

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
October 2024

<http://redlands-ca.aauw.net>
Issue 3, 11 Issues Annually



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

Membership Matters

Our Saturday, October 5th, Branch Meeting is dedicated to our Redlands branch membership. We'll showcase all the ways we make a positive impact in our community. With committees that advance equity and education for women and

girls and interest groups that keep us active and engaged, we are stronger together. If you are interested in becoming more involved, this is the meeting you'll want to attend. You'll discover how to make a direct impact in the Inland Empire, plus make an invigorating impact on your personal life.

Who will you invite to this special branch meeting? Help empower your friends and co-workers: Invite them to join us and see why our AAUW Redland branch is so special! An invitation you can easily distribute is attached to this month's newsletter email. Just forward either the short or long version to your potential guests, then follow-up with a phone call or text, to encourage their participation and membership. The more friends you have in AAUW, the more fun you'll have in AAUW!

What does AAUW do?

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

~continued on page 4

October Branch Meeting

Perspectives on AAUW Membership

The October Branch meeting will focus on the value and joy of belonging to this amazing organization. Members and their guests will be treated to the when and why three of our members joined the Redlands Branch and what projects and activities they participated in to keep them coming back year after year. Twillea Evans-Carthen joined in 2022, Ellen Cope has been a member for 11 years and Sheron Bealer has been in the Branch for over 25 years. These three amazing ladies are representative of the enthusiasm for AAUW found throughout our membership.



Twillea Evans-Carthen



Ellen Cope



Sheron Bealer

Invite Prospective Members to our October 5th Branch Meeting!

Please register prospective members' names and contact information to AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org
We'll use this for nametags and follow-up.

October Branch Meeting

When:
Saturday, October 5, 2024
8:45 a.m.
Explore Branch Programs, Community Action Projects, Committees, and Interest Groups
9:30 a.m. *Brunch*
10:15 a.m. *Program*

Where:
University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu: Breakfast Buffet:
Orange Cinnamon French Toast*, Syrup*, Scrambled Eggs*, Bacon, Shredded Hash Browns**, Fresh Fruit tray**
*(*vegetarian, **vegan)*

Cost: Members: \$25
Prospective Members' meal is Complimentary

Reservations
Please call 909-362-4955 or email AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org by Saturday, September 21, 2024. After September 21, reservations will be on a space-available basis. **After registering, you will receive a confirmation via email.**
Reminder: A reservation made is a reservation paid

Transportation: Call Susan Miller 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, 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



President's Corner: Heather Abushanab

As we look towards the AAUW Redlands branch membership meeting, it's a good time to remember why we joined AAUW and how being a member of AAUW has impacted us. I joined AAUW Redlands branch in 2011, very shortly after moving to Redlands from the east coast. At the time, I didn't know anything about AAUW. My mother-in-law had been a member of AAUW for many years in all the various places she had lived. She found the Redlands branch website and was incredibly impressed with the varied activities of this branch. She suggested it as a way for me to meet like-minded people in my new community.

So, I bravely attended the branch membership meeting alone that September and promptly joined Reading and the Rainbow, California Cuisine, and the couples Bridge Group. I dipped my toe into the STEM committee and attended the Great Decisions discussion group faithfully. During that first year, I met so many interesting women and proceeded to run into them all over town: in the grocery store, at the library, at the Lincoln Shrine Dinner and even at my church. Kay Dobbertin took me to lunch and told me all about the branch. Nelda Stuck wasn't afraid to suggest I participate in the STEM Conference the first day she met me, and it wasn't long before I was asked to help with the data for the STEM Conference. I attended both the San Geronio Pass area conference and the Redlands conference that year and I could not have been more impressed with the two events.

A bit later, I was asked to serve on the board as treasurer. That year, Kathy Toister was the branch president, and I was incredibly impressed by the board activities and the commitment of the board to the ideals of AAUW. Since the treasurer checks in the guests at branch meetings, I was able to meet nearly every branch member that year and became familiar with many of you. It was during this same year that I really started to understand the mission of AAUW. Through the STEM Conferences, Tech Trek, and the NYM Scholarships the branch makes a tangible difference in the lives of women and girls in our area. During the years following that time, our branch has increased our support for women and girls by adding the Speech Trek program, a High School Scholarship program and revamping our College and University Partnerships by including scholarships to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) for students at our partner schools and expanding the number of partnership schools. We partnered with Zonta Club of Redlands to bring Lunafest to Redlands and figured out how to continue that activity despite the disbandment of Zonta and the cancellation of Lunafest by the sponsoring company. We now have a vibrant FilmFest which supports many of these amazing mission projects.

Not too long after that, I went back to work part-time. I had less time for the fun parts of Redlands branch, but I became even more committed to the missions of AAUW. Teaching at CSUSB in the Physics department, I saw firsthand how lives can be changed and improved by access to education and leadership experiences. I served as both Membership VP and later as STEM Chair during that time. And once I stopped working, I finally felt the timing was right to take on the presidency of the branch. Last year was an amazing honor to work so closely with Marilyn Shankar and the rest of the board. Since we did not have a president-elect ready to take over this year, I agreed to continue an additional year in this role, knowing that Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown would support me as full partners in running the board this year. My AAUW Redlands branch journey has been amazing. I'm awed by what this branch can do and by the many amazing, talented women we have in our branch.

It is so easy to invite new people to participate in AAUW Redlands branch because we are inviting them into a truly unique and special group of people with an incredible mission. AAUW Redlands branch advances equity for women and girls through education, empowerment and advocacy. Such a short sentence to explain everything we do!

*~Heather Abushanab
AAUW Redlands Branch
President 2024-25*

AAUW Redlands October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Saturday, Sept. 21 RESERVATION DEADLINE for Oct. 5 Brunch Membership Meeting. After Sept. 21, brunch reservations will be made on a space-available basis.						
		1	2 1pm Bridge	3 7pm DEI	4	5 <u>8:45 am Branch Meeting</u>
6 6pm California Cuisine 1	7	8 8:45am Fundraising Mtg	9 Noon C/U committee mtg	10 7pm Candidate Forum	11	12 9am STEM Mtg.
13	14 <u>*1pm Sew What!</u> <u>**6:30pm AAUW Board Mtg.</u>	15	16 <u>* I Am, Therefore I Think</u> <u>**6pm CHAT</u>	17 7pm Racial Justice	18	19
20 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	21 1pm Bridge	22 <u>*8:45am Fundraising Mtg</u> <u>**7pm Public Policy</u>	23 1pm Bunko	24 <u>*9:30am Bridge Fundraiser</u> <u>**1pm & 7pm Reading & the Rainbow</u>	25	26 <u>*9am Hiking</u> <u>**10am South East Inter Branch Council</u>
27	28 1pm Sew What!	29	30	31		
<p>AAUW Redlands Board Meeting 10/14 6:30pm 167 Bellevue Ave & on Teams ~Heather Abushanab 909-565-0655 heatherabu@aauwredlands.org</p> <p>Bridge Fundraiser (page 7) 10/24 9:30am ~Linda Rowland BridgeScramble@AAUWRedlands.org</p> <p>Bridge Groups 3rd Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm, ~Contact coordinator Susan Satzger 909-792-3915 susat@roadrunner.com</p> <p>Bunko 10/23 1pm ~Patty Ahearn 909-435-5906 patty.rdtm45@gmail.com ~Lori Powell 909-801-1582 lori.powell4@gmail.com</p> <p>California Cuisine and Conversation 1 10/6 6pm ~Kathy Toister bktoister@aol.com</p> <p>California Cuisine and Conversation 2 10/20 5:30pm ~Patty Ahearn 909-435-5906 patty.rdtm45@gmail.com</p> <p>Candidate Forums (page 7) 10/10 7pm U of R Casa Loma 10/23 zoom ~Cassie MacDuff 909-798-6167 cassiema1@verizon.net</p> <p>CHAT 10/16 6pm Contemporary Club AK Smiley PL ~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org</p> <p>College/University Partnership (page 7) 10/9 noon Committee meeting 1049 W. Fern Ave, Redlands Brown bag lunch ~Pam Ford 909-730-4212 & Susan Bangasser 909-289-5353</p>		<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">Save the Dates</p> </div>		<p>YMCA Home Tour: Sunday, December 8, 2024 PASS STEM Conference: Thursday, January 9, 2025 Redlands STEM Conference: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 FilmFest: Friday, April 25, 2025</p>		
<p>I Am, Therefore I Think 10/16 : TBA 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</p> <p>Public Policy 10/22 7pm ~Cassie MacDuff 909-798-6167 cassiema1@verizon.net</p> <p>Reading and the Rainbow 10/24 1pm & 7pm Tom Lake by Ann Patchett Information on facilitator, host and co-host will be emailed. ~Valarie Boone 678-665-9315 valarieboomcm@gmail.com ~Marianne Baldwin 909-239-8241 mariannebaldwin@verizon.net</p> <p>South East Inter Branch Council Meeting- SEIBC (page 6) 10/26 10 am Zoom. ~Contact Heather, Amy or Kathryn for more information.</p> <p>Sew What! 10/14 & 10/28 1pm ~Lisa McCarty 909-725-1089 lamccarty@verizon.net</p>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>~calendar continued on page 4</p> </div>				

Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice

10/3 DEI 7pm Zoom
10/17 Racial Justice 7pm Zoom
~Ellen Gruenbaum 765-586-8993 egruebaum@icloud.com
~Erica Wilson 909-797-7938 dreicar@outlook.com
~Donita Remington 909-856-7955 donitaremington@gmail.com

Fundraising Committee

10/8, 10/22 (every other Tuesday) 8:45am on Teams
~Heather Abushanab 909-565-0655 heatherabu@aauredlands.org

Hiking Our Hills & Mountains

10/26 9am Contact Alison or Donita to be added to distribution list.
~Alison Rodriguez 951-202-0782 foreverspazzed@yahoo.com
~Donita Remington 909-856-7955 donitaremington@gmail.com

STEM Initiatives

PASS STEM Conference: January 9, 2025
Redlands STEM Conference: March 4, 2025
Redlands STEM conferences planning meeting
10/12 9am at 216 E. South Ave, Redlands
~Kathryn Brown 510-220-1876 attykbrown@gmail.com
~Pam Ford 909-730-4212 pamjford@msn.com

San Geronio Pass STEM conference

~Pam Ford 909-730-4212 pamjford@msn.com
~Betsy Grimes 909-844-0860 grimesbetsy@gmail.com

Tech Trek Committee

~Denise Westcott 909-633-3694 denisewestcott6@gmail.com
~Donita Remington 909-856-7955 donitaremington@gmail.com

Membership Matters *~continued from page 1*

Why Join? AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881

AAUW membership connects a powerful network of more than 170,000 people across the country who are passionate about building a fairer future. We make a difference!

Membership Matters: Saturday, October 5th Branch Meeting

This year's meeting will be shorter. We won't have an announcement from the stage of each group, rather you and your guests can visit each table to hear about their purpose and ask questions. Prospective members receive a complimentary brunch and a reduced price on their first year's dues if they join that day.

If you want to send a prospective member but can't attend yourself, let us know at AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org or call 909-362-4955 and we'll ask another member to host your guest that morning. And make sure you register your guest, so we have a brunch seat and name tag ready. The RSVP date is Saturday, September 21. After September 21, reservations will be on a space-available basis.

Welcome to the AAUW Community!

Membership in AAUW is open to any graduate holding an associate degree (or equivalent, such as RN), a bachelor's degree, or a higher degree from an accredited institution. AAUW members pay dues annually at three levels: national \$72, state \$20 and branch \$31 = \$123 annual dues. If a new member joins at this meeting, their first year's dues are reduced to \$87.

You'll Want to Make Reservations

Reservations for you and your guests should be made at AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org or 909-362-4955 by Saturday, September 21, 2024. After September 21, reservations will be on a space-available basis.

For More Information

Do your potential guests want to know more? More information about AAUW can be found at aauw.org. More information about our AAUW Redlands branch can be found at redlands-ca.aauw.net. Questions can be directed to Membership@AAUWRedlands.org or by calling Jan Negrón at 909-809-8819.



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 Negrón at 909-809-8819 or adamjan817@verizon.net if you'd like to help.

Believe Walk Registration

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

The American Association of University Women of Redlands to be Honored at League of Women Voters, San Bernardino 49th Annual Citizens of Achievement and Civic Engagement Ceremony

The League of Women Voters, San Bernardino Area, will honor five individuals and one community organization for their work in their communities, at its 49th Citizens of Achievement and Civic Engagement awards event.

The event will be on Sunday, October 6, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Sterling Natural Resource Center. The cost to attend this event is \$25.00 per person or a table of eight (8) for \$150.00.

This year's honoree for the Civic Engagement Award is **The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Redlands**. This year's honorees for the Citizens of Achievement Award are **Niki Dettman, Stacey Barnier, Nefertiti Long, Tansu Philip, Geraldine, and Foxall Kater**.

Since 1975, the League of Women Voters, San Bernardino Area, has honored more than 700 individuals and groups with the Citizens of Achievement and Civic Engagement award, according to a news release.

To attend this event, register at [Citizens of Achievement/Civic Engagement 2024 | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](https://www.lwv.org/citizens-of-achievement/civic-engagement-2024)

For additional information contact Twillea Evans-Carthen at tevanscarthen@icloud.com or (909) 234-4989.



2024 Citizens of Achievement & Civic Engagement Awards Ceremony



2-4PM Sunday October 6, 2024
Sterling Natural Resource Center
25318 5th Street San Bernardino, CA 92410

Awardees:

Niki Dettman, Stacey Barnier,
Nefertiti Long, Tansu Philip,
Geraldine Foxall Kater

Civic Engagement Honoree:

The American Association of University
Women (AAUW) of Redlands

\$25 per person, pay on: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/citizens-of-achievement-tickets-1005376467077?aff=oddtcreator>

Many Happy Returns To Our October Birthday Ladies!



Kathy Albrektson
Luann Bangsund
Susan Bentley
Valarie Boone
Sharon Collins
Ellen Cope
Amber Costa
Virginia Cruz
Denise Davis
Varonica Dixon
Keller Iuppenlatz
Joyce Katkov
Diane Landeros
Peggy Lanum

Charlotte Lucey
Veronica Phillips
Tricia Rogers
Krya Ruvalcaba
Deborah Seibly
Diane Shimota
Karen Skoog
Patricia Stubbs
Erica Wilson
Lisa Wright

Welcome new members

We are excited to announce the following new Redlands branch members. Please welcome them to our branch.

Brandi Bailes Crafton Hills College, AA
Cal Poly, Pomona, BS, MS

Joanne Lessard Univ of Sydney, Australia, BS
Loma Linda Univ, MPH

Joanne was raised in both New Zealand and Loma Linda. Her mother came from New Zealand and graduated from Loma Linda Medical School in 1939. Her father, also from New Zealand, joined her and served as a liaison between the United States and Australia during World War II. In 1945, Joanne and her family returned to New Zealand. Since returning to Loma Linda in 1967, Joanne has been a real estate agent with Century 21, a stock broker with Merrill Lynch, and a clinical laboratory scientist at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital.



AAUW Branches Collaborate

The AAUW IBC (Interbranch Council) is a collaborative group within AAUW consisting of multiple branches from a specific geographic area. The Redlands branch belongs to the South East IBC along with Big Bear Valley, Diamond Bar-Walnut, Ontario-Upland-Rancho, Palm Springs, and Riverside-San Gorgonio.

The SEIBC meets 4 times a year by zoom to share information and resources. Heather Abushanab, Kathryn Brown, and Kay Dobbertin attended the June 29th IBC meeting on behalf of our branch. These meetings are open to all AAUW members in one of the SE California branches. Please contact Heather, Amy or Kathryn for information on the October 26th meeting.

Help Support Our Student Members at Branch Meetings!



Last January through June, we carried out a pilot program to encourage student members to participate at branch meetings by offering a reduced meal cost for them. It worked! Students attended regularly and shared their experiences, questions, and perspectives with the rest of us! We're sure you enjoyed their company. This year, the board has approved the continuation of this reduced meal cost program.

We have funded this through member donations. We all remember the lack of extra cash for eating out when we were in college. If you CAN help with this, designate your donations for student meals. This is one way we invest in the future of AAUW. Just imagine: some of OUR students could be wearing their 50-year membership pins at a branch meeting in 2074! Questions? Just ask us.

*~Pam Ford & Susan Bangasser, Cochairs,
College/University Partnership Committee*



Committee Planning Meeting

If you heard the students speak about their experiences at AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, NCCWSL, then you know the value of our partnership with Crafton Hills College, San Bernardino Valley College, and the University of Redlands. Come help us work on plans and strategies for the year ahead. Bring your brown bag lunch and your ideas and questions to Pam Ford's house at noon on Wednesday, October 9th 1049 W. Fern Ave., Redlands.

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

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: First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Olive Ave, Redlands CA.

Sign-ups: Players MUST sign-up with a partner. Partners will not change during play.

Cost: The cost is \$50 per person or \$100 for a pair

Food: There will be light snacks and beverages available in the morning and a lunch will be served at approximately 1:00.

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: Please fill out the attached entry form and mail it by Monday, October 14th, with your check(s) made payable to AAUW for \$50 per player. Pairs = \$100. Fixed table = \$200.

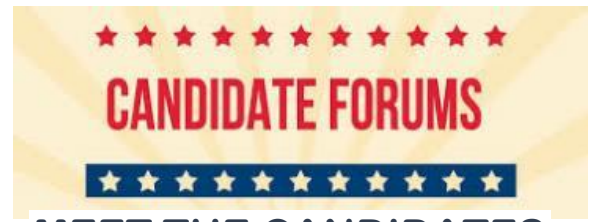
Prefer to pay online? Go to AAUWRedlands.org (additional charges apply). Need more information? Contact us at BridgeScramble@AAUWRedlands.org or call Linda Rowland at 909-794-4485.



Where We Stand: Voting Rights

AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and expanding voting rights.

AAUW Community Engagement



MEET THE CANDIDATES

AAUW Redlands Public Policy Committee in partnership with the University of Redlands Public Policy Program is once again hosting two candidate forums for local voters to get to know the candidates for Redlands offices that are on the ballot in the November 5 election.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, October 10, in the U of R Casa Loma Room, the committee will present a forum for Redlands City Council candidates. All five candidates for the two seats have been invited.

A panel of University of Redlands Political Science Prof. Renee Van Vechten, U of R Prof. Emerita of Economics Dorene Isenberg and AAUW Redlands Public Policy Committee Chair Cassie MacDuff will ask each candidate a series of questions. Following those, the audience's questions, submitted on 3x5 cards available at the forum, will be screened by AAUW volunteers and given to the panel to ask. Afterwards, candidates may stay a while and chat with attendees, if they wish.

A forum for Redlands Unified School District candidates will be presented on Wednesday, Oct. 23 on Zoom. All seven candidates for the three seats have been invited. The same panel will ask a series of questions, followed by audience questions, submitted online as guests register for the Zoom and sorted by the panel. More information about how to register for the Zoom will be presented as soon as available. Check the AAUW Redlands Facebook in the coming weeks.

Both forums are open to the public free of charge. And don't forget: VOTE!

~Cassie MacDuff, Public Policy Chair



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 (patriciastubbs@yahoo.com) to donate boutique items and/or volunteer.

Draft Branch Minutes at Our Branch Meetings

Did you notice a change in how you can review the branch minutes last month at our September dinner? They weren't on the dinner table for you to review. That's because we're hoping it gives you more time to visit with each other. Instead, the minutes can be viewed as an attachment along with the Branches and Twigs Newsletter you receive monthly in your email. Let me know if this change fits your needs.

Thank you.

~Nan Neighbours

nanneighbours@aauwredlands.org

GET INVOLVED

Two-Minute Activist

Make sure your voice is heard! We provide everything you need to contact your members of Congress and your state legislators about pressing issues. You can make a difference in just two minutes!

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

YMCA Holiday Home Tour 2024 Volunteers Needed



For the past nineteen years, AAUW has assisted the YMCA by hosting a home for their annual home tour. If you'd like to join the fun and volunteer as a hostess on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at the home assigned to AAUW, please let us know! We have two available shifts: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 12:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

This is a wonderful way to support the YMCA's biggest fundraiser, with all proceeds going to the YMCA's Legal Aid Program. Sara Pugh, the program's director, and her team provide legal services to low-income clients, primarily women. Your time and energy will contribute to a great cause and leave you feeling good!

A sign-up sheet will be available at the October meeting, or you can email or text your name, phone number, and preferred shift to Linda Browning or Ann Leonard.

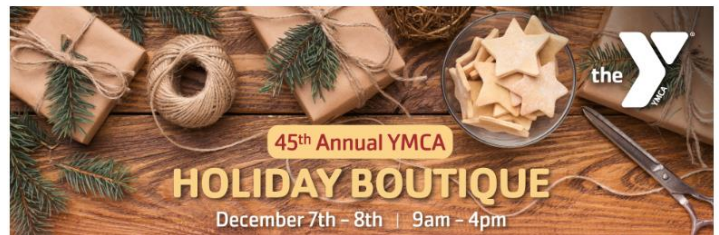
Thank you!

~Ann Leonard and Linda Browning
Home Tour Co-Chairs

YMCA Holiday Pantry Bakeshop



Another way AAUW members can support the YMCA's Legal Aid Program is by baking homemade treats for the YMCA Pantry. More details will be available in the November newsletter.



Redlands Branch STEM Initiatives



Our AAUW Redlands Tech Trek Committee is ready to start TECH TREK 2025 and WE NEED NEW MEMBERS! Join us during October Membership Month.

Once again the Tech Trek Committee would like to thank all our donors who helped fund Tech Trek 2024. IT WAS A GREAT TECH TREK YEAR! We provided a week of exciting STEM Tech Trek Camp to 16 girls this year. We sent six girls to UCSD camp, four girls to Whittier camp and six girls attended Virtual camp at home. The 7th grade girls were nominated by their STEM teachers and our committee members read their essays and conducted individual interviews with each girl before selecting the final awardees. Getting to know and meet these girls is the best part of this committee. The girls were amazing and enthusiastic!

The Redlands Branch Tech Trek is part of the AAUW CA Tech Trek program. AAUW Redlands works with 4 schools, one in each of the following school districts and schools: Nicolet MS in Banning, San Gorgonio MS in Beaumont, Clement MS in Redlands and Park View MS in Yucaipa/Calimesa. Our committee has 2-3 members assigned to each school. From January through April, our Tech Teams work with the school counselor, teachers, students, and parents to get through the application and selection process. We are looking for AAUW members to join our Tech Trek team. Please contact Tech Trek Coordinators, Denise Westcott or Donita Remington, if you are interested in learning more about this exciting and vital program. After April there may be some Branch events where we invite Tech Trek Alumnae or celebratory events before camps which are in June and July. The camp directors usually handle interactions with the campers.

We welcome new members or seasoned members who would like to join our Tech Trek committee. If you are interested in joining our Tech Trek committee you can sign up at our October Membership meeting or contact Denise or Donita.

Your AAUW Redlands branch Tech Trek Coordinators

~Denise Westcott at denisewestcott6@gmail.com 909-633-3694 (call or text)

~Donita Remington at donitar@csusb.edu 909-856-7955 (call or text)

AAUW Redlands STEM Conference Update: Progress is Happening!

On January 9 and March 4, 2025, AAUW Redlands will again (for the 32nd year) sponsor our annual STEM Conferences for 8th Grade Girls. The primary goal of the conferences is to encourage our local middle school girls to embrace high school classes in science, technology, engineering and math, thereby equipping themselves with a high school transcript which will enable them to pursue degrees and eventually careers in fields where knowledge of STEM subjects is crucial.



The following excerpts from a recent LA Times article describe some success toward that goal:

“In a milestone breakthrough, more than half of Caltech’s incoming undergraduate class in the fall will be women for the first time in its 133-year history. The class of 113 women and 109 men comes 50 years after Caltech graduated its first class of undergraduate women, who were admitted in 1970...”

“Caltech isn’t the first California educational institution to reach gender parity in STEM. Harvey Mudd College, a small private institution in Claremont, was an early leader in diversity. The college enrolled more women than men in 2010 for the first time in its history and in 2014 graduated more women than men in engineering. Today, women make up 52.8% of majors in computer science, 50.5% in engineering and 68.2% in mathematical and computational biology at Harvey Mudd... At UC Berkeley, another powerful producer of STEM graduates, nearly half of students majoring in those fields identify as women or nonbinary, but the field they enter varies significantly. They make up more than two-thirds of students in biological and biomedical sciences, but about one-third in engineering, computer and informational sciences, and mathematics and statistics...”

~continued on page 10

Redlands Branch STEM Initiatives *-continued from page 9*

“Gloria L. Blackwell, chief executive of the American Association of University Women, lauded Caltech’s achievement as crucial progress in reducing the substantial gap of women in science, technology, engineering and math. Blackwell said, “Although women hold about 60% of degrees in biological sciences, they represent only about 18% in computer science and 20% in engineering...Research has shown that boys are not better at math and science than girls, but a persistent message in society says otherwise — and especially discourages Latinas and Black girls from pursuing the fields because they face discrimination and have less access to role models, resources and opportunities... Even as more women study science, technology, engineering and math, they remain significantly underrepresented in the related workforce. Women hold about 45% of STEM degrees but make up only 28% of the workforce in those fields.”

-Kathryn Brown, Redlands STEM Conference co-Chair

Who Do You Know that Could Help Us Help Others?

We invest over \$25,000 annually to send 900+ 8th graders to our STEM Conferences. We rent campus space, provide educational materials and feed the students lunch. It takes money to send students to our Tech Trek summer camps. College isn’t cheap these days, but our scholarships help women returning to school. And each year we send a handful of students across the country to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

To continue these efforts and others, our branch taps into the financial resources of our community by soliciting fundraising sponsorships. The more business sponsorships we can find, the more women and girls we can help.

Do you know someone or a company that would be able to sponsor our fundraising events? When they donate, they not only receive back the satisfaction of knowing that they have directly helped our community, but they also receive publicity for their company and a tax deduction. They can contribute whatever amount makes sense for them. It’s a win, win for all of us.

Think of the women-owned businesses around town that would love to get their name in front of our 300+ FilmFest attendees; companies that are committed to helping students gain STEM careers; and organizations that value diversity and equity.

Knowing someone personally is a really big help to get our foot in the door. Think about it. Who do you know? With your insight, together we will determine the best way to approach your referrals and ask for their support. You can help us or we can do all the legwork.

If you think you know someone, please reach out to one of us. We’ll work with you to determine next steps.

Kate Pretorius, (951) 809-1733, katepretorius@gmail.com

Lisa Wright, (951) 212-0731, wright.elisa@gmail.com

Amy Bisek, (952) 261-9908, amy.bisek@gmail.com



"Money grows on the tree of persistence." — Japanese proverb

Branch Officers:

President: Heather Abushanab (909-565-0655) **Co-Vice Presidents-Elect:** Amy Bisek (952-261-9908) & Kathryn Brown (510-220-1876) **Communication Vice President:** Keita Wangari (951-963-4780), **Co-Hospitality Vice Presidents:** Joyce Katkov (909-633-6404) & Keller Iuppenlatz (909-855-8294), **Program Vice President:** Eileen Sanborn (909-900-7154), **Membership Vice President:** Jan Negron (909-809-8819), **Secretary:** Nan Neighbours (951-440-7881), **Treasurer:** Sue Ferguson (951-312-4904) **At-Large Board Members:** Twillea Evans-Carthen (909-234-4989), Lisa McCarty (909-725-1089), Ellen Timothy (909-363-5214)

B&T Submission:

The deadline for the **November newsletter** is **October 10th**.

Send your articles to the editor via email to news@AAUWRedlands.org

See the associated article in the newsletter for more details. Many of the roles are great for new members who want to get to know other members and make an impact now.



Page 4>>**October Membership Meeting volunteer**
October 5, 2024

Page 8>>**YMCA Holiday Home Tour**
December 8, 2024

Page 4>>**STEM Conference Committee** Next committee meeting October 12 – on calendar

Page 9>>**Tech Trek Committee**

September Branch Meeting



September Speaker
YMCA of the East Valley
CEO Brandi Colloao

September Birthdays
Sue Wallace, Linda Browning, Linda Rowland, Kathy Warren, Cassie MacDuff



C/U partnership co-chair, Pam Ford, with **Redlands' 2024 NCCWSL students:** Kayla Carroll, Monita

Purnell, Michelle Ly, and Dana Zamora







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

**Branches and Twigs
Issue 3 October 2024**



Invite Prospective Members to our Oct 5th Branch Meeting!

Who will you invite to this special branch meeting?

An invitation you can easily distribute is attached to this month's newsletter email. Just forward either the short or long version to your potential guests to encourage their participation and membership.

The more friends you have in AAUW, the more fun you'll have in AAUW!

Please register prospective members' names and contact information to

AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org

We'll use this for nametags and follow-up.