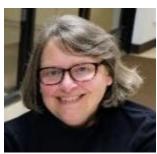
Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW March 2024 http://redlands-ca.aauw.net Issue 8, 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



This year, AAUW Redlands Branch has a record number of new members and lots of exciting things happening. As a member of AAUW Redlands Branch, you are also a member of AAUW, the national organization to which our branch is affiliated. AAUW leadership has proposed a significant change to the membership rules. All of us will be asked to weigh in with our votes on this proposal. You can find the details on this proposed change at the following link: 2024 Proposed Bylaws

Changes

In short, the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee recommend that membership in AAUW be available to **any** individual who supports AAUW's important mission: advancing equity for women and girls.

All points of view on this amendment are valid, and I hope you will discuss your point of view with other members of the branch in a constructive and collegial manner. I will share with you my thoughts on this.

AAUW, which stand for American Association of University Women was founded by several women who struggled to access higher education. ~continued on page 4



March Branch Meeting:

"A Life Journey in Golf: My Path in a Male-Centric Sport"

Gina Umeck is a Redlands native with over 30 years of experience in golf. She grew her game under the watchful eyes of many teachers, including Tim Miskell, Susie Berning, Dave Stockton. This led her to a National Championship at UCLA and then a 5-year journey on the Symetra Tour, highlighted by participation in the U.S. Women's Open.

She has since coached collegiately for 12 years at the Division 1

level and launched a golf instruction business. Her belief that "confidence can be created and grown within oneself" has been the main focus of her college coaching philosophies.

Gina is a Director of Instruction at the Wilshire Country Club. Golf Digest awarded Gina the '21 Best Young Teacher and the 2024 Best in California. Gina is multilingual in English, Korean and Spanish. She credits her darling parents for the opportunities she has had over the years. Her favorite athlete is Secretariat. In her spare time, Gina enjoys hiking, discovering new restaurants, and cats (even if they aren't hers).

~Mary Lou Guerrero

STEM Conference: February 28



There is still time to volunteer to be a GUIDE or a HOST.

Contact: Linda Browning 909-213-7039 <u>Lreneb@me.com</u>

March Meeting

When Tuesday, March 5, 2024 Social 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Program Where

University of Redlands CASA LOMA Room

6:45 p.m.

Menu

Classic Caesar Salad, Honey and Brown Sugar Ham, Fresh Herbed Vegetable, Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Rolls & Butter, Carrot Cake, coffee/tea

Cost Members and guests: \$30

Registration for dinner:

Please call 909-362-4955 or email

AAUWrsvp@AAUWR edlands.org by

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, to make a dinner reservation. After February 20 dinner reservations will be made 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 invited to attend the speaker portion of the meeting free of charge. Chairs will be available.

Branch Meetings 2023-2024

Saturday, April 13, Tuesday, May 7 Saturday, June 1

| | | | | March 2024 | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Mon | Tues | Wed | | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1pm Great Dec #1 | *8:30am <u>Fundraising</u> ** 5:30 pm Branch Mtg. | 7pm Great Dec #1 | | 7pm DEI | | *9am Community Day of Service **2pm Adult Literacy |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| *1pm Great Dec #2 **1pm Sew What! ***6:30pm Board Mtg. | | 7pm Gr | eat Dec #2 | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| *1pm Great Dec #3 **1pm Bridge | 8:30am Fundraising | *9am CHAT **12pm I Am, There- fore I Think ***7pm Great Dec #3 | | *10am Bridge <u>Fundraiser</u> **7pm Racial Justice | | *8:30am Hiking **9am STEM Meeting |
| 25 | 26 | *1pm Bunco **7pm Great Dec #4 | | 28 | Save the Dates April 2-3 Lobby Days Fri. April 19 FilmFest Sat. April 27 AAUW CA Annual Event | |
| *1pm Great Dec #4 **1pm Sew What! | *7pm Public Policy | | | *1pm, 4pm & 7pm Reading & the Rainbow | | |
| | 11 *1pm Great Dec #1 11 *1pm Great Dec #2 **1pm Sew What! ***6:30pm Board Mtg. 18 *1pm Great Dec #3 **1pm Bridge 25 *1pm Great Dec #4 | 4 5 *8:30am Fundraising **5:30 pm Branch Mtg. 11 *1pm Great Dec #2 **1pm Sew What! ***6:30pm Board Mtg. 18 *1pm Great Dec #3 **1pm Bridge 25 *1pm Great Dec #4 *7pm Public | 4 5 *8:30am Fundraising **5:30 pm Branch Mtg. 11 *1pm Great Dec #2 **1pm Sew What! ***6:30pm Board Mtg. 18 19 20 *9am C **12pm Great Dec #3 **1pm Bridge 25 26 *1pm Great Dec #4 *7pm Public *1pm B | 4 5 1pm Great Dec #1 1pm Great Dec #1 11 12 13 13 14 1pm Great Dec #2 15 18 19 20 18 19 20 19 20 19 20 19 20 20 29 20 29 20 29 20 29 20 29 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 | Mon Tues Wed Thu 4 5 *8:30am 7pm Great Dec #1 7pm Great Dec #1 7pm DEI 11 *5:30 pm Branch Mtg. 12 13 14 *1pm Great Dec #2 **1pm Sew What! ***6:30pm Board Mtg. 7pm Great Dec #2 21 *1pm Great Dec #3 **1pm Bridge 8:30am Fundraising **12pm I Am, Therefore I Think ***12pm I Am, Therefore I Think ***12pm I Am, Therefore I Think ***7pm Great Dec #3 **10am Bridge Fundraiser **7pm Racial Justice 25 26 27 28 **1pm Great Dec #4 ***1pm Sew What! **7pm Public Policy **1pm Bunco **7pm Great Dec #4 **1pm, 4pm & 7pm Reading & 7pm | Mon Tues Wed Thu Fri 4 5 *8:30am Fundraising **5:30 pm Branch Mtg. 6 7pm Great Dec #1 7pm DEI 11 12 13 14 15 *1pm Great Dec #2 ***1pm Sew What! ***6:30pm Board Mtg. 19 8:30am Fundraising 20 *9am CHAT ***12pm I Am, Therefore I Think ***7pm Great Dec #3 *10am Bridge Fundraiser **7pm Racial Justice 22 *1pm Great Dec #3 **1pm Great Dec #4 28 **1pm Great Dec #4 Save **7pm Reading & **7pm Reading & **1pm Sew What! ***1pm Sew What! *7pm Public Policy *1pm Bunco **7pm Great Dec #4 *1pm, 4pm & 7pm Reading & **7pm Reading & |

AAUW Redlands Board Meeting

3/11 6:30 pm Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Ave, Redlands and remotely on teams.

~Heather Abushanab 909-565-0655 <u>heatherabu@aauwredlands.org</u> ~Marilyn Shankar 909-771-8176 <u>marilynshankar@gmail.com</u>

Adult Literacy- "Harvest Dreams" (article on page 9)

3/9 Contemporary Club, 173 S. Eureka St., Redlands. 1:30pm Doors open, 2pm program

Bridge Fundraiser (article on page 6)

3/21 10am

~Linda Rowland BridgeScramble@AAUWRedlands.org

Bridge Groups

3rd Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm,

~Contact coordinator Dorothy Nordquist 909-862-6666

d.nordquist@att.net

Bunko

3/27 1pm

~Patty Ahearn 909-435-5906 patty.rtdtm45@gmail.com ~Lori Powell 909-801-1582 lori.powell4@gmail.com

California Cuisine and Conversation I

3/3 6pm ~Kathy Toister bktoister@aol.com

California Cuisine and Conversation 2

3/17 5:30pm

~Patty Ahearn 909-435-5906 patty.rtdtm45@gmail.com

CHAT meeting

3/20 9am Assembly Room AK Smiley PL

~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org

Community Day of Service (article on page 4)

3/9 9am

~Eileen Sanborn 909-900-7154, Eileensanborn206@verizon.net

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice

3/7 DEI 7pm Zoom

3/21 7pm Racial Justice Zoom

~Ellen Gruenbaum 765-586-8993 <u>egruenbaum@icloud.com</u> ~Erica Wilson 909-797-7938 <u>drericar@outlook.com</u> ~Donita Remington 909-856-7955 <u>donitaremington@@gmail.com</u>

Fundraising Committee

3/5 & 3/19 (every other Tuesday) 8:30am on Teams ~Heather Abushanab 909-565-0655 heatherabu@aauwredlands.org

Great Decisions

Mondays @ 1pm ~Sue Wallace, 909-522-7894 <u>wallteach@aol.com</u> Wednesdays @ 7pm ~Sue Ferguson 951-312-4904 sueferguson026@gmail.com

Hiking Our Hills & Mountains

3/23 8:30am Contact Kathy to be added to distribution list.

~Kathy Toister bktoister@aol.com

I Am. Therefore I Think

3/20 "Book Banning" facilitator: Erica Wilson Meets 12 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4th Street, Redlands ~Barbara Simmons 909-435-6117 barbarasimmons711@gmail.com ~Margee Fuller 909-648-3074_sfuller12 @gmail.com

Public Policy

3/26 7pm ~ Cassie MacDuff 909-798-6167

cassiemac1@verizon.net

Reading and the Rainbow

3/28 The Diamond Eye Kate Quinn

1pm host: Dolly Israelitt *1548 Hanford Rd, Redlands 714-732-0557* 4pm: Self facilitated session. Zoom link sent near meeting date 7pm host: Amber Costa *27 Maria Ct, Redlands 909-435-9312 Reservations* are not required.

calendar continued on page 3



Condolences

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

Welcome New members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to our branch.

Susan Burnett

Gonzaga University, Bachelor's degree and Master's degree

Susan has lived in Southern California since September 20, 2020, and in Riverside since June 2022. She formerly lived in Northern California, in Oakland and Walnut Creek.

Margo Klein

Monmouth University, Bachelor's degree

Margo is a retired CPA, and a long-time member of AAUW. Originally from New Jersey, Margo lived in Florida for several years before moving to Redlands with her husband in 2023. Margo and her husband moved to Redlands to be close to one of their daughters who lives here in Redlands. They also have another daughter still living in Florida. Margo is interested in several of the Redlands Branch activities, and has already volunteered to help at the upcoming STEM Conference.

Kari Lynn Scott

Crafton Hills College, Associate of Arts degree – current student

Kari has been a resident of Yucaipa for over twenty years. She is the parent of two wonderful boys. Some of Kari's hobbies include painting, photography, and research. Kari is interested in the mission of AAUW, advancing equity for women and girls through education, empowerment and advocacy, which she believes is of the utmost importance. Kari will continue her pursuit of becoming a MFT (Marriage and Family Therapist) and looks forward to seeing the advocacy for public policy changes to drive gender equity.

calendar continued from page 2

Reading and the Rainbow continued

~Valarie Boone 678-665-9315_valarieboomcm@gmail.com ~Patricia Stubbs 909-289-9183 patriciastubbs@yahoo.com ~Ellen Timothy 909-363-5214_eltimothy@gmail.com

AAUW Redlands STEM Initiatives

Redlands STEM Committee Meetings:

3/23 9am committee meeting at Kathryn Brown's home

~Kathryn Brown 510-220-1876 attykbrown @gmail.com

~Pam Ford 909-730-4212 pamjford @msn.com

Tech Trek

~Denise Westcott 909-633-3694 <u>denisewestcott6@gmail.com</u> ~Theresa Lantz 909-677-7731 <u>thrsIntz@aol.com</u>

Sew What!

3/11 & 3/25 1pm

~Lisa McCarty 909-725-1089 lamccarty@verizon.net

Hospitality Birthday Club

Happy Birthday to all our March birthday ladies. Please be sure to join us at the branch meeting, so we can wish you a very happy birthday



Jane Davis
Mackenzie Dawes
Cynthia De Los Santos
Pam Ford
Margi Galligan
Betsy Grimes
Ellen Gruenbaum
Carol Kennedy

Debbie LeDoux Josephine Mayer Jan Negron Rita Reading Ellen Schollenberger Linda Serros Laura-Lea Shelton Maria Whitaker-Saucedo

Hospitality Corner



Dear Members,

If you know of anyone in our organization going through a difficult time and would benefit from a sympathy or "thinking of

you" message, please let me know and I will be happy to send out an appropriate greeting card on behalf of AAUW.

~Joyce Katkov, Co-Hospitality Vice President

President's Corner, Heather Abushanab ~continued page 1

They wanted to band together with other educated women to support each other in their careers and to help break down barriers, so that more women could access higher education. Much of AAUW's work is still directed at making sure that individual women can get the education they want and deserve. But it isn't just American university educated women who are interested in this struggle.

In 1919, AAUW recognized non-american Marie Curie's educational excellence and important research by banding together to purchase a gram of radium for her experiments. Today, we have many members of our branch who were educated overseas and are contributing as either non-americans or naturalized americans. Later, AAUW recognized that you do not need to be female to work towards equity for women. Although AAUW still lists a majority of women members, men have been allowed to be members since 1987. These male members make great allies in our fight to advance equity for women. Although most of our members do have bachelor's degrees from a university, we all know that those with associate degrees and our student members are also valued members of AAUW. Since 2005, those with associate degrees from two-year colleges or community colleges have been welcomed into AAUW membership. The changes which opened AAUW to foreigners, men and those with 2-year degrees did not change the nature of AAUW's commitment to equity for women and girls. I doubt the additional change in membership requirements proposed will fundamentally change the nature of AAUW or the majority make up of our branch.

But we will be able to invite and welcome people in the community that we have not been able to invite before. I think about a former Zonta member, who worked with me on our Lunafest partnership for many years. When Zonta closed, she was a natural fit for AAUW, already committed to our mission and already doing great work in the community. Though she worked for many years as a court recorder and had many years of training to do that job, she did not have a degree. I was embarrassed when I asked her to join AAUW, and she let me know she was not eligible. I think about a friend who worked for Redlands Unified School District for many years. Her final assignment there was coordinating a program that supported foster care children, homeless kids, and other at-risk groups through mentorship. Each year, she let the girls in her program know when our STEM conference was happening and made sure those in 8th grade registered. She is as committed to the AAUW mission as anyone I know, yet I can't recruit her for membership because she went to college for three years, but life intervened and she never earned a degree. No one could call her uneducated, but the degree requirement prevents her from joining.

With these two women in mind, I will be voting in favor of the proposed bylaws changes when voting opens on April 3rd. I hope over the next few weeks, you will engage in conversation with other AAUW members and consider carefully how our organization might change if this

proposal passes.

Heather Abushanab, Co-President AAUW Redlands Branch

AAUW National election: April 3 to May 15

AAUW California election: April 27 to May 18



Join us!

√ote

For the first time, a group of volunteers from our Branch will be participating in the Redlands 15th Annual Community Day of Service. The date is Saturday, March 9, 2024 beginning at 9:00 AM. Our group will be serving at the Orange Blossom Trail location helping landscape the area between Wabash and Dearborn Avenues. A free lunch will be served afterwards by the Redlands Kiwanis Club @

11:30 @ Sylvan Park. Your family members and friends are welcome to attend! To register, and for more information, please log onto www.SERVEREDLANDS.org and select the Orange Blossom Trail project.

We are looking forward to having AAUW Redlands Branch be represented in this yearly project and hope you will join us. Thank you so much! Questions? Contact Eileen Sanborn.

~Eileen Sanborn 909-900-7154 Eileensanborn 206@verizon.net

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2024 Redlands Branch Named Gift Honoree Announced

At our February branch meeting, Susan Bentley was pleased and surprised to learn that she had been chosen to become one of our Redlands Branch Named Gift Honorees for 2024. 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 a branch members to receive this honor. Our branch strives to honor three women each year, requiring us to donate \$2,250 or more each year.

Our other two Named Gift Honorees will be announced at future branch meeting.

Kathryn Brown described the background, achievement, and service to AAUW Redlands of the honoree before introducing Susan by name. Marilyn Shankar presented Susan with an orchid, NGH Certificate, and pin.

AAUW Community Engagement

Sharing Our Mission

Our AAUW
Redlands branch
was one of eight
exclusive partners
invited to participate
in the Redlands
Contemporary
Club's 130th Year



Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, January 27. Special thanks to Amy Bisek, Kathryn Brown and Marilyn Shankar who staffed our information table. They enlightened attendees about how we bring our mission to life, answered questions, and encouraged participation in our branch. Every time we share our story, we build interest in our common goals and foster change through our volunteer efforts. Keep up the good work promoting our cause of advancing equity for women and girls in our community!

AAUW California Speech Trek

Speech Trek

On Thursday, January 11 our 2024 AAUW Speech Trek contest took place. It was held at the First United Methodist Church in Redlands.

Speech Trek The third place winner, Jacob Shahatit, is from Citrus Valley High School and received \$100. The second place winner, Pasha Raoufi, is from Redlands High School and received \$200. The first place winner, Katelyn Marcellini, is from Redlands High School and received \$300.



Katelyn will present her speech at our AAUW March 5th branch meeting. The Speech Trek topic was, "How can we ensure a robust public-school curriculum that is accessible to all and teaches historically accurate information?"

Our branch winner's video will be submitted to the AAUW CA Speech Trek selection committee. If Katelyn is one of the top three contestants selected by the committee, she will be invited to present her speech and compete at the AAUW CA Convention on April 27th.

~Patty Ahearn Speech Trek Chair Elizabeth Sopko Speech Trek Co-Chair

AAUW Fund and Legal Advocacy



Thank You to all who contributed to the AAUW Fund and the Legal Advocacy. Your donations are greatly appreciated for the advancement of women and girls.

~Mary Lou Guerrero and Susan Bentley, AAUW Fund ~Deborah Seibly, Legal Advocacy Fund

Bridge Scramble Fundraiser



There is still time to register for our Bridge Scramble on Thursday March 21st. Cost per player is \$50 and includes a day of bridge, a luncheon and prizes. A registration form with details for the event is attached. You may drop off your registration form at the branch

meeting along with your payment, or you can mail your registration form to the address on the form along with your payment. Additional information can be found on our webpage: AAUW Redlands Branch Bridge Scramble

Help Us Raise Raffle Funds with Your Unwanted Gift Certificates and More!



If you attended Lunafest last year, you saw the amazing Gift Certificate Opportunity Basket we used to encourage attendees to buy raffle tickets. It included over \$350 in gift certificates to local and national restaurants, art galleries and gardens, coffee shops and cinemas.

We'd like to create similar Opportunity Baskets for our inaugural AAUW Redlands FilmFest! Do you have any gift certificates to donate to our FilmFest fundraising efforts? We'll package them up beautifully and maybe even have enough to create multiple baskets! Please donate your gift certificates to this great cause by contacting Amy Bisek.

Or would you and your AAUW friends like to create a FilmFest Opportunity Basket? A "Relax and Rejuvenate" basket or an "Italian Gourmet" basket? We can help you come up with some great ideas.

If so, just let Amy Bisek know at amy.bisek@gmail.com or 952-261-9908. All raffle sales will go toward our Mission Funds.

Nominees for Elected Office

Elections will be held in April.

President: 2024-2025 Heather Abushanab

President Elect: 2024-2025 Amy Bisek Membership VP: 2024-2026 Jan Negron Secretary: 2024-2026 Nan Neighbours

At-Large: 2023-2024 Twillea Evans-Carthen

At-Large: 2023-2024 Lisa McCarty At-Large: 2023-2024 Ellen Timothy

Nominating Committee:

2024-2026: Marilyn Shankar, Chair, Kathryn Brown,

Margee Fuller, Barbara Simmons

2023-2025 Ginny Evans-Perry, Martha Lehman,

Dorothy Nordquist

~2023-2024 Nominating Committee
Patricia Stubbs, Chair
Ginny Evans-Perry, Mary Lou
Guerrero, Nerni Miller, Dorothy
Nordquist, Martha Lehman, Kathy Warren



Tickets are now on sale for FilmFest, which takes place on Friday April 19th. This event features short films made by women for the enjoyment of all. You may purchase tickets at the March or April Branch meeting or through Eventbrite for a small fee. The evening begins with a reception featuring hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and dessert in the lovely Esri Café. When we move to the beautiful Esri Auditorium to view a series of short films chosen especially for your viewing pleasure.

5:45pm Reception in the Esri Cafe 7pm Screening in the Esri Auditorium

Cost for the event is \$50.

Know someone who might like to be a sponsor of FilmFest? Sponsorship information is on our website at AAUW Redlands Branch FilmFest

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Redlands
STEM
Conference
Committee
thanks our
wonderful
Saturday,
February 3rd
volunteers.











Thank you to the volunteers who assembled 608 student conference packets on Saturday, February 17











Packet Chairs: Ellen Cope, Susan Shodahl, Rosemary Conway





AAUW Community Engagement

AAUW Candidate Forum

Your Public Policy Committee held a candidate forum for the Third District of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 25, 2024 at the University of Redlands.

Many AAUW Redlands members were among the 60 people who attended to hear candidates for county supervisor answer questions from a panel of experts including University of Redlands Political Science Professor Renee Van Vechten, U of R Professor Emerita of Economics Dorene Isenburg and former Press-Enterprise columnist and AAUW Public Policy chair Cassie MacDuff.

Branch Co-President Marilyn Shankar greeted the audience. Past President Patty Ahearn and Linda Browning were the timers. Members Twillea Evans-Carthen, Kay Dobbertin, Kathryn Brown, Patricia Stubbs and Eileen Sanborn provided valued assistance.

All four candidates were invited. Unfortunately the incumbent, Dawn Rowe, had a prior commitment, as did candidate Robert Block.

Candidates Chris Carrillo and Graham Smith attended and spoke about the county's failures in its response to last year's winter storms, as well as issues related to land use and the economy of our fast-growing Inland Empire region.

The forum was deliberately scheduled before early voting began on Feb. 5 for the March 5 primary. The supervisorial race was selected for this forum because it could be decided in the primary if any candidate gets 50% of the vote plus at least one vote.

The committee is grateful to the University of Redlands for providing use of the Casa Loma Room and staff assistance for the public event.

~Cassie MacDuff AAUW Redlands Public Policy Committee chair



Van Vechten chats with audience members after the forum.



The panel (University of Redlands economics professor emerita Dorene Isenberg, AAUW Redlands Public Policy Committee chair Cassie MacDuff and U of R political science professor Renee Van Vechten) ask questions of the candidates.



AAUW Redlands members Susan Leonard, Susan Bangasser and Co-president Marilyn Shankar (l-r) intently watch the candidates answer questions from the panel.



Candidates Graham Smith (1) and Chris Carrillo (r) answer questions from the moderators.



TECH TREK 2024 is Off to a Good Start

The CA Tech Trek application period started mid-January and our Branch Tech Tek Team was ready to go. We had already contacted each of our 4 schools and started working with the counselors and teachers to get their nominations in. We received 25 nominations in total. Our Branch was approved to select 14 girls to camp again this year. We hope to be able to send 6 girls



to Whittier College, 6 girls to UCSD and 2 girls to Virtual camp. All the girls and their parents received our email letters congratulating the family and inviting them to register and start their applications using our online program CampDoc. By the 5th of February, 10 of the nominees had already registered in CampDoc and started their applications.

February will be busy with the girls working on their essays and our branch Tech Trek Team tracking the girls progress and providing help if needed so that all the applications are done by the March 1 deadline. In March our Tech Trek Team will be reviewing the essays, interviewing each of the girls and then make the final difficult decision of selecting the scholarship winners and the alternates which we do as a team.

Our STEM Tech Trek program will have a few of last year's Tech Trek alumni joining our April branch meeting. You will get a chance to meet them and they will share a few special moments of their experience at camp. We will show our Tech Trek Camp Experience short video. We hope that you will continue to support this AAUW STEM program with your donations. If you won't be able to attend you can always mail your donations payable to AAUW STEM Initiatives, PO BOX 7678, Redlands, CA 92375-0678 with a note for Tech Trek.

~Denise Westcott, AAUW Redlands, Tech Trek Coordinator

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions Interest Groups

The Great Decisions discussion groups will begin meeting the first week of March. The afternoon session will meet on Monday afternoon, March 4 at 1 pm. The evening group will meet on Wednesday evening, March 6 at 7 pm. Each group will meet for 8 consecutive weeks starting on those dates.

Mondays @ 1pm ~Sue Wallace 909-522-7894 wallteach@aol.com Wednesdays @ 7pm ~Sue Ferguson 951-312-4904 sueferguson026@gmail.com

Redlands Adult Literacy Program

On Saturday, March 9th, meet author Erica Alfaro who will speak about her book, *Harvesting Dreams*, at the Contemporary Club, located at 173 S. Eureka St, Redlands. The Redlands Adult Literacy Program has selected *Harvesting Dreams* as its 2024 Community Read Book. Erica Alfaro is an award-winning author, educational advocate, and international keynote speaker, who received global recognition when her college graduation pictures went viral and made headlines worldwide. Her story has been featured in major media outlets such as CNN, The Huffington Post, and Yahoo News. Erica received letters of recognition from the United States Assembly, Congress, Senate, and Vice President Kamala Harris. She has received multiple Latina and business leadership awards, including Constituent of the Month by the House of Representatives and 40 under 40 by Business Street. Erica's book *Harvesting Dreams* won the International Latino Book Award and the 7th Latino "Book into Movies" award.



Harvesting Dreams describes Erica's story of how she overcame adversity, including domestic violence, and achieved her goals through education. Copies of Harvesting Dreams can be checked out at A. K. Smiley Public Library. Copies will be available for sale at the March 9th event.

The Contemporary Club doors will open at 1:30 PM on March 9th. This community event is FREE. Please invite family and friends to join you to hear Erica's remarkable story. If you have any questions, please send an email or give the adult literacy staff a call at 909.798.7565, ext. 4138. Thank you for your continued support of the Redlands Adult Literacy Program.

Katherine Gifford and Diane Shimota

Everyone is welcome to join the hikes

This energized group of older members, younger members, new members, and friends of members enjoyed a fantastic hike in January on the Saha'Tapa Loop Trail behind Gateway Ranch. It was steep going in places but the view of the gorgeous mountains made it worth it.

Everyone is welcome to join the hikes, which usually takes place on the fourth Saturday. If you are not already on the email list for hiking and would like to join the fun, contact Kathy Toister.



Toister bktoister@aol.com

Photographer: Jose Ruvalcaba Standing left to right: Kyra Ruvalcaba, Rose Romer, Susan Bangasser, Barry (Karen Watkin's brother), Ellen Weiss, Maria Rossi, Jane Weldon, Tricia Rogers, Lori Powell, Pam Ford, Karen Watkins, Kim Cousins, Jeanne Ruvalcaba, Donita Remington, Bob Toister, Susan Shodahl, Kathy Toister,

Down in front: Marianne Baldwin, Alison Rodriguez



Discounts & Perks

https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/whyjoin/discounts-and-perks/

Office Depot, UPS and more.....







February Branch Meeting













Shelli Stockton presents the Redlands Community Foundation's donation for STEM Initiates to Kathryn Brown, STEM Committee Co-Chair.

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Our February birthdays: Debra Fields Nan Neighbours, Renae Reiswig, Nelda Stuck, Kay Dobbertin, and Denise Westcott



February Branch Meeting

Our August birthdays: Peggi Cook, Susan Shodahl, Marion Golson, Joyce Heitmeier, Gail Anderson, Martha Lehman, Susan Willis, and Krista Moreno

Legal Advocacy Chair Deborah Seibly



AAUW Fund Fellowship Speaker Madelene Javier Dailey



AAUW Fund Co-Chair Mary Lou Guerrero











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

Branches and Twigs Issue 8 March 2024

Follow Us on Social Media!

Redlands (CA) Branch Are you on social media platforms? So are we! Help us get broader exposure for our mission, fundraisers, scholarship opportunities, STEM activities, and community action projects by following us, reacting to our posts, and resharing our posts with your followers.



Here's where to find us:

Facebook: @aauwredlandsInstagram: @aauw_redlandsLinkedIn: @aauw_redlands



International Women's Day (IWD) is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 as a focal point in the women's rights movement. IWD gives focus to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. Spurred on by the universal female suffrage movement, IWD originated from labor movements in North America and Europe during the early 20th century. Wikipedia

https://www.internationalwomensday.com/

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