

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
October 2023

<http://redlands-ca.aauw.net>
Issue 3, 11 Issues Annually



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

Membership Matters

Our Saturday, Oct 7th, Branch Meeting is dedicated to our Redlands branch membership. We'll showcase all the ways we make a positive impact in our community. With committees that advance equity and education for women and girls and interest groups that keep us active and engaged, we are stronger together. If you are interested in becoming more involved, this is the meeting you'll want to attend. You'll discover how to make a direct impact in the Inland Empire, plus make an invigorating impact on your personal life.

Who will you invite to this special branch meeting? Help empower your friends and co-workers: Invite them to join us and see why our AAUW Redland branch is so special! An invitation you can easily distribute is attached to this month's newsletter email. Just forward either the short or long version to your potential guests, then follow-up with a phone call or text, to encourage their participation and membership. The more friends you have in AAUW, the more fun you'll have in AAUW!

What does AAUW do?

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

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October Branch Meeting

Marsha Swails, Director AAUW California Membership Chair



Our keynote speaker for our October Membership Meeting is Marsha Swails. Marsha is the CA Membership Chair and on the CA Board of Directors for AAUW. She has been a dorm mom and strong advocate for AAUW's Tech Trek, a week-long summer Tech camp for seventh-grade girls. Previously, she was the AAUW Beach Cities branch president, a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, and taught high-school English.

Marsha shares, "My experience in Minnesota honed my skills to take on the responsibilities in AAUW. I retired from a long career teaching high school English, AP classes, and directing plays and musicals. Also while living there, I was elected to serve in the Minnesota House of Representatives and loved every minute of life in

~continued on page 3

October Branch Meeting

When:
Saturday, October 7, 2023
8:45 a.m.
Explore Branch Programs,
Community Action
Projects, Committees, and
Interest Groups
9:30 a.m. Brunch
10:15 a.m. Program

Where:
University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu Breakfast Buffet:
Orange Cinnamon French
Toast, Syrup, Scrambled
Eggs, Bacon, Potatoes
O'Brien, Fruit tray

Cost Members: \$25
Prospective Members:
Complimentary

Reservations Please call
909-362-4955 or email
AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org
by Tuesday, September
26, 2023. After September 26,
reservations will be on a
space-available basis. **After
registering, you will receive
a confirmation via email.**
Reminder: A reservation
made is a reservation paid

Transportation: Call
Susan Miller 951-233-1287 or
Patricia Stubbs 909-289-9183

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

Branch Meetings 2023-2024

Saturday, November 4, 2023
Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Saturday, February 3, 2024
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Saturday, April 13, 2024
Tuesday, May 7, 2024
Saturday, June 1, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Tuesday, Sept. 26 RESERVATION DEADLINE for Oct. 7 Brunch Membership Meeting. After Sept. 26, brunch reservations will be made on a space-available basis.						
1 6pm California Cuisine 1	2	3	4 1pm Bridge	5 7pm DEI	6	7 8:45 am Branch Meeting
8	9 1pm Sew What! 6:30pm AAUW Board Mtg.	10	11	12	13	14 9am STEM Mtg.
15 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	16 9:30 Tech Trek 1pm Bridge	17	18 12pm I Am, Therefore I Think	19 7pm Racial Justice	20	21
22	23 1pm Sew What!	24 7pm Public Policy	25 1pm Bunko	26 1pm, 4pm & 7pm Reading & the Rainbow	27	28 TBD Hiking
29	30	31				
AAUW Redlands Board Meeting 10/9 6:30 pm Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Ave, Redlands and Zoom <i>~Heather Abushanab</i> <i>~Marilyn Shankar</i>			I Am, Therefore I Think continued (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4 th Street, Redlands. <i>~Barbara Simmons</i> <i>~Margee Fuller</i>			
Bridge Groups 3rd Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm, <i>~Contact coordinator Dorothy Nordquist</i>			Reading and the Rainbow 10/26 <i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> by Bonnie Garmus 1pm Live Session, 4pm Self facilitated Zoom session 7pm Live Session <i>~Valarie Boone</i> <i>~Patricia Stubbs</i> <i>~Ellen Timothy</i>			
Bunko 10/25 1pm <i>~Patty Ahearn</i> <i>~Lori Powell</i>			Public Policy 10/24 7pm <i>~Cassie MacDuff</i>			
California Cuisine and Conversation I 10/1 6pm <i>~Kathy Toister</i>			Sew What! 10/9 & 10/23 1pm <i>~Lisa McCarty</i>			
California Cuisine and Conversation 2 10/15 5:30pm <i>~Patty Ahearn</i>			STEM Initiatives PASS STEM Conference: January 11, 2024 Redlands STEM Conference: February 28, 2024			
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice 10/5 DEI 7pm Zoom 10/19 Racial Justice 7pm Zoom <i>~Ellen Gruenbaum</i> <i>~Erica Wilson</i> <i>~Donita Remington</i>			Redlands STEM conferences planning meeting 10/14 9am at Kay Dobbertin's house <i>~Kathryn Brown</i> <i>~Pam Ford</i>			
Hiking Our Hills & Mountains 10/28 Contact Kathy to be added to distribution list. <i>~Kathy Toister</i>			Tech Trek Committee 10/16 9:30am at Denise's house <i>~Denise Westcott</i> <i>~Theresa Lantz</i>			
I Am, Therefore I Think 10/18 : "Home Grown National Park/Xeriscape" "Facilitator: Linda Richards Meets 12 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge <i>continued in next column</i>						



President's Corner: Heather Abushanab

AAUW Redlands Branch is already back in full swing after the slower-paced summer activities. Thanks to everyone who spent the summer preparing for the 2023-24 AAUW year. Fall is starting to appear, bringing with it cooler weather, pumpkin spice everything, and our October Branch Meeting on Saturday, October 7th. This meeting is the best opportunity to invite friends and family who might be interested in joining AAUW. All of our branch activities and interests will be highlighted.

The October Branch meeting is also a great time to think about how you want to contribute to AAUW this year. Will you join the planning team for one of our fundraisers? Will you attend a new interest group? Will you volunteer to learn how to lead an interest group so that we ensure continued leadership? Will you take on a specific task for STEM? Maybe you have a personal passion that isn't yet addressed by current AAUW activities, and you want to start something new! There are many ways to strengthen our branch and we encourage all members to find a way to participate.

Marilyn and I are aware of a few things in the branch that need special skills and attention. We are looking for people with writing, social media and publicity skills to help with the many tasks that our Communications VPs, Keita and Priya oversee. We also need people who can use Excel and other basic computer programs to help with some of our organizational tasks. If you have these kinds of skills, please let us know. Many of the "jobs" we have will not take a lot of time, but would benefit from someone being in charge. We will suggest options and find you something that feels comfortable for you!

Looking to the future, we need to strengthen all our leadership areas by identifying people who will begin to learn an area with the hope they can contribute in a support or leadership role in the future. Marilyn and I have asked all the board members and major project chairs to identify potential future leaders for their areas. In an effort to strengthen our branch processes, communication and organization, the Board has been learning to use Teams, a Microsoft 365 organizational tool which we have gotten for free as a non-profit. The branch now has new email addresses with the extensions **@AAUWRedlands.org** for many of our activities. All Board members and most interest group chairs have been given access to our account and many groups are starting to save their critical documents in Teams so that we have shared access and the ability to transfer information from one leadership team to the next. If you are part of a planning team, like STEM Initiatives or AAUW Programs, you will likely be getting an account soon so that you can work effectively with your committees. We are all learning new ways to use this powerful tool, requiring us to be patient with each other. New things are always challenging, but they can bring really positive change too!!

*~Heather Abushanab
AAUW Redlands Branch
Co-President 2023-24*

October Branch Meeting: Marsha Swails *~continued from page 1*

the legislature. After my retirement I found tremendous joy choosing organizations to dedicate my passion for serving others. I was the founding President of the Board of Directors for Prairie Care Child and Family Fund in the Twin Cities. This organization has raised over five million dollars to help kids and teens. When I moved to California 8 years ago, I was asked to serve on the board of South Bay Children's Health Center in CA. Both of those organizations allowed me to participate with many wonderful people dedicated to bringing mental health to children, teens and their families."

As a closing comment on her biography, Marsha writes, "Looking at my life, I realize that my core values are service and caring about the lives of people. Everything that I've done in my career and as a volunteer were guided by those two things . . . If I can make just one life better, then it will have been time well spent. That is the only legacy that matters."

Please join us to hear this dynamic, friendly, effective, and involved member of AAUW. Hopefully, her presentation will bring to mind someone you may know who "needs" AAUW in her life. We look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

~Eileen Sanborn, Program VP

Membership Matters

~continued from page 1

Why Join? AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881

AAUW membership connects a powerful network of more than 170,000 people across the country who are passionate about building a fairer future. We make a difference!

Membership Matters: Saturday, October 7th Branch Meeting

This year's meetings will be shorter. We won't have an announcement from the stage of each group, rather you and your guests can visit each table to hear about their purpose and ask questions. Prospective members receive a complementary brunch and a reduced price on their first year's dues if they join that day.

If you want to send a prospective member but can't attend yourself, let us know at AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org or call 909-362-4955 and we'll ask another member to host your guest that morning. And make sure you register your guest, so we have a brunch seat and name tag ready. The RSVP date is Tuesday, Sept 26.

Welcome to the AAUW Community!

Membership in AAUW is open to any graduate holding an associate degree (or equivalent, such as RN), a bachelor's degree, or a higher degree from an accredited institution. AAUW members pay dues annually at three levels: national \$72, state \$20 and branch \$31 = \$123 annual dues. If a new member joins at this meeting, their first year's dues are reduced to \$87.

You'll Want to Make Reservations

Reservations for you and your guests should be made at AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org or 909-362-4955 by Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023. After Sept. 26, reservations will be on a space-available basis.

For More Information

Do your potential guests want to know more? More information about AAUW can be found at aauw.org. More information about our AAUW Redlands branch can be found at redlands-ca.aauw.net. Questions can be directed to Membership@AAUWRedlands.org.



MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO OUR OCTOBER BIRTHDAY LADIES!



Kathy Albrektson
Luann Bangsund
Susan Bentley
Valarie Boone
Sharon Collins
Ellen Cope
Amber Costa
Denise Davis
Varonica Dixon
Keller Iuppenlatz
Joyce Katkov
Diane Landeros
Susan Leonard

Charlotte Lucey
Krya Ruvalcaba
Deborah Seibly
Diane Shimota
Karen Skoog
Patricia Stubbs
Erica Wilson
Lisa Wright



Every gift to AAUW makes a difference----
but your dollars go furthest when you donate to the
AAUW Greatest Needs Fund or our strategic focus
areas. Please make a tax deductible donation to the
AAUW Fund today.

For more information and to give on-line, go to:
aauw.org or, give a check at a branch meeting.
Thank you.

~Mary Lou Guerrero
~Susan Bentley
Co-Chairs AAUW Fund

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE 2023-24 at November 4th Branch Meeting

It's almost time! We're looking forward to a fabulous Holiday Boutique this year. If you're looking to shop, there will be herb baskets, framed artwork, custom-designed notecards, kitchen window boxes, wine and cheese baskets, jewelry, quilted items, and so much more. Special for this year: a beautiful Friendship Quilt, made by your friends from the new Sew What! interest group will be on display and ready for the bidding process.



If you want to donate items to sell, the Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship table will have a sign-up sheet at the October 7th Membership branch meeting. In particular, we'd love to have your spare jewelry and handbags as that table drew lots of attention at the Boutique last year. You can also sign up to help with the Boutique. We're still looking for someone to manage the baked goods table and there may be other ways to help.

All proceeds from the Holiday Boutique go to the Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship Fund. The one thing we all have in common is a great sense of gratitude for our education. This is our chance to help other women get theirs. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Stubbs.

YMCA Holiday Home Tour 2023 Volunteers Needed



For the last eighteen years AAUW has assisted the YMCA with their annual home tour by hosting a home. If you would like to join the fun and volunteer on Sunday, December 3, 2023, to be a hostess in the home that AAUW is assigned for that day, please let us know. We have two shifts available, 9:00 am – 1:00 p.m. and 12:45- 4:45 p.m. It is a wonderful way to assist the YMCA with their big fundraiser. The money raised goes to support the Y's Legal Aid Program. Legal Aid Program Director, Sara Pugh and her team provide legal services to low-income clients, primarily women. Your gifts of time and energy make you feel good and serve a wonderful cause.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the October meeting, or you can email / text your name, phone number, and which shift you would like to be assigned to Ann Leonard at or Linda Browning

~Ann Leonard and Linda Browning, Co-Chairs

YMCA Holiday Pantry Bakeshop



Another way AAUW can help raise money for the YMCA's Legal Aid program is to bake homemade treats for their YMCA Pantry. The information will be in the November newsletter.

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, members who transferred their membership from another AAUW branch and 6 student associates. 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.

Joining September 2022 through August 2023 were:

Katie Adesadze, Kimberly Anderson, Emily Apmadoc, Loree Argabright, Marianne Baldwin, Rachel Bentley, Debbie Brown, Josie Burns, Judy Cannon, Jo Cavedon, Sharon Collins, Varonica Dixon, Raquel Gomez-Van Diest, Sarah Hewitt, Dolly Church Israelitt, Jane Hooper, Liz Kim, Thelma Korpman, Debbie LeDoux, Terrill Levinson-Wickham, Tracy Massimiano, Josephine Mayer, Jessica Mayuga-Allen, Jeannine McDonnell, Krista Moreno, Alice Mozley, Julia Naman, Nan Neighbours, Eloise Reyes, Rose Romer, Kyra Ruvalcaba, Elizabeth Schilling, Laura-Lea Shelton, Joan Smith, Christine Smith, Deepika Srivastava, Kimberly Starrs, Shelli Stockton, Ellen Timothy, Cathy Van Berkem, Jane Weldon, Maria Whitaker-Saucedo, Andrea Woodruff and Lisa Wright

Who Will Be Our Next NYMS Scholars?

Our committee is ramping up for the 2023-24 year with new (and existing!) fundraising and outreach activities. On October 1st, the Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship program will open for applications from women with previous college experience whose schooling was interrupted and who have now returned to school to complete their degree program. Here are some ways you can help us find and help them:



1. If you're on social media and have 5 minutes available October through February, we're looking for volunteers to share/repost our Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn scholarship announcements.
2. If you have 1-2 hours available in October or November, we're looking for volunteers to place flyers at local colleges or at their own places of employment.
3. If you have 3 hours available in Spring, we're looking for volunteers to review and rate scholarship applications.
4. If you can donate gift/wine baskets, holiday crafts, home decor, baked goods, or vintage jewelry, we'd love to consider your items for our Nov. 4th Holiday Boutique fundraiser.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact me or look for our table at the October membership meeting.

*~Keita Wangari
NYMS Committee Chair*

Redlands Branch STEM Initiatives

STEM Conferences In the Works

Planning for 2024 STEM Conferences for 8th Grade Girls has already begun. The conference for the Pass Area girls (Banning & Beaumont) will be held at Mt San Jacinto College on January 11. The conference for the Redlands & Yucaipa girls will be held on February 28 at the University of Redlands.



We want your support! You may volunteer to help at either or both conferences or you may want to volunteer to be on the STEM Initiatives Committee to plan & organize the events. If you are a STEM professional, consider being a part of the STEM Fair or giving a workshop for the girls. See any of us with your questions.

There will be sign-up sheets at the October Membership Meeting on Saturday Oct 7. The next STEM Committee meeting will be Saturday, October 14 at Kay Dobbertin's home.

All students and school personnel attend these conferences for free. While we do receive generous donations from organizations and businesses in the area, our branch foots the bill. Our estimate is that we spend \$30 for a day at the conference for one girl. Please keep that in mind any time you consider providing financial support for the conference. Thank you!

We look forward to working together on these empowering events for the girls of our communities.

*~Pam Ford
~Kathryn Brown
~Theresa Lantz*

Attached to the newsletter is **AAUW CA Public Policy News**



ARTICLE FOR YOUR OCTOBER BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

**Advancing Gender Equity is Advancing
Environmental Sustainability (and vice versa)**



The Tech Trek Committee needs Additional Volunteers for this Coming Year

Tech Trek is getting organized to begin the camper selection process in January. We offer both Tech Trek residential and virtual STEM Camps. Selection starts with getting nominations from the 7th grade STEM teachers at the four Middle Schools we work with, in Banning, Beaumont, Yucaipa and Redlands. We work closely with the counselors and teachers at each school. Once the nominations are submitted into CampDoc (our current software program), we focus on getting the girls and their parents to complete their applications, which includes the applicant's essay. We then read and score the applications and essays and teacher nominations and select qualifying candidates for interviews. We select the final campers receiving scholarships based on

1. the number of candidates we have been approved for by AAUW State, which depends on space available and demand
2. funds available that year from donations, which are approved by the AAUW Redlands STEM committee and the board
3. scoring based on criteria set by AAUW national

This process starts in December and is hopefully completed before the Spring Break in April.

We have found that having 2-3 volunteers working with teachers, counselors, and parents at each school as a team has worked well. **We hope that some of you might be interested in joining our Tech Trek Committee this year. We need more volunteers. If you are interested contact Denise Westcott, 909-33-3694 denisewestcott6@gmail.com**

Our branch pays 100% of the cost of the STEM camps. The current cost is \$1100 for a week at a residential camp and \$500 for a week at Virtual Camp. We exceeded our goal of sending 12 girls to camp this year to celebrate Tech Trek's 25th Anniversary and sent 14 girls. They all had a wonderful experience as you saw in last month's newsletter if you read the quotes from their Thank You notes. Thank you all for your support last year. We look forward to your continued support and another great Tech Trek year.

Donations can be sent to AAUW Redlands STEM Initiatives PO BOX 7678, Redlands CA 92375-0678 with the note Tech Trek camp in the subject line.

~Denise Westcott, AAUW Redlands, Tech Trek Branch Coordinator

...and another need

The Tech Trek committee also needs a TECH SUPPORT volunteer to help with using the new CampDoc database program which AAUW CA implemented this year. It is a database program that collects and manages all the personal data and application status of all the campers and volunteers involved with Tech Trek and replaces our paper forms that we have been using and are familiar with. We struggled with using the program this year and realized that we need a volunteer who is familiar with managing the data to produce a variety of reports to help. This can be done, at home, at your convenience, which may appeal to some of our more tech- savvy members who also have other commitments and responsibilities that restrict them from attending meetings and outside events. Please call Denise Westcott if you would like to help.



More topics in the Public Policy News

CA LEGISLATION

What's happening with supported bills?

EDUCATION & ACTION

Public Education Paired with Action Items

SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT

Learn More About the SBP

See the associated article in the newsletter for more details. Many of the roles are great for new members who want to get to know other members and make an impact now.



Page 5>>**YMCA Holiday Home Tour**
December 3, 2023

Page 6>>**Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship**

Page 6>>**STEM Conference Committee**

Page 6>>**Tech Trek Committee & CampDoc data manager**

Condolences



In sympathy and friendship, we send our condolences to Lisa McCarty on the loss of her brother.

Branch Officers:

Co-Presidents: Heather Abushanab & Marilyn Shankar, **(Co-Communications Vice Presidents:** Priya Engel & Keita Wangari, **Co-Hospitality Vice Presidents:** Joyce Katkov (909-633-6404) & Keller Iuppenlatz, **Program Vice President:** Eileen Sanborn, **Membership Vice President:** Amy Bisek, **Secretary:** Marion Golson, **Treasurer:** Sue Ferguson, **At-Large Board Members:** Susan Bentley, Donita Remington, Kathy Warren

B&T Submission:

The deadline for the **November** newsletter is **October 5th**. Send your articles to the editor via email to news@AAUWRedlands.org

September Branch Meeting



September Speaker
Dr. Tony Mueller



September Birthdays

Kathy Warren, Del Barrett, Cassie MacDuff



College/University Partnership Co-Chair Pam Ford

Redlands Branch sponsored Josephine Mayer & Katie Abesadze to attend NCCWSL





Invite Prospective Members to our Oct 7th Branch Meeting!

Who will you invite to this special branch meeting?

invitation you can easily distribute is attached to this month's newsletter email. Just forward either the short or long version to your potential guests to encourage their participation and membership.

The more friends you have in AAUW, the more fun you'll have in AAUW!

Please register prospective members' names and contact information to

AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org

We'll use this for nametags and follow-up.

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

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Issue 3 October 2023

