

Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW
April 2025

www.AAUWRedlands.org
Issue 9, 11 Issues Annually



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

President's Corner: Heather Abushanab



The year is steadily marching forward towards spring and AAUW Redlands Branch still has a lot going on. FilmFest is coming up on April 25th, the STEM group is reviewing our two conferences and determining if any changes are warranted for next year, the Great Decisions discussion groups are in full swing, and our DEI and Public Policy groups are beginning to implement their strategic plan goal for the AAUW CA school board project. The goal is as follows:

Educate our local communities about the risks of censorship of curricula and libraries in local public schools, advocate for diversity programs, support our professional educators, and advocate for protections of LGBTQ+ and other students against discriminatory policies.

The first steps towards implementation are to view the resources available for this project on the AAUW CA website and then to begin attending school board meetings to monitor what is happening firsthand. Many of these meetings are raucous, time consuming and crowded, so some members are attending virtually. The focus is on the Redlands Unified School District, since the majority of our branch lives in this area, but there are sufficient members in other areas who are interested in this project that monitoring is happening in Riverside and Yucaipa as well. If you would like to learn more about this goal or get involved with these committees as they pursue the School Board Project, please look over our document: [Strategic Plan 2024-2025 updated 03 03 2025.pdf](#) and get in touch with these committee leaders: DEI – Ellen

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April Branch Meeting: "Neurodiversity in Today's Society"



The guest speaker for the Tuesday, April 1 evening meeting will be Dr. Jessica Lascano speaking on "Neurodiversity in Today's Society."

The term "neurodiversity" is used to describe cognitive differences between how people think, learn, and behave.

Lascano is CEO and owner of Strive ABC, a company that provides assessment, behavior support, training and consultation to school districts, families and community organizations. She is a certified school psychologist and behavior analyst, licensed educational psychologist and clinical counselor.

She has worked as a special education teacher, school counselor, school psychologist, adjunct professor, parent trainer, therapist, social skills trainer, and university-level mentor for teachers and school psychologists. Jessica has an interest in helping others to grow, and strongly believes that by working together we can impact the lives of many more children than we could alone.

~Eileen Sanborn, Program VP

April Branch Meeting

When

Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Social 5:15 p.m.
Brunch 6:00 p.m.
Program 6:45 p.m.

Where

University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu Spinach salad, Balsamic Vinaigrette (vegan) or Ranch dressing, Grilled lemon rosemary chicken or ****Panko crusted Gardein chicken (vegan),** Roasted new potatoes (vegan), Fresh herbed vegetables (vegan), Rolls (vegetarian), Oreo Blondies (vegetarian). Beverages. ****please request the vegan entrée when making your reservation**

Cost

Members and guests: \$35

Registration

Please email AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org or call 909-362-4955 by Monday, March 17, 2025, to make a dinner reservation. After March 17th, 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 951-233-1287 or Patricia Stubbs 909-289-9183

Members and guests are invited to attend the speaker portion of the meeting free of charge. Chairs will be available.

Branch Meetings 2024-2025

Tuesday, May 6
*RSVP deadline 4/21/2025
Saturday, June 1

DINNER RESERVATION for APRIL 1 meeting: After March 17, reservations are made on a space-available basis by calling 909-362-4955 or emailing AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org					AAUW Redlands April 2025	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:15pm Branch Mtg.	2 *1pm Bridge **7pm Great Dec #4	3	4	5
6 6pm California Cuisine 1	7 1pm Great Dec #6	8 LOBBY 8:45am Fundraising	9 DAYS *6pm CHAT **7pm Great Dec #5	10	11	12 7:30 UofR theater: Bull in a China Shop
13	14 *1pm Great Dec #7 **1pm Sew What! ***6:30pm Board Mtg.	15	16 *12pm I Am, Therefore I Think **7pm Great Dec #6	17 *10am Bridge **6pm DEI/ Racial Justice	18	19
20 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	21 <div>Reservation Deadline for May 6 branch mtg.</div> *11am CSUSB Career/Leadership Fair **1pm Great Dec #8	22 *8:45am Fundraising **7pm Public Policy	23 *1pm Bunco **7pm Great Dec #7	24 1pm & 7pm Reading & the Rainbow	25 5:45pm FilmFest	26 *9am Hiking **10am Virtual AAUW CA Annual Event
27	28 *1pm Bridge **1pm Sew What!	29	30 7pm Great Dec #8	<div>Save the Dates</div> <div>May Branch Meeting Tuesday May 6, 2025 Reservation deadline Monday April 21</div>		
AAUW Redlands Board Meeting 4/14 6:30 pm on Teams. ~Heather Abushanab Bridge Groups 4th Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm ~Contact Susan Satzger 3rd Thursday @ 10 am Beginners ~Contact Tricia Stubbs Bunco 4/23 1pm ~Patty Ahearn ~Lori Powell California Cuisine and Conversation 1 4/6 6pm ~Kathy Toister California Cuisine and Conversation 2 4/20 5:30pm ~Patty Ahearn CHAT 4/9 6pm Contemporary Club ~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext. 4138 literacy@akspl.org CSUSB Career and Internship Fair (see page 6) 4/21 11am. – 2pm Table Event ~Susan Bangasser ~Pam Ford				Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice 4/17 6pm DEI/Racial Justice Location will be sent by email. ~Ellen Gruenbaum ~Erica Wilson ~Donita Remington Fundraising Committee 4/8 & 4/22 (every other Tuesday) 8:45am on Teams ~Heather Abushanab Great Decisions Mondays @ 1pm ~Sue Wallace Wednesdays @ 7pm ~Sue Ferguson Hiking Our Hills & Mountains 4/26 9am Contact Alison or Donita to be added to email list ~Alison Rodriguez ~Donita Remington I Am, Therefore I Think 4/16 "The Incredible Impact of Shopping Local" facilitator: Toni Momberger. Meets 12 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4 th Street, Redlands. ~Barbara Simmons ~Margee Fuller Lobby Days 4/8 & 4/9 ~Cassie MacDuff		

~continued on page 3

Save the Date: Annual AAUW California Event

The AAUW California Annual Event is Saturday, April 26th, 10 am - 2 pm. This year's theme is ***Pivoting 4 Our Future***. All AAUW California members are invited to gather on Zoom to recap recent accomplishments, be inspired by speakers, applaud the winners of state awards, hear the Speech Trek finalists, chat in multiple breakout rooms, and think about how AAUW—and YOU—can respond to today's dramatic social changes. To receive upcoming registration information, make sure you have subscribed to the California Connection monthly email blast, as it will be sent out in the next issue. Click the link below to subscribe to California Connection. Please join this event. You'll be in awe and inspired by the great work of our California leadership and branches.

Public Policy

4/22 7pm

Contact Cassie to be added to the email list.

~Cassie MacDuff

Reading and the Rainbow

4/24 *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo

No RSVP required. Information on the facilitator and co-host will be emailed.

~Valarie Boone

~Marianne Baldwin

Tech Trek ~Donita Remington

Sew What!

4/14 & 4/28 1pm

~Lisa McCarty

U of R Theater (see page 5)

4/12 7:30 *Bull in a China Shop*

~Pam Ford



Registration Information: To receive registration information, subscribe to the California Connection monthly email blast. To subscribe, click on the link:

<https://aauw-ca.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=19f3eb2a88f3e5cfe13cf7d2e&id=0fe1b909b0>

President's Corner, Heather Abushanab ~continued page 1

Gruenbaum, Donita Remington, and Erica Wilson; and Public Policy Cassie MacDuff.

~Heather Abushanab, President, AAUW Redlands



**An Evening of Short Films
By Women - For Everyone**

Get Your Tickets Now!

Do you love film? Join us for an enjoyable evening of film, food, and fellowship on Friday, April 25. Showcasing women filmmakers, you'll see short films that are funny, thought-provoking, artistic, and inspiring. All FilmFest proceeds go toward our Mission Fund Scholarships, STEM education and empowerment for local girls and women. Tickets can be purchased for \$50 each at our April branch meeting or through Eventbrite.com for an additional fee. Invite your friends too; attached to this newsletter email is a FilmFest promotional card you can forward to them. It's an event not to be missed!

5:45 p.m. Reception with wine, beer, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and dessert in the Esri Café
7:00 p.m. Short film screenings in Esri Auditorium
Esri 380 New York Avenue, Redlands

Do you have gift certificates or gently used items that we can include in FilmFest Opportunity Baskets? Text Amy Bisek to let us know.



2025 FilmFest Oscar Sponsors



esri



**Redlands
Community
Hospital**
Caring for Generations



KWB WEALTH

Welcome New members

Shirley Ayangbah

Zhongnan University of Economics, China, PhD
Central China Normal University, MA
Claremont Graduate School, MA

Shirley is an educator, economist, and legal scholar originally from Ghana. Her academic and professional journey has taken her across multiple countries, including China and the United States, where Shirley gained diverse cultural and professional experiences in global governance, economic development, and public policy.

She has lived in Redlands for one year and is an adjunct professor at four community colleges, including Crafton Hills College, where she teaches Economics, Public Policy, and Business Law.

Beyond her professional work, Shirley is passionate about mentoring students, engaging in policy discussions, and advocating for economic and educational equity. As an educator and advocate for inclusive economic policies, Shirley strongly believes in creating opportunities for women in leadership, education, and policymaking. She looks forward to contributing to AAUW's mission and collaborating with like-minded professionals to drive positive change.

Jennifer Cross Pomona College, BA

Before moving to Redlands 25 years ago, Jennifer was the Associate Dean of Admissions at Pomona College. She is currently a stay-at-home mom and what she likes to call a "professional volunteer." Much of Jennifer's volunteering has been at Redlands USD for one of her four boys through PTA, booster clubs, and room parent duties. For ten years, she has served with Bon Meres to benefit Children's Fund. Jennifer also works with the group *Together for Redlands*, which seeks to bring people together and rallying them to get involved and vote locally. For fun, she enjoys cooking, travel, reading, board games, and cards. Jennifer is interested in AAUW because she has a passion for access to education for women and underserved communities.

Jennifer Escobar UC Riverside, BA Claremont Graduate Univ, MA

Kate Gattuso Clarion State Univ, BA Loma Linda Univ, MS

Kate came to the Inland Empire for a specialist job in Respiratory Therapy at Loma Linda University Medical

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Hospitality Birthday Club

Happy Birthday to all our April birthday ladies. Please be sure to join us at the branch meeting, so we can wish you a very happy birthday.



Diana Becerra
Arlene Benson
Connie Binkley
Susan Burnett
Judy Cannon
Jo Cavedon

Jan Cooper Hagman
Twillea Evans-Carthen
Gigi Garcia
Monica Harwood
Emma Herzog
Barbara Krause
Terrill Levinson Wickham
Sierra Mason
Susan Miller

Ruthann Mlcoch
Julie Patton
Rose Romer
Carol Sousa
Diana Steele-Jones
Trudy Waldron
Ellen Weiss
Mandy Wilcox-Herzog

Membership News



Thank you to everyone who is spreading the word about our wonderful branch! Every month we continue to have a group of fantastic women join our group. Please stop by the "Hospitality - New Member" table and introduce yourself! I have updated the directory on our website and will add the pictures to the contact information as soon as I can. As I am not a "techy person," it might be a while!

~Jan Negron, Membership VP

Condolences

In sympathy and friendship, we send our condolences to **Kate Pretorius** on the loss of her father, **Sheron Bealor** on the loss of her brother, **Mary Lou Guererro** on the loss of her aunt, **Becky Johnston** of the loss of her daughter and **Deb Seibly** on loss of her brother-in-law.



~continued from page 4

Welcome New members

Kate Gattuso

Center and has lived in Redlands for 23 years. After receiving her MS in Bioethics at Loma Linda University, she was an assistant professor in the undergraduate Respiratory Therapy Program. After a wonderful career, Kate retired in 2014. She joined AAUW because her mother and sister were members.

Trisha Keeling

CSU Humbolt, BA

Heather King

Boston Univ, BA
Univ of Wisconsin, PhD

Heather was born in Claremont, moved to Indiana when she was 11, and after college in Boston and graduate school in Madison, WI, she returned to the area to take a job at the University of Redlands, where she has English Lit for 25 years and counting. Heather's husband is an architect with a focus on sustainable design. Their sons are both in college now, which means Heather has more time to get involved! She is a knitter, choir member, and passionate defender of the right to read.

Alison Klemm

Student Associate
Crafton Hills College

Alison has been a Redlands local for most of her life. Some of her hobbies include crocheting, technical theater, and music. Alison also loves to travel and takes any opportunity to get to see new places. She is interested in joining AAUW because she wants to make connections with other women in the community and contribute to an exciting collaborative environment.

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Elections will be held at April Branch meeting

Amy Bisek	Co-President 2025-2026
Kathryn Brown	Co-President 2025-2026
Susan Bangasser	President-Elect 2025-2026
Ginny Evans-Perry	Treasurer 2025-2027
Marianne Baldwin	Communications VP 2025-2027
Ellen Gruenbaum	Program VP 2025-2027
Susan Miller	Hospitality VP 2025-2027
Kim Cousins	Member At Large 2025-2026
Thelma Muro	Member At Large 2025-2026
Margaret Wilcox	Member At Large 2025-2026

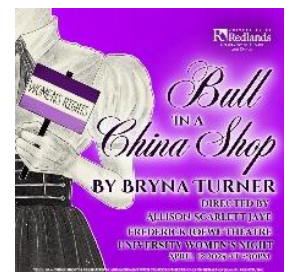
They will be joining continuing officers

Nan Neighbours	Secretary 2025-2026
Jan Negron	Membership vVP 2025-2026

Nominations for the Nominating Committee serving a two-year term for 2025-2027 are:

Sue Ferguson
Lisa McCarty
Eileen Sanborn

We will vote on this slate of officers, the nominating committee, and our budget at the April 1 branch meeting. Additional nominations from the floor can be submitted at that time.



University Women Attend Theatre Production Together!

The theatre department at the University of Redlands is producing *Bull in a China Shop* April 4, 5, 12 at 7:30 p.m. & April 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the Frederick Loewe Theatre.

AAUW Redlands has accepted an invitation to be part of University Women's Night on Saturday, April 12. The production is at 7:30 p.m. Buy discounted tickets for \$15 at the April 1st AAUW Redlands branch meeting, or order tickets now at the online price of \$19.62 for April 12 at 7:30 pm: www.ticketsource.us/university-of-redlands-theatre If you need a ride to the theatre on April 12, let Susan Miller or Tricia Stubbs know, and one can be arranged.

Why is AAUW Redlands involved in this performance? The play follows Mary Woolley and her partner Jeannette Marks as they reform and revolutionize women's education at the height of the suffrage movement is about women working to advance women's education in America during the early part of the 20th century. Hmmm.....wonder if they were AAUW members?

Let's fill up the theatre!

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

Welcome New members

Sierra Mason Student Associate
Crafton Hills College

Sierra has lived in Redlands her whole life and is currently working on earning her AA for transfer in communication studies. She enjoys working on CHC's Honors Institute leadership team and was recently elected as Student Senate Executive Assistant. Sierra volunteers on the Girl Scouts of San Geronimo's Gold Award committee as a mentor for scouts in the process of earning their award. In her free time, she enjoys reading, watching movies, cooking, and dipping her toe in as many hobbies as possible! Sierra is interested in joining AAUW because she is looking for a community of dedicated, successful women that she can learn from while earning her degree. Sierra is looking forward to meeting the members of AAUW Redlands branch.

Darcy McNaboe CSU San Bernardino, MBA
Cal Baptist Univ, PhD

Since 2019, Darcy has worked as a charitable Giving Officer for the Inland Empire Community Foundation. Prior to this, she founded and principal-ed Village Enterprises, a local and business marketing enterprise. Darcy has extensive experience serving her community. She has held leadership positions with several local organizations, including the Foundation of Grand Terrace, Grand Terrace Planning Commission, San Bernardino Municipal Water District Advisory Commission, and the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority. From 2014 to 2022, Darcy served as the Mayor of the City of Grand Terrace and currently is a member of the Rotary Club of San Bernardino, the Grand Terrace Lions Club, the Grand Terrace Women's Club, and the Redlands Chamber of Commerce.

Carolann O'Donnell Shippensburg Univ, BS
CSU San Bernardino, MA

National Membership Dues Update

The AAUW National Board approved a modest dues adjustment — \$2 per year over the next two years.

Starting April 1, 2025, individual National member dues will be \$74, AAUW CA dues \$20, AAUW Redlands branch \$31.

On April 1, 2026, National dues will change to \$76.

AAUW Looking for Interns

Ours is a fully functioning branch with activities going on throughout the year. As a well-established non-profit, we have a wide range of experience in event planning, activism, and fund-raising. College students today realize that the world of non-profits has some career and volunteer opportunities that they want to explore.



Cal State San Bernardino's College of Arts & Letters is hosting a Career and Internship Fair April 21 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We will have a table at this exciting event for students, hoping to recruit one or maybe two interns for some of the tasks we have to carry out in fundraising and other areas. If you would like to help at this event, please contact one of us.

Fun Fact: This event is carried out under the direction of Sunny Hyon at CSUSB, one of our new members!

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

Bunco



February Bunco

L-C-R winner
Ginny Evans-Perry

STEM Conference Success Due to Volunteers!

If you were on campus at the University of Redlands on Tuesday, March 4, you would have been startled to see about 600 8th graders with school staff as well as another 150 volunteers taking over the campus. These 150 volunteers served as Workshop Speakers, STEM Fair Leaders, Guides, Hosts, Building Chairs and more!

The 2025 STEM Conference for 8th Grade Girls at the University of Redlands hosted students from Beaumont, Redlands and Yucaipa-Calimesa. They were welcomed to the campus by University **President Krista Newkirk** and treated to a keynote address by award-winning author **Erica Alfaro** who used her personal story to explain that they are capable of great success in spite of life's challenges.

A fun highlight this year is the presence of volunteers who once attended the conference as 8th graders. There were at least four young women serving as Guides who understood the value of the conference first hand and wanted to be here to help as adults.

Most members of our branch served this year or have served in the past to make this conference a reality. The students and their school staff are deeply grateful.

Kathryn and I cannot even begin to count the hours of planning and organization that the STEM Committee members devoted to this conference over the year.

A shout out also to UoR Event Services and Harvest Table Catering for working with us to provide the appropriate spaces and furniture as well as the delicious lunches for students and for volunteers.

Planning for 2026 begins when we have our "debriefing" meeting on March 29.

Next year's conference will be in the first week of March. Put it on your calendar and plan to be there!

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

*Keynote Speaker **Erica Alfaro**, STEM conference Co-Chair **Kathryn Brown**, and AAUW Redlands Branch President **Heather Abushanab***

*STEM
conference
Co-Chair
Pam Ford,*

*Volunteer
Co-Chair
Linda Browning*

*University of
Redlands Liaison
Amy Bisek*



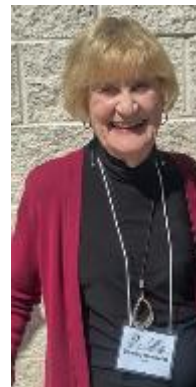
AAUW Redlands 2025 STEM Committee: *Heather Abushanab, Patty Ahearn, Susan Bentley, Amy Bisek, Kathryn Brown, Linda Browning, Rosemary Conway, Peggi Cook, Ellen Cope, Kay Dobbartin, Roslyn Dunn, Pam Ford, Andrea Fuqua, Betsy Grimes, Sue Hall, Dolly Israelitt, Carol Kennedy, Ann Leonard, Thelma Muro, Cindy Perkins, Kate Pretorius, Marilyn Shankar, Susan Shodahl, Meena Spangrud, Sally Trost, and Karen Watkins*





31st Redlands STEM Conference

Redlands STEM Conference Committee thanks our 150 wonderful volunteers.



Special THANK YOU to Deborah Seibly and Twilled Evans-Carthen for Conference photos.





Financial Planning, Physics, Cartology, Artificial Intelligence, Nutrition, Paleontology,



Engineering: Civil, Systems, Automotive, & Manufacturing, Orthopedic Medicine,



Physical Therapy, Forensic Science, Animatronics, Renewable Energy, Physician Assistant.



The **STEM Fair**, shorter and less formal than the first two topic workshops, is like speed dating—a quick learning opportunity designed to acquaint the students with additional educational and career options. During the STEM Fair sessions, the students interact for ten minutes at a time with multiple professionals.



Real Estate, Environmental Planning, Education, Architecture, Business Ownership,



Civil & Chemical Engineering, Anesthesiology, Archeology, Emergency Room Medicine.



March Branch Meeting

Our March birthdays:

Ellen Gruenbaum, Pam Ford, Carol Kennedy, Jan Negron, Laura-Lee Shelton, Margi Galligan



AAUW Fund Speaker:
Zoe Miller-Vedam



March 1, 2025, Branch Meeting Recap

There is much going on in our AAUW Redlands branch: The STEM Conference at the University of Redlands is Tuesday, March 4, the College and University Partners are excited about their goals for the next five years, the Great Decisions discussion groups begin in March, the Redlands Day of Service is on March 15th and discounted tickets for the April 12 UofR play, *Bull in a China Shop*, are available for AAUW members. At the brunch meeting one of our Named Gift Honorees, Denise Westcott, was recognized and the speaker, Zoe Miller-Vedum, an AAUW Fellowship recipient, spoke about "Birthright Citizenship". For details see the attachment to this newsletter of the meeting minutes.

~Nan



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Please click <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2025/03/public-policy-news-march-2025.pdf> for the March issue of Public Policy News.
~Cassie MacDuff, AAUW Redlands Public Policy Chair



**March
Branch
Meeting**

