



## Education: A Continuing Crisis

"The Legislature shall make such appropriations, to be met by taxation, as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions, and shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development and improvement."

.....Article XI of the Arizona Constitution

With some of the most adverse K-12 statistics in the nation, the state of Arizona continues to under-serve its school-age population. ❖ AZ is still currently ranked 48th in funding of its K-12 schools. ❖ Nearly one-fourth of the teacher vacancies are not filled with qualified persons. ❖ With 903 students per counselor, AZ has the highest ratio and more than double the ratio of any state in the nation.

Attend the **West Valley Education Forum** (co-sponsored by our branch) **March 14th at 6 pm.** Hear Arizona State Superintendent Kathy Hoffman discuss her ideas for dealing with the needs and for investing in education.

For more information/facts, see pages 10 & 11.



## BOOK SALE & Preview



## March 27, 28 & 29

Benefits our Scholarship Program.

Put the dates on your calendar, attend and buy.

For more information, see page 7.

**AAUW: Empowering Women & Girls Since 1881.**

## March General Meeting

9 am -Thursday, March 21, 2019  
Sun City West Foundation Webb Room  
14465 RH Johnson Blvd, Sun City West

**Speaker: Sybil Ihrig, L.Ac., CCH**

A licensed practitioner of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine in Arizona and California. She is an Assistant Professor at Phoenix Institute of Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture.

Sybil has undertaken extensive postgraduate training in Traditional Chinese Medical gynecology and provides assistance to women undergoing health challenges such as: menopause, PMS, Menorrhagia, fibroids and endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, nausea of pregnancy, other disorders of pregnancy and labor, postpartum difficulties, fertility enhancement, irregular menses and amenorrhea, cervical dysplasia and HPV.

Sybil cherishes working with mature adults, both male and female and says it is typically during the second half of life that our genetic or lifestyle-associated weaknesses

....Karen Bunting, Co-Vice President for Programs

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## *President's Message*



Happy Spring!

March is a lovely month in Arizona. I wish all of you enjoy this great month.

AAUW NWV is having a Book Sale on March 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> at the home of Judy Hodgins with the Wednesday Preview from 4 to 6pm for AAUW members and friends, including wine and appetizers. I am sure this will be a fabulous success as is everything our great Branch does. Thank you so much, Judy, one of our very active Past President's.

Also, thanks to Mary Jo Blum our SIG Chair, who started a new Wine and Food Group with 15 members. It is off and running and everyone involved is happy. I want all of our members to be involved in the things they enjoy-----with our wonderful Committees and the SIG groups.

I also wish to thank Joyce Keane, her STEM Committee is growing and things are happening. March 9<sup>th</sup> is the STEM Festival at Canyon Ridge School. Our STEM team is participating.

The Spring Forum is also coming up April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in our area. More forthcoming.

Don't forget, our Branch is hosting the Fall Forum on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Ann Mitchell is Chair of this event and has been having meetings with her committee. It is going to be a fabulous event. You will be hearing more about it soon.

Whatever you do in March-----get involved, stay involved in the AAUW NWV BRANCH. You will be so glad you did. Spring has sprung.

.....Rosemary Dougherty

### ***Coming Events for March/April*** ***Clip & Post OR Mark your calendar!***



**Wednesday, March 6 - College Bridge Pathways Meeting** -Location: Rio Salado College.

**Saturday, March 9 - STEM Festival**, Location: Canyon Ridge School. See page 8.

**Thursday, Mar. 14 - West Valley Education Forum** - 6 pm, Location: Dysart Education Center, 15802 N Parkview Place - Surprise. Cosponsored by AAUW-NWV, AAUW AZ and three other branches. See page 10.

**Monday, Mar. 18 - AAUW-NWV Board Meeting** - 9 am, Birt's Bistro

**Thursday, Mar. 21 - General Meeting** - 9 am, Location: Sun City West Foundation Room, 14465 RH Johnson Blvd., Sun City West. Remember to bring your "Treasures for Teachers donations. See page 3.

**Monday, Mar. 25 - Deadline for April Newsletter** Email digital text (no pdfs please) and photos to Joye. Please indicate for the April AAUW newsletter on the subject line. See contact info in directory.

**Thursday, March 28 & Friday, March 29 - AAUW-NWV Book Sale**. 8 am -1pm. Location: 19823 N Stardust Blvd., SCW. Private Preview Sale with wine and appetizers for members and their guests- March 27 - 4-6 pm. \$10/person.

**Tuesday, April 9 - National Pay Equity Day!**

**Tuesday, April 9 - Unhappy Hour**, 6 pm At Glendale Community College. The focus will be on Gender Pay Equity.

**Monday, April 15 - AAUW-NWV Board Meeting** - 9 am, Birt's Bistro

**Thursday, April 18 - Annual Spring Luncheon** - 11:30 am, Location: Briarwood Country Club, SCW.

# MEMBERSHIP



A final Newcomers/Prospective Members Coffee was held at Beryl Flatman-Braeten's home on Thursday, February 14. The 12 guests were able to introduce themselves to the other attendees, and the committee members. In addition, three board members, discussed what AAUW has meant to them. Thanks to the enthusiasm generated by the event, three of the guests immediately turned in their applications to join AAUW. Three others have recently paid their 2019 dues and will soon officially become members. The number of newcomers since last March is 48.

Although the gathering was the last of the current program year, the membership committee is excited about a Happy Hour being planned for May 2 at 4 PM for ALL newcomers. Details will be forthcoming in the near future.

...Betty Merwin



## New and prospective member gathering:

Left to right (front row) Donna Lyda, Jackie Britt, Iris Abelson, Janet Teegarden

Left to right (second row) Emily Johnson, Joani Frankel, Jean Sturm, Marilyn Price Sue Knippen, Diane Wilbur, Rachael Ott

(not pictured Sandi Evans)

## Treasures 4 Teachers

Donations Requested at March General Meeting.

### **TREASURES 4 TEACHERS = riches for education!**

Treasures 4 Teachers is a member based resource and supply store serving the educators of Arizona. This means that anyone who works closely with students can have access to a wide selection of materials, resources and training that will enhance and expand the learning process. T4T is a donation-based operation. Therefore, we are able to provide low cost and free school supplies to our members.

### **DEDICATED TO EDUCATION: T4T bridges the gap!**

On average, teachers in America spend \$500 to \$1,200 each year from their own pocket on school supplies for their students, sometimes even as much as \$4,000. Students cannot learn and become productive members of society without the essentials for learning, such as paper, pencils and other basic school supplies. Treasures 4 Teachers bridges the gap between the need for school supplies and available resources in our Phoenix community.

For a list of suggested donations, please go to the website at [www.treasures4teachers.org](http://www.treasures4teachers.org).

Bonnie Boyce-Wilson





## Addressing Our Mission via Our College Connections: Supporting the Education of Women and Girls

### Women Rising - teaching young women what we all learned the hard way

Nine members of the NW Valley AAUW College Connections group accompanied our branch chairperson Ann Mitchell, to the annual "Women Rising" Annual Student conference. The conference was sponsored by the Maricopa County Community Colleges. This year it was held at Glendale Community College. The approximate 200 conference student and advisors attended from nine community colleges in Maricopa County and Pima County Community College. And, what do you think the students were being taught? The answer is *"those things we all learned the hard way"*. They heard about some of the obstacles they will be facing as women in the workplace; ways to overcome them and how to become a young professional woman who presents herself to the world as a mature candidate ready for her life career.

It was such fun for our group to hear the talks and look back at how we learned these valuable lessons. The key speaker was Felicia Ganther, JD, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Maricopa Community Colleges. She presented a lively, funny, yet important message to the students. "All new efforts to improve yourself must be repeated daily for 6 weeks" in order to firmly incorporate them into your life style. She counseled the young women to be the best you can be." To do that, she says, "you must know who you are, not what others have decided you are. Discard all opinions made by others; love yourself as the unique person you were meant to be; identify your strengths and desires"; then get started. Know who you are and that "you have things to share with the world." She reminded them that "If you want power and prestige, you need to be the best of who you are." Each day do your very best at all your activities.

A second admonition was to have a "why". What motivates you as an individual to succeed? We sometimes need to remind ourselves why we want this education so badly. It gives us courage to keep going. Ms. Ganther identified "fear of failure" as something that stops some from succeeding. Those who want to succeed must not fear failure. It can be a learning experience and provide opportunities to start over or change direction. A fourth aspect of becoming a professional is "live and love". Enjoy your life, not to the detriment of that enjoyment becoming an obstacle to success, but don't put off enjoying your life until sometime in the future - that time may never come. And, you will like yourself better. Ms. Ganther counsels that "If you love yourself, it is easy to love others."

.....continued next page



Felicia Ganther, JD, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Maricopa Community Colleges speaks to students.

**Women Rising Conference Report** - continued from page 4.

The final admonition was "Be good to yourself". Get rid of toxic relationships that drag you down. In fact, develop an "accountability circle". A circle of friends who encourage, inspire and help you with the struggle to overcome obstacles to your career goals. This circle includes others who struggle so we can struggle together, giving each other courage to continue with the going gets tough.

The students were taught such basics as "shaking hands with new acquaintances" (remember when you learned to do that - a little awkward at first); giving succinct answers to "who are you and why should you have this job?" And it was stressed by her and other presenters, the importance of saying good things about yourself. I remember taking a class years ago that taught me to turn to the person next to me and say nice things about myself. I remember vividly how difficult that was.

Was it the same for you? At this conference students heard several times about the value of "positive self talk" when facing difficult situations. The group broke out into small group sessions on effective communication (remember learning to give good eye contact?), planning your financial future, the importance of physical wellness and even emotional wellness.

The final speaker of the day was Vanessa Ruiz, who is Cronkite News Borderland Bureau Director; Professor and Arizona PBS News Anchor at Arizona State University. She shared her life story of living in a bicultural, single parent home as a child; her own "why" which moved her to college on a budget and eventually to her current position. She stressed to the largely Hispanic and Black audience that it is important to "embrace your diversity", look for new pathways to reach your goals and finally "There is only one thing standing in your way, and you are too smart to stand in your own way."

The NW Valley AAUW was well represented by not only our very able leader and "networker" Anne Mitchell, but also by Sharon Phelps, Beryl Flathman-Braatan, Carol Ebert, Joye Kohl, Jo Beth Stevens, Sharon Treinen, Becky Saylor, Sharon Treinen and Eileen Soltis. It was a busy day manning the NWV AAUW display table, handing out brochures, supporting the students, networking with college representatives and enjoying reminiscing about our own struggles and accomplishments.

It was great to hear how other Community Colleges are beginning to recognize AAUW as a welcome partner and are asking for representatives for their campuses. How about joining us on one of these excursions into our former lives? Each time we meet with the faculties and students of these Community Colleges we find that we have much to share. Our own struggles and accomplishments have made us valuable role models for these young women.

.....Eileen Soltis



L to R: Scottsdale AAUW Branch Pres. Barbara Morris, Scottsdale President-Elect Jennifer Quinn and Linda Walton, Founder & CEO, Achieving My Purpose.

Women Rising attendees enjoying the afternoon snacks provided by AAUW-AZ, a co-sponsor of the conference.



Center photo: Sharon Phelps, Beryl Flathman-Braaten and Becky Saylor staff the AAUW table at the Women Rising Conference.

Right photo: Rico Moran, Advisor to M.E.N., Glendale Community College and strong supporter of Women Rising and ERA.





## NWV-AAUW MEMBERS MENTOR OTTAWA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Currently nine AAUW members are mentors to 18 Ottawa University Arizona (OUAZ) students. In the group of students are 14 females and 4 males, mostly freshmen and sophomores. Their majors vary and many are student-athletes. The students come from all over the United States and Canada. The mentees will be taking part in "Read Across America" at Canyon Ridge School on March 1st.

Personally, I have two mentees - the first is Natasha who is an early childhood major focusing on students with special needs. She is a sophomore at Ottawa. She plays golf for the University and is from Toronto, Canada. My second mentee is Kayla who is a secondary education English major. She is also a sophomore and is from Omaha, Nebraska. I meet with these two students once a month for an hour.

The AAUW mentors are Joye Kohl; Barb Lashmet; Joan Meagher; Sarah Maxwell; Ann Mitchell; Sharon Phelps; Jo Beth Stevens; Jan Sodos; and Sharon Treinen.

.....Joan Meagher



Sharon Treinen and Jada and Sophia.

### Mentor and Mentee Meetings

Below: Joan Meagher with Natasha.



Above: Jan Sodos with Kevon, Briiana and Chris.



**AAUW's Mission:**  
**To advance gender equity for women & girls through research, education and advocacy.**

**We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.**

.....Winston Churchill

### Glendale Community College YARD SALE

Do you remember contributing professional clothing for the students at Glendale Community College last fall? Here is the result of our branch effort.

The student members of Women Rising and M.E.N. (Male Empowerment Network) worked together to sort the items. They were displayed on tables around the campus courtyard. The suits, pants, shoes, shirts, scarves and ties were made available **FOR FREE** to any student that wanted them.

According to the Connie Greenwell, Director of Student Life and Leadership, "the Yard Sale was a huge success. Most of the clothing was eagerly taken. All of the unclaimed items were delivered to the New Leaf Domestic Violence Shelter near the campus. Therefore this event was a double success."

.....Ann Mitchell



**Please return to the newsletter list and click on part 2 to see the remaining six pages of the March newsletter.**

