reservation made is a reservation paid.


Members and guests are always welcome at all branch meetings. There is no cost to attend the program. Chairs will be available.

Branch Meetings 2022-2023

Saturday, 6/3 9:00 am

**Wednesday, April 26 RESERVATION
DEADLINE for May 6 brunch meeting**

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 1pm Bridge	4 7pm DEI	5 5:45pm LUNAFEST	6 BRANCH MEETING
7 6pm California Cuisine 1	8 6:30pm Board Mtg	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15 1pm Bridge	16	17 TBD Hiking 9am CHAT 12pm I Am, Therefore I Think	18 7pm Racial Justice	19	20
21 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	22	23 7pm Public Policy	24 1pm Bunco	25 6pm Reading & the Rainbow	26	27 TBD Hiking
28	29	30	31	Save the date: Tues, July 18 Redlands Bowl Ushering		

AAUW Redlands Board Meeting

5/8 6:30 pm Zoom
~Patricia Stubbs

Bridge Groups

1st Wednesday @ 1pm, 3rd Monday @ 1pm
~Contact coordinator Dorothy Nordquist

Bunco

5/24 1pm
~Patty Ahearn

California Cuisine and Conversation I

5/7 6pm Host & address will be sent by email.
~Kathy Toister

California Cuisine and Conversation 2

5/21 5:30pm
~Patty Ahearn

CHAT meeting

5/17 9am Assembly Room AK Smiley PL
~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice /

5/4 DEI 7pm Zoom
5/18 Racial Justice 7pm Zoom
~Ellen Gruenbaum
~Erica Wilson
~Donita Remington

Hiking Our Hills & Mountains

USUALLY 3rd Wednesday and 4th Saturday.
Contact Erica and Kathy to be added to distribution list.
~Kathy Toister
~Erica Wilson

I Am, Therefore I Think

5/17 "Disinformation: How, Who and What Now?"
Facilitator: Stephanie Harlan
12-2pm (12-12:30 informal brown bag lunch)
~Barbara Simmons
~Margee Fuller

Public Policy

5/23 7pm
~Cassie MacDuff

Redlands Bowl Ushering

July 18 ~Barbara Simmons

Reading and the Rainbow

4/25 6pm Selection recommendations & dinner
Reservations are not required.
~Amy Bisek 9
~Kathryn Brown
~Valarie Boone

Tech Trek

~Denise Westcott
~Theresa Lantz

Branch Officers:

President: Patricia Stubbs, **Presidents-elect:** Heather Abushanab & Marilyn Shankar,
Communications Vice President: Priya Vedula, **Hospitality Vice President:** Eileen
Sanborn, **Membership Vice President:** Amy Bisek, **Program Vice President:** Martha
Lehman, **Secretary:** Marion Golson, **Treasurer:** Sue Ferguson **At-Large Board**
Members: Rosemary Conway, Joyce Heitmeier, Kathy Warren

B&T Submission:

The deadline for the
June newsletter is **May 5th**. Send articles and
photos to the editors via
email to
[news@aaauw-redlands-
ca.org](mailto:news@aaauw-redlands-ca.org)

May Branch Meeting: LAF *continued from page 1*

John Doe v. Jane Doe

Jane was a college student who reported sexual misconduct by a fellow student to her school. The college conducted a formal Title IX investigation process and hearing, and ultimately found the Respondent responsible for sexual misconduct in violation of its Title IX policy, and removed him from the college. The Respondent brought a defamation suit against Jane, which is still pending in court. Case Adopted January 2023



Louk v. Visible College

Mara Louk was a senior at Visible Music College, a private Christian school, when a fellow Visible student forcibly raped and strangled her. Visible refused to investigate Mara's report of the assault, and instead disciplined Mara for allegedly having premarital sex with a prior boyfriend. Mara filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, and the Department is now investigating Visible for retaliation and other violations of the Clery Act and Title IX.



President's Corner, Patricia Stubbs *continued from page 1*

My first reaction to being asked to be president-elect was "I don't know enough about the group and I'm not that kind of person". What the latter meant was that I saw myself as a helper not the person in charge. This is a secret so don't tell, but the President really isn't in charge, and there are many women around to help. Overcoming my self-doubts was my biggest obstacle. It's been a great two years. Think about it.

We will have an AAUW table at the Redlands First United Methodist Church, 1 West Olive Ave. It's Earth Day and the Church focus will be composting and more. Our focus will be explaining what AAUW is all about. The time is 9am – noon and we could still use a few more volunteers for only an hour or two. Please email and let me know if you are available. This is a good way to learn what AAUW is all about.

The Board has approved a new interest group, SEW WHAT! (see page 7). They are making a friendship star quilt for the NYMS boutique in November. I'm excited. You'll love it. I recently attended an AAUW Ontario Upland Rancho (OUR) branch meeting and they have several interest groups that looked like we might consider starting; At the Movies Group, Birthday Bash, Out and About/Travel Group, and Writer's Workshop. Interesting, huh?!

I need to tell you about the Lobby Days that I experienced. The State AAUW coordinates one each year, picks 3 bills to focus on, and arranges zoom conferences for our volunteers to talk to Senators or Assembly Members. We often speak to the assistants and not the Senator or Assembly Member but they are the go-between and important. It is what AAUW is all about, pushing for a better future for women and children. Laws need to be changed and/or added. Advocating for bills was exciting and uplifting. The three bills are outlined in Cassie MacDuff's *Advocating for Equity* article on page 7. A few of our members of the Public Policy Committee are holding their own Lobby Day and are meeting with Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh and Assembly Member James Ramos, in person, to discuss the bills listed in Cassie's article.

A better world is coming and we are a part of making that happen. Have a wonderful May. I think the rain is done.
Tricia Stubbs

APRIL VOLUNTEER opportunities

AAUW Table @ EARTH DAY >> Saturday April 22, 9am-noon @ First United Methodist Church, 1 West Olive Ave. Redlands ~Patricia Stubbs

~~~~~AND~~~~~

### upcoming APRIL EVENTS

**Virtual AAUW CA Meeting** >> Saturday April 22, 9am – 4pm. click [HERE](#) to register.

**Southeast Interbranch Council** >> Saturday April 29 10am ~Patty Ahearn

*"If you do what interests you,  
at least one person is please."  
Katharine Hepburn*



## Condolences



In sympathy and friendship, we send our condolences to Meena Spangrud on the loss of her mother and to Deepika Srivastava on the loss of her father-in-law.

## Membership News

Welcome



**Kyra Ruvalcaba** is studying commuter engineering at Crafton Hills College. Outside of her academic pursuits, Kyra is a dance instructor at the YMCA, teaching ballet, tap, Jazz and hip hop to a variety of students. She has been

interested in joining a community where she can contribute to innovative activities and learn from others. Kyra volunteered as a guide at the March 2023 AAUW STEM conference and has joined AAUW as a student affiliate.

**Rose Marie Romer** was born and raised in the Philippines and moved to California when she was just turning 11 years old. After graduating from Yucaipa High School, she enrolled in Crafton Hills College. Originally Rose Marie was a math major but found she had more interest in the field of Anthropology specifically Archeology. For fun, Rose Marie loves to watercolor paint and read. Rose Marie volunteered as a guide at the March 2023 AAUW STEM conference. She became interested in AAUW because she wants to help women learn more about STEM and to inspire them to further pursue the path they wish to follow. Rose Marie has joined AAUW as a student affiliate.



**Pam Ford** contacted the honors institute at Crafton Hills College requesting volunteers for our STEM conference. The institute's coordinator, Judy Cannon, spoke at our November 2022 branch meeting. Three CHC students were guides and all three have joined AAUW Redlands as student affiliate members.

## Membership Matters

### 2023-24 Renewal – *not yet*

Membership renewals for the July 1, 2023 -- June 30, 2023 fiscal year are **delayed** until mid May or early June. You will be able to renew in several ways: on AAUW National website, on AAUW Redlands website, at June branch meeting or by mailing a check to the branch. If you receive a reneVOLUNwal notice from National in the mail or via email, please hold onto it until we can provide you with more information as it becomes available. Things to note: National dues increased by \$5 to \$72 per year, no change for State (\$20) or Branch (\$31). New dues total is \$123 of which \$100 is tax deductible.

#### HELP WANTED: *see page 5*

We are looking for someone to help with our membership renewal process for the next year. This is a role that you could easily work into your schedule as you wouldn't need to attend meetings or leave your home to complete the tasks. Monthly responsibilities include:

1. Using Excel to keep track of who has or has not yet renewed toward their membership renewal date
2. Communicating with members by email, mail or phone to inform and assist them in the renewal process if needed. We will supplement National's communication plan so you will not be responsible for all renewal communications.

Because most members renew in June, we anticipate a higher level of support needed in June and July, that then quickly tapers down to ongoing maintenance for the remainder of the year. Amy Bisek, Kay Dobbertin and Ellen Cope will all be available to provide initial training and ongoing support. Amy will also provide prewritten communication templates you can easily use.

If you would like to know more about and/or help with this important but easy process, please contact Amy Bisek. The earlier, the better. ☺

*~Amy Bisek, Membership VP*

*Ellen Cope, Assistant Treasurer*

*Kay Dobbertin, membership committee*

Please update any changes/corrections to your contact information for the 2023-2024 yearbook by emailing corrected information to [membership@aauw-redlands-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-redlands-ca.org).

**2022-2023 yearbook additions and changes are attached to the May newsletter email.**

## 2023 Redlands Branch Named Gift Honorees Announced



At our April branch meeting, Pam Ford and Martha Lehman were pleased and surprised to learn that they had been chosen to become our Redlands Branch Named Gift Honorees for 2023. The Named Gift Honoree Program, a special way to pay

tribute to our branch members for extraordinary service to AAUW, is connected to the AAUW Fund. For each \$750 in donations the branch and its members contribute annually to the AAUW Fund, we can select up to three (3) branch members to receive this honor. The three honoree to be named this year were selected by our past Redlands Branch honorees.

Our third Named Gift Honoree will be announce at our May meeting.

In turn. Kate Pretorius and Ann Leonard described the backgrounds, achievements, and service to AAUW Redlands of the honorees before introducing them by name. Marilyn Shankar presented each with an orchid, NGH Certificate, and pin.



## Congratulations

### 2023 Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship Recipients

#### **Samantha McVeigh - \$1,000**

Crafton Hills College, with transfer to UC Davis  
Associate's Degree, Environmental  
Science/Education, Spring 2024  
2022 NYMS Recipient

#### **Angie Cristobal - \$1,000**

Crafton Hills College, with transfer to  
4-year University  
Associate's Degree, English, Spring 2023

*Scholarship recipients have been asked to speak at the June branch meeting*



## Hospitality Birthday Club

Our best wishes this month to:

Emily Apmadoc  
Susan Bangasser  
Antoinette Brenion  
Kathryn Brown  
Josie Burns  
Judy Dods  
Gabrielle Duff  
Margee Fuller

Kelsey Gormley  
Ann Harding  
Theresa Lantz  
Alice Mozley  
Evelyn O'Prey  
Dawn Romo  
Jeanne Shevlin  
Hester Turpin  
Pat Zappia



### Membership Renewal Administrator.

We are seeking a Membership Renewal Administrator for the next year. See the Membership Matters article on page 4 for more information. Please contact Amy Bisek



## I Am, Therefore I Think

Looking for great conversations?  
Ready to make great new friends? Like to discuss current topics of interest and enjoying thinking?



Then the *"I am, therefore I think"* group is for you! We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 12:00-2:00 pm. Interest group members volunteer to present interesting topics which are usually open for fun and sometimes raucous discussions!

We are "dark" in July, August, and December. We look forward to meeting you there!

~Margee Fuller, Co-Chair

## From the Hospitality Committee

*Congratulations to the following members who will receive certificates at May branch meeting for years of continuous membership in AAUW.*



### 40 years~joined 1983-84

Antoinette Brenion

### 35 years~joined 1988-89

Amber Costa

### 25 years~joined 1998-99

Susan Bentley

Sally Trost

### 20 years~joined 2003-04

Kaye Espinosa

Patricia Estrada

Trudy Waldron

### 15 years~joined 2008-09

Dianne Landeros

Maria Rossi

### 10 years~joined 2013-14

Amy Bisek

Ellen Cope

Cheryl Jordan

Dawn Romo

Patricia Stubbs

### 5 years~joined 2018-19

Cid Breyer

Judy Owen Elder

Kelsey Gormley

Eileen Sanborn

Geri Stahly

Hester Turpin

Sarah VanTassel

Ellen Weiss

Susan Wong

## College/University Partnership



**University of Maryland Hosts  
the National Conference for  
College Women Student  
Leaders May 31 – June 3**

Our branch is sending two young women to NCCWSL this year. They are both students at the University of Redlands: Katie Abesadze and Josephine Mayer. Josephine will graduate from UoR with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in April 2024. Katie has her Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership, and is working on her Ed.D in Leadership for Educational Justice. They are sharp, interesting, and very enthusiastic about this conference. They will travel to the University of Maryland in College Park for the first in-person NCCWSL since 2019.

Luke Gorham, Monique Stennis, Maria Williams and Nguyen Le of UoR all helped Marion Golson and I to review and rank applications for this selection process. We are grateful to them for this. We are also grateful to the 14 students who applied this year for the conference scholarship.

*~Pam Ford Co-chair  
College/University Partnership Committee*



## Get your Tickets for Redlands Lunafest 2023!

[Lunafest: Films By and About Women](#)

Join us in Person on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

5:45PM Wine and Hors d'oeuvres Reception in the Esri Cafe

7:00PM Screening in the Esri Auditorium,

[380 New York Street, Redlands](#)

[Tickets for Reception and Screening \\$40](#)

This is the primary fundraiser for AAUW Redlands Branch which supports all of our Mission Fund activities including NCCWSL scholarships, Speech Trek, High School Scholarships, and all outreach activities. Please invite your friends and family to attend this stellar event!

## Virtual Lunafest

Not able to attend in person? Have a friend or relative who lives too far away? You can get a screening pass and watch the films from home! A ticket for the virtual event will allow you to start watching the

films anytime between Friday, May 5, at 7PM through Sunday, May 7, at 7PM. Once you begin the films, you have 24 hours to finish viewing.

[Virtual Tickets \\$20 for an individual and \\$40 for a group.](#) A Virtual Lunafest Screening makes a great early Mother's day gift!! Considering purchasing for all the mother figures in your life!

## National Election Details

April 5 |voting opens (online voting is encouraged)

May 15 | Online voting ends at 5:00 pm ET

May 17 | Vote results announced online



## California State Election Details

April 22 |voting opens (online voting is encouraged)

May 13 | Online voting ends at midnight PT

May 17 | Vote results announced online



## Reading and the Rainbow Book Club

Our Reading and the Rainbow session on Thursday, May 25, will be held at 6:00 p.m. as a live session at Kathryn Brown's cabana. There will not be a 1:00 session nor a 4:00 Zoom session in May. The purpose of this session is for members to recommend and overview books to read next year. Please note that we request you only recommend books that you have read previously to ensure they have robust content for group discussion. A list of all recommendations will be compiled, and a voting process will occur in June and July, with the final winners announced shortly thereafter. If you are unable to attend this live session, please provide your recommendation and a brief write-up of why you are recommending it to Amy Bisek at [amy.bisek@gmail.com](mailto:amy.bisek@gmail.com) prior to May 23. It will be read at the session in your absence.

As in past years, we will have a pizza, salad, and dessert buffet at this session for a \$15 contribution. If you would like to be added to the email distribution list informing members of our meeting locations, etc., feel free to contact Amy Bisek.

~Amy Bisek, Kathryn Brown and Valarie Boone



**new interest group...**

**Sew What!**



**Quilters**



Here are some of our AAUW members working on a quilt project for the upcoming Nancy Yowell Scholarship Boutique. We are making a Friendship Star, with a nod to the many AAUW friendships in our branch. Pictured below are: Marion Golson, Pam Ford, Margee Fuller, Erica Wilson, Judy Adams, Nelda Stuck, and Lisa McCarty. We're having a blast!

~Lisa McCarty

## Advocating For Equity



Every year, AAUW California tracks legislation that will advance equity and fairness for women and girls. Volunteers throughout the state meet with their legislators to request their support for bills that advance this cause.

This advocacy is central to our mission as the American Association of University Women.

This year, the bills selected by AAUW-CA for support include:

**Assembly Bill 1394:** This bill would enable survivors of child sexual abuse to sue to get their images removed from social media and collect penalties from platforms that refuse to delete their images.

AB 1394 would also permit victims to sue those who trafficked them. Since 2000, traffickers have recruited 55% of their victims online, often through social media platforms.

Assembly Bill 287 would also enable parents and child victims to sue social media that knowingly or negligently expose children to content that promotes addiction or inflicts other harm, such as inducing eating disorders.

According to supporting material, 38% of tweens and 84% of teens use social media, and platforms such as Instagram and TikTok have worsened body image, promoted eating disorders and prompted self-harm among teen girls.

Assembly Bill 549 is the California Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Act. It would require all state agencies to conduct self-evaluations of possible discrimination in the implementation of their policies and programs. Similar language has been ratified by 187 nations.

AB 549 is seen as increasingly important because of the economic setbacks suffered disproportionately by women during the Covid-19 pandemic.

AAUW-Redlands is seeking volunteers to meet in teams of three or more with our state legislators to advocate on behalf of these bills. We need to do this before the legislative session goes into recess for the summer.

If you would like to help support this mission by meeting with our representatives in the state Assembly and Senate, please call Cassie MacDuff, Public Policy Committee chair.

## Sharing is Caring

Members of the Victor Valley Branch of AAUW have a long tradition of hosting a STEM Conference for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls that they called their “Celebrating Women in Math and Science Conference (CWIMS).” Up until the pandemic, the conference was held at Victor Valley College where workshops were provided by women who are STEM professionals. The conference was structured almost exactly like our STEM Conferences for Redlands-Yucaipa girls and for Banning-Beaumont girls.

Since the pandemic, the Victor Valley Branch of AAUW has been unsuccessful at recruiting new members and the membership has made the very painful decision to close the branch. Since the branch was organized in 1955, we are sympathetic to the emotions surrounding this decision.

Victor Valley Branch decided recently to share their remaining CWIMS funds“(\$5,985) with us because our STEM Conferences meets the same goals as the Victor Valley CWIMS Conference. This is a very generous donation to our branches’ shared desire to help young women gain interest and confidence in STEM courses and careers.



Victor Valley also transferred their successful fundraising project—selling TechTrek bears to participating branches—to our branch, along with their inventory of 100 bears.

We are grateful for this gift and will remember the Victor Valley Branch with fondness and respect.

## Hiking Our Hills and Mountains

Our March Saturday morning hike was sunny yet chilly. It was awesome to see how green the hills are with yellow spring blossoms everywhere.

Join us anytime. If you are not on the mailing list, send an email to me. It is always fun, relaxing and good camaraderie.

~Kathy Toister



Chris Clautice,  
Jane Weldon,  
Kathy Toister,  
Lori Powell,  
Susan Shodahl,  
Kim Cousins,  
Jo Cavedon,  
Bob Toister

## Thank You for Helping Us Grow!



Thank you to all the ladies who joined AAUW Redlands this year. The 38 ladies listed below include new members,

previous members, and members who transferred their membership from another AAUW branch. AAUW Redlands is very happy to have so many new and returning members. We hope you enjoyed your first year and plan to continue next year. We will honor everyone who joined the branch from April 2022 through March 2023 at the September 2023 branch meeting. Our 2022-2023 new members are:

Emily Apmadoc, Loree Argabright,  
Marianne Baldwin, Debbie Brown, Josie Burns,  
Marcella Cavallaro, Jo Cavedon,  
Mackenzie Dawes, Twillea Evans-Carthen,  
Sarah Hewitt, Liz Kim, Thelma Korpman,  
Susan Leonard, Terrill Levinson-Wickham,  
Charlotte Lucey, Tracy Massimiano,  
Jessica Mayuga-Allen, Jeannine McDonnell,  
Samantha McVeigh, Krista Moreno, Alice Mozley,  
Carole Nagengast, Julia Naman, Patsy Oppenheim,  
Rose Marie Romer, Laura Ruml, Kyra Ruvalcaba,  
Erin Sanborn, Elizabeth Schilling, Karen Skoog,  
Christine Smith, Deepika Srivastava,  
Kimberly Starrs, Shelli Stockton, Ellen Timothy,  
Keita Wangari, Maria Whitaker-Saucedo,  
Andrea Woodruff, Lisa Wright



Jo Cavedon, Kathy Toister,  
Lori Powell, Susan Shodahl,  
Sharon Bealer, Kim Cousins





## GOV TREK

Nearly 50 "budding" leaders completed the Gov Trek program and will blossom into our future political leaders. Erica Wilson was part of *Team Carillo* campaigning for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. *Team Carillo* won for best campaign management. Their final campaign simulation projects reflected passion, talent, dedication, and brains. Watch their videos [HERE](#).

*Gov Trek is a virtual statewide program for junior and senior girls attending a California high school. It is designed to elevate a new generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office.*

## Redlands Community Foundation

Kay Kallander presented the Redlands Community Foundation grant to our Redlands Branch STEM Initiatives at the April meeting.



## AAUW joined the Redlands Chamber of Commerce

Thanks to Ellen Timothy, AAUW joined the Redlands Chamber of Commerce in December 2022.



*Tricia Stubbs  
Kay Dobbartin  
at the ribbon  
cutting.*



## Redlands Bowl Ushering July 18th

As in the past, our branch will be ushering for The Redlands Bowl this summer. Our date will be on Tuesday, July 18th and the program will be The Spinners. Many of us "mature" members danced to their music at sock hops and so this should be a fun walk down memory lane. It was groups such as these that began today's R&B music. We still need a few more volunteers to usher and Barbara Simmons will be signing up members at the May, and if necessary, the June meetings.

Also, since this is the Bowl's 100th Season, there will be an added final grand celebration on Saturday, August 26th, yet to be announced that will need some volunteer ushers. I will be on vacation on that date, but I am happy to sign up volunteer ushers for that event also at the May meeting.

Please consider volunteering for both dates if you have the availability.

*~Barbara Simmons*

## Speech Trek



Adrian Baek, our branch's Speech Trek winner for 2023, giving his speech at the April branch meeting. Adrian placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the AAUW CA contest and received honorable mention.



## April Branch Meeting



April Speaker  
San Bernardino  
County District  
Attorney  
Jason Anderson



### April Birthdays

Jo Cavedon, Twillea Evans-Carthen,  
Susan Miller and Terrill Levinson Wickham





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

Branches and Twigs  
Issue 10 May 2023



### **AAUW CA Promotes its Priorities with the Legislature, Prepares for a Vote on New Ones**

By Ginny Hatfield, Amy Hom and Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

If you participated in this year's Lobby Days on March 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup>, you know it was a whirlwind of activity. Over two jam-packed days, 120 AAUW CA members from 50 branches met with 46 Assembly offices and 23 Senate offices. Most of the meetings took place via Zoom and the majority took place without a hitch. For the first time, some of our members met in person in Sacramento.

While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff we were able this year to schedule 10 meetings with the members themselves - 6 Assemblymembers and 4 Senators. In addition, Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Chair, and Kathy Van Osten, our AAUW CA Legislative Advocate, met with the Governor's staff and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's office.

We were happy to learn that our organization was known to many of the legislative staff and legislators with whom our members met. Some had spoken to branches in their districts; others were familiar with our public policy priorities and expressed alignment and support for them; and a handful were appreciative of the background we provided about our mission and programs. A sterling endorsement came from none other than Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant for Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, whose mother was an AAUW member in the 1940's in Orange County. He credits her involvement in AAUW "making me the man I am today."

The reception of our "Top 3" bills - AB 1394, SB 287 and AB 549 - was generally favorable, especially the two social media bills. Both staff and legislators could identify with the pervasive problem of having children who are or will be targeted by social media. AB 549 needed a bit more explaining, as some were unfamiliar with CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/03/bill-tracking.pdf/>.

During our Lobby Days event, we were able to get our message across to those who make our laws and to highlight AAUW, our mission, accomplishments and the benefits we bring to our communities throughout CA. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy and for those of you who participated, AAUW CA thanks you!

**Adding this reminder:** it's time to vote on the updates to the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. In response to input from 466 members, the state Public Policy Committee has recommended and the Board has approved 11 changes, which can be viewed here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-proposed-public-policy-priorities/>.

Highlighted additions include support for: civics education, access to diverse staff and curriculum, safe infrastructure and access to technology in our schools, gun violence prevention, and a fourth pillar to support women in leadership roles. Voting opens April 22<sup>nd</sup>, make sure you make your voice heard!