

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
December 2023

<http://redlands-ca-aauw.net>
Issue 5, 11 Issues Annually



The Redlands Branch of AAUW is dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls through education, empowerment and advocacy.

President's Corner: Heather Abushanab



The holiday season is well and truly upon us, and Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. No matter what your religion or cultural background, Thanksgiving gives us a brief pause in our busy lives to consider all we have and everyone who has brought us joy this past year. I am especially grateful for the AAUW Board who works so hard on our behalf to make AAUW Redlands Branch such a successful endeavor.

Last month's Holiday Boutique kicked off our branch festivities and raised over \$3000 for the Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarships. Our December branch meeting will be a true celebration, with a festive dinner and musical entertainment from Rhymes with Orange. Consider bringing along your spouse, significant other, or friend to this one!

The first weekend in December, AAUW will once again serve at the YMCA Holiday Home Tour. This event raises money for YMCA Legal Aid, which benefits many women in our community who need legal advice and don't have anywhere else to get it. I am grateful for those in our branch who help the community in this way.

Many of our committees are in full swing planning, events for later in the year. STEM is working on both of the conferences for 8th-Grade Girls. Public Policy is recruiting high school seniors and juniors for the AAUW CA Gov Trek program. Our Fundraising committee is working on both a Bridge Scramble for

~continued on page 3

December Branch Meeting "Rhymes with Orange"



Rhymes with Orange is an acapella group. Our current membership includes Soprano Sue Scheirer, Mezzo Heather Abushanab, Alto Jennifer Norton-Brainerd, Tenor Loring Fiske-Philips, and Bass Dan Abushanab. We love singing together at all times of the year, but we especially enjoy the

holiday season. Our holiday repertoire contains a mix of familiar Christmas carols and songs with interesting arrangements. We especially love learning songs from other traditions. In past years, we have had appearances at the YMCA Holiday Boutique and Pantry, the Burrage Mansion, and the Redlands Forum. Last year was our first appearance at AAUW, and we are pleased to be invited back! You can learn more about our group and listen to a few of our recorded songs at RWOSingers.com.

December Branch Meeting

When Tuesday,
December 5, 2023
Social 5:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Program 6:45 p.m.

Where
University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu
Salad: autumn vegetable salad with red wine vinaigrette
Main Entrée: lemon rosemary chicken
Sides: roasted root vegetables (vegetarian), toasted orzo with spinach and cranberries (vegan), dinner rolls
Dessert: carrot cake, coffee/tea

Cost
Members and guests: \$30

Reservations
Please call 909-362-4955 or email AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org by Sunday, November 26, 2023. After November 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 or Patricia Stubbs

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

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

DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE for DECEMBER 5 meeting is Sunday, November 26				December 2023		
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9 am STEM Pass Mtg	2
3 <u>YMCA Home Tour</u> 6 pm California Cuisine 1	4	5 5:30pm Branch Mtg	6 <u>1pm Bridge</u> 5:30 pm CHAT	7 <u>1pm Tech Trek Mtg</u> 7pm DEI	8	9
10	11 <u>1pm Sew What!</u> NO BOARD MEETING	12	13 1pm Bunko	14	15	16 9 am STEM Redlands Mtg
17 5:30 pm California Cuisine 2	18 1pm Bridge	19	20 NO I Am, MEETING	21 <u>7pm Racial Justice</u> NO Reading MEETING	22	23
24/31	25	26 7pm Public Policy	27	28	29	30
<div> </div> <div> Save the Dates </div> <div> <p>Mon. afternoon & Wed. evening for 8 weeks in March & April Great Decisions Thurs. Jan. 11 Pass STEM Conference Wed. Feb. 28 Redlands STEM Conference Thurs. Mar 21 Bridge Scramble Fundraiser</p> </div>						
Bridge Groups 3rd Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm, ~Contact coordinator Dorothy Nordquist Bunko 12/13 1pm ~Patty Ahearn & Lori Powell California Cuisine and Conversation I 12/3 6pm ~Kathy Toister California Cuisine and Conversation 2 12/17 5:30pm ~Patty Ahearn CHAT Meeting 12/6 5:30pm holiday dinner Contemporary Club RSVP required by November 28 to literacy@akspl.org ~Katherine Gifford 798-7565 literacy@akspl.org Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice 12/7 DEI 7pm Zoom 12/21 Racial Justice 7pm Zoom ~Ellen Gruenbaum & Erica Wilson & Donita Remington Public Policy 12/26 7pm ~Cassie MacDuff				Sew What! 12/11 1pm ~Lisa McCarty STEM Initiatives PASS STEM Conference: Thurs. January 11, 2024 Redlands STEM Conference: Wed. February 28, 2024 Redlands STEM conferences planning meeting 12/16 9am at Kathryn Brown's home ~Kathryn Brown & Pam Ford Pass STEM Conference planning meeting 12/1 9am at Pam Ford's home ~Pam Ford & Theresa Lantz Tech Trek Planning Meeting: 12/7 1pm Denise Westcott's 1706 Brittney Rd, Beaumont ~Denise Westcott & Theresa Lantz YMCA Home Tour 12/3 9-1 & 12:45-4:45 ~Ann Leonard & Linda Browning		

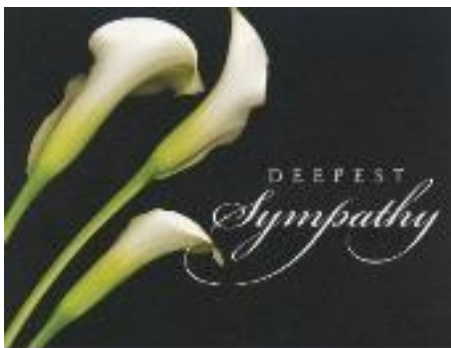
President's Corner: Heather Abushanab *continued from page 1*

March and a Short Film fest for April. All of these groups are ready to welcome new members to the planning process. If you are having trouble finding a way to contribute to AAUW, give me a call and I can help you find your fit!

Happy Holidays!

Heather Abushanab, Co-President

AAUW Redlands Branch



In sympathy and friendship, we send our condolences to Trudy Waldron on the loss of her husband, Jeff.

Hospitality Birthday Club

A special Happy Birthday to our December ladies:

Loree Argabright
Priva Vedula Engel
Jenna Guzman-Lowery
Deborah Lewin
Nerni Miller
Marie Mitchell
Dorothy Nordquist
Eileen Sanborn
Erin Sanborn

Louise Schumann
Simone St. Pierre Nelson
Cathy Van Berkem
Sarah VanTassel
Kipi Wilson-Lee



~Joyce Katkov & Keller Iuppenlatz

AAUW Community Engagement



If you would like to join the fun and volunteer on Sunday, December 3, 2023, to be a hostess in the home AAUW has been assigned, please let us know. We have two shifts available, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 12:45 - 4:45 p.m. Please email/text us your name, phone number, and which shift you would like to work.

YMCA Home Tour Chairs: Ann Leonard & Linda Browning

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 Y is looking for volunteers who can donate four-dozen or more baked items or the equivalent. For information, including when treats need to be dropped off at the Y, please register at <https://ymcahometour.org/pantry>.



Branch Officers: **Co-Presidents:** Heather Abushanab & Marilyn Shankar, **Co-Communications Vice Presidents:** Priya Engel & Keita Wangari, **Co-Hospitality Vice Presidents:** Joyce Katkov & 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 **January newsletter** is **December 5th**. Send your articles to the editor via email to news@AAUWRedlands.org

We Asked and They Came – Welcome Aboard!

Over thirty new-ish members attended New Member Orientation sessions held on either Monday evening, 10/23, or Saturday afternoon, 11/11, at a local meeting venue. Hosted by over fifteen tenured member hosts, we first got to know one another better in a small-group breakout session. Then, we overviewed our mission activities and the communication resources we use to keep all members informed each month. Special thanks to Amy Bisek, Kathryn Brown, Jane Hooper and Kate Pretorius who provided treats and drinks, and to Joyce Katkov who provided lovely decorations and fruit.

Future orientation sessions will be offered on an as-needed basis. If you were unable to attend, but would still like to be in the know, feel free to contact Amy Bisek.

If you'd like to have an AAUW mentor, please contact Joyce Katkov Keller Iuppenlatz. Mentors can answer your questions or put you in contact with a member who is in the know. Mentors are also available to accompany you to your first AAUW activities as a friendly, welcoming face.



Please welcome these members to our AAUW Redlands branch

Arlene Benson *BS, NNS from Chapman University, RN from Highland School of Nursing in Oakland.*

Arlene has lived since 1955 in an 1891 Victorian in Redlands, with her husband of 62 years. Previously, she lived in Idyllwild for 28 years. Arlene started the Hospice in Hemet and was Executive Director for 10 years. She also worked as a Psych Nurse at the Behavioral Medical Center Loma Linda for 20 years and retired at the age of 71. Arlene has three rescued cats, two dogs, one turtle, and volunteers for a rescued horse.

Emily Brown *Accounting Degree from Cal State San Bernardino.*

Emily was a member of AAUW when she lived in Redlands previously. She moved to Washington and opened an accounting business, which she ran for 30 years. She returned to Redlands to be closer to family. Emily's hobbies are reading, gardening, art, and playing Mah Jong.

Rachel Bubb *Conservation and Resource Studies at University of California Berkeley, currently enrolled in a part-time MBA program at UC Berkeley Haas.*

Rachel was born and raised in Redlands. She went to UC Berkeley for her undergraduate degree. She majored in Conservation and Resource Studies and spent two years farming after college. In 2018 she returned home to work in the family business: financial planning. She quickly fell in love with her new career. Rachel enjoys helping people plan for the future and achieve financial choice. She especially enjoys helping and empowering women. The financial service industry is heavily male dominated. Her goal is to be a driving force of change in this industry. She wants to see more women feeling empowered to make financial decisions. Rachel's hobbies are backpacking, farming, skiing, and travel. Rachel and her husband help manage 40 acres of avocados and oranges in Redlands. They also have their own plot, on which they grow seasonal produce that they sell to neighbors.

Robin Butler *MSN from CSU Long Beach*

Robin is a native of Southern California and has been a Redlands resident for 30+ years. She served in the roles of clinician, educator, and administration as an RN and PMHNP for LLUMC and BMC as well as the LL VA, with a focus on integrative care. She enjoys learning new things and sharing with others.



Holiday Boutique

Thank you to all who donated items for the November 4th Holiday Boutique and to those who shopped and made monetary donations. And a huge thank you to Patricia Stubbs and the entire Holiday Boutique support team: coordinators, table set-up/break-down folks, payment handlers, and the *Sew What!* committee. You really outdid yourselves this year, with a well-run event that raised enough money to support several Nancy Yowell Scholarships in Spring.

~Keita Wangari, NYMS Committee Chair

Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship application window is now open!

The new 2023-2024 NYMS application is available for download from our website.

<https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/projects/scholarships-2/>

This scholarship is really a hidden gem of an opportunity for local college women, of any age, who are returning to school after an interruption and could use the financial support. Applicants should reside in the Redlands branch area and be currently enrolled in an Associate's, Bachelor's, or post-graduate degree program. The application can be filled in online, saved, and submitted by email along with the short essay, recommendation letters, and transcripts. **Help us spread the word so we can reach more local women who might qualify!** If you're able to take some flyers to the financial aid office of a local college or would like a flyer to post at your place of employment, get in touch with me. Also, please follow our AAUW-Redlands branch page on Facebook and Instagram and when you see us posting about the scholarship, please re-share with your followers. And, of course, we can always use help evaluating applications in the Spring.

~Keita Wangari
NYMS Chair

Welcome New members

Robin Butler *continued*

She is interested in books, films, music, nature, dogs, and gardening as well as improving her skills in home décor. She is interested in AAUW to meet new people and get more involved in the community.

Stephanie Centeno *BS from UCLA*

Jan Cooper Hagman *OD from Southern California College of Optometry, BS from SCCO (MBKA), and BS from UC Irvine.*

Jan has lived in the East Highland Ranch for over 30 years with her husband Thomas Hagman. She was born in Hollywood, CA, but raised in Sacramento until 1977. After being accepted to UC Irvine, she received her BS degree in Biological Sciences. In 1985, she received a BS in Visual Sciences and a Doctor of Optometry in 1987 at Marshall B. Ketchum University, Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton, CA.

Jan practices Optometry at a Homeless Health Center in Los Angeles on Skid Row and is Director of Optometry for Wesley Health Centers – JWCH Institute, Inc. She has served as a volunteer for a number of nonprofit organizations in the Inland Empire, and as Trustee for the California Association, Chair of the American Optometric Association Community Health Center Committee, and member of the Advocacy Committee for the California State Rural Health Association.

Genealogy, afternoon teas, antiques, and working with plants are a few of her interests outside of her profession. AAUW is of interest to Jan as she knows the value of a university education for women and the need to help support their dreams, talents, and goals for a brighter future.

Jane Davis *BA from UCLA.*

Jane has lived in Redlands for 36 years, during which time she has had four children, has been involved in many volunteer groups, and has volunteered as a chorus director for children for 17 years. Jane has done stints teaching art at a K-8 school and as a development director at an independent school. Jane has known about AAUW since she can remember and is so impressed with what the group has accomplished; and she has to admit that it looks like members have a lot of fun while working on fulfilling projects.



Named Gift Honoree

Every year the AAUW Redlands branch honors members who have done outstanding work in supporting the programs and goals of AAUW Redlands. Being selected as a Named Gift is a special way to pay tribute to a branch member who has given extraordinary service to AAUW. The Branch contribute \$750 to the AAUW Fund in the name of each Named Gift Honoree.

Past AAUW Redlands Named Gift Honorees are listed in the our yearbook on pages 16-20.



Calling All Past Named Gift Honorees

It is time again to select women who have worked diligently for our branch and been a member for at least 5 years.

Previous winners of this award can offer suggestions about who might be eligible. This can be done at an in-person meeting on Wednesday, December 6th at 10:00 am at Marilyn Shankar's home. Or you can text your suggestions or email your choices.

Once there is a list of possible winners, you will receive a ballot to vote on your favorites. Then stay tuned to see who wins at the February branch meeting.

*~Mary Lou Guerrero
AAUW Fund Co-Chair*



for 2024 – 2025 AAUW Redlands Offices

Announcing to the membership that at the end of this year, 2024, the following jobs will need to be filled by new Redlands Branch Officers: **President Elect, Membership Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer**, three **At-Large** members, and three members for the **Nominating Committee**.

We have a wonderful nomination committee; Tricia Stubbs, chair, Nerni Miller, Mary Lou Guerrero, Kathy Warren, Dorothy Nordquist, Martha Lehman, Ginny Evans-Perry.

The process is confidential, but please let the committee know if you have someone you feel could fill one of the jobs needed.

Welcome New members

Deborah Dybowski BA from Cal State San Bernardino and MA from Azusa Pacific University.

Deborah is a retired primary teacher from the Colton JUSD. She has lived in Reche Canyon, Colton for 34 years. She has two children and seven grandchildren, and enjoys knitting, reading, and writing. Deborah has written poems and children's short stories. One of her stories, "On Falcon's Wings," a picture book, was published. Deborah is a trained reading recovery teacher and has tutored adults.

Joy Fan BS from Shanghai University and MS from Florida Atlantic University.

Joy started working as a mechanical engineer in her twenties after getting her BS degree in Mechanical Engineering in China. At 25 years of age, she became a licensed patent attorney working with international clients in Shanghai, China. At 29 years of age, she received her MS degree from Florida Atlantic University in the United States, majoring in manufacturing process and industrial automation. She moved to Los Angeles right after, started her professional engineering career, and has been doing that ever since. After 39 years of being a lead engineer, working with many industry-leading companies, she retired in May, 2022.

Joy joined ALR in September, 2022. She loves organizing, reading, writing, walking, music, singing, painting, fine arts, fashion design, antiques, interior design, gardening, business investing, and volunteering. She is also a dog lover. Joy moved from Pasadena and now lives in Highland with her husband, Eric, and two dogs who are her only children, Lucky and Stella.

Debra Fields BA from Cal State Fullerton and MA from Azusa Pacific University.

Gigi Garcia BA from University of Redlands

Kimberly Green BS from Penn State University, MBA from Lebanon Valley College.

Laura Krenek BS from CSUSB, MS from University of Redlands.

Laura has lived in Redlands for the last four years. She grew up in a few places across Southern California, has worked in marketing for 14 years and has spent seven of those years at esri. She earned her Master's in Marketing at the University of Redlands in 2022. She is interested in hiking, scuba diving, and

Gov Trek

Gov Trek is a statewide program developed by AAUW California for junior and senior high school girls to expose them to careers in public service and elected office. Starting in January and conducted through five virtual two-hour sessions, the activities will be engaging, interactive, and inspirational.

Want more women in political power?

Learn about the AAUW program Gov Trek!

AAUW Redlands is again inviting high school junior and senior girls to take part in a free online program called Gov Trek, offered by AAUW-California. Gov Trek is designed to encourage young women to consider careers in government, whether as elected leaders or in appointed positions.

Gov Trek is conducted over Zoom, in seven, two-hour sessions where girls from all over California will hear from women legislators, campaign experts and others in public service. The girls will then work in teams to simulate a political campaign, culminating in a competition with an award for the best team.

The girls will all get opportunities for internships, shadowing, and other activities in the year following Gov Trek to give them hands-on experience in public sector careers. The program starts February 3rd and runs through March 16th, on consecutive Saturdays.

If you have a daughter or granddaughter who is a high school junior or senior, please encourage her to sign up for Gov Trek. We want our region to be well-represented in the upcoming Gov Trek program. If you belong to a service club in the East San Bernardino Valley or San Gorgonio Pass area, please ask to speak briefly at its next meeting to spread the word about Gov Trek. All of us are needed to help recruit girls for this excellent opportunity.

Flyers will be available at the December 5 AAUW Redlands meeting. They will include a QR code and a link to the sign-up page. Please take one or scan the QR code with your cell phone. And please disseminate the flyers to your community.

If you or your high school junior or senior girl would like to learn more about Gov Trek, an informational

~continued on page 8



Welcome New members

Laura Krenek *continued*

photography. She has two young children as well, ages five and an infant.

Carol Kennedy *BA from Grinnell College, MBA from University of Redlands.*

Carol grew up in Iowa and graduated from Grinnell College, which is a small liberal arts school in Iowa. After a few jobs in a variety of fields, she spent 25 years at AT&T, moving around different areas of the company including customer support, sales, finance, and project management. Carol also had several physical moves with the company, including a stint in Minneapolis, New Jersey, Phoenix, and England/Scotland. She completed the MBA program at the University of Redlands in 2015. Carol has recently retired and like many of us, can't figure out how she ever had time to fit in work. She's enjoying exploring various hobbies and volunteer opportunities.

Peggy Lanum *BA from University of Washington and MS from Azusa Pacific University.*

Margaret Maher *BS from Cal State Sacramento.*

Margaret worked 23 years at esri in technical support. She is Roman Catholic, has five adult children, three grandchildren, and one great grandson. She earned a Level-4 certificate in Cave Rescue, has lots of cats, and loves to read. She also participates in three ministries in the church she attends, including the choir. She is in full recovery from a ruptured brain aneurysm.

Jayleen Martinez *Currently at Crafton Hills College.*

Jayleen is from Beaumont. Her family is from Mexico, and she really likes playing tennis. She also babysits. Jayleen is planning on majoring in Business, and she attends Crafton Hills College. Joining AAUW seemed like a really incredible opportunity to meet a lot of wonderful and capable women.

Marjorie Munson *BA from Cal State San Bernardino and MS from University of La Verne.*

Marjorie grew up in Redlands from second grade through high school. She married in 1967 and has lived in San Bernardino for 54 years. She was the head counselor at Cajon High School, a scuba diver for 25 years, and loves to read mystery books. Marjorie's mother belonged to AAUW in Redlands. Marjorie believes college is a goal any girl can achieve.

THANKS FOR
JOINING US

Gov Trek ~continued from page 7

meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, January 8, online. Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Thank you so much for helping the next generation of girls to learn about careers in public service.

For more information or help recruiting girls for Gov Trek, please contact Public Policy Committee chair Cassie MacDuff or Communications Vice President Keita Wangari.



Redlands STEM Conference Adult Lunch Reservationist

We're in full swing, planning for our Redlands STEM Conference. All volunteers are welcome to join us for lunch the day of the conference, February 28, in the Casa Loma Room at the University of Redlands. We need a member who will take volunteer lunch RSVPs before the deadline and collect/cross-check payments. You will also attend the conference to collect final onsite payments. This is about a four-week commitment that's easy to do. It requires attention to detail and a willingness to remind volunteers to pay. There is nothing like being onsite at the conference to meet the speakers, see the girls' enthusiasm, listen to our remarkable keynote speaker, and be of service to our community. Let us know you're interested by contacting Kathryn Brown or Pam Ford.

AAUW Community Engagement



Dia de los Muertos

A. K. Smiley
Library
November 1

Erica Wilson,
Mary Lou Guerrero
Donita Remington
and
Alison Rodriguez

Welcome New members

Zofia Owerkowicz Currently at Crafton Hills College.

Zofia is currently completing her second year at Crafton Hills College, studying biology. In her spare time, she participates in the Redlands Y Circus and enjoys reading. She is also a part of the Redlands CCL Chapter and the Redlands ANCA group. She has joined AAUW because she thinks it is a great way to give back to the STEM Conference, which she attended in eighth grade.

Karen Parker-Parent BA from University of Redlands and JD from University of La Verne College of Law.

Karen has recently retired and is doing a lot of international traveling and in-country camping and traveling. She is a retired deputy district attorney from San Bernardino County and a former news reporter from The Sun and KESQ TV in Palm Springs.

Julie Patton BSN from Andrews University.

Julie would like to extend big thanks to Joyce Heitmeier for encouraging her to consider AAUW! Julie is a long-time resident of Redlands (1977). She recently retired after a long career in nursing, most of it as a manager in the fields of obstetrics and most recently mental health. She has been married for over 40 years to Dr. William Patton, MD, a retired professor and infertility specialist at Loma Linda. She is looking at AAUW as a means to broaden her social and intellectual network, and of course to make new friends!

Veronica Phillips MS from Chapman University.

Nancy Rogers BA from UC Santa Barbara and MA from Azusa Pacific.

Nancy is a retired educator. She taught all grades, K-6th and trained student teachers for University of Redlands, K-High School. She volunteers in Redlands and is a past docent at Kimberly Crest. Nancy is presently working with Adult Literacy at Smiley Library and has been doing this for the past ten plus years.

Tricia Rogers BS from Cal Poly Pomona.

Jennie Ruvalcaba MA from University of Redlands.

Laurie Smith BA from Minnesota State University, MSW from University of Minnesota and PhD from UCLA.

NCCWSL 2024

Coming May/June 2024 in the DC Metro Area

The mission of AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is to foster a moment that ignites a powerful movement. Year after year, our conference brings together hundreds of college women from across the nation for an immersive multi-day experience of leadership training, inspiration, and networking.

Grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for NCCWSL Scholarships



National Conference for
College Women Student Leaders

The Redlands Branch of AAUW is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to send two additional women from our college and university partnership institutions to NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). We currently fund two students for this conference. Since the College and University Partnership Committee has increased the number of our partner institutions, we sought other funding sources to send additional women.

The NCCWSL conference is a career and life-altering experience for the participating young women. Advancing women in leadership and promoting economic equity are two of the primary missions of AAUW. By preparing young women to serve as leaders in their community, they are afforded not just a voice but a sense of empowerment that can provide more employment opportunities. The Inland Empire can benefit from the leadership skills of these young women.

We are thrilled that San Manuel is committed to building a better future and has provided us with funding to send more students to the leadership conference in 2024.

~Susan Bangasser and Pam Ford, C/U Chairs



Welcome New members

Elizabeth Sopko BS from The Ohio State University.

Simone St. Pierre Nelson Working on her BA from University of Redlands.

Simone is currently a junior at the University of Redlands, majoring in Economics and Political Science. Her areas of interest include international politics, journalistic ethics, youth media production, and creating a more equitable, just, and honest society. Simone is a member of the Paulsen Interdisciplinary Honor Society and has made the Dean's List every year of her enrollment at the university. She is very excited to join this community of intelligent, thoughtful and positive women.

Heidi Taber Post-Master's at Grand Canyon University.

Heidi is a Redlands resident, participating in REDFOSA and providing new teacher supervision and support for students earning their student teacher hours from the University of Redlands MA program.

Valerie (she/her) Taber MA from University of Redlands.

Valerie is interested in AAUW for community involvement and connection. She is running for Redlands School Board of Education, Trustee Area 5 in 2024. She is currently a full-time licensed therapist, working primarily with children and families, and in her spare time she enjoys singing in a local community choir, spending family time with her family and her four-year old child, and engaging in various arts and crafts. She is happy to be in our Branch.

Samantha Trad BA from University of Redlands and MA from Charles University, Czechia.

Samantha grew up in Redlands and attended the University of Redlands. After graduating with her BA in 2004, she left Redlands for 12 years and lived in Prague for six years, where she earned her Master's. She also lived in Phoenix for six years. In 2017, she moved back to Redlands to raise her two children who are now 10 and 14, and to live closer to her parents. She has long loved and valued AAUW and is very excited to become a member again.

Darlene Tybor BS from North Illinois University and BA from University of South Florida.

Darlene is from the Chicago area. She has lived in the Inland Empire for 12 years and also has a home in

Calling all STEMInists!

The STEM Conferences and Tech Trek will be here before you know it, and we need your help. Each year, funds are raised in two ways:

Private donations – If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in supporting our students, please visit our website (redlands-ca.aauw.net) and look for the Adopt a STEM Girl Today donation button. All donations are tax deductible.

Grants and Business Support – We also receive grant support from local foundations and businesses. If you know of an organization or employer who might be interested in supporting out STEM Initiatives, please reach out to one of us. Thank you!

~Meena Spangrud & Kate Pretorius



Membership Renewal Administrator

We are looking for a member to help with our membership renewal process. This is a role that you can easily work into your schedule since, after you're trained, you don'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 by email, text, mail or phone to inform and assist members in the renewal process.

Most of our members renew in June, so May – July are our busiest months. But it quickly tapers down to ongoing maintenance for the remainder of the year. Amy Bisek, Kay Dobbertin and Ellen Cope will 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 or help with this important but easy process, please contact Amy Bisek.

Welcome New members

Darlene Tybor *continued*

Houston. She loves entertaining, animals and reading. She is married and her husband is the Dean of Pharmacy and Allied Health at Texas Southern University.

Malia Ullrich *Currently at Crafton Hills College.*

Evelyn Vazquez *BA from Cal Poly Pomona and MA from University of Redlands.*

Evelyn lives in Redlands and has lived here for four years. She teaches 8th Grade History in San Bernardino City Unified School District. She has an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Cal Poly, Pomona and a Master's degree in Learning and Teaching from the University of Redlands. Her interests are in politics, diversity and inclusion, and expanding racial justice.

Elaine Weller *BSRN from University of California San Francisco.*

Elaine has just moved to Beaumont from Wrightwood. She loves classical music, swimming and books.

Quilt Auction for Scholarship

The auction continues this month for the beautiful friendship star AAUW Redlands quilt, titled, "The Starring Role of Friendship." This quilt measures 69" x 78" and has a stunning color palette of red, black, gray, and white. It was sewn by your friends in the Sew What Interest Group.



Interested persons may submit a bid to Ann Leonard. The proceeds benefit the Nancy Yowell Scholarship.

The Sew What Quilting Interest Group made this quilt to represent:

1. Our personal sisterhood friendships
2. Our special relationships with the young scholars that we support in our local community colleges.

The quilt symbolizes our AAUW goal of advancing equity for women and girls through education. each star stands for the close bond that forms when one woman helps lift another.

~Lisa McCarty

From AAUW California

...be inspired by watching [videos](#) of our very own California AAUW Fund fellows and grant recipients discussing the innovative work our contributions helped sponsor.

AAUW 2023 Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients



We're going virtual!

34 inspiring California fellow and grant recipients are studying in California this year and are available to share nuggets of their fascinating studies. Watch the short video introduction by each fellow and grant recipient and see what, and who, your AAUW Fund dollars support. Learn about race and gender in U.S. Immigration Policy, gender policy making, Architecture + Advocacy, and other topics.

SCHOLARS AND DOLLARS!

Our AAUW California Fund donations through September are \$201,940 statewide.



AAUW California Scorecard for the 2023 California Legislative Session

So how did AAUW California's priority legislation fare? Pretty well, overall!

Of our 40 pieces of priority legislation, 19 were signed into law, 3 were vetoed, and 18 were transitioned into two-year bills (meaning they will be raised again in 2024).

Twenty-two pieces of our priority legislation made it to the governor's desk. With 19 out of those 22 pieces of legislation signed into law, we achieved an 86.3% success rate.

One of our highest priority level bills (level A), which we co-sponsored, was signed into law: AB 1394. This bill seeks to help child sex abuse survivors remove their images from social media platforms, holding big tech accountable for design features that knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitate, aid or abet child exploitation.

Hiking Our Hills and Mountains

Finding Respite under the Old Oak Tree

We were excited that five new members, Betsy Laudati, Laurie Smith, Debbie Wilson and her friend Kay, Elizabeth Sopko and Tricia Rogers joined the hiking group on Saturday, October 29, as we hiked from the Crafton Hills Trail on Crafton Hills Campus to the old Oak Tree. The weather was cool and overcast, which made the northwest view different than on clear days, but the contrast was evident on our return when the sun was poking through.

Our next hike is scheduled for Saturday, November 25th. Please come join the fun!

~Kathy Toister



Sitting on the log: Elizabeth Sopko, Tricia Rogers, Jane Weldon, Betsy Laudati (kneeling), Mercedes Gifford, Donita Remington.

Back row: Bo Colson, Pam Ong, Pam Ford (face hidden), Susan Shodahl, Allison Rodriguez (sitting in the tree), Rose Romer (in the swing), Marion Golson, Chris Clautice, Susan Bangasser, Laurie Smith, Sheron Bealer, Kay (friend of Debbie Wilson), Kathy Toister, Debbie Wilson and her happy dog.

Attention to all prospective STEM Conferences volunteers!

Are you interested in lending a hand at the 2024 STEM conferences? Join us for a casual meet-up before the AAUW Branch meeting on Tuesday, December 5th. We will gather in the Casa Loma Room's foyer at 5:00 p.m. During this session, we'll address any queries you may have about the STEM Conference and delve into the different volunteer roles and their associated duties.

~Linda Browning, Patty Ahearn, and Sally Trost

Branch STEM Initiatives on Track for 2024

Pass STEM Conference

The STEM Committee is very excited to return on Thursday, January 11, to Mt. San Jacinto College for the first of our two 2023 STEM conferences. We are pleased to welcome back our enthusiastic cadre of speakers who always inspire and support our 8th grade girls from Banning & Beaumont. Please contact Pam Ford or Theresa Lantz if you would like to volunteer at the Pass STEM conference.



Redlands STEM Conference

The Redlands STEM Conference for 8th Grade Girls, held on the University of Redlands campus, is set to take place on Wednesday, February 28. The committee is still recruiting conference workshop speakers – women whose jobs make use of their education and expertise in STEM subjects. If you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity to inspire young minds, please contact Kathryn Brown or Pam Ford. To volunteer for as a Guide or Host for the Redlands conference, please contact Linda Browning, Patty Ahearn or Sally Trost.



The Tech Trek 2023-2024 program has officially started

What is Tech Trek? *Through hands-on problem solving and encounters with women role models in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), AAUW Tech Trek helps girls see their futures while having non-stop fun.*

Tech Trek CA had its official kickoff meeting for all the branches mid-November. We are pleased to announce that both Whittier College and UC San Diego will be hosting on-campus residential Tech Trek camps next summer.

We will continue to have the week-long Virtual Tech Trek Stem camp for campers who are more comfortable working from home.

Our branch Tech Trek Committee met for a pre-planning session, late October, and we are busy preparing marketing materials for the schools and for fundraising. We currently work with one school in each district that we serve: Redlands, Beaumont, Banning & Yucaipa/Calimesa. In January the TechTrek team will move forward with plans to review applications and interview 7th Grade girls for placement at the week-long AAUW CA sponsored 2024 residential summer camps. Our goal for this year is to be able to send 12 girls to camp from the four schools. How many girls are accepted depends on the number of reservations AAUW Redlands is allocated and fundraising. The cost for the weeklong camp is about \$1,100 per camper. Donations can be specified for Tech Trek or STEM Initiatives, which support both Conferences and Tech Trek. If you are a member of a club or organization you think might be interested in donating and would like additional information, please contact Denise Westcott or Theresa Lantz.



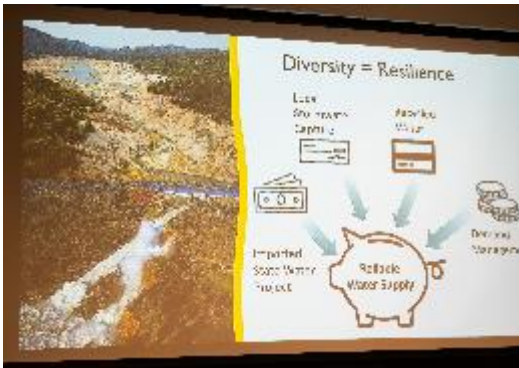
November Branch Meeting



Heather Dyer, CEO/General
Manager of San Bernardino
Valley Municipal Water District



November birthdays:
Marilyn Shankar, Suzanne Cranston,
Donita Remington, Heidi Taber, Meena Sprangrud



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

Branches and Twigs
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Thank you!

*Deborah
Seibly
for the photos*

