

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
April 2024

<http://redlands-ca.aauw.net>
Issue 9, 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, Marilyn Shankar

Another successful STEM Conference for 8th grade girls at University of Redlands is in the books! Special thanks to Co-Chairs Pam Ford and Kathryn Brown, their committee and the all the volunteers that helped the day of the event. And the weather was wonderful – the best day of that week.

By the time you receive this our Bridge Scramble will be over and thoughts on how to improve things for next year will be under discussion. Thanks to Louise Schumann and Linda Rowland for the expertise in spearheading this event. And to Kathryn Brown, Mary Lou Guerrero and Susan Bentley for organizing a delicious lunch.

Please take time to vote on National's proposed bylaw changes. I found the best way to get information was to simply goggle "AAUW proposed bylaw changes 2024".

There are a few pages of Frequently Asked Questions that explain things very clearly. Voting will be online from April 3 to May 15.

~continued on page 3

April Branch Meeting

Rachel Tolber - Chief of Police - Redlands Police Department

Redlands Police Chief Rachel Tobler will speak on "Positive Impacts of Women in Law Enforcement" at the April 13 Branch meeting. Chief Tolber will give an update on the Redlands department as a whole, report on local community trust-building programs within the department, and address the social, philosophical and practical impacts of increasing numbers of women in law enforcement.

Last year, Rachel Tobler was named Redlands Chief of Police –the first female police chief in the city's history.

She had been serving as interim chief and, prior to that, as a commander for the Special Services Bureau.

Tolber was first hired by the Redlands Police Department as a student research intern in 1977. The following year she became a police officer and has served the department continuously since then in a variety of positions, including patrol officer and supervisor, detective, investigations supervisor, crisis negotiator, field training officer, training manager and professional standards oversight.

Chief Tolber holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology (University of Redlands, 1998); a master's degree in criminology, law and society (U.C. Irvine, 2006); a master's degree in applied criminology (University of Cambridge, 2011) and completed the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Command College (2021).

Chief Tolber's areas of expertise include research on evidence-based policing, re-entry issues, restorative justice, technology, and women in policing.



April Branch Meeting

When

Saturday, April 13, 2024
Social 9:00 a.m.
Brunch 9:30 a.m.
Program 10:15 a.m.

Where

University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu

Orange Cinnamon
French Toast, Maple
Syrup, Butter,
Scrambled Cage-Free
Eggs, Potatoes O'Brien,
Crispy Bacon, Fresh
Seasonal Fruit Tray,
coffee/tea

Cost

Members and guests:
\$25

Registration

Please email
AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org or call 909-362-4955 by Saturday, March 30, 2024, to make a brunch reservation. After March 30th, brunch 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

Tuesday, May 7
Saturday, June 1

**Saturday, March 30 RESERVATION
DEADLINE for April 13 brunch**

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1pm Great Dec #4	2 LOBBY 8:30am Fundraising	3 DAYS <u>*1pm Bridge</u> <u>**7pm Great Dec #5</u>	4 7pm DEI	5	6
7 6pm California Cuisine 1	8 <u>*1pm Great Dec #5</u> <u>**1pm Sew What!</u> <u>***6:30pm Board Mtg</u>	9	10 7pm Great Dec #6	11	12	13 9am Branch Meeting
14	15 <u>*1pm Great Dec #6</u> <u>**1pm Bridge</u>	16 8:30am Fundraising	17 <u>*12pm I Am, Therefore I Think</u> <u>**6pm CHAT</u>	18 7pm Racial Justice	19 FilmFest	20
21 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	22 <u>*1pm Great Dec #7</u> <u>**1pm Sew What!</u>	23 7pm Public Policy	24 1pm Bunco	25 1pm, 4pm & 7pm Reading & the Rainbow	26	27 <u>*8:30am Hiking</u> <u>**9am Virtual AAUW CA Annual Event</u>
28	29 1pm Great Dec #8	30 8:30am Fundraising				

2024 AAUW Annual Event
4/27 9am-noon Virtual. **Registration is required.**
[Click HERE to Register](#)

AAUW Redlands Board Meeting
4/8 6:30 pm Redlands United Church of Christ,
168 Bellevue Ave, Redlands and remotely on teams.
~Heather Abushana
~Marilyn Shank

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

Bunco
4/24 1pm
~Patty Ahearn
~Lori Powell

California Cuisine and Conversation I
4/7 6pm
~Kathy Toister

California Cuisine and Conversation 2
4/21 5:30pm
~Patty Ahearn

CHAT meeting
4/17 6pm Assembly Room AK Smiley PL
~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice
4/4 DEI 7pm Zoom
4/18 7pm Racial Justice Zoom
~Ellen Gruenbaum
~Erica Wilson
~Donita Remington

FilmFest ~ page 3
4/19 Esri Café & Auditorium, 5:45 Reception, 7 pm Screening

Fundraising Committee
4/2, 4/16, 4/30 (every other Tuesday) 8:30am on Teams
~Heather Abushana

Great Decisions
Mondays @ 1pm ~Sue Wallace,
Wednesdays @ 7pm ~Sue Ferguson

Hiking Our Hills & Mountains
4/27 8:30am Contact Kathy to be added to distribution list.
~Kathy Toister

I Am, Therefore I Think
4/17 "Assertive Communication Skills" facilitators: Jenna
Guzman-Lowery & Barbara Simmons Meets 12 pm at Trinity
Episcopal Church Lounge (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4th Street, Redlands
~Barbara Simmons
~Margee Fuller

Public Policy ~ page 7
4/23 7pm
~Cassie MacDuff

Reading and the Rainbow
4/25 *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce.
1:00 pm host: Tricia Stubbs, cohost: Marion Golson, facilitator
Deb Seibly
4:00 pm Zoom link sent later in the month
7:00 pm host: Amy Bisek, cohost: Marianne Baldwin, no current
facilitator.
Reservations are not required
~Valarie Boone
~Patricia Stubbs
~Ellen Timothy

AAUW Redlands STEM Initiatives
Tech Trek ~ page 3
~Denise Westcott
~Theresa Lantz

Sew What!
4/8 & 4/22 1pm
~Lisa McCarty

President's Corner, Marilyn Shankar ~continued page 1

At the April Branch meeting we will hear from a few girls who went to Tech Trek camp last summer. In addition we will get to meet some of the girls who just completed Gov Trek. Redlands Police Chief Rachel Tolber will be our guest speaker. The business part of the meeting includes voting on next year's budget and on the officers for 2024-2025.

Thanks to Tricia Stubbs and her nominating committee who put together the slate of officers for 2024-2025 and thank you to all the ladies who said yes when asked.



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. We

will then 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.

Help Us Raise Raffle Funds with Your Unwanted Gift Certificates and/or a Gift Basket
All raffle sales will go toward our Mission Funds.

~Amy Bisek

Meet Tech Trek Alumni at our APRIL 13th Branch Meeting



Our STEM Tech Trek committee invited a few of last year's Tech Trek alumni to our April 13th ranch meeting. We will show our short 3.5 minute video from one of our camps and the girls will share a few special moments of their experiences.

Tech Trek News

In order to be considered for a sponsorship to Tech Trek, students must first be nominated by their 7th grade math, science, or technology teachers. Of the 24 nominees who were invited to apply for our week-long Tech Trek STEM camps we had 20 completed applications. A great response! Our Tech Trek Team is busy reading and scoring the girls applications and setting up interviews at their school.

16 of those applications are to attend the Tech Trek Residential Camps held at Whittier College or UC San Diego and 4 girls are applying for the Tech Trek Virtual Camp. Redlands Branch has been allotted 12 resident camp slots so we have a difficult decision to only select 12 residential campers and 2 alternates. The cost to sponsor a residential camper is \$1100. Our allotment at the virtual camp is not limited by space, only by funds available. We have budgeted for 2 girls at a cost of \$500 per girl. Also, we would like to offer the girls who are not selected for the residential camp the possibility to go to Virtual Camp.

You can help make this happen. At the April Branch meeting, we will be accepting cash, check and credit card donations for Tech Trek. We hope that you will continue to support this AAUW STEM program. If you won't be able to attend the April meeting, you can mail your donations payable to AAUW STEM Initiatives, PO BOX 7678, Redlands, CA 92375-0678, memo: Tech Trek.

~Denise Westcott, Tech Trek Co-Chair

Tech Trek is a summer camp for middle school girls focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Campers spend one week on a university campus – they live in the dorms, eat in the cafeteria, attend labs and classes, and learn what it might be like to be a college student.

In addition to the seven residential Tech Trek camps, girls can also attend the Tech Trek Virtual Camp. Virtual Tech Trek is the newest week-long camp in AAUW California's STEM offerings. Developed in response to Covid 19 in 2020, the cloud-based camp provides campers remote access to activities, new friends, virtual field trips, and role models to help foster STEM engagement and interest in STEM studies and careers without ever having to leave home (other than to pick up their camp supplies)!

Welcome *New members*

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

Laura Miles

CSU Chico, Bachelor of Arts degree

Smith College, Master of Social Work degree

Laura lives in Redlands. She grew up in San Francisco and lived there until 2012. Laura worked as a Social Worker at the Veterans Hospital in Loma Linda until April 2023, and currently works as a Psychotherapist in the Inland Empire. Laura has two dogs that she loves very much. She is interested in AAUW because she would like to meet like-minded women and participate in issues she is passionate about.

Carolee Taylor

UC Santa Barbara, Bachelor of Arts degree

UC Riverside, Master of Arts degree

Condolences

In sympathy and friendship, we send our condolences to the friends and family of Beverly Cox.



Beverly Cox was a 30-year member of AAUW Redlands. She passed away in December at the age of 89. Beverly was born in

Redlands and graduated from Redlands High School in 1952 and the University of Redlands in 1956. After earning a degree in Library Science from USC, she served as Librarian at the University of California, Riverside until her retirement. From 1999-2007, Beverly was membership treasurer and yearbook coordinator. She was Named Gift Honoree in 1996 for her extensive volunteer work with the organization which included maintaining the Branch scrapbooks for many years.

2024 Redlands Branch Named Gift Honorees Announced

At our March Branch meeting, Sue Ferguson and Cassie MacDuff were pleased and surprised to learn they had been chosen to become two of our three 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 member to receive this honor. Our Branch strives to honor three women each year, requiring us to donate \$2,250 or more each year.

In turn-, Ellen Gruenbaum and Susan Bangasser described the backgrounds, achievements, and service to AAUW Redlands of the honorees before introducing them by name. Marilyn Shankar presented each with an orchid, NGH Certificate, and pin.

March Branch Meeting



Katelyn Marcellini



Speaker:
Gina Umeck



AAUW Community Engagement



On Saturday, March 9, 2024, Redlands Branch AAUW members enjoyed participating in this year's 15th Annual Redlands Community Day of Service. While our crew was small in numbers, we were mighty in service. We registered to work on the Orange Blossom Trail Project, one of four designated areas throughout the city, and quickly accomplished planting everything that needed to be planted. Over 600 volunteers served throughout the community with more than 3,000 plantings, moved an incredible number of rocks, spread gravel, and teamwork celebrated. The Kiwanis Club served 375 grilled hamburgers and 200 hotdogs to those who stayed for lunch at Sylvan Park. It was a beautiful, sunshine-filled day to participate in this yearly event. Although it was the first time for our Branch, it won't be the last! Thank you to Marianne Baldwin, Marie Mitchell, Heidi Taber, Wendy Birchard, Judy Cannon, and Eileen Sanborn for participating in this worthwhile experience.



Elections will be held at April Branch meeting

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President:	2024-2025	Heather Abushanab
Co-President		Amy Bisek &
Elect:	2024-2025	<u>Kathryn Brown*</u>
Membership VP:	2024-2026	Jan Negron
Secretary:	2024-2026	Nan Neighbours
Treasurer:	2023-2024	Sue Ferguson
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, Margee Fuller.

Barbara Simmons, Sally Trost*

2023-2025 Ginny Evans-Perry, Martha Lehman, Dorothy Nordquist

*Note: *indicates change in nominations*

~2023-2024 Nominating Committee

Patricia Stubbs, Chair

Ginny Evans-Perry, Mary Lou Guerrero,

Nerni Miller, Dorothy Nordquist,

Martha Lehman, Kathy Warren



AAUW National election:
April 3 to May 15

AAUW California election:
April 27 to May 18

AAUW California Board of Directors Supports Eliminating the Membership Degree Requirement

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

This April, we will have the opportunity to practice the inclusion that we value by voting to welcome any person who is passionate about equity for women into AAUW, whether they have a degree or not.

AAUW National is proposing a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. On January 20th, the AAUW California Board of Directors unanimously approved a statement of support for the bylaws change.

Throughout the past 143 years, AAUW members never stopped advocating for education while expanding our focus to ensuring policies around maternity leave, reproduction rights, equal pay, and policies against sexual harassment and violence against women. Welcoming those without a degree will not change who we are and what we are working towards- it will enhance our efforts by including anyone who is as passionate as we are about equity for women and girls.

We encourage you to practice the inclusion our founding members worked for and vote "yes"- watch for your ballot in April.

Together in equity, AAUW California State Board

March Branch Meeting



March Birthdays
 Ellen Gruenbaum
 Pam Ford
 Mackenzie Dawes
 Margi Galligan
 Jan Negrón



AAUW Community Engagement

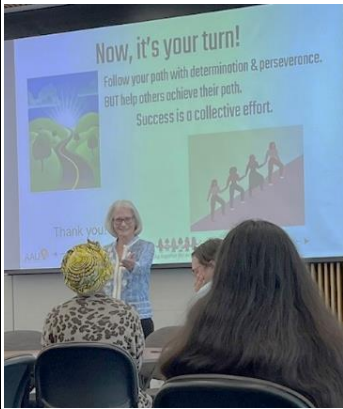
Redlands Adult Literacy Program

CHAT (Conversation Helps Adults Transition) leaders Diane Shimota and Katherine Gifford, along with many other AAUW Redlands members, attended the Adult Literacy Program event featuring Erica Alfaro, the author of the 2024 community read, *Harvesting Dreams*, at the Contemporary Club on March 9.



C/U Partnership

AAUW works with San Bernardino Valley College



Susan Bangasser prepared and presented a program illustrating how the history of AAUW parallels over 100 years of history of women's rights accomplishments to over 40 students and staff at San Bernardino Valley College, a C/U Partner for our Branch.

Susan described the origin of AAUW, some well-known benefactors of AAUW support (e.g. Marie Curie and Aileen Rizo), and several of the quite famous members of AAUW (such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Shirley Chisholm.) She described our mission promoting equity for women and girls and provided links for the students to explore more ways of being active in this mission.

Joanne Hinojosa and Carmen Rodriguez, our C/U Partner reps, are currently recruiting applicants for the NCCWSL scholarship so we distributed brochures for that as well as the QR code leading directly to our Branch website. We also shared our signature swag item with the students: fun-size PayDay bars.

Just an update: by mid-April we will know which students from our partner colleges will be attending NCCWSL at the end of May. If you would like to help read and review applications, let us know!

~Susan Bangasser and Pam Ford

College/University Partnership Committee Co-Chairs



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Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

LOBBY DAYS

April 2-3, 2024

"Thank you very much to everyone who registered to participate in Lobby Days. 161 people have signed up, and 38 of them plan to participate in person."

Public Policy March News attached to newsletter.



Sew What!



AAUW Redlands Branch STEM INITIATIVES

30th Annual STEM Conference Takes Place!

Sunny weather welcomed nearly 600 8th grade girls and school staff (as well as over 150 adult volunteers) as they descended upon the University of Redlands campus on February 28th for our 30th Annual AAUW Redlands STEM Conference—a day designed to whet the students’ interest in learning more about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

The conference started before 9 AM, when busloads of students began to pull up at Memorial Chapel, where some schools took group photos on the steps before entering. After welcoming words from our co-President, Marilyn Shankar, and Dr. Nicol Howard from the University of Redlands, the audience, which included RUSD Superintendent Juan Cabral, listened



while Isis (formerly Amber Jazairi) delivered a mesmerizing Keynote address which had the girls thinking about and yelling out, “Power! Passion! Pursuit! Perseverance!” She has a unique understanding of young people and encourages our 8th graders to be brave and to be strong. She remained on campus throughout the day and chatted with many students during lunch.

Each girl participated in two separate workshops on campus. Among the activities they might have had were crystal-making, working with thin films, making scientific observations of a blob they created, working through crime scenes, and designing cars.

After the two workshops, students were treated to lunch in the Commons, as well as participated in the STEM Fair. The STEM Fair provided an opportunity for the students to sit in a small group with a woman professional to ask about how they got their education, training and what they like about their jobs and careers. We laugh that it is like speed dating, in that the participants change tables every ten minutes so that they have an opportunity to meet three individual professionals.

This year’s conference benefitted from the assistance of several students from Crafton Hills College, some of whom are in their Honors Program. One, Brianna Arellano, came just for the day to be a Guide. Four of the Crafton Hills College students who are current Branch members, attended the conference as 8th graders: Jayleen Martinez, Kyra Ruvalcaba, Malia Ullrich and Zofia Owerkowicz. Rose and Malia served as conference Guides, Zofia served as a STEM Fair Leader, explaining environmental activism, and Kyra was a guide last year, but this year put her tech skills to work helping our speakers with conference-day tech issues.

The eighth graders and school staff came from the Yucaipa-Calimesa Unified School District and Redlands Unified, as well as the public charter schools within each of the districts. We are very grateful to the school staff, the district administrators, and the bus drivers who made this possible.



*Redlands Unified School District:
Deepika Srivastava, STEAM &
Innovation Coordinator, Dr. Ken
Wagner, Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services,
Superintendent Juan Cabral*

We are also grateful to all of the professional women of STEM who share their time and energy and skills with these students. They are so clever and their conversations with the students can be life-changing.

Some quotes from the students' conference evaluations:

"Everything was amazing...I only wish I was there longer."

"Science classes will give you a head start in college."

"The most important message: be yourself, be kind, be proud of yourself and not insecure."

"I'll find my thing if I look hard enough."

"Mistakes can also help us learn."

"This speaker was wonderful! I'm not particularly interested in water, but she made me feel interested and, honestly, empowered."

"The food was delicious...much better than school lunch."

This is an AAUW Redlands Branch project and it involves so many of us! It is wonderful to see so many members and allies out there on campus and in the classrooms during the day of a STEM Conference. WE DID IT! Thank you all!

*~Pam Ford & Kathryn Brown, Co-chairs
Redlands STEM Conference for 8th Grade Girls*

Kenya Amezcu was a Co-Speaker with Gabrielle Duff. In 2011 Kenya attended the STEM conference as an 8th grader.



Gabrielle & Kenya



30th Redlands STEM Conference





Redlands STEM Conference Committee thanks our wonderful volunteers.



Special THANK YOU to Deborah Seibly for Conference photos



**Proposed 2024-2025 AAUW Redlands Branch Budget
is attached to the April 2024 newsletter**



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

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