

Branches and Twigs

AAUW Redlands Branch
January 2026

www.AAUWRedlands.org
Issue 6, 11 Issues Annually



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

Co-President's Corner: Let 2026 Bring New Opportunities! Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown

It will soon be a new year, filled with new possibilities. AAUW Redlands creates new possibilities for our scholarship recipients and for young students discovering new careers. We also enable our members to create new friendships, new hobbies, new avenues to make use of their intellects and skills on branch projects and to discover new strengths and opportunities for affirmation and success. We encourage you to take a moment and consider how participating in a new AAUW activity could go far to invigorate your life.



~continued on page 3

REDLANDS CHAMBER
CIVIC AWARDS

~continued on page 4

**We are a 2025 Nonprofit
of the Year Finalist!
Get Ready to Vote for
AAUW Redlands**

January Branch Meeting: Dr. Sue Hall “Boning Up on Bone Health”



The meeting program will be presented by Dr. Sue Hall, an AAUW Redlands member and physician who has dedicated her career to the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. Learn about risks and reasons for osteoporosis. Her talk will cover preventive measures and treatments, and how they can reduce development and progression of osteoporosis, including associated consequences (e.g., hip fracture).

This topic is important because studies show that 20% of women ages 50 and over have low bone mineral density and 1.5 million people in the US annually experience a fragility fracture due to bone loss. Hip fractures and compression fractures of the spine in particular can lead to hospitalization and consequences of lifelong chronic pain, loss of independence or death.

Learn what you should do and why you should do it!

~Marianne Baldwin, coordinator

January Branch Meeting

When: Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Social 5:15 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Program 6:45 p.m.

Where: University of Redlands
CASA LOMA Room

Menu

Standard Entrée:
Grilled Lemon Rosemary Chicken
with Lemon Sauce

Vegan Entrée:
Eggplant Parmesan

Buffet: Baby Spinach Salad with
Chopped Egg, Tomatoes, and Red
Onion. Chopped Bacon on the side,
Balsamic Vinaigrette**, Roasted
New Potatoes**, Fresh Herbed
Vegetables**, and Oreo Blondies*

*Vegetarian, **Vegan

Cost

Members and Members' Guests:
Standard or Vegan Entrée meal is
\$35

Members and Members' Guests:
Beverage only, No Food is \$8

Student Associate Members:
Standard or Vegan Entrée is \$15

Reservations

Please call 909-362-4955 or email
AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org by
Monday, December 17, 2025. After
December 17, 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 only. Chairs will be
available.**

Branch Meetings 2025-2026

Saturday, February 7, 2026

**RSVP deadline 1/25/2026*

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Saturday, June 6, 2026

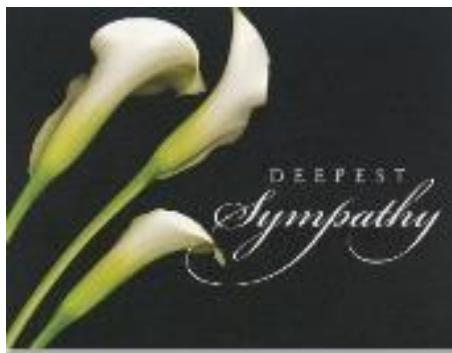
DINNER RESERVATION for JANUARY 6 branch meeting: After December 17 th , reservations are made on a space-available basis by calling 909-362-4955 or emailing AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedlands.org							AAUW Redlands January 2026
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1	2	3 9am MSJC Committee Mtg	
4 6pm California Cuisine 1	5 6:30pm Bridge Lesson	6 8:45am Fundraising Mtg 5:15pm Branch Meeting	7 1pm Bridge	8 MSJC STEM Conference	9	10	
11 <u>*1pm Sew What!</u> <u>**6:30pm AAUW Board Mtg.</u>	12	13	14	15 <u>*10am Bridge</u> <u>**10am NGH</u> <u>***6pm DEI/ Racial Justice</u>	16	17	
18 5:30pm California Cuisine 2	19 1pm Bunco	20 <u>*8:45am</u> <u>Fundraising Mtg</u> <u>**6pm Adult Literacy</u> Volunteer Tutor Orientation	21 <u>*9am CHAT</u> <u>**Noon I Am, Therefore I Think</u>	22 1pm & 7pm Book Club	23	24 <u>*8:30am Hiking</u> <u>**9am STEM Committee Mtg</u>	
25 Reserva- tion deadline for Feb 7 branch meeting	26 <u>*1pm Sew What!</u> <u>**1pm Bridge</u>	27 7pm Public Policy	28 1pm Bunco	29 Save the Dates	30	31	
AAUW Redlands Board Meeting 1/12 6:30pm Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Ave, Redlands and on Teams ~Amy Bisek ~Kathryn Brown				Febuary branch meeting Sat, Feb 7 <i>Reservation Deadline: Sun, Jan 24</i> STEM Conference Packet Assembly Sat. Feb 14 Redlands STEM Conference: Wed, Feb 25, 2026 Great Decisions: March & April 8 weeks Monday afternoons or Wednesday evenings Breakaway Femmes film Sun. March 8, 2026 Redlands Community Day of Service Sat, March 14, 2026 Bridge Scramble Thurs, March 26, 2026, Adult Literacy Program Fri, April 17, 2026 AAUW California Annual Event Sat. April 18, 2026 FilmFest: Fri. April 24, 2026 and Sun. April 26. 2026			
Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutor Orientation 1/20 6pm AKSPL Assembly Room ~Diane Shimota 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org				California Cuisine and Conversation I 1/4 6pm ~Kathy Toister			
Book Club 1/22 <i>This Tender Land</i> by William Kent Krueger No RSVP required. Information on the facilitator and co-host will be emailed. ~Valarie Boone ~Marianne Baldwin				California Cuisine and Conversation 2 1/18 5:30pm ~Patty Ahearn			
Bridge Groups 4th Monday 1pm, 1st Wednesday 1pm ~Contact Susan Satzger 3rd Thursday @ 10 am Beginners ~Contact				CHAT Meeting 1/21 9am, Assembly Room ~Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext 4138 literacy@akspl.org			
Bridge Lessons 1/5 6:30pm ~Heather Abushanab				Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice 1/15 6pm DEI/Racial Justice Location will be sent by email ~Ellen Gruenbaum ~Erica Wilson ~Donita Remington			
Bunco 1/19, 1/28 1pm ~Patty Ahearn ~Lori Powell				Fundraising Committee Meeting 1/6, 1/20 (every other Tuesday) 8:45am on Teams ~Lisa Wright			

~continued on page 3

<p>Hiking Our Hills & Mountains 1/24 8:30am Contact Donita to be added to email list ~Donita Remington ~Diana Shimota</p> <p>I Am, Therefore I Think 1/21 "End of Life Issues", moderators: Nelda Stuck & Pam Ong Meets 12pm at Trinity Episcopal Church Lounge (Rooms 6-8) 419 South 4th Street, Redlands.</p> <p>NGH: Named Gift Honoree Meeting 1/15 10am (see article on page 6)</p> <p>Program Committee Meeting 1/21 6:30pm Contact Ellen Gruenbaum for meeting location. ~Ellen Gruenbaum</p> <p>Public Policy 1/27 7pm Contact Cassie to be added to the email list. ~Cassie MacDuff</p>	<p>Sew What! 1/12 & 1/26 1pm ~Lisa McCarty</p> <p>Mt. San Jacinto STEM Conference: January 8, 2026</p> <p>Redlands STEM Conference: February 25, 2026</p> <p>Mt. San Jacinto STEM Conference planning meeting 1/3 9am at Pam Ford's home ~Pam Ford ~Betsy Grimes</p> <p>Redlands STEM Conference planning meeting 1/24 9am at Kathryn Brown's home ~Pam Ford ~Karen Watkins</p> <p>Tech Trek Committee ~Donita Remington</p>
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Member News

Condolences



In sympathy and friendship, we send our condolences to Ginny Evans-Perry on the loss of her husband, Ronald, and to Caroleen Cosand on the loss of her husband, Thomas.



**Invest in our
General Fund and
Invest in our Future**

It's not too late to invest in the future of our branch. Donations made on [Donate this Holiday Season](#) will go toward our General Fund to support our many branch activities. Or feel free to send a check to AAUW Redlands, P.O. Box 7678, Redlands, CA 92375-0678 noting General Fund in the memo line. Remember, all donations are fully tax deductible. Your contributions are what make us strong.

~continued from page 2

Co-President's Corner: Amy Bisek and Kathryn Brown

It's not too late to apply our collective effort toward thwarting harmful changes in how our government is operating. In November, our administration escalated its efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (ED), including deep staff cuts and announcing six "partnerships" that shift the day-to-day work of key education programs, outsourcing its core expertise across other federal agencies. This is despite Congress having originally created ED to centralize federal education expertise and protect students' civil rights.

What can you do? You could start by reviewing the article in this newsletter about the upcoming January 31st online virtual symposium *Defending the Frontline of Democracy*. Register and attend to learn support tactics. Inform yourself to defend democracy on the front lines. And invite your friends to attend this webinar, too, as AAUW membership is not required to participate. Don't be timid. You're sure to learn something new.

In 2026, we invite you to bring something new into your world. AAUW Redlands offers a wealth of options to investigate. Your efforts may help you feel newly alive.

National and Branch dues are FULLY tax deductible

Renewing members: National dues (\$74) + Branch dues (\$31) for a **total of \$105**

New members who joined with the Shape the Future discount: National dues (\$37) + Branch dues (\$31) for a **total of \$68**

Hospitality Birthday Club

We are wishing these ladies a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY in the month of January. Hopefully, you will join us at the branch meeting, so we can celebrate with you in person.

January Birthdays

Shirley Ayangbah

Sheron Bealer

Rachel Bentley

Amy Bisek

Nancy Carrick

Kim Cousins

Mercedes Gifford

Rosa Gomez

Stephanie Harlan

Samantha McVeigh

Carole Nagengast

Jennifer Nelson
Jessie Powell
Lori Powell
Jennie Ruvalcaba
Susan Satzger
Shelli Stockton
Andrea Woodruff
Bev Woolverton



Hospitality Table for New Members at Branch Meetings

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! Happy New Year! We are continuing to have new members join each month. Fantastic job to everyone who is spreading the word about our awesome branch. As Susan Miller mentioned in our November newsletter, 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 Susan and me. We want those sitting at the Hospitality table to be able to ask questions and have a chance to get to know the other new members. We would appreciate it if you would check to see that you are not sitting at our reserved table. Thanks again for all your support!

~Jan Negron, Membership VP &
Susan Miller Hospitality VP



We are a 2025 Nonprofit of the Year Finalist! Get Ready to Vote for AAUW Redlands

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT: AAUW Redlands is one of three local nonprofit organizations nominated for the distinction of 2025 Nonprofit of the Year by the Redlands Chamber of Commerce. This is not only a high honor, but also a direct tribute to the positive impacts we make in our community.

Next step: The final selection of Nonprofit of the Year will be determined by a community vote. From Dec 29 to midnight on Dec 31, all members of the community can vote for their favorite organization. Here are the three 2025 nonprofits nominated:

- AAUW Redlands
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside
- Redlands Police Officers' Foundation

The Chamber will announce the voting process soon and we'll pass this information to you in an email. Please vote for AAUW Redlands and ask all your friends and family to vote for us! The winner will be announced at the Chamber's Civic Awards Installation Dinner on Jan 31, 2026. Tickets to this event can be purchased on the Redlands Chamber of Commerce website.



Pilot RSVP option: “beverage only, no food”

Some of our members who are on special diets and cannot eat the meals offered with our branch meetings have let us know they would appreciate being able to sit with their friends and other members at the tables. This sounded like a good idea, so the board has arranged a pilot program to allow members to choose a “beverage only, no food option.” To cover a prorated portion of the costs of table set up, linens, and beverage service, there is a fee of \$8.00. Members who RSVP for themselves or their guests as “beverage only, no food” can sit at any round dining table. Non-members, unless guests of a member, do not have this option.

We hope this will be a welcome option for those who need it!
~Ellen Gruenbaum, Program VP

Final Reminder: NYMS Applications Closing Soon!

The deadline for the 2025–2026 Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship is fast approaching: **January 31, 2026**. This award provides \$1,000–\$2,500 to women in our branch area or at one of our partner schools who have returned to college after an interruption.

Please share the opportunity widely in these last few weeks—and encourage eligible women to apply today. To get the word out, you can use the attached flyer and/or reshare our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) posts with your followers. Want to help evaluate applications next month? Contact me.

~Keita Wangari, NYMS Chair KeitaWangari@AAUWRedlands.org



Our two 2025 NYMS recipients, **Perla Caballero and Cynthia De los Santos** volunteered in December at Santa Claus, Inc.



for 2025 – 2026 AAUW Redlands Offices

AAUW Redlands branch is a wonderful organization full of talented and intelligent women. It is a pleasure to work with such gifted women to make our branch the best it can be. The Nominating Committee is charged with finding officers for our board to begin serving in July 2026. Positions to be filled are:

- Membership Vice President (2 years)
- Secretary (2 years)
- President Elect or Co-presidents Elect (1 year, followed by 1 year as President)

Three members at large will be nominated to serve 1-year terms. These positions represent the branch membership, serve as development for future branch leaders, and have duties as assigned by the president. These positions are perfect for those with leadership potential or experience in other organizations, who need a broader view of the branch in order to serve in a major committee role or an officer position.

Three nominating committee members are needed to fill 2-year terms and an additional nominating committee member will be needed for a 1-year term.

If you have recommendations for any positions, please let a member of the nominating committee know so we can consider them. In general, a person should be a member of AAUW Redlands branch in good standing for one year, preferably two years, in order to hold an elected position in the branch. Current members of the nominating committee are: Heather Abushanab (chair), Margee Fuller, Barbara Simmons, Sally Trost, Sue Ferguson, Lisa McCarty, and Eileen Sanborn.

Descriptions of the jobs of elected officers begin on page 18 of the branch's Policies and Procedures manual found on the branch website or click on the link below.

[AAUW-PP updated 2025.09.15](#)

AAUW Community Engagement

2025 YMCA Holiday Home Tour



Thank you to the 50+ AAUW volunteers that served as docents at the annual YMCA Holiday Home Tour. Your enthusiasm at the Doll home made the event truly delightful! It was such a pleasure working with all of you. Special thanks to Pam Ford, Jan Negron, Marion Golson, Kipi Wilson Lee, Mandy Wilcox, Nerni Miller, Susan Miller, Tricia Stubbs and Meridyth McLaren – our incredible full-day team for their flexibility and support. A heartfelt shoutout to Pam and Jan, our amazing carpool team, for expertly managing parking and traffic to ensure safe travels for our volunteers. The Doll home, with its Craftsman style architecture and rich Redlands historical charm, was a favorite among both tour guests and volunteers. Your dedication during the busy holiday season to support YMCA Legal Aid is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Linda Browning and Ann Leonard

Cookie 🎂 Cupcake 🎀 P. S. Kudos to the many of you who generously donated to the YMCA Holiday Pantry — they raised a record-breaking total of over \$14,000 this year! Thank you!



Calling All Past Named Gift Honorees

Every year the AAUW Redlands branch honors members who have done outstanding work in supporting the programs and goals of AAUW Redlands and have been a member for at least five years. The branch contributes \$750 to the AAUW Fund in the name of each Named Gift Honoree. Past AAUW Redlands Named Gift Honorees are listed in our yearbook on pages 20-23.

Past winners of this award can offer suggestions about who might be eligible. This can be done at an in-person meeting on Thursday, January 15th, at 10:00 a.m. at Marilyn Shankar's home. Or you can text your suggestions or email your choices to Marilyn.

~Mary Lou Guerrero, AAUW Fund Co-Chair



**AAUW STEM
REDLANDS BRANCH**

If you, too, want to help with STEM Initiatives contact Pam Ford, Betsy Grimes, Donita Remington and/or Karen Watkins. All of us want to hear from you.

~Pam Ford, Betsy Grimes, Donita Remington, Karen Watkins 425-478-4883

STEM Initiatives News

Welcome Aboard the STEM committees!

Jazmyn Garcia and **Ruchi Tejpal** are helping to identify 7th grade girls to attend Tech Trek in 2026. **Lauren Brown** will be a workshop presenter at both STEM conferences. **Laura Miller** has offered her support for the STEM Fair at the University of Redlands conference. And others are jumping in to serve as Guides and Hosts. Thank you all!

If you, too, want to help with STEM Initiatives contact Pam Ford, Betsy Grimes, Donita Remington and/or Karen Watkins. All of us want to hear from you.

~Pam Ford, Betsy Grimes, Donita Remington, Karen Watkins 425-478-4883

Attention to all prospective STEM Conferences Volunteers!

Are you interested in lending a hand at the 2026 STEM conference on Wednesday, February 25th? **Join us for a casual meet-up before the AAUW Branch meeting on Tuesday, January 6th.** We will gather in the Casa Loma Room, near the piano, at 5:00 p.m. During this session, we'll address any questions you may have about the STEM Conference and explain the different volunteer roles and their associated duties.

~Linda Browning and Patty Ahearn



Need Guides and Hosts for Redlands STEM Conference on Wednesday, February 25th @ University of Redlands

Host Duties:

- Become familiar with campus building locations by attending pre-conference campus tours held before the STEM Conference.
- On conference day, meet your assigned speaker in Casa Loma Room before the conference begins.
- Escort the speaker to their assigned building on campus as specified on the Speaker info sheet
- Remain in workshop 1 and 2 with Speaker
- Provide assistance with materials and equipment.
- Help speakers stay within their allotted time during presentations by holding up the yellow card to signal 5 minutes remaining and the red card to indicate that time has expired. If the speaker continues past their time, please stand to gently cue the transition and guide students to move on to the next session.
- Offer support during classroom workshops as required

Guide Duties:

- Become familiar with campus building locations by attending campus tours and walk-throughs held before the conference
- Aid in ushering students to seats in the Chapel for the Welcome/Introduction speech, and keynote speaker presentation.
- Walk students to and from workshop classroom locations as specified in Guide Assignment sheet
- Assist with lunchroom supervision.

~Linda Browning

~Patty Ahearn



From the Bridge Corner

A new beginners' class will start in January if we have enough interest and can find a time for lessons that work for most people.

If you play bridge or are interested in bridge, but are not yet in a regular AAUW bridge group, please make sure I have your name, so I can include you in our survey and in any discussions about future options. Contact Heather Abushanab at HeatherAbu@AAUWRedlands.org to express your interest.

Spring BRIDGE SCRAMBLE!

Save the Date: Thursday, March 26th



The AAUW Bridge Scramble will shift to become a spring event and be held this spring on Thursday March 26th, 2026, and annually in the spring going forward. This will be another fabulous event with several rounds of bridge, a luncheon, bake sale and prizes. Registration for the event is already open. Use our on-line form to register: [Bridge Scramble Registration Click Here!](#) or download the form attached to the newsletter. Need more information? Visit our website at [AAUW Redlands Bridge Scramble](#)

Payment for the event can be made through Zelle to treasurer@AAUWRedlands.org for no additional fee or by check to AAUW Redlands mailed to Heather Abushanab, 167 Bellevue, Redlands, CA 92373. Be sure to include Bridge Scramble in the memo.

Prefer to pay by credit card? You may pay on-line at AAUWRedlands.org for a small fee.



Human Trafficking Panel Discussion

"Human trafficking is modern day slavery and the fastest growing criminal industry in the world."

Learn what you need to know and how you can help. Flyer attached.

January 17, 2026, 9am-noon
First United Methodist Church of Redlands
1 East Olive, Redlands, CA



8 facts you need to know about human trafficking in the 21st century

1. Human trafficking occurs in all regions of the world
2. Human trafficking is a widespread crime and a lucrative business
3. Human trafficking thrives on poverty, conflict and climate change
4. Traffickers use everything from deception to violence to recruit and exploit their victims
5. Escaping exploitation can be extremely difficult
6. The most common forms of human trafficking are sexual exploitation and forced labour
7. Women are the most detected victims of human trafficking
8. Traffickers can be anyone from members of an organized crime group to the victim's own family

[Click HERE](#)



Office on Drugs and Crime



An Evening of Short Films
By Women - For Everyone

FilmFest 2026: Two Opportunities to Attend

AAUW Redlands' much-anticipated FilmFest returns this spring with two opportunities to participate. FilmFest is an annual program of curated short films that highlight women's voices, stories, and perspectives, followed by opportunities for conversation and connection. As in past years, FilmFest serves as an important fundraiser supporting the AAUW Redlands Mission Fund.

FilmFest Evening Event

Friday, April 24 at 5:45 p.m. - ESRI , 380 New York St, Redlands, CA

Our traditional evening FilmFest remains the centerpiece of this fundraising event. Guests will enjoy an elegant evening featuring films, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and a relaxed social gathering in the beautiful ESRI venue. This event has sold out in the past and is recommended as the primary FilmFest experience.

Tickets are \$55 general admission, with an early-bird price of \$50 through January 30.

FilmFest Encore Matinee

Sunday, April 26, at 2:00 p.m. - Crafton Hills College

Finkelstein Performing Arts Center - 11711 Sand Canyon Rd,
Yucaipa, CA

Due to strong interest and prior sell-outs, AAUW Redlands is also offering an encore matinee screening. The matinee will not include food but will feature a post-film discussion, moderated by Heather King, University of Redlands, English Department Chair, offering further insight and conversation around the films.

Tickets for the matinee are \$25 general admission and \$15 for students.

Tickets for both FilmFest events may be purchased through Eventbrite, via the AAUW Redlands website, or in person at an upcoming AAUW Redlands branch meeting. Members and guests are encouraged to attend the evening event when possible, while the matinee offers a welcoming alternative for those unable to attend Friday evening.

Support FilmFest as a Sponsor

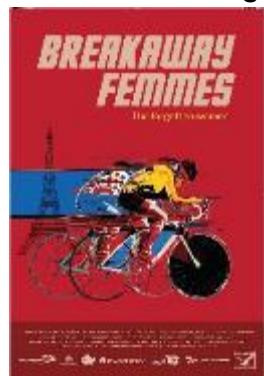


We also have incredible sponsorship opportunities. Visit our website for more information and sponsorship details: <https://redlands-ca.aauw.net/projects/filmfest/filmfest-sponsorship/>

Breakaway Femmes: Film Screening & Interview

Sunday, March 8, 2:00-4:30p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and parking is free

Crafton Hills College – Finkelstein Performing Arts Center - 11711 Sand Canyon Rd, Yucaipa, California



AAUW Redlands invites members, friends, and the community to attend a special screening of *Breakaway Femmes*, a documentary highlighting a largely untold chapter in women's sports history. Following early screenings in New York, this event represents one of the first opportunities to see the film on the West Coast.

Breakaway Femmes tells the story of women's professional cycling during the mid-1980s, when a women's race was held in conjunction with the Tour de France. For several years, women cyclists competed on many of the same legendary routes and climbs, achieving remarkable victories while contending with financial hardship, injuries, discrimination, and logistical challenges. Central to the film is the bond of sisterhood forged during this groundbreaking

The screening will be introduced by Patty Peoples, a Redlands resident and member of the 1984 Women's Tour de France USA team featured in the film. Following the screening, Patty will return to the stage for a moderated interview reflecting on her experience and participation in the film. This fund raiser for the AAUW Redlands Mission Fund

Tickets are available through Eventbrite: \$20 adults, \$15 students.

AAUW Community Engagement

CHAT* Holiday Potluck



Our CHAT potluck was held December 10th at the historic Asistencia and it was amazing!



Delicious food, fun-loving attendees, games, singing, and the decorations made it a special evening for all who could attend.



Thank you!

~CHAT* (*Conversation Helps Adults Transition*)
~Katherine Gifford literacy@akspl.org

*CHAT stands for: ***Conversation Helps Adults Transition***

We connect AAUW volunteers with adult learners to help the learners practice their conversational English, meeting at a time convenient to both the English learner and the AAUW volunteer.

Contact literacy@akspl.org for information.

Save the Date

2026 Community Day of Service Saturday March 14, 2026



Can You Provide Storage Space?

Storage Space: If you have a climate-controlled area in your home or storage space that can hold about 12-14 banker-sized boxes, please contact us. We need a free space in which to store our branch hardcopy archives while we sort through, organize and scan them for future electronic retention.

Helping Hands: If you have some time on your hands, we can put it to good use. You'll help go through these storage boxes and create an inventory of what we have, so we can find important information later when it's needed.

Any More Stuff? This is our last call. Do you have any old AAUW information, materials, awards, whatever? Please let us know and we can take it off your hands.

~Sheron Bealer

~Amy Bisek



Archives History Corner

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

LAF challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

Past Cases

Case	Status	Brief Summary	Year Filed	AAUW Adopted	Case End Date
Duffy/Jackson v. California Polytechnic State University	Susan Duffy and Lorraine Jackson claimed that they were subjected to intimidation and harassment from their male coworkers after being hired in 1988 and 1992. They filed a complaint with the school, but the school did nothing.	In 1997, they filed a lawsuit. In 1998 the complaint was dismissed. They appealed, and their case was reinstated in 2000, and Cal Poly was ordered to pay the plaintiffs. They reached a confidential settlement in 2001.	1997	2001	

One woman's fight against sexual harassment

Redlands Daily Facts April 9, 1999, by Nelda Stuck

Susan Duffy, professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and one of three litigants accepted to AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund, spoke about "suing Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, alleging pay inequity, disparate treatment and sexual harassment", at the April 6, 1999, branch dinner meeting.

Duffy said "that at her department's faculty meetings, one professor would pick up a newspaper and read when she spoke, that her scholarship work was denigrated, that she wasn't informed about meetings, that she would receive anonymous notes in her mail box addressed to 'She Duffy' (reflecting 'she Devil'), that another woman was told not to associate with her or her own tenure might be in jeopardy (this despite the fact Duffy received the University Distinguished Teaching Award in 1993)."

"Then I'm asked 'Would you do it again?' and after a long pause I say 'I don't know. I am afraid. Anybody who embarks on such a legal suit will meet internal and external monster of enormous size.'"

"Duffy described the fears which develop for a woman litigant. 'The legal system jumps at you, you receive retaliation from friends, rejection from colleagues you thought were friends. Your voice is not heard. You're not to talk about it on campus. It forces you into professional if not personal isolation . The financial, emotional, physical toll is enormous. It isn't brave to sue, it's horrible. You do it because it's the right thing to do. No matter the legal outcome you are devoured by the monster.'"

"In addition to the fear, Duffy said even worse in a legal fight is the expense. 'Nothing prepares you for the enormous financial debt. It brings you to your knees. We've taken a second mortgage on our house.' She said the costs for the two professors so far have been \$80,000."

"Duffy praised the work of AAUW in legal advocacy. 'If it were not for the support of LAF and AAUW, I could not have done this. Financial and moral support is important.'"

Fun end note:

Later in the Facts article it names Sheron Bealer as one of the new members at the April meeting.



Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms

Unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can affect both women and men.

[click HERE](#)

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 **February newsletter** is **January 10**. Send your articles to the editor via email to news@AAUWRedlands.org



The Public Policy chairs of branches throughout California meet bimonthly as a peer group on Zoom to discuss AAUW Public Policy news and actions.

At the Dec. 5 Peer Group meeting, we heard how the U.S. Department of Education is removing the “professional” classification from fields that are traditionally women-dominated, such as nursing, teaching, public health and others.

One Public Policy chair said this will impact the ability of people studying in those fields to get student loans. And it will certainly reduce the stature of those careers.

Action Item: Call your member of Congress and ask him or her to oppose this change that will negatively affect women.

We also discussed AAUW California’s school board monitoring project, which AAUW Redlands is joining as a partnership between the Public Policy and DEI/Racial Justice committees.

Action Item: Anyone interested in helping monitor the Redlands Unified School District board can register for a free symposium offered by AAUW-CA at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, to hear what to expect at a school board meeting, what a school board’s authority is, and how to monitor a public meeting.

AAUW Redlands monitors will each commit to watching one board meeting and writing up a brief summary of actions and discussions that affect AAUW’s mission to protect equality for women and girls.

To register, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qWr6jFavQbmVcE6YX1wC4g#/registration>

Every member will also get an emailed flyer about the symposium from AAUW-CA.

Lastly, AAUW California is changing its Lobby Days procedure, using AAUW Redlands’ 2025 process as a role model. The Peer Group was told our branch scheduled its own meetings with legislators in their local district offices, and held more meetings (8), and a better proportion of them with the elected leaders (half) rather than with staff members.

AAUW-CA surveyed members this fall, asking if they would prefer this model instead of coming to Sacramento and possibly meeting with a legislator in someone else’s district, as has been the case for many state Capitol meetings in the past. Members overwhelmingly said they would prefer the Redlands model, to schedule their own meetings in district offices.

AAUW Redlands is proud that our method paved the way for other branches to set up their own lobbying/advocacy meetings. AAUW California will continue to provide the Lobby Days training (via Zoom) and summaries of the bills to lobby/advocate for.

Lobby Days will also expand to one or two weeks, rather than the two days it has been done historically. This offers more flexibility in scheduling our meetings, making it more likely (we hope) to meet with the elected officials, not just their staffs.

Action Item: Let me know if you would like to take part in Lobby Days 2026 to meet with your elected legislator and discuss legislation important to AAUW’s mission. Email Cassie MacDuff.

Your partner in empowering women in our region,



Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs,
AAUW California Public Policy Committee
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Please [click HERE](#) for the December issue of Public Policy News.

AAUW California Public Policy Committee Announces School Board Project Symposium

In The Once and Future King, T.H. White wrote: “[Y]ou may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn... That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you.”

~continued on page 5 of December issue of Public Policy News [click HERE](#)



Dear AAUW member,

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee invites you to join a half-day virtual Symposium - "AAUW School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy" on Saturday, January 31, 2026, 9 am to 12:30 pm PDT.

Participants will hear a keynote address on the impact of new federal laws and policies on California's protective laws; a panel discussion on how AAUW members can support students, parents, and school board members in the face of challenges and misinformation; and participate in workshops on effectively recruiting school board members and forming collaborations for greater impact.

Register for the event [HERE](#).

See the flyer for the Symposium below or click [HERE](#); please feel free to share it with your networks and other organizations.

AAUW California Public Policy Symposium

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT: DEFENDING THE FRONTLINE OF DEMOCRACY

Saturday, Jan 31st

9am - 12:30pm Virtual



FREE
PUBLIC EVENT
REGISTER HERE



FEDERAL CHALLENGES TO CALIFORNIA LAWS

Learn where California's protective laws against book banning, curriculum censorship, and attacks on LGBTQ+ students currently stand in light of recent Federal education policy changes.
Richard Barrera, MPP – Trustee of the San Diego School Board

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY MONITOR SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Gain knowledge and skills to confidently assess school board compliance with state law and report non-compliance
Brittina Muller, MPP – Education Advocate, Public School Defenders Hub

CHALLENGES FACING CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS

Get insights from a students' advocate, parents' advocate, and current board member
Ariel Bustamante – Equity and Compliance Expert, LA LGBTQ Center
Lisa Gross, Ph.D. – California PTA Board of Managers
Nancy Young, MA – Murieta School Board Trustee

EFFECTIVE RECRUITING OF SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Learn how to recruit and support great candidates from a national leader on running school board campaigns
Kyrstn Schutte – Executive Director, School Board Integrity Project

COALITION BUILDING FOR GREATER COMMUNITY IMPACT

Engage with two AAUW California Public Policy Committee members from the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch who formed a successful local education coalition
Ogle Stragatz, MSPH and Laurinda Ochoa, JD, Co-Founders, Lift Up Public Schools Coalition

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Concerned parents and guardians, educators, nonprofits, civic leaders, advocates, equity activists, legal advisors, media, local and state agencies.
AAUW members are encouraged to attend, but membership is not required.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT
aauw-ca.org/school-board-project-toolkit/

publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org
aauw-ca.org/public-policy

Bunco



STEM committee



December birthdays:
Kate Gattuso and
Marilynn Jordan



Symphonie Jeunesse of San Bernardino is a youth orchestra that was formed to meet the needs of serious middle and high school students of string instruments for more advanced training and study in orchestral and chamber music literature.

It is the goal of *Symphonie Jeunesse* to provide a distinct advantage to students intending to pursue music at the collegiate level and beyond and to inspire them with rich and vibrant interpretations of serious orchestral works that will propel them to meet their future musical challenges with confidence and to perform at a high level of accomplishment that belies their age.

[SYMPHONIE JEUNESSE - Home](#)

December Branch Meeting



December 2, 2025 Branch Meeting Recap

The holiday festivities began with a surprise gift for one person at each dining table. Then the quilt that was being raffled, found its new owner, Elaine Weller. The branch members voted their approval for three new fundraisers to be added to this year's other fundraising events. The holiday entertainment provided by *Symphonie Jeunesse* was a delight. Director and founder, Michèle Tacchia, led these young and dedicated musicians through a delightful number of pieces and ended with traditional Christmas carols in which the membership joined in song.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

~ Nan Neighbours, Secretary



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