

# Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW  
February 2025

[www.AAUWRedlands.org](http://www.AAUWRedlands.org)  
Issue 7, 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



Last month our STEM Initiatives team held their first of two STEM Conferences for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls, this one at Mt. San Jacinto College. Their attention is now turning to the University of Redlands STEM Conference to be held on March 4 and to the selection process for awarding our Tech Trek Scholarships for summer 2025.

These STEM activities are incredibly important to the lives of girls in our area and require significant time, effort, and money to carry out. STEM Initiatives is one of our most important branch mission projects, so it is important that all branch members know about the vital work being done in this area, as well as the challenges that exist and the goals that are in place for the future. As part of our Strategic Plan adopted in December, STEM Initiatives is striving to ensure the long-term sustainability of these programs by developing continuing and new leadership in this area and securing on going funding for these programs. The STEM Initiatives group will be documenting the various jobs that are critical to their success so that newer members can take on some of these tasks with confidence and support.

*~continued on page 3*

*Redlands  
STEM  
Conference  
Committee  
requests  
your help  
stuffing  
student  
letters after  
the February  
branch  
meeting.*

## February Branch Meeting:

### ***The Sudanese Struggle for Girls' and Women's Education***

As a cultural anthropologist, Ellen Gruenbaum lived, worked, and conducted research in the large, mostly Muslim, African country of Sudan in the 1970s. She and her late husband, Jay O'Brien, lived there for 5 years during the 1970s. In the years since, she has returned several times for research and teaching.

Historically, education in Sudan was mostly for boys. In villages she visited, boys learned the Qur'an by rote memorization, reciting verses from wooden tablets in the firelight. When secular schools were introduced, it took dedicated reformers to establish ways for girls to be included. Now embroiled in a disastrous civil war that has closed all the universities and schools, Sudanese educators are struggling again, often from exile, to find ways to keep women's education alive over the Internet. Ellen's talk will focus the past and present struggles, describe her own experiences working with Sudanese students and educators, and share the current efforts of the Ahfad University for Women in Omdurman, Sudan.



*Ellen with students from her Global Health class at Ahfad University for Women.*

*~continued on page 3*

## February Branch Meeting

### When

Saturday February 1, 2025  
Social 8:45 am  
Brunch 9:30 am  
Program 10:15 am

### Where

University of Redlands  
**CASA LOMA Room**

### Menu

Fresh Fruit (vegan),  
Biscuits & Gravy,  
Scrambled Eggs  
(vegetarian), Country Ham,  
Hash Browns (vegan)

### Cost

Members and guests: \$25

### Reservations:

Please call 909-362-4955 or email [AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org](mailto:AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org) by Saturday, January 18, 2025. After January 18, 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 or Patricia Stubbs

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, March 1, 2025  
*\*RSVP deadline 2/15/2025*  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025  
Saturday, June 7, 2025

BRUNCH RESERVATION for FEBRUARY 1 meeting: After January 18, reservations are made on a space-available basis by calling 909-362-4955 or emailing <a href="mailto:AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org">AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org</a>						AAUW Redlands February 2025	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 8:45am Branch Mtg.	
2 6pm California Cuisine 1	3	4	5 1pm Bridge	6	7	8 9 am STEM Redlands Mtg.	
9	10 *1pm Sew What! **6:30pm Board Mtg.	11 8:45am Fundraising	12 6pm CHAT	13	14 	15	Reservation Deadline for March 1 branch mtg. 9am STEM Packet Day
16 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	17 	18	19 12pm I Am, Therefore I Think	20 *10am Bridge 6pm DEI/ Racial Justice	21 Lobby Days registration deadline	22 9am Hiking	
Y	24 *1pm Bridge **1pm Sew What!	25 *8:45am Fundraising **7pm Public Policy	26 1pm Bunko	27 *1pm & 7pm Reading & the Rainbow **3pm STEM walk through @ UofR	28	MARCH 1 8:45am March Branch Mtg. After Branch Meeting STEM walk through @ UofR	

Save the Dates

March Branch Meeting Saturday March 1, 2025  
*Reservation deadline Saturday February 15*  
 STEM Conference @ U of R Tuesday, March 4, 2025  
 Redlands Community Day of Service Saturday, March 15, 2025  
 Great Decisions: March & April 8 weeks Monday afternoons or Wednesday evenings  
 FilmFest Friday, April 25, 2025  
 Lobby Days April 8-9  
 AAUW California Annual Event Saturday April TBD

**California Cuisine and Conversation 2**  
 2/16 5:30pm  
 ~Patty Ahearn  
**CHAT**  
 2/12 6pm Assembly Room, AK Smiley public library  
 ~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext. 4138 [literacy@akspl.org](mailto:literacy@akspl.org)  
**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice**  
 2/20 6pm DEI / Racial Ellen Gruenbaum's home  
 ~Ellen Gruenbaum  
 ~Erica Wilson  
 ~Donita Remington

**AAUW Redlands Board Meeting**  
 2/10 6:30 pm Redlands United Church of Christ and remotely on teams.  
 ~Heather Abushana  
**Bridge Groups**  
 4th Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm  
 ~Contact Susan Satzger  
 3rd Thursday @ 10 am  
 ~Contact Tricia Stubbs  
**Bunko**  
 2/26 1pm  
 ~Patty Ahearn  
 ~Lori Powell  
**California Cuisine and Conversation I**  
 2/2 6pm  
 ~Kathy Toister

**Fundraising Committee**  
 2/11 & 2/25 (every other Tuesday) 8:45am on Teams  
 ~Heather Abushana  
**Hiking Our Hills & Mountains**  
 2/22 9am Contact Alison or Donita to be added to email list  
 ~Alison Rodriguez  
 ~Donita Remington  
**I Am, Therefore I Think**  
 2/19 "What is on your nightstand?"  
 Meets 12 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4th Street, Redlands.  
 ~Barbara Simmons  
 ~Margee Fuller  
**Lobby Days** >> see article on page 10  
**Public Policy**  
 2/25 7pm ~Cassie MacDuff

*continued from page 1*

## February Branch Meeting

Ellen Gruenbaum is Professor Emerita of Anthropology from Purdue University in Indiana, where she served as department head for a decade. Earlier in her career she taught at Cal State, San Bernardino for 11 years and served as Dean of Social Sciences at Fresno State for another 11 years. She has written a book (*The Female Circumcision Controversy*, UPenn Press, 2001) and numerous academic articles about her work in Sudan. In February, she plans to travel to Egypt to visit Sudanese friends and colleagues who are living in Egypt as exiles during the disastrous Sudanese civil war, raging since April 2023.



~Eileen Sanborn, AAUW Program VP

### Reading and the Rainbow

2/27 *The Christy Affair* by Nina de Gramont  
No RSVP required. Information on the facilitator and co-host will be emailed.

~Valarie Boone  
~Marianne Baldwin

### Sew What!

2/10 & 2/24 1pm

~Lisa McCarty

### STEM Initiatives

**STEM Conference @ Univ of Redlands:** March 4, 2025

### STEM Committee planning meeting

2/8 9am at 216 E. South Ave, Redlands

~Kathryn Brown  
~Pam Ford

### STEM Packet assembly

2/15 9am 1251 E Lugonia Ave., Redlands

### Walk through for Redlands STEM Conference

2/27 3pm, meet in front of Casa Loma room

3/1 after branch meeting in Casa Loma

### Tech Trek Committee

~Denise Westcott  
~Donita Remington

## President's Corner, Heather Abushanab

~continued from page 1

Over the summer as part of our bylaws review, we will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of restoring the STEM Initiatives Chair as an elected board position. Several years ago, when this was a voting board position, it was common practice for the STEM chair to serve two years and then the nominating committee would help to find a new chair for the next period of time. When our bylaws were changed, the nominating committee no longer helped to find a replacement chair. Kathryn Brown served as STEM chair through Covid, when it was important to have leadership continuity for the program. She did an amazing job keeping our programs not only alive during that time, but actually vibrant and exciting. Now that the crisis is over, she has served well beyond the traditional two years at the top and is ready to take on new challenges for the branch. Whether STEM chair returns as a voting board member or continues as a non-voting board major program chair, Kathryn cannot serve in this role next year when she will be co-president of the branch.

Our Tech Trek offerings have grown over the last five years under the leadership of Denise Wescott with the support of the STEM Initiatives crew. We strive to send as many 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls from our area as possible to this life impacting program. Denise works with schools in Redlands, Banning and Beaumont to identify good candidates, interview and select the very best, interact with state leadership to secure spots for our girls, register them properly and ensure they have the best experience possible. The program costs our branch over \$1000 for each girl, but the money is well spent indeed.

For many years, Kate Pretorious has helped to find funding sources for all our STEM Initiatives. She is now also working with the branch fundraising team to help us have a more comprehensive and integrated approach to fundraising for all the branch mission projects.

Some AAUW CA branches extend their Tech Trekkers' experiences through a branch Tech Trek alumni group. We have enough Tech Trek alumni from our branch that the potential for such a group is high, and there is support from AAUW CA on how to create and sustain such a group, but we don't yet have someone who wants to take on this project. Perhaps in a year or two, an alumni Tech Trek program can be added to our Strategic Plan goals for STEM Initiatives.

Kathryn, Denise and Kate along with many others in our branch have contributed so much to the STEM Initiatives programs. Pam Ford and Betsy Grimes headed the MSJC STEM Conference this year. Donita Remington is assisting Denise with Tech Trek and our fundraising team has several enthusiastic members.

Additional leadership in all these areas is welcome and vital. Please let Kathryn know if you are ready to increase your involvement in STEM Initiatives and help us develop the leadership pipeline needed to secure these mission projects for the future!

## Hospitality Birthday Club

**Happy Birthday to All!** This month we will celebrate not only our February birthdays but also August birthdays. We celebrate both months because we don't meet in August, and we don't want to leave anyone out.



### **February Birthdays:**

Marianne Baldwin  
Linda Bidaki  
Korine Bronson  
Marcella Cavallaro  
Rosemary Conway  
Kay Dobbertin  
Judy Elder  
Kaye Espinosa  
Ginny Evans-Perry  
Andrea Fuqua  
Joanne Lessard  
Tracy Massimiano  
Lisa McCarty  
Andrea Morics  
Nan Neighbours  
Krista Newkirk  
Renaë Reiswig  
Christine Smith  
Nelda Stuck  
Karen Watkins  
Denise Westcott

### **August Birthdays:**

Heather Abushanab  
Deborah Berg  
Cid Breyer  
Peggi Cook  
Roslyn Dunn  
Johanne Dyerly  
Debra Fields  
Marion Golson  
Kim Green  
Joyce Heitmeier  
Martha Lehman  
Valerie Lichtman  
Toni Momberger  
Cathy Curtis Odegaard  
Karen Parker-Parent  
Jane Roberts  
Anne Sandel  
Susan Shodahl  
Sherry Walsh  
Susan Willis  
Debbie Wilson  
Sara Zarro

## Closing Soon! Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship Deadline is Feb. 28th

If you know a woman living in the Redlands branch area who has had her higher education interrupted but has now returned to earn her Associate's, Bachelor's, or post-graduate degree, please let her know about this scholarship opportunity. Also, please follow our AAUW Redlands branch page on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn and when you see us posting about the scholarship, please re-share with your followers.

The NYMS application is available for download from our website at our Redlands branch <https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/projects/scholarships-2/>

~Keita Wangari, NYMS Chair

[KeitaWangari@AAUWRedlands.org](mailto:KeitaWangari@AAUWRedlands.org)



## Member News - Condolences



In sympathy and friendship, we send our condolences to Dolly Church Israelitt on the loss of her husband, Lewis.

<https://www.emmersonbartlett.com/obituaries/lewis-israelitt>

## Membership News

I would like to thank everyone who is spreading the word about AAUW. Each month we have had fantastic women join our branch.

As Joyce Katkov has mentioned in our previous newsletters, we are trying something new this year. We have a **Hospitality/New Member table** reserved at each of our branch meetings. New members or members who have not been attending meetings regularly are invited to sit at the table with Joyce, Keller Iuppenlatz, and me. We want them to be able to ask questions and have a chance to get to know the other new members. Thanks again for all your support!



~Jan Negron  
Membership VP



We are looking for volunteers to be mentors for new members. Mentorship is mentee driven by the new member and usually is very easy. It might be as simple as meeting with a new member over lunch to share about AAUW or invite them to an interest group you are involved in or to sit with you at an AAUW meeting as they begin to get acquainted with others. If you are willing to support new members in this way, please reach out and let me know! You are appreciated!

~Joyce Katkov, Hospitality VP  
[joycekatkov@aauwredlands.org](mailto:joycekatkov@aauwredlands.org)



## Speech Trek Contest

The final AAUW Redlands Branch Speech Trek presentations took place on January 16, 2025. The topic for the high school students was, "Explore one aspect of the effect that climate change is having on women in the USA and around the world."

The third-place winner, Kelsie Victor, was awarded \$125. The second-place winner, Lillian Peske, was



*Patty Ahearn, Connie Garber, Lillian Peske, Kelsie Victor and Pasha Raoufi*

awarded \$225. The first-place winner, Pasha Raoufi, was awarded \$350. He is a senior at Redlands High School.

As a winner of the Speech Trek Contest, Pasha will present his speech at our

Redlands Branch meeting on February 1, 2025. Pasha's video will be submitted to the AAUW CA Speech Trek finalists selection committee. If Pasha is one of the top three finalists selected, he will present his speech at the AAUW California Annual Event and compete for a top prize of \$1500.

*~Patty Ahearn  
Speech Trek Chair*



## The 2025 AAUW Art Contest

Hello AAUW Redlands "artist" members!

The 2025 AAUW Annual Art Contest is **open through January 31, 2025**. [AAUW Art Contest page](#).

Women artists remain underrepresented in galleries and often face pay inequity. Our annual contest spotlights the creativity and contributions of women artists within our community, advancing gender equity through art.

## Membership News

If there is someone in our AAUW Redlands branch who would benefit from a sympathy, get well, or similar type greeting card, please contact me at the email below and I will send a card on behalf of all of us at AAUW.



*~Joyce Katkov, Hospitality VP*  
[joycekatkov@aauwredlands.org](mailto:joycekatkov@aauwredlands.org)

## Welcome New members

A few familiar faces have joined or rejoined our Redlands branch. Thanks for affirming your commitment to AAUW Redlands and our mission to advance equity for women and girls!

**Peggy Crabtree** *Oregon State Univ BS*

Peggy has lived in Redlands for 40 years. She and her husband came to Redlands with the Air Force at Norton AFB. Peggy's husband was a pilot in the Air Force and a career officer. He passed away two years ago. Peggy taught kindergarten at Kingsbury School in Redlands for 16 years.

Peggy's hobbies are reading, exercising and communicating with her friends. She also helps with her nine-year-old granddaughter who lives in the San Diego area. Peggy enjoys living in Redlands and hopes to join the Reading and the Rainbow book club. In joining AAUW, she looks forward to meeting educated ladies from all walks of life and taking advantage of all that AAUW has to offer.

**Paula Ferri-Milligan** *CSU San Bernardino, MA  
CSU Fullerton, Ed D*

Paula recently retired, after 42 years, from San Bernardino Valley College where she taught English. She moved with her daughter from San Bernardino to Redlands eleven years ago. Paula enjoys spending time with her daughter, spending time with her friends, reading, and traveling and she is looking forward to doing more of that in retirement. Paula was previously a member of the Redlands branch (11/2015 – 6/2024) and looks forward to renewing that connection.



## Redlands STEM Conference

**PACKET ASSEMBLY**>>February 15, 9am @ Lugonia Fountains clubhouse, 1251 E Lugonia Ave., Redlands. Clubhouse is at the first stop sign. Park on the street if curb not painted red.

**CONFERENCE**>>**NEED GUIDES** and **HOSTS** for the STEM Conference on **March 4** at University of Redlands.

CONTACT:

~Linda Browning  
~Patty Ahearn

## STEM Conference Volunteer Training Sessions/Campus Orientations

Please mark your calendars for one of the STEM Conference training/campus orientation meetings on:

- **Thursday, February 27** 3:00 p.m.
- **Saturday March 1** (following the Branch meeting around 10:45)

It is crucial for you to familiarize yourself with the University of Redlands campus buildings and understand your roles as a guide, host, or building chair. During these sessions, we will take you on a tour of the U of R campus, highlighting routes, entrances, exits, and providing information about the conference day schedule and your specific duties. Thank you for volunteering for the STEM Conference!

~Linda Browning  
~Patty Ahearn

*STEM Conference Volunteer Coordinators*

***Redlands STEM Conference Committee requests your help stuffing student letters after the February branch meeting.***

## STEM Conference Lunch— You're Invited!

All who are volunteering at the STEM Conference for 8th Grade girls on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Redlands are encouraged to join the conference speakers, guests and their fellow volunteers for lunch that day in the Casa Loma Room.



Lunch offers the opportunity to network, thank and chat with our speaker volunteers, as well as to relax and discuss the day's highlights with other volunteers. The lunch menu, which will be served from 11:30-2pm, will feature a Pasta Trio Buffet -- Vegetable Alfredo, Rigatoni in Marinara Sauce with Meatballs and Vegan Pasta Primavera with Gluten-Free Pasta--along with Caesar salad (with a vegan dressing option) and, of course, two delicious dessert choices: Lemon Cheesecake Bars & Apple Crumb Cake (Vegan.) The cost of the Lunch is \$30. (Lunch for our speakers is complimentary.)

Please contact Susan Bentley Payment can be made on our website <https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/> or Susan will also be accepting reservations and payments at the February 1st Branch Meeting.

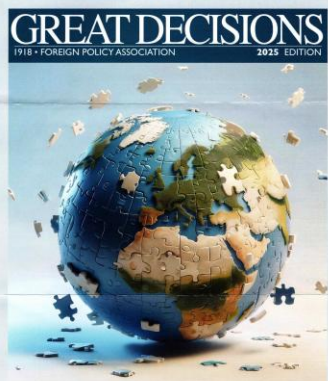
## January CHAT meeting



**Conversation Helps Adults Transition**

~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext.4138

[literacy@akspl.org](mailto:literacy@akspl.org)



## GREAT DECISIONS 2025

The Great Decisions groups will begin meeting on Monday, March 3, and Wednesday, March 5. For those who have already ordered the briefing book, it will be available at the February AAUW branch meeting. Great Decision is a discussion group organized through the Foreign Policy Association. We meet once a week during the months of March and April. The afternoon group meets on Mondays and the evening group meets on Wednesday evening. Each week members read an article on a different foreign policy issue and then meet to discuss it. If you did not preorder your briefing book through our branch, you can still join us by ordering your briefing book on the Foreign Policy Association website (fpa.org). There is also an e-book version of the briefing book available on the Barnes and Noble website. Be sure you order the Great Decision 2025 briefing book. If you are interested, you can contact Sue Wallace for the Monday afternoon group or Sue Ferguson for the evening group.



### Basket



*Congratulations  
Thelma Muro*



## Follow Us on Social Media!

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



Here's where to find us:

- Facebook: @aauwredlands
- Instagram: @aauw\_redlands
- LinkedIn: @aauw\_redlands

## Reminder: Online Membership Directory Password

This is a reminder that our AAUW Redlands branch website has an online member directory. It lists all members' contact information, joining year, annual membership renewal date and educational background. You can access our website at [redlands-ca.aauw.net](http://redlands-ca.aauw.net). The password for the online directory portion of the website has been sent to Redlands branch members.

No longer do you need to hunt down your little purple yearbook when you need someone's phone number. You can just go online and you'll find the most up to date information.





## 2025 Community Day of Service Saturday, March 15, 2025

Join other branch members who volunteer to participate in the 16th Annual Community Day of Service on Saturday, March 15, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. While this event normally runs for 2.5 hours, any amount of time you can volunteer will make a difference. We will be working at Sylvan Park ONLY this year and the tasks involved will not be as strenuous as in previous years. There will be five or six different projects to choose from including helping to create a baseball diamond, cleaning up the rose garden by removing weeds and replenishing the dirt, rehab of walking pathways and doing some bench painting in a few designated areas. After working at one of the Service Projects, come and enjoy a lunch served by the Kiwanis Club of Redlands.

A sign-up sheet to participate will be available at the February and March branch meetings or you may contact Eileen Sanborn for more information or to add your name to the volunteer list. Thank you for considering giving your time to this community event.

*~Warmly, Eileen Sanborn, AAUW Redlands Branch Community Day of Service Coordinator*



### Bridge Happenings at AAUW

- AAUW Redlands currently has two established bridge groups that meet on the first Wednesday and the fourth Monday of each month, at 1 p.m. You can talk with Susan Satzger if you have questions about these groups.
- A new group, to support bridge learners, now meets on the third Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. About half of this group spent time in 2024 learning bridge on their own. They are now ready for regular play and have formed a group. They are looking for additional players to be on their sub list. Contact Heather Abushanab or Patricia Stubbs to be added to the sub list.
- Louise Schumann is ready and willing to teach a group of bridge students, if there is interest. She needs at least four people to create a class. Louise suggests an 8-10 week, weekly program to get players ready to play in a party group format. Contact Heather Abushanab or Louise Schumann to express interest.
- AAUW used to have two bridge groups targeted at couples, a duplicate group and a party bridge group. These groups fell apart during Covid and never got reconstituted. If we can get at least four couples interested, we can talk about what kind of bridge we want to play, when we might like to play, and how we might organize ourselves. A couple can be a married pair, or two people who just like to play bridge as partners. One member of the partnership needs to be an AAUW member. Contact Heather Abushanab to express your interest!
- Do you have other ideas for expanding our bridge offerings through AAUW Redlands branch? If so, please let us know!

*~Heather Abushanab  
~Tricia Stubbs  
~Susan Satzger  
~Louise Schumann*



# 2025 STEM Conference @ Mt. San Jacinto College

Great News!

It was NOT windy at the San Jacinto campus of Mt. San Jacinto College on Thursday, January 9, 2025! Our STEM Conference for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls from Banning and Hemet was a great success!

Students were welcomed to the conference by our President Heather Abushanab and our conference Co-Chair Betsy Grimes. We were all welcomed to the college by the VP of Student Services, Rebecca Teague, who had attended Acacia Middle School in Hemet. The keynote speaker, Erica Alfaro, unveiled her life story in a way that many students later

described as inspirational. Her topic: **You Can Succeed Despite Adversity.**

The girls attended three workshops each before our lunch together in the Café. The workshops were all fascinating and very well prepared and executed. They were:

- Animatronic Prototyping with Jillian Brown, Celine Haynie and Tayler Brown all from Garner Holt Education through Imagination;
- The Future of Finance is Women by our very own Rachel Bubb of KBW Wealth in Redlands;
- Playing with Atomic Legos: The Physics of Thin Films by Dr. Sara Callori from CSUSB; and
- Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation by Geneva Holzer from the Redlands Police Department.



left  
Geneve Holzer  
right  
Rachel Bubb  
below left  
Dr. Sara Callori  
Below center  
Garner Holt Education through Imagination



Conference co-chairs, Pam Ford (left) and Betsy Grimes (right) with keynote speaker, Erica Alfaro,

In addition, we deeply appreciate and applaud our own Susan Bangasser and Karen Watkins who were prepared to lead a workshop and stood by in case any of our speakers could not attend.

Between workshops, the students had the opportunity to meet the keynote speaker who signed a card with her college graduation photo in which she stands in a strawberry field with her loving and supportive fieldworker parents. Here are some comments from our delightful 8<sup>th</sup> graders:

- *I learned that I can do anything no matter who I am and where I come from.*



- *I learned that us as girls need to dream big and if we set our hearts to it we can do it.*
- *Be confident, and have fun doing it, and be kind.*
- *I learned how **all these women** made me believe everything is possible.*

Please note that last statement in which she said ...”**all these women**....” That’s you and all of us in AAUW Redlands making these STEM Conferences happen. It is a labor of love and AAUW members always step up for OUR girls.

Thank you,

*~Pam Ford and Betsy Grimes  
Co-chairs for the STEM Conference at MSJC*



## Lobby Days 2025 – Advocate for Bills to Advance AAUW Values

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/lobby-days-2025-advocate-for-bills-to-advance-aauw-values/>

Lobby Days 2025 will be held on April 8 and 9, 2025. Meet with state legislative offices to inform them about AAUW and advocate for their support of AAUW California’s priority bills. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate.

For more information about AAUW Redlands’ plans for Lobby Days 2025, contact Cassie MacDuff.

- **The Lobby Days Event registration deadline is February 21, 2025.**
- **The mandatory training is March 31, 2025, 7-8 pm Pacific time.**

*~Cassie MacDuff*

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/>

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2025/01/public-policy-news-january-2025.pdf/>

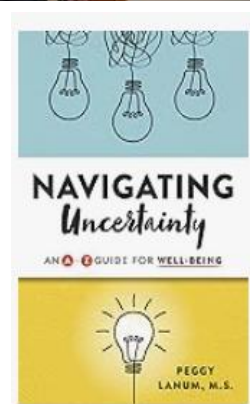


The January issue of the Public Policy News contains an article, “Why Public Policy Priorities Matter”. The newsletter also contains details for several upcoming virtual events, and an update regarding the ratification of the ERA.

Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko  
Co-chairs, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee  
<https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/>

# January Branch Meeting

Peggy Lanum:  
*"The Science of a Well-Lived Life."*



### January Birthdays:

Amy Bisek, Shelli Stockton,  
 Sheron Bealer, Beverly Woolverton,  
 Rachel Bentley, Stephanie Harlan,  
 Mercedes Gifford, and Rosa Gomez



### January 7, 2025 Branch Meeting Recap

Redlands branch members enjoyed another very worthwhile branch dinner meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Our support of the YMCA Tour and Pantry was much appreciated, and the overall event was successful in raising funds to support the YMCA Legal Aid Clinic. Money received to further support our AAUW Redlands branch activities, was successfully raised on Giving Tuesday. Leadership Redlands has accepted two candidates from our branch to participated in their one-year program, and our branch is supporting these two women, each with a scholarship towards that learning endeavor. A grant of \$2000 was presented by Julie Michaels, a board member of the Redlands Community Foundation, to our branch for work that we do to benefit the Redlands community. After a delicious and mostly vegetarian dinner, the evening was capped by a wonderful presentation by Peggy Lanum about *Living Well – The Science Behind a Well-Lived Life*. Please see the meeting minutes which accompanies the email that provided this newsletter. You will find other additional announcements in it and more details about the above events. Thank you to all who organized this enjoyable monthly gathering.

~Nan Neighbours

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

Branches and Twigs  
Issue 7, February 2024

