

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
September 2024

<http://redlands-ca.aauw.net>
Issue 2, 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

Welcome to a new program year for AAUW Redlands branch. We kick things off in September with our first branch meeting on Tuesday September 10th! Our speaker is our new CEO of YMCA East Valley, Brandi Collato, who is the first woman CEO of that organization. AAUW Redlands branch has a long history of

collaboration with the YMCA through their Legal Aid program and the Y Holiday Home Tour. We are excited to welcome Ms Collato to Redlands and to our branch.

October is our membership branch meeting where we invite and welcome prospective AAUW members to experience a branch meeting and peruse the many mission activities and interest groups available to AAUW Redlands branch members. Be sure to invite your friends, neighbors and acquaintances to this meeting. We will need a lot of help putting it on, so plan to attend and pitch in if asked. In October we will also bring back the AAUW Bridge Scramble, a fun fundraiser which was much appreciated last spring. Sharpen up your bridge skills and invite your friends to participate.

In November, don't forget to vote. Women have not always had the ability to vote in our nation and we should not take that right for granted. This election is an important one, both locally and nationally. No matter which candidate you support, it

~continued on page 3

September Branch Meeting: Brandi Collato



From Men to a Movement: How this female CEO found her calling with the Young MEN'S Christian Association.

Recently hired as the new CEO, Brandi Collato is the first woman to lead the YMCA of the East Valley in its 137-year history. In her new role, she will drive the organization's strategic plan, program and organizational development, membership, help bridge community needs, and ensure that the YMCA continues as a cornerstone of this community. Brandi was a Division I basketball player at the University of San Diego, from where she now holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Counseling. She comes to Redlands from the YMCA of Greater Long Beach, a \$45 million association where she served for the past decade, rising to the position of chief operating officer overseeing eight branches delivering comprehensive programming around health and wellness, childcare and preschool, comprehensive aquatics programming, outdoor education, and resident camping. Born and raised in San Diego, Brandi loves sports, the ocean, participating in triathlons, is a proud aunt of three young nieces and values spending time with family above all else.

~Kathryn Brown, Program Coordinator

September Branch Meeting

When: Tuesday,
September 10, 2024
Social 5:15 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Program 6:45 p.m.

Where: Casa Loma Room
University of Redlands

Standard Entrée: Grilled
Lemon Rosemary Chicken

Vegan Entrée *: Panko
Crusted Gardein Chicken

Menu: Baby Spinach Salad
with Bacon on the side, Fresh
Herbed Vegetables, Roasted
New Potatoes, Rolls & Butter,
Oreo Blondies, Coffee & Tea
***Include "Vegan Entrée"
request with reservation.**

Cost:
Members and guests: \$35

Reservations: Please call
909-362-4955 or email
AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org
by Monday, August 26,
2024. After August 26,
reservations will be on a
space-available basis. **After
registering, you will receive
confirmation via email.**

Reminder: A reservation
made is a reservation paid.

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

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

Branch Meetings 2024-2025

Saturday, October 5, 2024
Saturday, November 2, 2024
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
Saturday, February 1, 2025
Saturday, March 1, 2025
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Saturday, June 7, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Monday, August 26 RESERVATION DEADLINE for September 10 Dinner Meeting. After August 26th dinner reservations will be made on a space-available basis.</p>						
1	2 	3	4 1pm Bridge	5 7pm DEI	6	7
8	9 *1pm Sew What! **6:30pm AAUW Board Mtg	10 *8:30am Fundraising 	11	12	13	14 9am STEM mtg
15	16 1pm Bridge	17	18 *9am CHAT **12pm I Am, Therefore I Think	19 7pm Racial Justice	20	21
22	23 1pm Sew What!	24 *8:30am Fundraising **7pm Public Policy	25 1pm Bunko	26 1pm, 4pm & 7pm Reading & the Rainbow	27	28 9am Hiking
29 	30	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Save the Dates</p> <p>Bridge Scramble: Thursday, October 24, 2024 YMCA Home Tour: Sunday, December 8, 2024 PASS STEM Conference: Thursday, January 9, 2025 Redlands STEM Conference: Tuesday, March 4, 2025</p> </div>				
<p>AAUW Redlands Board Meeting 9/9 6:30pm on Teams <i>~Heather Abushana</i></p> <p>Bridge Groups 3rd Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm, <i>~Contact coordinator Susan Satzger</i></p> <p>Bunko 9/25 1pm <i>~Patty Ahearn ~Lori Powell</i></p> <p>CHAT 9/18 9am Assembly Room AK Smiley PL <i>~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org</i></p> <p>Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice 9/5 DEI 7pm Zoom 9/19 Racial Justice 7pm Zoom <i>~Ellen Gruenbaum ~Erica Wilson ~Donita Remington</i></p> <p>Fundraising Committee 9/10, 9/24 (every other Tuesday) 8:30am on Teams <i>~Heather Abushana</i></p> <p>Hiking Our Hills & Mountains 9/28 9am Contact Alison or Donita to be added to distribution list. <i>~Alison Rodriguez ~Donita Remington</i></p>			<p>I Am, Therefore I Think 9/18 Bring a cartoon, article, social media, or piece of news that you wish to discuss. Facilitator Nelda Stuck. Meets 12pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4th Street, Redlands. <i>~Barbara Simmons ~Margee Fuller</i></p> <p>Public Policy 9/24 7pm <i>~Cassie MacDuff</i></p> <p>Reading and the Rainbow 9/26 <i>Mad Honey</i> by Jodi Picoult Information on facilitator, host and co-host will be emailed. 1pm: Live Session, 7pm: Live Session with Online Teams Option h <i>~Valarie Boone ~Marianne Baldwin</i></p> <p>Sew What! 9/9 & 9/23 1pm <i>~Lisa McCarty</i></p> <p>STEM Initiatives PASS STEM Conference: January 9, 2025 Redlands STEM Conference: March 4, 2025 Redlands STEM conferences planning meeting 9/14 9am at Kathryn Brown's home <i>~continued on page 3</i></p>			



~continued from page 3

Volunteers needed for Membership Meeting - October 5.

From event planning to hosting potential new members, a variety of roles are awaiting your assistance. Please contact Jan Negron if you'd like to help.

San Gorgonio Pass STEM conference

~Kathryn Brown
~Pam Ford

~Pam Ford
~Betsy Grimes

Tech Trek Committee

~Denise Westcott
~Donita Remington

VIBE Festival (see page 4)
9/29 9am-1pm

~Jan Negron

President's Corner: Heather Abushanab

~continued from page 1

is critical that you record your opinion with a vote this fall. And stayed tuned for information from our public policy group about local candidate forums to help you make an informed choice this fall.

November will also feature the Holiday Boutique. Members of the Sew What! group, other crafters, bakers, and the NYM Scholarship committee have been hard at work to bring you this beloved event. This year, be sure to invite your friends to attend the branch meeting so they don't miss out on the boutique! And invite them again to our holiday branch meeting in December where we will have musical entertainment and a festive time.

Looking ahead to the winter and spring, AAUW Redlands will once again host two STEM conferences for 8th grade girls, Speech Trek for high school students, awards of the NYM scholarships, and our incredible FilmFest event. And of course there are many interest groups that will meet each month. There is no shortage of ways to get involved in AAUW! Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard over the summer to get us ready for these exciting activities!

~Heather Abushanab, President
AAUW Redlands branch

Know Someone Who'd Like to Join AAUW?

**AAUW women make an impact on women and girls.
Word of mouth is the best way to recruit new members!**

Why Join? AAUW offers multiple ways to stay engaged with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls, as well as to develop friendship with others who understand that the fight for equality is still critical! Excellent national webinars! Engaging monthly branch programs! A wide variety of interest group meetings! Energetic, intellectually curious friends! A mission that is more important than ever!
For membership information, contact Jan Negron



**Membership Meeting, Saturday, October 5, 8:45 a.m.
I am so excited! Are you??**

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and have been thinking of whom to invite to our October Membership Branch Meeting. We are an incredible group of women who care about making a difference in the lives of women and girls!

Show your friends and colleagues what AAUW is all about and how special and unique our branch is! We have so many great activities throughout the year that are rewarding and fun!! Also, this meeting is a great time for you to try a new interest group or to volunteer for a new event! I hope to see you there with a perspective new member! Reservation deadline is September 22nd.

~Jan Negron, Membership Vice President

HAPPY September Birthdays

Brandi Bailes
Del Barrett
Linda Browning
Char Burgess
Cheri Dawes
Joy Fan
Katherine Gifford

Sherri Kinsey
Cassie MacDuff
Linda Rowland
Valerie Taber
Carolee Taylor
Sue Wallace
Kathy Warren



AAUW Polo Shirt Orders

Order an AAUW Redlands Polo Shirt by Sept 11th if you would like to have one for the Believe Walk or Stem conferences. Order online at:

<https://penningtondesigns.com/product-category/aauw-2024/>

Welcome new members

College/University Partnership

Student Leaders will Speak at September 10th Branch Meeting



AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking at our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

One of the highlights of the September branch meeting is your opportunity to meet and greet our FOUR NCCWSL students for 2024. Monita Purnell, Dana Zamora, Michelle Ly and Kayla Carroll attended AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland May 30-June 1. Kayla is a student at UoR. Michelle was at CHC last year. Dana and Monita are at SBVC. You will get to hear from them briefly but I also hope you take the time to ask them about their experiences as well as their leadership goals.

We will have envelopes on the tables for any of us who would like to make donations specifically to support our NCCWSL scholarships in 2025. Women + Leadership = Success. Let's make it happen.

*~Pam Ford & Susan Bangasser, Co-chairs
College/University Partnership Committee*

Roya Damsaz Shiraz Univ, Iran BS

Roya was born and raised in Iran where she studied metallurgical engineering. In 1995 she moved to USA with her ex-husband and 2 children. Since then she has worked in the HVAC industry as a project manager and application engineer for 27 years. Since retiring, Roya has been involved in community activities for the Senior Center and volunteering for hospice. She is also a CoachArt volunteer which connects kids affected by chronic illness with volunteers. In the past, Roya has done other volunteer work including teen-mom mentoring, social and racial activism and environmental causes.

Andrea Fuqua UC Santa Barbara, BA

Andrea has lived in Redlands for five years, having lived in Orange County about 20 years prior to that. She is married, no children but two cats (yes, by her own admission, she is a childless cat lady but not miserable!).

Andrea works full time in supply chain for a bio pharma company, where they produce and conduct clinical trials for cancer treating immunotherapy drugs. Andrea's husband is currently battling kidney cancer.

On the weekends, Andrea volunteers at the Paw Mission in Yucaipa, a rescue organization for all types of animals.

Jennifer Nelson Brown Univ BA, Rutgers-The State Univ of NJ PhD

Karen Skoog Univ of CO BA, U of R MA

Branch Officers: **President:** Heather Abushanab **Co-Vice Presidents-Elect:** Amy Bisek & Kathryn Brown **Communication Vice President:** Keita Wangari, **Co-Hospitality Vice Presidents:** Joyce Katkov & Keller Iuppenlatz, **Program Vice President:** Eileen Sanborn, **Membership Vice President:** Jan Negron, **Secretary:** Nan Neighbours, **Treasurer:** Sue Ferguson **At-Large Board Members:** Twillea Evans-Carthen, Lisa McCarty (909-725-1089), Ellen Timothy

B&T Submission:

The deadline for the **October newsletter** is **September 10th**. Send your articles to the editor via email to news@AAUWRedlands.org

AAUW Community Engagement

Volunteers Needed to Represent AAUW Redlands



On Sunday, September 29, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Sylvan Park (601 N. University St, Redlands) our AAUW Redlands branch will participate as a vendor at the VIBE Health & Wellness Festival, an interactive educational experience for all ages showcasing trends and product innovations across a range of wellness domains. Participants can immerse themselves in a customizable day of health and wellness while enjoying the best the Inland Empire region has to offer in food, art, music, and wellness resources.



Watch the video to learn more about ACTW and the Vibe Health and Wellness Festival.
<https://www.vibefestivalofwellness.com/>

Volunteers are needed to represent AAUW Redlands at the event--to participate, please contact Jan Negrón.

AAUW Community Engagement



YMCA Holiday Home Tour Volunteers Needed

For the last nineteen years AAUW has assisted the YMCA with their annual home tour by hosting a home. If you would like to join the fun and volunteer on Sunday, December 8, 2024 to be a hostess in the home that AAUW is assigned for that day, please let us know. We have two shifts available, 9:00 am – 1:00 p.m. and 12:45-4:45 p.m. It is a wonderful way to assist the YMCA with their big fund raiser. The money raised goes to support the Y's Legal Aid Program. Legal Aid Program Director, Sara Pugh and her team provide legal services to low income clients, primarily women. Your gifts of time and energy make you feel good and serves a wonderful cause.

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

~Ann Leonard
~Linda Browning



I Am, Therefore I Think

Welcome everyone to the I Am, Therefore I Think group that meets the third Wednesday of the month September through June except December. We meet at Trinity Episcopal Church at 419 South Fourth Street in Redlands in the Lounge that is just across the breezeway from the church office. We meet at 12:00 to 2:00 with each member bringing a brown bag lunch with the program beginning at 12:30. Every year there are different topics chosen for presentation, some being icebreakers to get to know each other better, and some very serious.

The first meeting of the AAUW year will be September 18th and it will be presented by Nelda Stuck. She is requesting we each bring a cartoon and/or an article that each individual member considers interesting or important to them.

I, along with the co-chair, Margee Fuller are excited to bring our group together once again and we'd love to see you.



Dates Set For 2025 Stem Conferences

We have set Thursday, January 9, 2025 at Mt. San Jacinto College (in San Jacinto) for our San Gorgonio PASS STEM Conference (Beaumont & Banning) and Tuesday March 4, 2025 at University of Redlands for our Redlands STEM Conference (Redlands & Yucaipa) for 8th Grade girls. Our second organizational meeting for both conferences will take place at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, September 14, at the home of committee co-chair Kathryn Brown. All those interested in learning more about what we do in advance of the conferences and how you might join this fun and interesting committee are welcome to attend. The conferences entail many different tasks, and all kinds of skill sets are needed. You need not be available to help in person on January 9 or March 4 to join the committee; we have plenty that needs to be accomplished before conference day! If you are interested but cannot attend, or if you have questions, please contact either co-chair: Pam Ford or Kathryn Brown.

Believe Walk Registration

AAUW Community Engagement



Believe Walk
American Cancer Society
A Walk Against Breast Cancer

Sunday, October 6, 2024

6:30 a.m. Check-In & Late Registration

8:00 a.m. Walk begins



Join the AAUW Redlands Team on Sunday, October 6th to take a stand against cancer.

This is the first time AAUW members will walk together at this huge community 5k that includes entertainment along the walk route and a large bash at the end.

Sign up for our AAUW Redlands team by scrolling down the page for the **"Join Team"** button at <https://p2p.onecause.com/believewalk2024/team/aauw-redlands>

Whether you're celebrating survivors, cheering on fighters and thrivers, or honoring those we've lost, we're all in it together.
~Marianne Baldwin

Holiday Boutique, Saturday, November 2nd to Support NYM Scholarships



NYM Scholarships are available to help local women who have returned to college after an interruption in their education.

Proceeds from the Holiday Boutique support the NYM Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all the people who are working hard to make our project successful. Last year we sold a quilt and quilt bags, baked goods, home decor, paintings, gift cards, wine and cheese baskets, potted plants, seasonal holiday candles and much more. It was been a huge success, thanks to all of the hard work, time and money. Our five NYMS recipients spoke at the June branch meeting,

It is time to plan again for the 2024 Boutique. Many beautiful artisanal items are being made by the skilled women of AAUW. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October meeting for those who would like to help with the sale. Handmade items are needed. Please refrain from using plastic materials.

Remember to save your costume jewelry as your contribution for the big round jewelry table. People really have had a good time sorting through the items. Let's do it again. Contact Tricia Stubbs to donate boutique items and/or volunteer.

AAUW Redlands wants YOU to apply for Leadership Redlands!!

Leadership Redlands engages, develops, and inspires the emerging leaders of Redlands through one-of-a-kind opportunities that shape their leadership mindset, allowing them to contribute to the future of their city.



The AAUW Redlands branch board is excited about Leadership Redlands and eager to have at least one of our members participate. In June, the board passed the following motion:

The Branch will provide a \$500 scholarship to an AAUW Redlands branch member to participate in Redlands 2025. The awardee will be expected to update the board periodically on things they have learned and to serve on the Board during the 2025-26 or 2026-27 year.

Deadline for applications will be at the end of October 2024. If you need a recommendation for participation, please contact me and I will happily recommend you!
~Heather Abushanab

FALL BRIDGE SCRAMBLE!

The AAUW Fall fundraiser is a Bridge Scramble to raise money for the AAUW Mission Fund.

- When:** The Scramble will be on Thursday, October 24th. Check-in will begin at 9:30 AM and play will start promptly at 10:00 AM.
- Where:** The Scramble will take place at the beautiful Dike's Chapel, located at the First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Olive Ave, Redlands CA.
- Parking:** Parking is conveniently located on the south side of Olive Avenue, directly across the street from the church. Street parking is also available.
- Sign-ups:** Players MUST sign-up with a partner. Partners will not change during play.
- Play:** There will be 5 – 6 rounds of bridge, each round lasting approximately 25 minutes. Teams have the option to scramble and meet new bridge opponents as well as friends and familiar bridge players. OR: You can arrange a fixed table of 4 players. All 4 at the fixed table need to be on the same sign-up sheet.
- Cost:** The cost is \$50 per person or \$100 for a pair. A fixed table of 4 players would be \$200.
- Food:** There will be light snacks and beverages available in the morning and a lunch will be served at approximately 1:00. Prizes will be given during that time. The event should be over by 2:00. If you have mobility or dietary concerns, please let us know. That information can be added to the back of the registration form.
- Sales:** To enhance our fundraising efforts baked goods and possibly other items will be available for sale.



Space is limited! Sign up early to ensure your spot. The event is open to the public, so please invite your bridge playing friends. Due to space constraints, set-up and supply issues, and setting the rotations, walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

Registration: You can register at a branch meeting or by mail. Include a check made payable to AAUW Redlands with Bridge Scramble in the memo line. Registration forms will be attached to the Branches and Twigs newsletter and can be duplicated for non-AAUW friends. The deadline to register is Monday October 14th.

If you've attended previously, you know what a fun event this is! Prizes, regardless of your score, are drawn. Join us and let the fun begin!!!!

~~~~~  
May 2024 California Cuisine and Conversation 2



**California Cuisine and Conversation:** Prepare your favorite recipe or try a new one and join us for a casual get-together. Members may include their significant other/guest in this activity.

CCC1 meets 6pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

CCC2 meets 5:30pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday



## AAUW Redlands Bowl Ushers

A big **thank you** for ushering at  
“FOREVER MOTOWN” on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>:

*Marianne Baldwin, Susan Bentley, Kathryn Brown, Rachel Bubb, Kay Dobbertin, Twillea Evans-Carthen, Stephanie Centeno, Pam Ford, Marion Golson, Yvette Guidry, Theresa Lantz, Jan Negron, Nan Neighbours, Barbara Simmons, Tricia Stubbs, Kathy Warren, Ellen Weiss, Bev Woolverton, Jane Weldon and Jane’s husband.*

## 101<sup>st</sup> Bowl Season



*The Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival started in 1923, when Grace Mullen imagined a place where anyone could go to enjoy the arts.*

*About 8 million people have attended performances at the historic Redlands venue, according to Redlands Bowl Performing Arts officials. Admission has always been free, and each season brings nearly 100,000 people to the historic venue.*

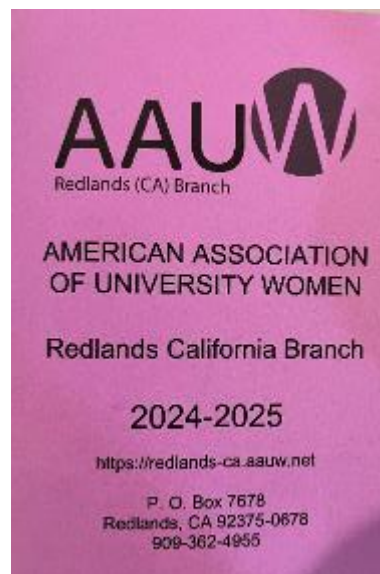


**AAUW Redlands Branch**  
P.O. Box 7678  
Redlands, CA 92375-0678

**Branches and Twigs**  
Issue 2 September 2024



## 2024-2025 Redlands Branch Yearbook



Yearbooks will be available at the September 10th branch meeting. Remaining yearbooks will be mailed to member’s home address.