

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
May 2024

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

Spring is truly here and very welcome! The branch has had two successful fundraisers for our Mission Fund in the last two months, our Bridge Scramble and FilmFest. When we select fundraisers, we are looking for things that are both fun and can raise money. These two events certainly delivered on both fronts this spring.

The Mission Fund is our bucket of money used to advance our mission here in the Inland Empire. A few months ago, the Board adopted the following statement to describe the mission of our branch:

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

When you talk to people about AAUW, be sure to lead with our mission! Yes, we do a lot of fun stuff and yes, our STEM Conferences are amazing. But these are things we do, not who we ARE! Once you hook someone's interest because of our mission, then you can describe all the great ways our branch carries out our mission. For example, we send college women from our partner schools to the [NCCWSL Conference](#) at the University of Maryland each year. These young

~continued on page 3

May Branch Meeting: "Riding the Wave: Education in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence"



Mihaela Popescu is a Professor of Digital Media in the Department of Communication Studies and the Faculty Director of the Extended Reality for Learning Lab at California State University, San Bernardino. She holds a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests include media and communication policies; digital technologies and their impact on society; privacy and surveillance; and immersive

media.

Fadi Muheidat is the Director of the Teaching Resource Center at CSUSB, and is an Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science and Engineering. He uses computational intelligence algorithms on a variety of computing platforms to build practical, data-enabled decision making devices and processes. Fadi's Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science is from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



~Kim Cousins, coordinator

May Branch Meeting

When

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
Social 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm
Program 6:45 pm

Where

University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu

Caesar Salad, Cheese Manicotti, Vegetable Alfredo, Rigatoni & Meatballs, Garlic Breadsticks, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, coffee/tea

Cost

Members and guests: \$30

Reservations

Please email AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org or call 909-362-4955 by Monday April 22, 2024, to make a dinner reservation. After April 22nd, 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 or Patricia Stubbs

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, June 1

Wednesday, April 22 RESERVATION DEADLINE for May 6 brunch meeting

May 2024

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

Save the date: August 6 Redlands Bowl Ushering

<p>AAUW Redlands Board Meeting 5/6 6:30 pm Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Ave, Redlands and remotely on teams. ~Heather Abushana ~Marilyn Shank</p> <p>Bridge Groups 3rd Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm, ~Contact coordinator Dorothy Nordquist</p> <p>Bunco 5/22 1pm ~Patty Ahearn ~Lori Powell</p> <p>California Cuisine and Conversation I 5/5 6pm ~Kathy Toister</p> <p>California Cuisine and Conversation 2 5/19 5:30pm ~Patty Ahearn</p> <p>CHAT meeting 5/15 9am Assembly Room AK Smiley PL ~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org</p> <p>Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice 5/2 DEI 7pm Zoom 5/16 7pm Racial Justice Zoom ~Ellen Gruenbaum ~Erica Wilson ~Donita Remington</p> <p>Fundraising Committee 5/14, 5/28 (every other Tuesday) 8:30am on Teams ~Heather Abushana</p>	<p>Great Decisions Wednesdays @ 7pm ~Sue Ferguson</p> <p>Hiking Our Hills & Mountains 5/25 8:30am Contact Kathy to be added to distribution list. ~Kathy Toister</p> <p>I Am, Therefore I Think 5/15 "Bias in Today's World" facilitators: Margee Fuller & Lisa McCarty Meets 12 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4th Street, Redlands ~Barbara Simmons ~Margee Fuller</p> <p>Public Policy 5/28 7pm ~Cassie MacDuff</p> <p>Redlands Bowl Ushering August 6 ~Barbara Simmons</p> <p>Reading and the Rainbow 5/30 6pm Selection recommendations & dinner ~Valarie Boone ~Patricia Stubbs ~Ellen Timothy</p> <p>AAUW Redlands STEM Initiatives</p> <p>Tech Trek ~Denise Westcott ~Theresa Lantz</p> <p>Sew What! 5/13 & 5/27 1pm ~Lisa McCarty</p>
--	---

President's Corner, Heather Abushanab

continued from page 1

women come away from the experience with new knowledge about how to accomplish their own personal goals and a network of new colleagues who can empower and support them in the future. The mission fund also supports our high school scholarships and our speech trek competition. Students who receive a scholarship or award get not only money but the confidence to tackle new challenges as they prepare for adulthood. Our longest running mission is the Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship. It has had different names over the years, but the goal has remained the same, supporting women who have had an interruption in their education to complete their degrees. Many of the recipients have acknowledged that the money eases the challenges they face staying in school, but that the recognition and support from other women boost their confidence that they can achieve their goals and further commits them to the process. Our holiday boutique directly supports the NYM scholarships, but our other fundraising can be used to support these scholarships when needed.

The Mission Fund can also support new missions. One idea I am intrigued by is supporting a woman from our branch to enroll in the [Leadership Redlands](#) program run by the Redlands Chamber of Commerce. The board will be discussing this idea in the next few months. If the program seems of interest to you, please let us know. That would certainly influence our discussion.

If you have additional ideas about how AAUW Redlands Branch can carry out its mission in the future, or about ways to raise money for this mission, please reach out and let us know! We can't do everything, but we are open to doing more!

Heather Abushanab, Co-President
AAUW Redlands Branch



Help Wanted: Membership Renewal Administrator

Can you help with our membership renewal process for the next year? This is a role that you could easily work into your schedule. Once you're trained, you don't need to attend meetings or leave your home to complete the tasks. And this is a role that could easily be shared with an AAUW friend.

Monthly responsibilities include:

1. Using Excel to keep track of members who have or have not yet renewed by their renewal deadline and urging them to renew their membership.
2. Communicating with members by email, text, phone, or mail to inform and assist them in the renewal process. This role will supplement National's renewal communications, so you will not be responsible for all renewal communications to our branch members.

Because most members renew in June, we anticipate a higher level of support needed from now until the end of June. Then, your responsibilities will quickly taper down to ongoing maintenance for the remainder of the fiscal year. Amy Bisek, Kay Dobbertin, and Jan Negron will all be available to provide initial training and ongoing support. Amy will also provide prewritten communication templates you can easily use.

If you would like to know more about or help with this important but easy job, please contact Amy Bisek. Come on, give it a go! It's fun to be involved.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Your Membership Matters – Please Renew by June 30!

If you joined AAUW prior to March 2022, your annual membership renewal dues are due by June 30, 2024. Members who joined March 2022 or later will have a renewal deadline that is 12 months after when they joined. Your renewal deadline is listed by your name in this year's little green membership yearbook, as well as in our Redlands branch online directory.

Attached to the email in which you received this newsletter, you'll find membership renewal instructions. It's easy to go online to the [AAUW National website](http://www.AAUW.org) and renew with a credit card. There are no additional fees renewing on the AAUW National website (www.AAUW.org). Or you can pay by cash, check, or credit card at an upcoming branch meeting. Alternatively, you can go online to our [Redlands branch website](https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/) to renew under the Membership tab (<https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/>). If you pay with a credit card through our Redlands branch website, you will incur a \$4.00 processing fee in addition to your membership dues.

- Again this year, our membership dues are \$123 (\$72 National, \$20 California, \$31 Redlands Branch).
- You may have already received a renewal reminder email from AAUW National. This is NOT spam. Feel free to follow the instructions in that email. If you no longer have it, don't worry; just follow the instructions in the attachment to this newsletter email.
- If you are a student, please contact Marion Golson or Kay Dobbertin to assist you with renewing your discounted membership. If you would like a Paid Lifetime Membership, they can assist you as well.
- \$103 of your 2024/25 membership dues are tax deductible.
- If you have questions, please direct them to Amy Bisek.

Please update any changes/corrections to your contact information for the 2024-2025 yearbook by emailing corrected information to membership@aauredlands.org

2023-2024 yearbook additions and changes are attached to the May newsletter email.



Condolences

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

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 **June newsletter** is **May 5th**. Send your articles to the editor via email to news@AAUWRedlands.org



Hospitality Birthday Club

Our best wishes this month to:

Carol Ahuja	Kelsey Gormley
Emily Apmadoc	Ann Harding
Susan Bangasser	Theresa Lantz
Antoinette Brenion	Alice Mozley
Kathryn Brown	Evelyn O'Prey
Josie Burns	Dawn Romo
Stephanie Centeno	Jeanne Shevlin
Judy Dods	Samantha Trad
Gabrielle Duff	Hester Turpin
Margee Fuller	Jane Weldon
	Pat Zappia

AAUW National election:
April 3 to May 15

AAUW California election:
April 27 to May 18



AAUW Community Engagement

Adult Literacy Volunteers Celebration

On April 13th, adult literacy tutors and volunteers were honored at a luncheon held at the Contemporary Club. Diane Shimota, adult literacy coordinator, thanked the attendees for all they do to change the lives of adult learners and their families. Several learners spoke, including Lucilla Campa, an adult learner, who spoke about how the adult literacy program helped her gain the skills to earn a high school diploma.

The Redlands Adult Literacy Program has provided literacy services to over 500 adults since 2010. Diane reported that tutors are needed to help adult learners who can meet during the day. If you are interested in learning more about the adult literacy program, please contact Diane Shimota at A. K. Smiley Public Library, phone: 909.798.7565, ext. 4138.

From the Hospitality Committee

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



65 years~joined 1959-60
Aleta West

35 years~joined 1989-90
Susan Leonard

30 years~joined 1994-95
Cathy Schilling

25 years~joined 1999-00
Sheron Bealer
Kathy Toister

20 years~joined 2004-05
Dolly Israelitt
Deborah Seibly

15 years~joined 2009-10
Gail Anderson
Linda Browning
Carol McDonald
Anne Sandel
Jeanne Shelvin

10 years~joined 2014-15

Denise Davis
Gabrielle Duff
Virginia Evans-Perry
Rosa Gomez
Stephanie Harlan
Barbara Krause
Kristina Marnell
Carole Nagengast
Ericka Paddock
Kate Pretorius
Meena Spangrud
Sandy Stephens
Szukalski
Kathy Warren

5 years~joined 2019-20

Valarie Boone
Suzanne Cranston
Priya Vedula Engel
Betsy Grimes
Monica Harwood
Valerie Lichtman
Nerni Mink Miller
Lori Powell
Jenny Zorn



Adult Literacy Honors Their Volunteers

April interest groups....



*I Am,
Therefore
I Think*



California Cuisine and Conversation 2



AAUW Community Engagement



At the May meeting of the Redlands/Yucaipa division of the California Retired Teachers Association, **Cassie MacDuff** presented a program on the Newspaper Industry.



Reading and the Rainbow Book Club

Our Reading the Rainbow session in May will be held May 30th at 6:00 p.m. as a live session hopefully at Kathryn Brown's cabana. The address will be included with the book club email announcement. There will not be a 1:00 p.m. session nor a 4:00 p.m. Zoom session in May. The purpose of this session is for members to recommend and give an overview of books to read next year. Please note that we request you only recommend books that you have read previously to ensure they have a content that lends to group discussion. A list of all recommendations will be compiled and a voting will occur in June and July. The final 2024-25 book selections will be announced shortly after. If you are unable to attend this live session, please provide your recommendation and a brief write up of why you are recommending this book to patriciastubbs@yahoo.com prior to the May 30th meeting.

As in the past years, we will have pizza, salad, and dessert at this session for a \$15 contribution.



~Patricia Stubbs

College/University Partnership

University of Maryland Hosts the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders May 30 – June 1

Marion Golson, Susan Bangasser and Pam Ford, along with representatives from our partner colleges, have selected the four young women who are receiving our branch scholarships to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

The application essays, along with the students' resumes, are fascinating.

Michelle Le Ly attends Crafton Hills College and is planning to transfer this fall to pursue a major in Cognitive Science. She says, "Leadership is to empower the voices of under-represented groups and foster direction to an increasingly equitable future." Michelle is a delegate to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges and she is a Student Trustee on the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees.

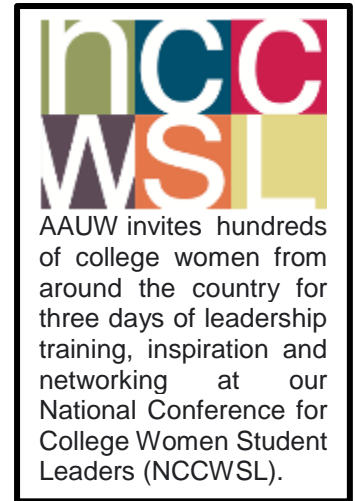
This is the first year we are sending students from San Bernardino Valley College. **Monita Purnell** says, "By leading with compassion and collaborating with stakeholders across sectors, we can work together to build a more inclusive and compassionate community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive." Monita is majoring in Human Services and planning to transfer soon. She works as a case manager, helping people who are unhoused transition to safe and secure living and work situations.

Our second student from SBVC is **Dana Zamora**. One of her statements about leadership is "Leadership demands servitude, courage, integrity, empowerment, resilience and prioritizing collective interests over personal gain." Dana is completing the nursing program at SBVC and will then earn her BSN. She is thinking about becoming a nurse practitioner.

Kayla Carroll was selected from the University of Redlands applicants. She states, "I have come to understand that true leadership is about making a difference, challenging the status quo, and empowering others to do the same." Kayla is very involved on campus: she leads trips in the outdoor program, is an RA in a dorm, mentors first year students, and is an intern in the Pride Center.

This year's NCCWSL is May 30 to June 1 at the University of Maryland. In past years, excepting when the conference was virtual in 2021 and 2022, we sent two students to the conference. This year a grant from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians allows us to send two additional students. Timing of this much appreciated grant is perfect since this is the first year of our partnership with San Bernardino Valley College.

~Pam Ford Co-chair, College/University Partnership



AAUW California Lobby Days 2024 report from Team Redlands!



AAUW California selected three bills to support in this legislative session: AB 2099 which would protect reproductive healthcare providers from violence; AB 2326, which would require the leaders of CSU, UC and the community colleges to report on their efforts to protect campus women from sexual harassment under Title IX; and AB 2843, which would cover the cost of medical care after a rape for any survivor of sexual assault, including deductibles and co-pays. *~continued on page 7*

AAUW CA Public Policy team trained AAUW members who were interested in meeting with their state representatives and/or their staff to inform them about AAUW and advocate for their support of priority bills. Meetings may be held in person at the Capitol or virtually via Zoom.

Lobby Days 2024 *continued from page 6*

Twillea Evans-Carthen and I (Cassie MacDuff) signed up to fly to Sacramento on April 2 to meet with our Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes and our other legislator, GOP Caucus Chair and High Desert Assemblymember Tom Lackey, to advocate for these bills. Unfortunately, Lackey and his staff never responded to our lobbyist's requests for us to meet with him or his staff.

As a result of only having one meeting, AAUW CA teamed Twilea and me up with a team from the Marysville and Chico branches to meet their legislator, Assembly Republican Leader Jim Gallagher, or his staff and they were to go with us to meet with our legislator's staff (we were not able to get a meeting with Reyes herself).

The lobbyist also had trouble nailing down a meeting time with Reyes' staff. At last, the night before our April 2 flight to the state Capitol, the staff finally gave us a meeting time, and unfortunately, it was too late in the day for us to have made our 5:15 p.m. return flight. So sadly, we canceled our trip, as we would have had only the meeting with the Northern California team's legislator's staff, and not with any of our own representatives.

AAUW California Public Policy Committee co-chair Missy Maceyko and Committee member Kathi Harper took the meeting with Reyes' staff member in our place.

AAUW Redlands' Lobby Days Zoom team, Kathryn Brown (pictured top right) and Julie Wilson (top left), were teamed with Ontario/Upland member Cherry Dobbs to meet with Assemblyman James Ramos or his staff and state Sen. Rosilcilie Ochoa Bogh's staff to advocate for the three bills.

They were able to meet by Zoom with staff member Lindsay Mendonca of Ochoa Bogh's office. AAUW CA lobbyist Kathy Van Osten attended the Zoom with them, as Dobbs was unable to get into the Zoom. No meeting with Ramos or his staff came through.

The AAUW Redlands Public Policy Committee is working on securing our own, in-district meetings with our legislators or their staffs to discuss these important bills.

--Cassie MacDuff, Public Policy Chair, AAUW Redlands



Redlands Bowl Ushering August 6

As in the past, our AAUW members, significant others, and children over the age of 12 are invited to come help and usher at one Redlands Bowl Performance. This summer we will be ushering on August 6th. The evening's performance will be Forever Motown "featuring nine all-star performers including: G.C. Cameron, former Lead Singer of The Temptations and original lead singer of The Spinners, and Traci Robinson-Green former lead singer of the Marvelettes. The full stage production brings all the iconic Motown favorites including: *Please, Mr. Postman*, *My Girl*, *Tracks of My Tears*, *Stop In The Name of Love*, *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*, and many, many others!"

We will first meet at 7:00 at the Bowl Heritage House on Eureka next to the Bowl, to receive our instructions. We will begin collecting the free-will offerings at Intermission.

I am very excited about this particular evening that is affording me a welcomed walk down Memory Lane from my youth.

We can always use and welcome more volunteers for the evening. Please contact me if you wish to be added to our list of volunteers.

~Barbara Simmons



Redlands Branch Fundraiser: Bridge Scramble

The Bridge Scramble was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, for the first time since the pandemic, and a great time was had by all. 36 players, (9 tables of bridge!) gathered for the event at the First Methodist Church's Dyke Chapel. Thank you to Linda Rowland for securing this beautiful venue for our event!

Louise Schuman was our primary coordinator for the bridge activities. She provided tablecloths, cards, score pads, pencils and all the logistics for running the event. The day was elegant, smoothly run, and so very enjoyable because of Louise's expertise.

The luncheon was planned and executed by Kathryn Brown, Mary Lou Guerrero and their team of helpers: Susan Bentley, Krista Moreno, Susan Satzger, Marilyn Shankar, and Kathy Warren.

Accompanying the bridge day was a bake sale and bridge item sale. Thank you to all who provided items for the bake sale! Louise Schumann made beautiful bridge tallies and provided cards for purchase too.

Congratulations to AAUW member Barbara Switzer who came in second overall for the day!

The Bridge Scramble event raised \$2000 for our Mission Fund. We are hopeful that we can repeat it in 2024-25. If you are interested in working on this event, please let us know by emailing the Bridge Scramble fundraising committee (BridgeScramble@AAUWRedlands.org).



April interest group

**B
U
N
C
O**



April Branch Meeting



April Birthdays: Susan Burnett, Arlene Benson, Jo Cavedon, Twillea Evans-Carthen, Judy Cannon, Monica Harwood, and Susan Miller



STEM INITIATIVES: 2023Tech Trek Alumni shared their Tech Trek camp experiences.



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

Branches and Twigs
Issue 10 May 2024



April Branch Meeting



Tomasa Santoyo
Gov Trek Lead
Facilitator

Erin Sanborn
Coll/Univ Rep
for U of R