

Branches and Twigs

AAUW Redlands Branch
November 2025

<http://redlands-ca-aauw.net>
Issue 4, 11 Issues Annually



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

Co-Presidents' Corner: Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown



Huge congratulations and heartfelt thanks to our members who so expertly orchestrated our October membership meeting. Eighteen new members joined that day. Make sure to check out the article recapping this month's new members and the attached Yearbook Updates: maybe a new member is your neighbor or shares your interests? We bet they'd like an invitation to join you at an upcoming AAUW event.

If you returned home from the membership meeting and thought: Hmmm, I should have signed up for this or that and I didn't make it happen. It's never too late. Just grab your little yellow yearbook, where it lists the contact information for all our group chairs, and reach out to them. We're sure they'll be happy to hear from you.

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November Branch Meeting

Holiday Boutique & Craft Fair

November Program:



"Launching the Inland Empire Journalism Innovation Hub + Fund: A Model for Community Centered Local News"

Dr. Paulette Brown-Hinds is a California-based media leader working at the intersection of information access, equity, and philanthropy. As publisher of *Black Voice News* and founder of Voice Media Ventures, she has transformed a legacy print outlet into a data-driven, community-centered news organization advancing solutions journalism and digital storytelling.

She is also the founder and senior advisor of the Inland Empire Journalism Innovation Hub + Fund, a regional initiative designed to strengthen the local news and information ecosystem through collaborative reporting projects, newsroom support, and revenue-focused innovation. The Hub has become a model for building civic capacity by investing in diverse local media and supporting journalism as a public good.

~continued on page 3

November Branch Meeting

When Saturday,
November 1, 2025

Boutique opens 8:15 am
Check In & Social 8:15 am
Brunch 9:30 am
Program 10:15 am

Where Casa Loma
Room
University of Redlands

Menu Breakfast Buffet:
Scrambled Eggs*&***,
Ham***, Potatoes
O'Brien**&***, Biscuit &
Gravy, Fruit Tray**&***,
Coffee, Tea
*vegetarian, **vegan,
***made without gluten

Cost

Members & Guests: \$25
Student Associates: \$15

Reservations

Please call 909-362-4955
or email
AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org by Sunday, October 19, 2025. After October 19, 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.

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

Branch Meetings 2025-2026

Tuesday, December 2, 2025
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Saturday, February 7, 2026
Saturday, March 7, 2026
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Tuesday, May 5, 2026

BRUNCH RESERVATION for NOVEMBER 1 membership meeting: After October 19 th , reservations are made on a space-available basis by calling 909-362-4955 or emailing AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org						AAUW Redlands November 2025	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Branch Meeting & Boutique opens 8:15 Branch Meeting	
2 6pm California Cuisine 1	3 7pm Bridge Lesson	4	5 1pm Bridge	6	7	8 9am STEM committee Mtg.	
9	10 *1pm Sew What! **6:30pm AAUW Board Mtg.	11 8:45am Fundraising Mtg	12	13 6pm DEI/Racial Justice	14	15	
16 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	17 *1pm Bunko **7pm Bridge Lesson Reservation deadline for Dec 2 branch meeting	18	19 *9am CHAT **12pm I Am, Therefore I Think	20 * 10am Bridge **1pm & 7pm Book Club	21	22 8:30am Hiking	
23/30	24 *1pm Bridge **1pm Sew What! ***7pm Bridge Lesson	25 *8:45am Fundraising Mtg **7pm Public Policy	26 1pm Bunko	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29	Save the Dates December Meeting: Reservation Deadline: Mon, Nov 17 YMCA Home Tour: Sun, Dec 7 MSJC STEM Conference: Thurs, Jan 8, 2026 Redlands STEM Conference: Wed, Feb 25, 2026 FilmFest: Fri, April 24, 2026
AAUW Redlands Board Meeting 11/10 6:30pm Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Ave, Redlands and on Teams ~Amy Bisek ~Kathryn Brown Bridge Groups 4th Monday 1pm, 1st Wednesday 1pm ~Contact Susan Satzger 3rd Thursday @ 10 am Beginners ~Contact Tricia Stubbs Bridge Lessons 11/3, 11/17, 11/24 Heather Abushanab Book Club 11/20 <i>The Lion Women of Tehran</i> by Marjan Kamali No RSVP required. Information on the facilitator and co-host will be emailed. ~Valarie Boone ~Marianne Baldwin Bunko 11/17 and 11/26 1pm ~Patty Ahearn ~Lori Powell California Cuisine and Conversation I 11/2 6pm ~Kathy Toister California Cuisine and Conversation 2 11/16 5:30pm ~Patty Ahearn				NEW DATE Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice 11/13 6pm DEI/Racial Justice Location will be sent by email ~Ellen Gruenbaum ~Erica Wilson ~Donita Remington CHAT Meeting 11/19 9am Assembly Room ~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org Fundraising Committee 11/11, 11/25 (every other Tuesday) 8:45am on Teams ~Lisa Wright Hiking Our Hills & Mountains 11/22 8:30am Contact Donita to be added to email list ~Donita Remington ~Diana Shimota I Am, Therefore I Think 11/19 <i>"The Value of Children's Literature in Today's Society"</i>, moderator: Eileen Sanborn Meets 12pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4th Street, Redlands. ~Barbara Simmons ~Margee Fuller Public Policy 11/25 7pm Contact Cassie to be added to the email list. ~Cassie MacDuff			

November Program ~continued from page 1 “Inland Empire Journalism”

A former president of the California News Publishers Association, Dr. Brown-Hinds serves on the boards of the California Press Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, the American Press Institute, and is the former board chair of the Inland Empire Community Foundation. She also chairs Rebuild Local News, a national coalition advocating for public policy solutions to revitalize local journalism.

A 2025 democracy policy fellow at UC Berkeley and two-time John S. Knight journalism fellow at Stanford University, her work across media, philanthropy, and policy has made her a national leader in rebuilding trusted local news ecosystems.
~Twilliea Evans-Carthen, Coordinator

Sew What!
11/10 & 11/24 1pm
~Lisa McCarty

STEM Initiatives

Mt. San Jacinto STEM Conference: January 8, 2026

Redlands STEM Conference: February 25, 2026

Redlands STEM Conferences planning meeting

11/8 9am at Kathryn Brown's home

~Pam Ford

~Karen Watkins

Mt. San Jacinto STEM Conference

~Pam Ford

~Betsy Grimes

Tech Trek Committee

~Donita Remington

~continued from page 2

Co-Presidents' Corner: Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown

~continued from page 1

What an event we have coming up at the November branch meeting. Our Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship team is putting the final touches on the Holiday Boutique fundraiser. We're sure it will be amazing. There are always creative, tasty and enticing items to buy. And the cost of your purchases goes directly to our NYM scholarship fund.

Please, please, please ensure that you vote no later than Tuesday, Nov 4. While Proposition 50 is the only statewide measure, some California counties and cities may also have local elections. These local ballots could include bond measures, parcel taxes, or other local ordinances, depending on your specific location. So watch for more information about the upcoming special election and make sure you vote. Our predecessors worked long and hard to secure the right for women to vote. Don't ever take this basic right for granted!

~Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown

Donate / Shop the NYMS Holiday Boutique

Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship holds a Boutique Sale at the November branch meeting. Be sure to bring your credit card, cash, Zelle or checkbook to take advantage of the wonderful, handcrafted items for sale.

There will be assorted handcrafted holiday items, gift baskets, jewelry, ornaments, baked goods, beautiful totes and pillows, hostess gifts, potholders regular and microwave, bowl cozies, kitchen towels, cookie cutters, and so much more.

All money raised goes to fund Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarships for local women returning to school after an interruption to their education.

The sale starts at 8:15 am and sells out fast. See you there!

~Patricia Stubbs



2024
Jewelry
Table



And don't forget, we accept **donation jewelry**, so let us help you clean out your jewelry box. Your cast-offs will be a delight to a new owner!



Hospitality Birthday Club

We are wishing these ladies a very **Happy Birthday** in the month of November. Hopefully, you will join us at the branch meeting, so we can celebrate with you in person!



Wendy Birchard
Shelley Bodnar
Ruth Cook
Suzanne Cranston
Jane Henry
Jane Hooper
Margo Klein
Sande Meith-Rask
Kate Pretorius

Donita Remington
Kari Lynn Scott
Marilyn Shankar
Meena Spangrud
Heidi Taber
Amanda Tromblay
Catherine Walsh
Pamela Welsh
Sue Young

PS If we missed you or you are new, please let us know so we can get you on the list!

~Susan Miller, Hospitality VP

Hospitality Table for New Members at Branch Meetings



We welcome you and look forward to getting to know you! If you plan on attending a branch meeting and don't already have an acquaintance or friend to sit with, we would

love for you to join us at the Hospitality table which will be labeled for your convenience.

Our greeters will also be able to direct you to the table location. We look forward to seeing you!

~Susan Miller & Jan Negron
Hospitality VP Membership VP



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.

~Susan Miller, Hospitality VP

Thank You

From
Jan Negron
Membership VP



I love November! It is the perfect time to show gratitude to others. The October Membership meeting was a great success thanks to everyone's

hard work! The energy level in the room was so high! We had 18 wonderful women join our fantastic branch. To all the members who brought guests and the women who hosted them, thank you so much. Lisa Wright, Ann Leonard and Nelda Stuck, your speeches were wonderful and enjoyed by all! Kay Dobbartin, Amy Bisek, Heather Abushanab, and Eileen Sanbourn, thanks so much for doing all the "extra stuff" that must be done with such grace and ease. I greatly appreciate it. Ginny Evans-Perry, Sue Ferguson, and Marion Golson, thanks so much for processing all the applications, I know it got a bit hectic at times! Our branch is so special because of all of the women who step up to make every event a success! Thank You!!!



Student Associates* Take Over Redlands Branch!

Well, not exactly. However, the new member news is absolutely excellent.

We have at least 14 **student members*** who are participating in our branch here in Redlands. They attend the University of Redlands, CRAFTON HILLS College, and Cal State San Bernardino. They are interested in majors as diverse as nursing, creative writing, business, teaching, communications, politics, cognitive science, visual arts, and more. Invite them to an interest group you attend. Invite them to sit with you at a branch meeting. Find out what is important to them. Keep in mind that you might be helping them to stay so involved with AAUW that one day they become the next generation of 50-year members.

AND, take advantage of our college/university partners and participate in activities on the college campuses when they are announced. (See the story on page 6 about *Steel Magnolias* at U of R, for instance.)

Thank you from the entire College/University Partnerships Committee

AAUW Student Associate Members* are undergraduate or degree - seeking graduate students enrolled in a full-time or part-time program.

Welcome new members

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

Fran Bridges-Cline Boston Univ, M.Ed
Harvard Graduate School of
Education, MA, EdD

Fran moved from New Hampshire to California in 2024 to be near her two children and five grandchildren. She grew up and completed both her master's doctoral programs in education in Massachusetts. Fran lived in Maryland for over 20 years and worked in various settings (universities, research firm, and school systems) doing research and evaluation of school literacy programs.

Fran's interest in AAUW stems from a desire to continue her learning and involvement in the field of education. As a new resident of Redlands, Fran is looking forward to meeting and getting to know people from diverse backgrounds, with varied professional interests and work experience.

Nancy Carrick Univ of Arizona, PhD

Ruth Cook CSU San Bernardino, BS

Ruth is from Los Angeles but has lived in Redlands since about 1987. She works for San Bernardino City USD as an Educational Technology Program Specialist. Ruth loves hiking, sports, books, music, and so many things. She has a family with six adult children and loves to learn. Ruth is interested in AAUW because it seems like a bunch of cool people and things to do.

Laura Elsisy Arizona State Univ, MS
UC Riverside, M.Ed

Laura has lived in Redlands for over 12 years. Laura and her husband and five children live in a historic home. She teaches seventh grade life science at Redlands Christian Middle School and her husband is a physician.

Laura has a passion for encouraging young ladies to pursue STEM careers. She also loves to road cycle. Laura was introduced to AAUW at the Redlands Juneteenth event and realized we share similar interests!

Jazmyn Garcia Student Associate
Crafton Hills College, 2027

Jazmyn is from Orlando, FL and moved to California in 2023. She worked in the mortgage industry for 10 years after not completing college her first time around. Jazmyn is studying multiple majors and is very involved as the student trustee, honors ambassador, STEM/MESA student worker, president of Psi Beta national honor society and the Math Club. She is a huge advocate for mental health and volunteers at NAMI Coachella Valley as a peer facilitator and committee member. Jazmyn has three dogs and a cat and loves to read.

Nancy Hamlin Univ of Texas, Arlington, MA

Nancy is a Redlands native and a product of the Redlands USD. After earning her BS and teaching credential at CSU San Bernardino, she taught elementary school at Smiley Elementary School for 31 years. Nancy retired in 2021 to welcome new grandchildren who were on the way. She loves spending time with her four grandchildren, traveling with her husband, teaching sewing, cycling with her "biker chick" friends and gathering with family and friends.

Siw Heede Copenhagen Univ, BA, MA

Deborah McFatter Metropolitan State Univ of
Denver, BA

Laura Miller CSU San Bernardino, BS

Laura grew up in Gainesville, FL and lives in Redlands with her daughter. She attended community college and transferred to CSU San Bernardino where she earned a Bachelors in Nursing. Laura currently works as an emergency room nurse and she enjoys music, pottery, reading, and swimming.

Maddy Mulder College of William & Mary, BA
Paris Lodron Univ of Salzburg,
Austria, MS

Amanda Otter Univ of Michigan, BFA

Julie Patton Andrews Univ, BSN

Tara Reilly UC Los Angeles, BS
Pepperdine Univ, JD

Ann Sandin Univ of Nebraska, BS
School for International Training,
MA

Ann moved to Redlands in 2007 to be near family. Before that, she lived all over the US as well as overseas, mostly in the Middle East, working as a TESOL instructor, trainer, and program administrator. When Ann stopped teaching fulltime, she joined the Redlands Adult Literacy Program – first as a tutor, then with AmeriCorps, and finally as an employee. That's where Ann first heard about AAUW. Earlier this year, she officially "retired," so she has time to pursue other interests which include travel, yoga Basenjis dogs, and her fun duties as a board member for the National Foundation for Musical Theatre. Ann also plans to volunteer more in the community, and knows that AAUW offers plenty of meaningful ways to get involved.

Lauree Simpson Univ of Utah, BA
CSU San Bernardino, MA

Lauree listed the following interests: *Gardening, Reading, Music, Sewing, Knitting, Family, People, Retired Teacher.* I've heard so many good things about AAUW!

~continued on page 5



~continued from page 4

Welcome new members

Ruchira Tetpal Mumbai Univ, India, MS

Ruchira is a human resources professional currently working as an HR analyst with the City of Perris. She has lived in the Redlands area for the past 18 years and currently lives in Beaumont. Ruchira is originally from Mumbai, India. She is a returning AAUW Redlands member and was actively involved in 2018-2020. Ruchira is looking forward to being involved, and participating more with projects and clubs.

Sarah van Schagen Univ of North Carolina,
Wilmington, BA, BS

Catherine Walsh Davidson College, BS
Univ of Chicago, MD

Pamela Welsh CSU Fullerton, BS

Pamela has lived in Redlands since 2003. She recently retired from nursing after 40 years. She is an active volunteer with an animal rescue group and fosters and assists in all areas. Pamela has an adult daughter who lives and works in Oregon as a helicopter repeller for fire.

Karen Wood Univ of South Carolina, BA
Central Michigan Univ, MSA

Karen resides in Yucaipa and retired from the Air Force after 37 years of service.

Role of Artificial Intelligence

Join us for an insightful and engaging webinar as we explore the transformative role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in various fields, from education to creativity and social good. This virtual program will be held on **Saturday, November 1, 10 – 11:30 AM.**

Hear about how AI is:

- Enhancing how we teach and learn
- Fueling creativity for designers and makers
- Being leveraged for social good

The program will include the benefits of AI tools currently being used and the potential risks and how to combat them. Whether you're an educator, creative professional, or social advocate, this webinar will provide valuable insights into the future of AI and its impact on society.

[Click HERE to Register](#) and be part of the AI conversation.



Parkview Park Walking Trail

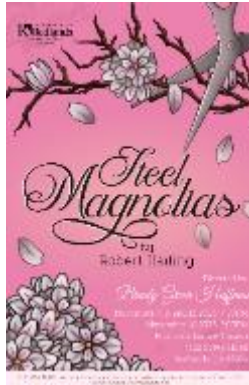


B u n c o



Another Benefit of Our Partnership with University of Redlands

As you can see from the pink flyer, the University of Redlands Theatre & Dance Department will present the play *Steel Magnolias* on campus in November. Members of AAUW are welcome to attend and purchase tickets at a discount. Rebecca Davis from the Theatre & Dance Department will be present at our November 1 branch meeting to sell you your ticket. The discount applies to any of the four performances. The performances are in the Frederick Loewe Black Box Theater on November 7, 8, and 15 at 7:30 p.m. and on November 16 at 2:00 p.m. Let's have some fun and go see the play!



AAUW Community Engagement

YMCA Holiday Home Tour 2025 Volunteers



For the past 20 years, AAUW has proudly supported the YMCA's annual Holiday Home Tour by hosting a home. As in the past, the AAUW volunteer team has been assigned one of the larger homes on the tour. We invite you to join the fun and volunteer as a hostess on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at the home assigned to AAUW for the day. Two shifts are available: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 12:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the YMCA with its major fundraiser. All proceeds benefit the YMCA's Legal Aid Program. Legal Aid Director, Sara Pugh, and her team provide essential legal services to low-income individuals, primarily women. Your time and effort will support a great cause and leave you feeling fulfilled. A sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting, or you can send your name, phone number, and preferred shift to Linda Browning or Ann Leonard via email or text.

~Ann Leonard and Linda Browning co-chairs



AAUW National:

Free Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy Webinars



AAUW continues its commitment to economic empowerment with a series of enriching webinars — Work Smart, Start Smart, and Money Smart. These webinars are more than just learning sessions; they are a journey toward self-empowerment. Attending gives participants valuable insights and tools to navigate their careers and financial lives confidently. [The fall webinar schedule can be found here.](#)

AAUW Community Engagement

YMCA Holiday Pantry Bakeshop Call for Bakers



AAUW members have another great way to support the YMCA's Legal Aid Program - by baking homemade treats for the YMCA Holiday Pantry! Many of our members have generously contributed in the past, and we hope even more will join us this year.

All baked goods are donated, and the money raised goes directly to support the Legal Aid Clinic. The more homemade treats we provide, the more funds they can raise! The YMCA is asking for volunteers to donate four dozen or more baked items (or the equivalent). Please drop off your homemade cookies, fudge, nuts, candy, or other specialties at the YMCA on Thursday, December 4th or Friday, December 5th. No need to package them—just bring your treats in a disposable container, and other volunteers will handle the rest. If you are interested in baking, please email Ann or Linda and they will give you the contact's email. You can learn more about the Y Pantry at [Pantry Bakeshop — YMCA Holiday Home Tour.](#)

Let's help make this year's Holiday Pantry a sweet success!

~YMCA Holiday Pantry Bakeshop

~Linda Browning and Ann Leonard co-chairs



TAKE ACTION: Help Get Out the Vote: Tuesday, Nov 4

We ask that you help Get Out the Vote for the California special election on November 4. As you may know, Proposition 50 is on the ballot. You can find a wealth of information about Proposition [50 here](#). This link provides a comprehensive toolkit with over 25 resources to support your GOTV efforts, including a Prop 50 Messaging Guide, Prop 50 Overview, FAQ, flier, voting timeline, and much more.



We are currently seeing and experiencing creeping authoritarian efforts to undermine fair representation, trusted information, and democratic norms in our country. This unprecedented condition, paired with overwhelming federal encroachment, presents a significant threat to many of the things that we care about, including AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Although California continues to maintain strong protections for women and girls marginalized peoples, free speech, accurate history, sound science, and democratic norms, we are still subject to the laws, rules, and enforcement actions of the federal government.

As AAUW California members, we can focus on providing Californians with information that is currently lacking from public discourse, namely that support of Proposition 50 is a non-partisan move to:

- Preserve wider democratic norms in California
- Oppose Project 2025 implementation in California
- Continue to advance AAUW California's mission and public policy priorities

Please support GOTV 2025 to preserve and advance democracy and AAUW California's public policy priorities around gender-based equity and social justice. Every single action counts.

~Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown, co-presidents



Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org
Please click [HERE](#) for the October issue of Public Policy News.

This issue contains information on our Proposition 50 GOTV campaign, including a comprehensive GOTV toolkit and actions you can take to educate the community about the positive impacts of this important proposition for all Californians.

Attached to this AAUW Redlands newsletter:

- **2025-2025 AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities,**
- **"Investing in Our Democratic Future: Non-Partisan Voter Education Around Prop 50" and,**
- **"School Boards - The Overlooked Frontline of Democracy".**

Legislative Agenda: 15 of our 26 support bills have made it to the Governor's desk! As of this writing, the Governor has signed two—both important—bills.

- [AB 260](#), which protects medication abortion by establishing that the current standard of care for the use of mifepristone will remain legal in this state, protecting providers who legally provide mifepristone, requiring the continuation of existing coverage for medication abortion, and expanding access to reproductive health care through telehealth.
- [SB 627](#), a first-in-the-nation bill that makes it a crime for law enforcement officers to wear facial coverings during their duties, except in certain situations.

Leadership Redlands Service Project Update

Our 2025 Leadership Redlands class is hard at work on this year's community service project: a **native plant and pollinator garden** designed to transform an underused space into a thriving, eco-friendly gathering place for Redlands. Here's what we've accomplished so far:

- **Secured a Location** – After some back-and-forth with the City, we were offered land near Sylvan Park. The cross streets are Division Street and Park Avenue. While the City doesn't own the entire plot, we have a great space to start this community garden and develop further over the years. This site provides great visibility close to the University of Redlands train stop, helping beautify what is now just bare dirt. To have this project approved and be granted location by the city, we had to present the project to the Redlands Parks and Rec department. The next step is collaborating with the city on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement. We are currently in the draft phase with the MOU.

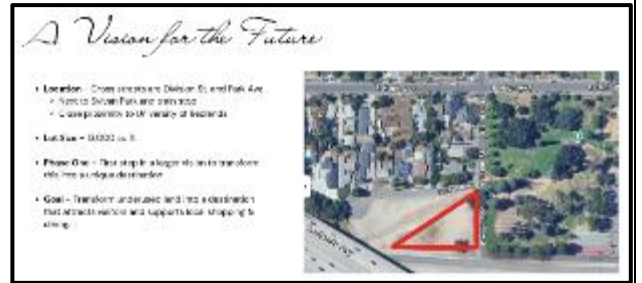
- **Building Community Support** – We've begun raising awareness at local nonprofit meetings, Chamber of Commerce Rise & Shine, and through word of mouth. Community interest and donations are growing.

- **Partnerships & Design** – Throughout this project, we've worked to partner with various business owners and nonprofits. A landscape architect has joined our effort; he is donating his time to design the space. The Master Gardeners group has helped us to methodically design a garden that will provide year round color. The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) will donate plants and support ongoing maintenance. The Redlands Conservancy has signed a letter of intent to help with long-term maintenance of the space. We're in discussions with the Sustainable University of Redlands Farm (SURF) and possible long-term involvement with maintenance. They have agreed to help us with the initial planting and preparation of the space.

- **Fundraising Efforts** – Between GoFundMe/donations, bricks, and pack the house events, we've raised about **\$12,654**; we are halfway to our \$25,000 goal! Local businesses—including Lapperts, Three Stags, Don Orange, Viva La Boba, Shop Suey, Wetzel Pretzel, Alberto's and La Michoacana— have hosted and are hosting "Pack the House" events, donating a percentage of sales to our project.

This project is bringing together businesses, nonprofits, and community members. While we've learned first-hand how challenging it can be to navigate city processes, the relationships we're building are invaluable. We expect to break ground in **November**, with completion by **spring 2026**.

If you'd like further information about Leadership Redlands, are considering applying for the 2026 class, or want to volunteer or donate to this project, please contact **Rachel Bubb** or **Stephanie Centeno**. You can find out more information on our project here: <https://www.redlandschamber.org/leadershipservice/>





Who is AAUW National and How Do We Take Action?

AAUW National Mission

AAUW empowers women and girls by championing their success in higher education and pushing for policy solutions to create lasting change.

AAUW National Strategic Plan

AAUW National's mission to advance equity for women and girls hinges on the foundational belief that economic empowerment is essential for gender equity. Supporting women in higher education is crucial to this mission because it serves as a key pathway to economic security and upward mobility.

This is why AAUW National recently updated the organization's strategic plan. A strategic plan is a comprehensive, long-term roadmap that guides an organization toward its overall goals by defining its mission, vision, and values, and outlining actionable strategies and objectives to achieve them. To see a simple one-page outline of AAUW National's strategic plan, [Click Here](#).

Our national strategic plan has three priority areas.

- Champion gender equity by directly funding and empowering pathways to higher education for women, supporting women in academia and research, and fostering women's leadership.
- Champion gender equity through education and advocacy for inclusive policies that remove barriers to success in higher education and workplaces.
- Support local state and branch efforts and maximize AAUW's financial and operational strength.



These are big priorities; they can all seem overwhelming. Do you ever wonder what you can do to make an impact? Each of these priorities is supported by five or six concrete actions we as an organization or as an individual can take. Check out this link to know more about how you can [Take Action](#).

AAUW Redlands: How We Take Action

And AAUW Redlands is right in the center of taking action! Every year we provide scholarships to women returning to school after their education was interrupted by life events. We empower college students to take the lead by experiencing NCCWSL. Our fundraising supports scholarships for high school students. This year we will inform over 900 middle school students about a wide variety of exciting STEM careers and give them hands-on STEM experience at Tech Trek. We are not, in any way, sitting on our laurels.

Our members make this work creative, inspiring and fun! To become more involved, just take your little yellow membership

yearbook and flip through the front pages. Here you'll find the contact information for the members who lead our various committees. See one that interests you? You can help pick the menu for FilmFest. You can create relationships with potential donors. You can be behind the scenes working from home to help our Archive team organize and save important documentation. Just pick up the phone or drop the leader an email. They'll be happy to hear from you. We promise.

Education Matters

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states that 2024 STEM occupations had a median annual wage of \$103,580, whereas non-STEM occupations were \$48,000. In addition, they project that from 2024 to 2034 there will be an 8.1% increase in STEM occupations as compared to non-STEM occupations raising by only 2.7%.

~Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown, co-presidents

From the Bridge Corner



Fall Bridge lessons are underway! A group of eight AAUW members and friends are meeting for 8 weeks this fall to learn the game. This round of classes is happening on Monday evenings. Additional interest was expressed for a daytime offering or a class that begins in January. If you are interested in learning bridge, please contact me and I will let you know when our next series is planned.

We are also looking into additional spaces/times for the branch Bridge offerings. Some options under consideration are to expand our current offerings to three tables, which would allow an additional four players in each group, or adding another day-time bridge group, possibly the 2nd week of the month. I am particularly interested in adding a partners group in an evening or weekend time slot, which would allow an AAUW member to play with their preferred bridge partner each session.

If you play bridge, but are not yet in a regular AAUW bridge group, please make sure I have your name, so I can include you in any discussions about future options.

Contact Heather Abushanab to express your interest!

HERstory – Nancy Yowell

A “Teacher-Photographer” and So Much More!



The Contributions and Lasting Influence of Nancy Yowell (1934-2012)

Her name is synonymous with support and encouragement for women that have returned to college after a break in their education, the **Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarships**. Yet, her contributions extend well beyond her notable Scholarship Fundraising Yard Sales. She was a teacher, mentor, organizer, gardener and photographer. But she wanted to be remembered as a “Teacher-Photographer”.

Born in 1934, to Stanley L. Taufman and Violet B. (Sparke), Nancy traced family roots to Wisconsin and North Dakota before building a life in Southern California. She married Don Arthur Yowell in 1952 in Carson City, Nevada. He died only two years after Nancy retired from teaching in 1994. His career as a respected College Administrator brought them Los Angeles to Redlands, a community she helped to shape as an educator and through her dedication in many local organizations.

A Life of Education

She earned a B.A. from Long Beach State in 1963, nine years after her marriage. She got her M.A. from Azusa Pacific University in 1975, 12 years after her B.A. She studied continuously, getting three credentials between the time she got her B.A. and her M.A., then went on to receive five more teaching credentials.

She was a classroom teacher for 30 years, teaching all grades from 1-9. However, Nancy’s career reached far beyond her classroom. As a Miller–Unruh Reading Teacher and Right to Read Lead, she advocated early literacy for the students who needed it most. She later served as a Resource Specialist. She was also Teacher in Charge for three principals and Team Leader for primary grades. She was a guiding light for the community through the complexities of year-round schooling.

Nancy was a mentor at heart. She designed and led countless workshops, wrote curriculum and learning continuums, and represented K–3 at the district level. She served on site and district computer committees and on the District Language Arts Committee. She also co-authored the school’s first Early Childhood Education proposal, today’s School Improvement Plan, leaving a lasting outline for schoolwide growth. She was Member of International Reading Association and California Retired Teachers Associations.

She was humble and few people knew about many of her accomplishments and honors bestowed upon her. She was awarded the 1990 REP Small Grant for teachers for a project titled Butterflies & Books, the California 1982 instructional-improvement mini-grant and the PTA in Rowland Unified School District also honored her contributions. She was Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Pi Chapter (teachers honorary) president from 1992 to 1998 and life member of NEA, but there is more!

HERstory – Nancy Yowell

~continued from page 10

butions. She was Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Pi Chapter (teachers honorary) president from 1992 to 1998 and life member of NEA, but there is more!

National Gift Honoree – AAUW, Redlands Branch

She was a very active member of AAUW, Redlands Branch, for 36 years, starting in 1976. She was a Named Gift Honoree in 1985. Branch President from 1983-1985 and a Branch Century Club Member for over 20 years. She was also Bylaws Chair, Program Vice President, Gourmet Foods Interest Group Chair, and Hospitality Chair. She served on the EF (Education Foundation) committees, Branch Meeting Arrangements, Finance Committee and she was also involved in the local Scholarship Committee.

Her tireless contribution led the “Local Scholarships” to be renamed “Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarships” (NYMS) in 2012 in honor of her generosity of space and service. These scholarships support women whose college education was interrupted and who have returned to finish degrees, like she did. Her contribution included offering her yard for the sale and her garage for the storage and organization of all the donations, for at least 10 years of the famous yearly Yard Sale. She would find buyers for items not sold during the yard sale, sold kitchen knives and even “rented” out books on tape from the Cassette Listening Books groups, to bring in extra money for local scholarships.

She organized the AAUW dinner program honoring the scholarship recipients after taking the applications to each area college, organizing the selection of recipients and taking the checks to the appropriate colleges. 107 scholarships have been awarded in 31 years, starting in 1994. This means 107 women have received the encouragement and support that comes with each scholarship, telling them there are many women that believe in them and are cheering for their success as they return to finish their higher education.

Somehow, Nancy even found time to remember board members with birthday cards while she served on the board of the AAUW Redlands Branch, holding a full time job while commuting to Rowland Unified School District.

Extensive Community Involvement

Nancy was a strong thread in the tapestry of Redlands. In different levels of support, she was involved with the YMCA Holiday Home Tours, First United Methodist Church, the Redlands Bicycle Classic, Redlands Community Hospital, Friends of the Library, Redlands Symphony, Redlands Bowl, The Forum Club, Kiwanis, Redlands Art Association, and the Loma Linda Lopers. She even ran/walked the Los Angeles Marathon several times.

Of course, she had to be one of the 218 influential people in Redlands that were asked to sign the 1998 “Those Who Made a Difference in Redlands” quilt. An incredible honor Nancy earned in the community.



Photography was more than a hobby

Nancy’s interest in photography also triggered her passion for traveling. She became interested in photography when she was 14 years old. She took workshops in 6 different states, West Canada, England and France. Her travels included African photography safaris and climbed the ruins at Machu Picchu, Peru.

She served as president of the Redlands Camera Club, attended Women in Nature Photography gatherings and NANPA conferences, and exhibited widely: the San Bernardino County Museum’s Multimedia Mini Show, Redlands Color Lab, Redlands City Hall, Redlands Community Hospital, RCC’s 1998 museum exhibit, and First United Methodist Church. She photographed the Red Ribbon Breakfast from 1997 to 2002. She also saw her work printed in the County’s 2000 calendar and sold prints to private collections.

Family and legacy

Nancy is survived by sons Paul and Jack and four grandchildren, and her friends still miss her annual Christmas photo card. However, her name and generosity will live through the many lives she has touched with her contributions to education, her community efforts and the scholarship that proudly bears her name and legacy. Nancy also brought beauty to gardens in Redlands and Crafton Hills. The bearded iris bulbs she brought from her garden in Los Angeles when she moved to Redlands and shared with her friends, still bloom in vibrant colors throughout the year.

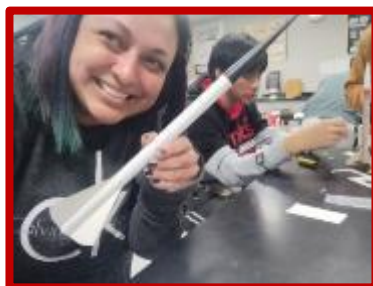
~Thelma Muro

Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship Applications Open

Applications are open for the 2025–2026 Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship! This award supports women of any age who have returned to college after an interruption. Eligible students must live in the Redlands branch area or attend one of our partner schools. The easy online application is available on our [website](#).

Awards: \$1,000 (2-year colleges) or \$2,500 (4-year universities).

Deadline: January 31, 2026



Cynthia De Los Santos

2025 Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship Recipient.

Cynthia is pursuing a bachelor's in aerospace engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. She has a lead position for the solar panels for CubeSat, which is a student-run, multidisciplinary independent research lab. Cynthia has also been selected for the 3rd year in a row to be a Lucy Ambassador. As a Lucy Mission Asteroid Ambassador, she joins the Lucy Team in promoting the Lucy Mission and other NASA missions focused on small bodies within our solar system.



Please use the attached flyer to help spread the word! Also, please follow our AAUW-Redlands branch page on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). When you see us posting about the scholarship, please re-share with your followers. And, of course, we can always use help evaluating applications in February – contact me if you want to participate.

~Keita Wangari

Branch STEM Initiatives on Track for 2026

The STEM Initiatives Committee has been meeting regularly this year to plan our major work for our 2026 initiatives! We will hold two STEM conferences for 8th grade girls and we interview and select 7th grade girls for Tech Trek which is a STEM camp held in the summer. Here is a quick introduction.



On Thursday, January 8, 2026 we will hold a conference at Mt San Jacinto College in San Jacinto, serving about 300 girls from Banning, Hemet, and two Yucaipa schools. On Wednesday, February 25, we will hold a conference at the University of Redlands for almost 600 girls from Beaumont, Redlands and Yucaipa-Calimesa. These conferences showcase women in STEM careers and STEM activities that inspire new ways of thinking for “our” students.

The summer Tech Trek camps will be held at Whittier College and at University of San Diego. There will also be a virtual camp option. The middle schools we serve for Tech Trek are Nicolet in Banning, San Geronimo in Beaumont, Clement in Redlands, and Park View in Yucaipa. Those who attend in person have the experience of living on a college campus for a week and those who attend virtually are constantly involved with activities.

Please consider getting involved in these activities which serve our AAUW mission to achieve equity for women and girls in STEM fields and STEM education. You might want to be a Guide or a Host at one of the conferences. You might like to read applications and help with interviews for Tech Trek. Tech Trek camps need counselors (virtual camp does, too.) Or maybe you are a planner and would like to help us be organized for these activities. Or you might like to donate to any or all of our STEM Initiatives.

Our next STEM Initiatives Committee planning meeting will be on Nov. 8 at the home of Kathryn Brown, 216 E South Ave in Redlands.

Questions? Ask any of us: Donita Remington for Tech Trek, Betsy Grimes for the MSJC Conference, Karen Watkins for the U of R Conference, and Pam Ford for either conference. Contact info is in your handy yellow yearbook.



An Evening of Short Films
By Women - For Everyone

FilmFest 2026 – Tickets Available!

Mark your calendar for Friday, April 24, 2026, when AAUW Redlands will host our annual FilmFest at ESRI. This inspiring evening will feature an incredible lineup of short films by women, along with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a variety of beverages.

FilmFest is more than an evening of entertainment. It is one of our branch's key fundraisers that helps support programs advancing equity for women and girls through education, empowerment, and advocacy.

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite by searching "AAUW Redlands FilmFest 2026." They can also be accessed through our AAUW Redlands website by selecting FilmFest under the Projects menu. The early-bird ticket price of \$50 is available through January 31, 2026. Beginning February 1, tickets will be \$55. This event always sells out quickly, so be sure to get yours early.

Support FilmFest as a Sponsor



Sponsorships are an important part of FilmFest, helping make this inspiring evening possible while offering meaningful visibility. This year, you can even sponsor on behalf of another nonprofit you care about, giving

that organization and its own upcoming fundraiser valuable recognition in front of hundreds of community-minded women.

Sponsors at the \$500 level and above receive recognition for the featured nonprofit or business, along with two complimentary tickets and early entry to the reception for the individual providing the sponsorship. Higher levels, such as the \$1,000 level, include extra tickets, enhanced visibility for the nonprofit or business, and a mention by the emcee during the program.

To learn more, email FilmFest@AAUWRedlands.org, or visit the FilmFest section on our website.

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets at our October branch meeting. Your early support helps make this event possible. And remember, FilmFest tickets make a wonderful holiday gift for friends, family, or colleagues.

~Lisa Wright, Fundraising Chair

AAUW Community Engagement



How to Empower Change for the Better

Hooray for trying new things! A new collaborative event called Fair for a Change was held on Saturday, Oct 11th at the University of Redlands Casa Loma Room. Thirty-three local nonprofits and service clubs, including AAUW Redlands, were in attendance with the goal of informing the over 180 attendees of our mission, activities, results and how these community members can become involved. Twenty-seven attendees, of which over nine are students, signed up to receive more information about AAUW Redlands. It was a dynamic morning, filled with captivating conversations about who these community members are and why they are looking for opportunities to serve our community, give back, make friends, learn and grow. Special thanks to Eileen Sanborn for organizing these members who staffed our information table: Amy Bisek, Mary Lou Guerrero, Martha Lehman, Dorothy Nordquist, and Tricia Stubbs. This event is sure to happen again next year. When we staff an event like this, just by having simple one-on-one conversations, we motivate people to become involved in our branch and create positive change. We are a force for positive change in our community!

What's Your Board Up To?

Wow, I didn't realize how interesting and enlightening it would be to attend our AAUW Redlands board meetings. You get to hear firsthand what our committees and interest groups are up to. It's great to hear other members' perspectives during brainstorming. Though attendees don't always agree, the collaboration is insightful. We are a passionate group of purposeful members!

Here are a few of the governing motions that have been reviewed and approved by our board recently. If you want to engage in these types of discussions in the future, feel free to attend any board meeting; all members are welcome.



August 11, 2025 Board Meeting Actions:

- Motion: AAUW Redlands, based on the experience of 2024-2025, will continue to offer a discounted meal rate to all student members for all branch meetings in 2025-2026. The price students pay for a meal at a branch meeting will be \$15. The remainder of each student meal cost will be funded by donations from members who opt to support this action. Board passed unanimously.
 - Discussion: If members would like to donate to this cause, they can go to AAUWRedlands.org, on payments and follow the prompts.
 - Financial Impact: Because this activity is funded by member donations, there is not a financial cost to the branch.
- Motion: The College and University Partnership Program proposes that the branch cover the \$10 fee for AAUW CA dues for up to thirty undergraduate students during fiscal year 2025-2026. This subsidy will come from the branch mission fund. The program will be reviewed in the event we have more than 30 students applying or there is a change in the state dues obligation for students. Board passed unanimously.
 - Financial Impact: Maximum financial impact is \$300, pending no change in student state dues obligation for this fiscal year.
- Motion: AAUW Redlands will replace our 2025-26 Vibe Fest participation with participation in Fair for a Change, an inaugural nonprofit community event to be held Sat, Oct 11, 2025. Board passed unanimously.
 - Financial Impact: The cost for participating in 2025 Fair for a Change was \$35 compared to the \$50 fee budgeted for potential Vibe Fest participation.

2025-2026 Board Meetings:

All members are invited to attend board meetings at 6:30 pm in person at Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Ave, or contact Amy Bisek for an online link. November 10, 2025, December 15, 2025, January 12, 2026, February 9, 2026
March 16, 2026, April 13, 2026, May 11, 2026, June 15, 2026

Sept 15, 2025 Board Meeting Actions:

- Motion: All contracts must be presented to the board and signed by a voting member of the board with approval of the committee member overseeing the contract. Board approved unanimously.
 - Discussion: This change reduces the number of board member signatures from three to two on all branch contracts, thereby eliminating workload redundancy. Yet because two signatures are still required, it is felt a good checks and balances process is still in place.
 - Financial Impact: No financial impact to the branch.
- Motion: Annual Statements affirming an understanding of our Conflict-of-Interest Policy will not be required, and the Policy and Procedures numbering will be updated to accommodate this change. Board approved unanimously.

~continued on page 16

What's Your Board Up To?

~continued from page 15

- o Discussion: AAUW Redlands has an established Conflict of Interest Statement, as described in our Policies and Procedures document posted on our website and in Teams. Our Policies and Procedures document historically stated that each board member, principal officer, and member of a committee were required to annually sign a Statement affirming their understanding of our Conflict of Interest Policy. Our branch did not complete this signature requirement each year. It is the board's opinion that this signature requirement is too cumbersome to complete. Hence the requested Motion to remove this signature requirement from our Policies and Procedures document. Note: The removal of the Conflict of Interest signature requirement does not alter our Conflict of Interest Policy in any way, nor impact the board's ability to discuss any questionable infraction and discipline the person if appropriate. In addition, the board brainstormed a variety of ways to better inform all branch members of our Conflict of Interest Policy to ensure compliance and adherence to the policy.
- o Financial Impact: No financial impact to the branch.
- Motion: With the changes made by the board this evening, the amended Policy and Procedures presented in AAUW-PP for Sept. Board updated 09.08.2025, are adopted. Board approved unanimously.
 - o Discussion: The updated and board approved AAUW Redlands Policies and Procedures document has been posted to our AAUWRedlands.org website, under the Membership tab, in the Member Resources subtab. It is included in the Redlands Branch Local Governing Documents listing, along with our Bylaws, Standing Rules and our 2024-25 Strategic Plan. The board welcomes all members to become familiar with this documentation for a comprehensive understanding of how our branch operates and supports our mission and governing activities.
 - o Financial Impact; No financial impact to the branch.

~Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown, co-presidents



Are you Receiving AAUW National eMails?

It's remarkable what AAUW National impacts and achieves. You'll want to stay in the know! If you aren't currently receiving their emails, here is how to add your contact information onto their email list.

They've moved to a new mass email platform to better serve us. To ensure you receive their emails, go to www.AAUW.org and access your AAUW personal "snapshot" (your AAUW National website profile) and update your Contact Information and Preferences.

Frequent-user members, click [LOG IN](#) as usual. Non-frequent users, click [LOG IN](#), then below the blue log in button, click FORGOT PASSWORD. Enter your email address and click **RESET YOUR PASSWORD** to receive and confirm a new password to access your Personal Snapshot.

Once in your Personal Snapshot, hit My Preferences on the far left-side rail. Once this pops up, hit the red EDIT button toward the top center of the page. Then simply look through the topic options and check the ones you want to receive or opt out of. Make sure you hit SAVE at the bottom of the page. You can always amend your selected options again anytime in the future.



Need help? Email connect@aauw.org and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject.

October Branch Membership Meeting

October Meeting Recap, 2025

What a great turnout for the October Membership meeting. There were about 95 members and 35 guests who attended. Showcased were sign-up tables explaining all the ways our AAUW branch makes a positive impact in our community, with committees that advance equity and education for women and girls, plus interest groups that keep us active and engaged. Three of our members, Lisa Wright, Ann Leonard and Nelda Stuck shared their stories as they spoke on the topic, **Perspectives on AAUW Membership**. Announcements of October activities were made. It was a great meeting with much excitement and positive energy. (For details, refer to the branch minutes that are attached).

~Nan Neighbours, Secretary



Happy October Birthdays: Susan Bentley, Diane Shimota, Patricia Stubbs, Dianne Landeros, Deborah Seibly, Erica Wilson, Lisa Wright, Fran Bridges-Cline



2025-26 Branch Officers:

Co-Presidents: Amy Bisek & Kathryn Brown, **President-Elect:** Susan Bangasser, **Communication Vice President:** Marianne Baldwin, **Hospitality Vice President:** Susan Miller, **Program Vice President:** Ellen Gruenbaum, **Membership Vice President:** Jan Negron, **Secretary:** Nan Neighbours, **Treasurer:** Ginny Evans-Perry, **At-Large Board Members:** Kim Cousins, Thelma Muro, Margaret Wilcox

B&T Submission:

The deadline for the December newsletter is November 10th. Send your articles to the editor via email to news@aauwredlands.org





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

**Branches and Twigs
Issue 4 November 2025**



AAUW Community Engagement

**San Bernardino
Area League of
Women Voters
Honoring Citizens
of Achievement and
Civic Engagement**

**Twillea Evans-Carthen
Mistress of Ceremony**

