

Issue 7, 2020-2021

October 2020

AAUW NW Valley Branch 2020-2021 President's Letter

Dear AAUW Members,

I hope that you are staying safe and healthy. Thanks for participating in our September ZOOM or watching our Transition of Boards on video. Our AAUW NW Valley Branch is learning not only to survive but to thrive in 2020-21.

Results from our June survey showed that AAUW NW Valley Branch members value "significantly" our meetings and programs. So, we will operate in a hybrid model this year: "live in-person" meetings limited to 50 reservations (COVID protocol) and ZOOM.

Branch members highly value E-blasts and Newsletters. Our Newsletter Editors Dorothy Alexander and Ronda Clark gather news from Committees, Appointees, the Board of Directors, and interested members like Janet Teegarden's memorial to RBG. We encourage everyone to join our closed AAUW Facebook page; contact Joye Kohl for a "How to" on joining. Be sure to visit AAUW Local, State, and National Websites.



Membership Chair Linda Styrvoll gathered and analyzed data on NW Valley Branch activities as they relate to renewals. Twenty-six of the forty-seven women who did not renew for the 2020-2021 year were not on Committees, in Special Interest Groups, or in Branch meetings and activities. The first two years appear to be the most crucial to get members involved, therefore Beryl Braaten-Flathman's Membership Mentor Committee is contacting our newest members!

Survey results affirm that members focus on our mission and providing scholarships. Suzanne James has "Trunk of Treats" in October -- a creative social distance rummage sale. Rosemary Dougherty organizes our January Fashion Scholarship Fundraiser "Ruby Is In," and Mary Jo Blum, Patt Bowers and Linda Stryvoll kick-off a Scholarship Auction Guidebook – think of finding holiday gifts while supporting scholarships with our own E-sales.

Together, we create the **ZOOM** and "**live**" hospitality. Keeping socially distant, yes, but not emotionally distant!

Sincerely yours,
Sharon-Lee Astle

P.S. **AAUW Women, please Vote!** In the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, our founders granted federal lands to new states and set aside a portion of those lands to be used to fund public schools. They viewed public education as a primary way to ensure citizens were prepared to exercise the freedom and responsibilities of a democratic society. Let's learn about our candidates' positions on financing K-12 public education.

Mission Statement

**AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through
research, education, and advocacy.**

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2020-21 Officers

Sharon-Lee Astle, President
 Suzanne James, President-Elect
 Joyce Olson and Sara Schmitt, Program Co-chairs
 Linda Styrowoll and Betty Merwin, Co-membership Chairs
 Melva Hull, Finance VP/Budget
 Kathleen Long and Patt Bowers, Co-recording Secretaries
 Sheryl Saddoris, Corresponding Secretary/Sharing and Caring
 Sharon Phelps, Past President

2020-21 Chair and Appointees

Karen Olson Smith, Red Envelope
Mary Jo Blum and **Karen Diaz**, Special Interest Groups
Lu Marchese, Scholarship
Rosemary Dougherty, Hospitality/Publicity/
 Fashion-Show Event
Bonnie Boyce-Wilson, Public Policy Co-chair
Ann Mitchell, College Connection
 and **Joye Kohl**, College Connection
 Survey Summary, Facebook Administrator
Barbara Lashmet, Honoria
Nancy Wilson, Directory/Records
Beryl Flathman-Braaten, Membership Mentor
Joan Miner, Eblast/Webmaster
Joyce Keane and **Harriet Grau**, Stem
Dorothy Alexander and **Ronda Clark**, Newsletter Co-Editors
Dale Moran, COVID Protocols

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Zoom and In-Person

Thursday, October 15 – 9 a.m.

**Due to COVID Protocols, 50 “live” participants and rest via ZOOM.
 Reservations may be made via e-mail to shrnphelps45@gmail.com**

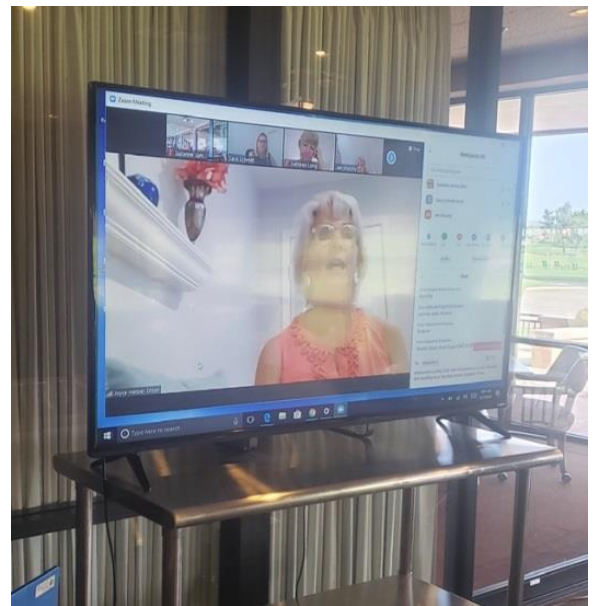
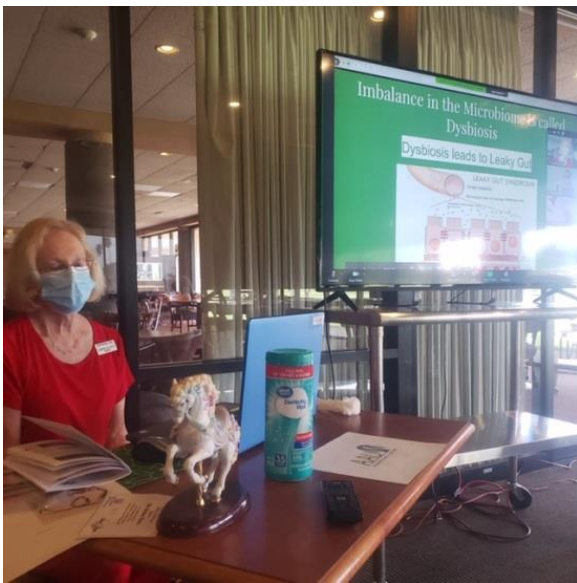


**Sun City West Del Webb Foundation Room
 14465 RH Johnson Boulevard
 Sun City West, AZ 85375**

Our First AAUW NW Valley Branch Meeting for 2020-2021

Here are pics from the September 17 AAUW-NWV First General Meeting led by **Presidents Sharon Phelps 2019-2020 and Sharon Lee Astle 2020-2021**. The big screen shows our program presenter **Melissa Deluzio's** screen for "Building a Resilient Immune System". This meeting was a hybrid meeting via Zoom (led by Sara Schmitt, Technical Support) with the approximately 15 Transition team members located in Briarwood Country Club Patio Room via Zoom viewing on the Big Screen handled by **Suzanne James, President-Elect**. Note masks and safe distancing.

Note the lovely ceramic carousel horse donated by **Melva Hull, Treasurer** for our Silent Auction Fundraiser Pamphlet. You will be able to purchase items shown in the pamphlet such as a Festive Party, lovely jewelry. The pamphlet will be distributed and online with purchase and instructions for pickup.



**Our Very Own
Hand
Sanitizer!**



**Being Safe
by
Social-Distancing
And
Wearing a Mask!**

**BE SURE TO JOIN US AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING
October 15 at 9 a.m. on Zoom!**

OR . . .

**In-person at the SCW Del Webb Foundation Room
Due to COVID Protocols, 50 “live” participants reservations available.**

RSVP to Sharon Phelps shrnphelps45@gmail.com



Pictured left to right are . . .

**Melva Hull, Treasurer; Sharon Lee Astle, President and
Suzanne James, President-elect**

“Chips Off the Old Board’s Block”

Kathleen Long and Patt Bowers, Co-Secretaries

Secretaries’ Notes from Board Meetings

May Highlights

- The September 2020 meeting will combine 40th anniversary celebration, transition, welcome and honor past and new board members.
- Fifty percent of the members have paid their dues.
- The Sun City West Foundation will be contacted regarding the general meeting location.
- A follow-up of the online survey will be done by phone. Volunteers requested.
- Trunk of Treats will be in October 2020. Suzanne James will chair.
- Corresponding secretary will take over the duties of caring and sharing duties.
- Rosemary Dougherty, Hospitality Chair, will chair the committee for the Fashion Show.
- National will expect the by-laws to be reviewed every two years, Sharon Phelps, past president, will chair that committee.

June Highlights

- Discussion of the costs of the 40th anniversary celebration.
- 4th of July drive thru food collection by Valley View Food Bank.
- Send 80’s picture to Suzanne James for 80’s “U” in AAUW.
- Trunk of Treats in October, 2020.
- Members still need to send in membership renewals.
- Sympathy cards and get well cards sent by the corresponding secretary.
- Dysart Schools open in August 2020. STEM volunteers welcome.
- Karen Diaz, new co-chair of SIGS.
- One scholarship can currently be awarded in Fall 2020.
- Need a COVID “protocol person” volunteer.



July Highlights

- Discussion of how to plan and conduct meeting if this branch is not “live” this year due to COVID.
- Food drive was very successful. Motion was passed to make this an annual event.
- Kathie Morgan will co-chair Trunk of Treats.
- Directory will be out in September.
- Speakers are committed for this year with a possible backlog for next year.
- Forty percent of all members are on the closed Facebook account.
- The September 17 meeting will be at Briarwood.
- Dale Maron, BSN, will be the COVID protocol person.

August Highlights

- 173 renewals (35 still pending)
- Members without email will be personally contacted.
- September 2020 speaker will be prepared to speak either in person or virtually
- New sympathy and get well cards have been designed by Linda Buckbinder. She donated her beautiful painting for us to use on our cards. A special thanks to Linda.
- Brown Baggers Zoo events will occur throughout the year. Next event will be August 28 at 12:30pm.
- September 25 General membership meeting will be at 9:00am at Briarwood. This will be a ZOOM meeting.
- August 25 is the last day to submit to the newsletter.
- Discussion of ways to change the projects planned for schools to accommodate changes caused by the pandemic.
- Harriet Grau will be the school liaison for Canyon Ridge, Mountain View and Thompson Ranch schools.
- 5-Star Branch for national will be put on the back burner for now.
- Sara Schmitt will be the new ZOOM coordinator. Member training for Zoom meetings will be held soon.

September Highlights

- Sara Schmitt is the tech coordinator who is providing training for Zoom as well as setting up Zoom meetings. Contact her with any needs or questions.
- Our first regular meeting will be on Thursday, September 17 at 9 a.m. via Zoom. Watch your email for the invitation to join the meeting.
- Minutes of the meetings will be posted on our website.
- Begin gathering items for our silent auction which will be held in conjunction with our Luncheon and Fashion Show, January 25 and 26 at Briarwood. Booked with Calle Rose.
- Trunk of Treats will be held October 28-31. Save your rummage items. Location and hours TBD. See page 7 of September newsletter for more information.
- The September newsletter is very comprehensive and helpful. Be sure to read it.
- Dates to volunteer at local schools:
 - STEAM night at Mountain View School, Monday, March 1, 2021
 - STEM Festival at Canyon Ridge School, Saturday, May 1, 2021
 - STEAM Night at Thompson Ranch Elementary School, Thursday, May 6, 2021

Our next Board Meeting is October 12 at 9 a.m.

Anyone interested may attend in Zoom.

RSVP to Sharon Phelps shrnphelps45@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE

by Beryl Flathman



The **new Mentorship Committee** plans to keep track of our 55 new members. **Nancy Wilson** is contacting those who did not re-join. We are so proud of our new members who have already become active!! **Dorothy Alexander**, who is doing our Newsletter, received a call from **Gail Peterson Tina Byrne**, who will be our next Treasurer!

While calling our members we are finding many mentioning meeting for small luncheons to visit and get acquainted with one another. Since that is not advisable during this pandemic time, we are exploring ZOOM. They have a free service for 40 minutes.

We find many not home even during these crazy times so we leave messages, and hope they will be calling us back. If not, we will call again.

We would appreciate opinions and suggestions from you, our members!
THANKS! berylflathman713@gmail.com



40th Anniversary – Looking Back to the 80's



Canyon Ridge Suffragists at City Hall March 3, 2020

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, students recently participated in a Women's Suffrage Centennial Open House hosted at the Surprise City Hall.



Patty Lang - center of picture(brown hat)

Looking Back to 2007 AAUW National Convention

Welcome to the Southwest!

In June 2007 Arizona Branches welcomed the AAUW National Convention to the Phoenix Convention Center. The Northwest Valley Branch sent 20 delegates. Colorful bandanas were prepared and provided by the Tucson Branch. You only got to wear a bandana if you were from an Arizona branch. Our NWV branch members were heavily involved as hosts, guides, election tabulators, and elected delegates. Their memories of the convention were that it was fun, a very special event, and attending was an unexpected treat. We were excited that an AAUW National Convention had come to our own backyard.

Ruth Sweetzer from Illinois was the AAUW national President and conducted the meetings. Many of the AAUW members who listened to Greg Mortenson discuss his efforts to establish 60 schools in the war-torn regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan were brought to tears. He was the author of the book Three Cups of Tea and established the **Pennies for Peace** project. This fund-raising effort was to make a difference in the education of the children in these volatile parts of the world



Can you identify the NWV members who attended the AAUW National Conference in 2007.....
in our own backyard?

(Photographer: Ann Mitchell)

AAUW-NWV RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER



“TRUNK OF TREATS”

7am-11 on OCT 28TH Wednesday

7am-11 on OCT 29TH Thursday

7am-11 on OCT 30TH Friday

7am-11 on OCT 31st Saturday HALLOWEEN



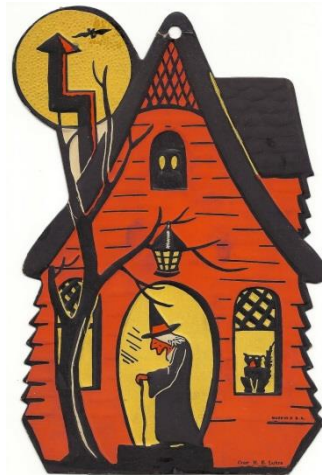
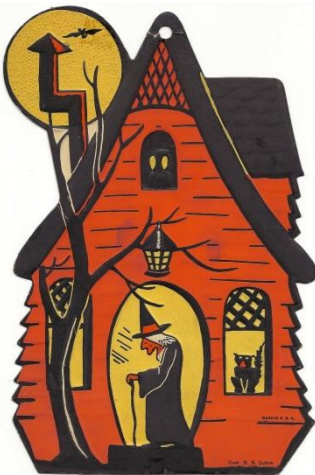
LOCATION: Desert Garden United Church of Christ Parking Lot
18818 N 128th Avenue
Sun City West 85375

Chair: Suzanne James. suzannesjames@gmail.com Committee: Rosemary Dougherty, Sharon Phelps, Melva Hull

PLEASE SAVE YOUR RUMMAGE ITEMS FOR OCTOBER “TRUNK OF TREATS” AAUW-NWV FUNDRAISER

NEED COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS FOR FUN FUNDRAISER!! This year you will:

- Dress in your Halloween costume and name badge, face mask, gloves.
- Load your vehicle Trunk with your unwanted treasures, CHAIR, TABLE.
- Drive your Treasures to the designated parking lot at Desert Garden United Church of Christ.
- Set up your chair and table. Open your trunk of Treats.
- Sell them and have incredible **fun!**
- Give proceeds to our **Treasurer Melva Hull.**
- Unsold items – donate to your favorite Thrift Shop.



Treasurer Melva Hull is dressed in the Dr. Seuss black and orange hat. She is with her associates President-elect Suzanne James (center) and President Sharon Astle Lee.



COLLEGE CONNECTION TEAM

by Ann Mitchell



NCCWSL Applications Available Soon!

AAUW Arizona will make available **scholarships awards** for two students from our state to attend NCCWSL. The awards are for **\$1,500 each** and will cover the cost of the registration fee plus their travel expenses. **Applications for the state awards will be available on November 2 at: www.aauwarizona.org.**

The AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, known as NCCWSL, will be held at the University of Maryland, May 26-29, 2021. Starting on **November 2, 2020** AAUW will begin to take **Early Bird** registrations for the conference. This allows students to take advantage of the \$100 discount off the regular registration fee of \$585. **In addition**, there is the opportunity to apply for a National NCCWSL scholarship that can cover the entire cost of the registration. Information about Early Bird registration and National NCCWSL **Scholarships can be found by searching for "Attend NCCWSL - AAUW" on the Internet.**

Encourage Arizona Students You Know to Apply!



College Connections Board Report

by Ann Mitchell

1. We were happy to hear from Heather Rayner, the President of the West Valley Branch. They have agreed to assist our branch liaisons with support of the Women Rising Chapter at Estrella mountain Community College.
2. Sharon Treinen and Maryalice Quinn are in the process of preparing a sheet of quick scholarship tips for the college students. This information will be distributed by our liaisons at our 4 partner colleges.
3. Joye and I are meeting via Zoom this week with the staff of the YWCA and Maricopa Community Colleges to further explore a partnership between our organizations.
4. Many thanks to Joan Miner who is updating the College Connection section of our branch website.
5. We are in the process of researching the background of **StartSmart** and **WorkSmart** with two members of the Scottsdale branch who are the experts with knowledge of these AAUW developed programs.
6. We invite you to join us on the new state-wide Facebook page "**AAUW Arizona College Network**". It can cover ALL THINGS related to staff and student college and university life.

The 21 Day Challenge

Starts October 5th - Register at: <https://ywcaaz.org/21rsvp/>

The College Connection Team is in the process of developing a partnership with the YWCA Metro Phoenix. The "Y", as some of us knew it, has certainly changed over the years. Their website and Facebook page state, "YWCA IS ON A MISSION - eliminating racism, empowering women".

With these goals in mind, they make available the **21 Day Challenge**. According to their staff, this current challenge is centered on how women across our community are equal, powerful and unstoppable, even if they are not seen as such. It is an opportunity to learn about Arizona's powerful women, how your vote can shape our future, and the economics of womanhood. Participation in an activity like this helps us understand how racial and social injustice impact our community and how to identify ways to dismantle inequities and discrimination.

- ✚ Each day has learning options for you to **choose** from in order to shape your own learning.
- ✚ There is a dedicated YWCA Facebook group for dialog, engagement, and to support you along the way.
- ✚ There is no cost to participants.

This opportunity is for everyone who wants to be part of the change. The link above will provide website information and registration. **The 21 Day Challenge** is FREE and starts October 5th.



YWCA IS ON A MISSION

Michelle Ramos | Prosperity Programs Director

T: 602.258.0990 C: 480.529.3686

E: Michelle.ramos@ywcaaz.org

YWCA Metropolitana Phoenix
2999 N. 44th Street, Suite 250
Phoenix, AZ 85018

www.ywcaaz.org



PUBLIC POLICY

by Becky Saylor



The Maricopa County Recorder's office sends people out to help voters.

You can call them at

Phone: 602-506-3535

Secure your mail-in ballot!!

Recent changes to mail delivery require extra vigilance to ensure your vote counts.

We recommend:

1. Track your ballot. Text JOIN to 628-683 or visit <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/subscriptions/>
2. Mail your ballot AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! Mail NLT Oct 27 or drop off your ballot instead. Search voting center list: <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/pollingplace/>
3. Study your voting options in advance so you are ready to vote quickly.

One good thing this year is that voters can go to any vote center and you don't have to worry about going to a specific polling place.



Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission
by Bonnie Boyce-Wilson, Public Policy Co-chair



One of the thousands of uses of data from the census is to redesign the boundaries of voting districts. These districts are far more important than you might ever realize, because to a very great degree, they determine who wins elections. The geographic design and membership distribution of legislative and congressional districts has a huge impact on the outcomes of elections.

In simple terms, the census counts people, and in our democratic society, elected officials represent the people. Following the census every ten years, districts are redesigned to reflect the number of people living in the state. There are many rules that govern how districts are determined, for example, each district must have the same number of people living in it. Rural districts are therefore larger in geographic size than the smaller, more densely populated urban districts. Also, the areas within each district must be contiguous and districts must provide for minority representation according to the Voting Rights Act. Redistricting is so important that over the years illegal practices called gerrymandering have developed to establish an unfair political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating district boundaries.

The process for determining the districts varies by state. In many states, the state's legislators decide. In Arizona, voters determined in 2000 to stop gerrymandering by adopting Proposition 106. This resulted in a process by which members of the general public are selected to sit on The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission (AIRC). The mission of the AIRC is to redraw Arizona's legislative and congressional districts to reflect the results of the most recent census.

The AIRC has five members, no more than two from the same political party and no more than two of the first four can be from the same county. After the first four are named, they select the 5th member, who becomes chair of the Commission. This competitive process is overseen and managed by The Commission on Appellate Court Appointments.

There are 138 applicants for the AIRC this year which the Commission of Appellate Court Appointments needs to have reduced to a list of 25 candidates—ten Democrats, ten Republicans and five Independents by the end of September to move forward in the process. They will consider application information and biographical statements, references, public comments of support and possibly personal interviews in making their decisions.

Final selection determination must be made by February 28 according to the AZ Constitution. Once membership of the AIRC is determined, several months of administrative and educational meetings follow. Actual map work and public sessions will begin by late summer.

In Memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020) Defender of Women's Rights and Champion for Gender Equity

Condensed by Janet Teegarden, AAUW -NWV

Overcoming Obstacles



Beginning Harvard Law School as a young married mother, she was one of only nine women in her class. Women were barred from living in the dorms and from using certain campus facilities. The dean hosted a dinner for the nine women and

asked each of them to stand up and explain what they were doing taking a seat that could be occupied by a man.

Graduating first in her class from Columbia Law School, she was unable to find a job. Later, teaching at Rutgers Law School, she was informed that she would be paid less than her male colleagues because she had a husband who earned a good income. (She and other women faculty won a federal class-action discrimination suit against the university.)

Her Plan

Modeling her approach after that of Thurgood Marshall on race discrimination, Ginsburg planned for a series of Supreme Court cases, each precedent paving the way for the next that would further rights and protections. In the early 1970's gender discrimination affected most aspects of life. Some lawyers were taking on cases of sex discrimination for specific women, but Ginsburg wanted to change the laws on gender equity. Today's axiom that the 14th Amendment applies to

women was not at all axiomatic in the 1970's. Her plan was to transform that, building brick upon brick.

Successes

In 1972 she moved from a volunteer for the ACLU to the founding director of the new Women's Rights Project as well as becoming the first female tenured law professor at Columbia.

In 1973 she gave her first argument before the Supreme Court. Her client was a female Air Force officer whose husband had been denied the housing and medical benefits that female spouses of male officers received automatically. Her team won the case, but still did not convince a majority of the justices that sex discrimination existed and should be treated exactly like racial discrimination,

While at the ACLU she played a role in 34 Supreme Court cases and won 5 of the 6 cases she argued before the Court. It seemed easier to arouse more sympathy among the male jurists if the case involved sex discrimination against men, and she pursued many such cases. One of her favorite cases involved a man who was denied Social Security survivors' benefits after his wife died in childbirth. He didn't qualify because he was a man. She convinced the Supreme Court that this section of the Social Security Act was unconstitutional and she won a unanimous decision. Twenty years later, this man testified at the confirmation hearing for her 1993 Supreme Court nomination, in which she was confirmed in a vote of 96 to 3. While on the Court she continued her efforts to push for full gender equality under the 14th Amendment.

[Condensed from "In Memory of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020)" by Anthony D. Romero (ACLU Executive Director). The entire article can be accessed at [ACLU.org](https://www.aclu.org)]



AZ AAUW WOMEN RUN



Kathy Knecht – LD21 HOUSE State Representative



Kathy is an independent thinker who answers to the people of her community, not special interests. She was raised in Arizona and is a long-time public servant. As a former elementary school teacher, Kathy understands the value of an educated workforce. Kathy served 12 years as a governing board member for the Peoria School Board and five years with the Arizona School Boards Association. Her desire to create better connections between business, nonprofit and government leaders led to her work as the executive director of Leadership West as well as her service on numerous volunteer boards.

Kathy will work to ensure opportunity and access to education for all students, sustainable educational funding for public schools, and livable wages for educators. She will work to build a business-friendly culture that attracts employers, a skilled workforce, and high-paying jobs. She will work to ensure Arizonans have access to quality health care, including behavioral and mental health care. <https://www.electknecht.org>

Linda Thor – Maricopa Community Colleges District Governing Board



Dr. Linda Thor, an AAUW member of the Phoenix branch is running for the Maricopa Community Colleges District Governing Board. Her position is as a member at large so any Maricopa voter could vote for her. The position she is seeking for re-election is non-partisan.

She is a Past President of Rio Salado College and as such has been extremely supportive of AAUW. Over the years, starting with the AZ Director's Academy, the Next Step (a 3-year program), at a Glendale Community College Coffee and tour, and as recently as February 14, 2020, Dr. Thor has been there for us. Many branch members can attest to this. Dr. Thor deserves our support now.

Linda Thor is an at-large member of the Maricopa County Community College District in Arizona. Thor assumed office in 2017. Thor's current term ends on December 31, 2020. Thor is running for re-election for an at-large seat of the Maricopa County Community College District in Arizona. Thor is on the ballot in the general election on [November 3, 2020](#)

Sarah Tyree – LD22 Senate Representative



Sarah is a former foster care youth, 8-year US Army veteran and social worker. She spent 14 years combating systemic oppression for underserved populations. This includes children with incarcerated parents, incarcerated children, in home birth to five prevention/early intervention, state-level family consulting, domestic violence, mental health and military family special needs.

As State Senator, Sarah will advocate to expand Veteran care and services. She will be dedicated to fighting for teachers and ensuring all K-12 students have access to classes that build essential life skills. She will re-appropriate funding for programs that keep families together. She will fight for complete prohibition of healthcare "surprise billing". Sarah will partner with small, local businesses within the community to problem solve, build, grow and keep our district and state thriving. Sarah's goal is to create a state where everyone succeeds. <https://www.tyree2020.com>.

Bonnie Boyce-Wilson – Applicant for the Redistricting Commission



Since retiring as administrator of the CO State Child Protection Agency and moving to AZ in 1999, Bonnie has remained active and involved at the local and state level. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work. She taught at the University of Denver and ASU Graduate Schools of Social Work, continues as an ASU field instructor, and worked for 10 years as a Hospice of the Valley Social Worker. Bonnie chairs the NW Valley Connect Board, a nonprofit addressing transportation needs of seniors and veterans in the west valley. She has served as president of the League of Women Voters-NWMC, as well as our AAUW-NWV Branch and on many community boards. Bonnie Boyce-Wilson ran for the LD22 State House in 2014. A dedicated and committed public servant, she is well equipped to make a major contribution to the Redistricting Commission. bboycewilson@gmail.com.



AAUW Action Fund Voter Issue Guide When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation

Since 1881, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has been the nation's leading voice promoting equity for women and girls. AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund encourage voters to get involved in the political process, and to better understand the impact that legislative action—or lack thereof—can have on all the spheres of their lives, including women's economic security, education, and leadership opportunities.

And still, the 2020 election is different. More challenging. And still, the 2020 election is different. Over the course of 139 years, AAUW has not faced the obstacles we now confront: fighting for a safe and just election during a time of such great crisis. The COVID19 pandemic is unlike anything we—our society and democracy itself— have ever faced. Persistent and underlying inequities, ever at the forefront of our mission, are now being compounded by global health and economic crises. Meanwhile, voting access and election practices are as inconsistent as pandemic response policies.

From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, there is so much at stake each time women head to the polls. In this current moment, that is true now more than ever. Politicians and policy makers at all levels of government routinely make decisions about issues that directly affect us and our families. But more often than not, those conversations lack women's voices. As we enter this season of political punditry and campaign promises, we must identify those who would best represent our values and those who would roll back our rights. To create real change, women must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful way for us to chime in is at the polls.

It's as simple as this: When women vote, we change the conversation.

Between now and Election Day, let's start conversations about the issues that affect our families and communities. We need to ask tough questions, jumpstart the discussion, and determine where our candidates stand.

This Voter Issue Guide provides nonpartisan information about the policy concerns that are critical to women and their families. Use it to prompt conversations with neighbors, family, friends, and fellow voters about what's at stake in this election. Take it to virtual town halls and candidate forums to follow along with the debate. Consult it to develop questions to ask your candidates and your elected officials to get them on the record on the issues that matter most.

As the 2020 Election Day approaches, we ask you to consider candidates through the lens of these issues:

(1) Voting Access; (2.) Pay Equity; (3) Paid Sick and Family Leave (4). College Affordability; (5). Campus Sexual Harassment and Violence; (6). Health Care Access and Reproductive Rights.

Above all, make your voice heard on Election Day — and beyond.

This article is the condensed version. For more information on the six issues, please go to . . .

<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-issue-guide/>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG's)

Special Interest Group Chairpersons

Mary Jo Blum - Karen Diaz

maryblum@centurylink.net - kevk Diaz@gmail.com



Monday Book Club:

Meeting: 2nd Monday at 2:00 PM (October-April)

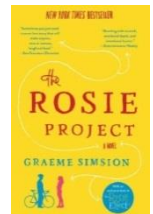
Contact: Karen Bunting buntingk@comcast.net

The Monday Book Club reads a variety of genres, including fiction, history, non-fiction, etc. Members make book recommendations, then vote on which books we will read and discuss each year. The books are selected well in advance, giving members time to obtain, and read them. Discussion leaders volunteer and take turns for the meetings. Meetings will be held in member homes or Zoom.

The Monday book club met in September via Zoom (thank you **Sharon Phelps** for setting that up), and discussed our options for the 2020-21 "season". We have a great booklist from which to choose; our October book read is:

The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion.

Our meeting for this discussion will be held on the patio of Shirley Swinney's home, plus utilizing Zoom for members who cannot yet attend in person. Maryalice Quinn will lead the discussion.



Our meeting date is October 12, 2020, at 2 p.m.

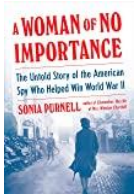
The Rosie Project is a moving and hilarious novel for anyone who has ever tenaciously gone after life or love in the face of overwhelming challenges.

Don Tillman, professor of genetics, has never been on a second date. He is a man who can count all his friends on the fingers of one hand, whose lifelong difficulty with social rituals has convinced him that he is simply not wired for romance. So when an acquaintance informs him that he would make a "wonderful" husband, his first reaction is shock. Yet he must concede to the statistical probability that there is someone for everyone, and he embarks upon The Wife Project. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which he approaches all things, Don sets out to find the perfect partner. She will be punctual and logical - most definitely not a barmaid, a smoker, a drinker, or a late-arriver.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact **Karen Bunting** at buntingk@comcast.net.

The Open Book Club: Member's Choice
Meeting: 3rd Monday at 2:00 PM (September- May)

Contact: Betty Merwin bamerwin@yahoo.com



The Open Book Club met September 21st via Zoom and discussed **A Woman of No Importance** by Sonia Purnell. This biography is the previously untold story of an American woman who worked extensively with the French resistance during the German occupation of WW II. The title springs from the story of her actions which were very significant and helped to end the occupation of France, but she was never recognized by the various government agencies she worked for because of her gender.

The Open Book Club meets the 3rd Monday of the month via Zoom.

Our next meeting is **October 9 at 2 p.m** Selections are both fiction and non-fiction.

Next month, we will be reviewing **Undaunted** by Jackie Speier. This is an inspiring and powerful memoir of surviving the Jonestown massacre and becoming a fearless voice against injustice and inequality by California congresswoman Jackie Speier.

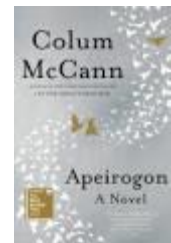


Contact **Betty Merwin** if you wish to join.

SnowBird Book Club
Meeting: 1st Tuesday at 1 PM (November – April)

Contacts: Lorie Lux lorielux@sbcglobal.net
 Sharon Phelps shrnphelps45@gmail.com

Open to both permanent and “snowbird” residents; the Snowbird Book Club discusses a variety of books from any genre. Each month, a volunteer leads the discussion.



Our October meeting will be Tuesday, October 6 at 11. *A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER* • **Apeirogon** is a novel by Colum McCann. The novel explores the conflict in the Middle East. It follows the story of two men who both lost a daughter. One is Palestinian, the other Israeli. “A quite extraordinary novel.

Lorie Lux is inviting you to a scheduled SNOWBIRDS Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lorie Lux's Zoom Meeting
 Time: Oct 6, 2020 11:00 AM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82568638899?pwd=MkJBdG1iYkILS0pWK3pmRXdkenBLdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 6863 8899
 Passcode: 814630

Non-Fiction Book Club

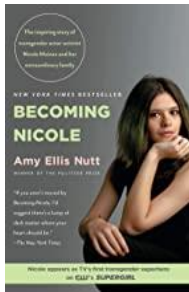
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 PM (September-April)

Contact: Jan Murphy murphjanet@gmail.com

Join us to discover a wide range of authors and topics as we meet to discuss non-fiction titles of new or recurring interest. The hostess provides the location (in her or another's home) and leads the discussion that month. Books are selected far in advance and leaders share some discussion notes before we meet. Our choices in the non-fiction genre are never boring.

The Non-Fiction Book Club recently chose varied and interesting books for our next several months. We had trouble deciding because there were 14 extraordinary recommendations from our members. Don't miss out on the deep conversations we have about many current topics. Contact Jan Murphy at murphjanet@gmail.com to join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

Our Schedule is . . .



Wednesday, October 14

Becoming Nicole' Recounts One Family's Acceptance of A Transgender Child. Transgender student Nicole Maines (accompanied by her father, Wayne, and her twin brother, Jonas) speaks to reporters after winning on appeal a discrimination lawsuit against her school district.

Date	Book Title and Author	Leader
November 11	<i>Out of the Wreckage: A New Politics for an Age of Crisis</i> by George Monbiot	Sharon Phelps
December 9	<i>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent</i> by Isabel Wilkerson	Kathryn Maurdeff
January 13	<i>When Everything Changed</i> by Gail Collins	Janet Teegarden

Currently, we have 9 members and are open to new members. If you are interested in joining, contact Jan at murphjanet@gmail.com to receive a Zoom invitation.

Fundraising

Front Porch AAUW Book Bins by Sharon Lee Astle

An AAUW Book Bin on a front porch!

Why? Book Bins are fundraisers.



Porch shopping is socially -distanced FUN. Book Bin hosts get **first** chance to purchase the drop-offs! Suggested donation is \$3 for a hard cover (H) and \$1.50 for soft covers; you can decide the value based upon the condition. Leave cash or check made to AAUW in the Book Bin. We've earned \$20.50 at SCW and \$15.00 at SC so far! Titles in book bins are as follows:

Sun City West Book Bin: Sharon-Lee Astle, 14217 W. Via Tercero, SCW 85375

Titles: **Michael Connelly's** Dark Sacred Night H and The Scarecrow H; Stealing By Finding Diaries, David **Sedaris**; a P.D. James Collection of detective fiction H; 5 books by **Edith Wharton**; brand new **Sudoku Puzzles**; Lust for Life; A Thousand Splendid Suns H; The Red Tent H, The Civil War of 1812 H, and for pure fun Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions & Dear Mrs. Bird.

Sun City Book Bin: Janet Murphy, 9635 W. Spanish Moss Lane, SC 85373

Titles: **Trever Noah's** Born A Crime H; **Louise Penny's** A Better Man H; **Delia Owens' Where the Crawdads Sing H; **Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey's** She Said H; **David Baldacci** The Collectors H; **JA Jance's** Betrayl of Trust; **John Sandford's** Mind Prey; **Tohe O'Grady's** Code Talker Stories; **John Carlin's** Playing the Enemy – Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made A Nation; **Lucia Puenzo's** The German Doctor; **Ranya Idliby**, Suzanne Oliver, **Priscilla Warner's** The Faith Club; **Elizabeth Strout's** Olive Kitteridge; **Dan Rather's** What Unites Us; 5 **John Grisham** novels H -- The Firm, The Rainmaker, The Testament, The Pelican Brief, A Time To Kill; and **Robin Cook's** Intervention; Harmful Intent, and Blind Sight H.**

How about other locations such as Surprise, Buckeye, Wickenburg, Glendale or Peoria? Any of us can host from a front porch! Email me Sharon.astle1963@gmail.com with your address and some titles!

THIS PROJECT IS ALL ABOUT RAISING MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN!

MEMOIRS

Memories into Memoirs



Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Good Morning from colorful Minnesota,

Hope this note finds everyone healthy and finding ways to stay sane during a Pandemic.

Welcome to our two new members Adrienne Kirchner and Karen Wahlund. I have also enclosed a list of possible subjects for our coming year. Many thanks to Joye Kohl for providing this list.

We usual meet inside of our homes, but due to COVID we would like to meet outside. Many thanks to Lorie Lux who has offered to host all of our monthly gatherings on her large patio. This solved the question of should we read our Memoirs over Zoom (just not the same). We can change the hostess as the year proceeds.

Our first meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2020. Perhaps some of you will remain in your home state to vote for this important election. I will not be in SCW until January.

Two questions:

Yes or No - I want to meet in November and December

Yes or No - I am OK with others selecting our subjects or just email me your suggestions

Look forward to seeing everyone again,

Contacts: Lorie Lux - lorielux@sbcglobal.net and Sharon Quern - slquern@aol.com

Possible Subjects for Memoirs

What is your most memorable birthday?

What is the best concert you've ever attended?

Do you believe in luck or chance?

What was the craziest thing you've ever done for a significant other?

What is the first thing you'd do if you won the lottery?

What decade would you have liked to have lived in and why?

What is something you have always wanted to try but never had the courage to do?

What's your first memory?

If money was not an obstacle, what would you be doing with your life?

What is the best gift you have ever given? Received?

What were your favorite things to learn about in school?

How do you define success?

What would your pet say about you if someone asked them for a reference?

How have you successfully changed careers?



AZ ADVENTURES

by Melinda Lewandowski, Diane Wilbur, and Diana Day

Due to the pandemic, Diane, Diana, and I have decided that we will be going on a "healthy hiatus" until January 2021, when we will revisit a wise time to reconvene. Carpooling and restaurants are a concern, as are venue closures, and some questionable protocols. In surveying a dozen members, they too are in agreement to hold off.

We welcome ideas for virtual adventures that you've enjoyed and would like to share. Email them to me (melinski24@hotmail.com) and I will share them in the November newsletter. Our president Sharon suggested that it would be fun to have not only AZ adventures, but national and international as well. I googled "free virtual tours in AZ" and also in the world, and hundreds come up. I enjoyed the "Digital Safari-Phoenix Zoo" @ www.phoenixzoo.org/digital-safari

Originally planned Oct. 30th adventure on Desert Belle Cruise on Saguaro Lake in Mesa could still be attended by individuals on their own @ www.desertbelle.com. My concern was that masks are to be worn inside but NOT outside when seated on the deck, however socially distanced chairs. And the Luke Air Force Base tour in Glendale I believe has gone virtual. We found out that had we gone, a bus would have been needed.

Thank you for your understanding. Directory update: p.27 Library address is 13801.

Virtual Adventurers

ARTS ADVENTURES

by Mary Jo Blum

Inviting All Interested Members

It's so exciting to see that many of you have expressed an interest in **Arts Adventures**. The previous group has disbanded so you would be able to begin as you would wish it to be.

To establish this, you would need a chair or co-chairs. Then establish a meeting date and time. Otherwise the events have been selected by members.

The following are members that were interested:



Rhonda Clark
Barbara Imbrie
Renee Kirschner
Sue Knippen
Melinda Lewandowski
Fran Pletschet
Rita Ratajczak
Babette Spatz
Shirley Swinney
Marjorie Whitman.

*Exciting
Adventures*

Please let me know if you are still interested. Then, of course, who might chair/co-chair this and we'll go on from there.

AAUW HIKING CLUB

Contact: Judith Neigoff jneigoff@cox.net and Natalie Weinstein natanya45@hotmail.com



To all the members of our AAUW Hiking Club,

Let's get ready to start our Fall season of hikes! After being indoors all summer due to the hot weather and coronavirus restrictions, we look forward to getting out and safely hiking together.

This year we will be having many hikes—different days, different degrees of difficulty, different leaders. Below in this email is information about our first two proposed hikes in October. Also, attached is a new Hike Information Sheet that I prepared. I ask anyone who would like to lead a hike this Fall or Winter, to fill out this form and submit it to me. I will send it out to all our Hiking Club members and then your hike is on!

Now for Our First Hikes:**This is from Natalie Weinstein:**

Jean Bramucci, Diana Day, and Cheryl-Grant Anderson, and I were planning a four day hike to Flagstaff, when the Paige hike had to be rescheduled to 2021. We thought it might break the boredom of this ongoing health crisis, if we schedule an overnight hike to Flagstaff on **October 12, 2020**. This summer, Judy Neigoff, Jean Barmucci and myself then went to Flagstaff to check out Schultz Trail and meet with Diana Day and make a plan.

We would hike Schultz Creek that has an easy trail as well as more difficult trails. We would then have the option of having dinner and spending the night. Those who spend the night, could then hike another trail on the 13th and head home.

This is just an exploratory email to see if other hikers would be interested in this. Please respond to me at natanya45@hotmail.com (do NOT hit reply to this email) only if you would be interested in this adventure.

Come out and Hike with your AAUW friends. Most hikes are planned for all hiking skills levels. We will have shorter, easier paths and more challenging trails on hikes. We like to carpool from the SCW Library, or you can meet us at the trailhead. Information on each hike will be emailed to Hiking Club members a few weeks before each hike. Traditionally, we have hiked the 4th Monday of every month; this coming year we hope to also include additional hikes on different days of the week. After hiking we usually have lunch together at a nearby restaurant. Once a year, in January, we have a Hiking Club Potluck Dinner where we discuss hikes, leaders, and our 4-day hike in April. Due to the Coronavirus disruption, dates and plans for the January Potluck Dinner and the April 4-day hike will be announced later.

**AAUW Hiking Club
Hike – Monday, October 26**

Leader: Melinda Lewandowski

Hike location:

Skyline Regional Park, Buckeye, AZ- www.buckeyeaz.gov (Base of the White Tanks)

Time of meeting for hike:

SCW parking lot for car pools/caravan at 7 a.m- 13801 W. Meeker Blvd., SCW, AZ 85375
Leave the lot at 7:10 a.m. and plan on meeting at the trailhead at 7:45 a.m.
Return to trailhead parking lot at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Trailhead information:

Skyline Regional Park- 2600 N. Watson Rd., Buckeye, AZ 85326/ (623) 349-6621

(Hiking Club continued)

FREE entrance and parking

Restrooms should be open by then, but water fountains not in operation

Directions: About 35 minutes/ 30 miles

From the library parking lot, right on RH Johnson Blvd.

Right on West Grand to the 303 South

303 South to I-10 West (towards L.A.) for 15 miles

On I-10 West (travel 8 miles), exit 117 onto N. Watson Rd., turn right for 2 miles to entrance

Look for trailhead sign

Trail hikes: No solo hiking, 6 foot social distancing on trail

First 2 hikes begin on Mtn. Wash over the bridge bypass for .2 miles

Moderate hike- Turnbuckle Loop- 3 mile rocky mountain trail

Easier hike- Take Turnbuckle .4 miles to Granite Falls- mostly flat, wash trail

Turn back after 1 hour and 15 minutes

Easiest hike- Narrative path at entrance over the bridge. Signs with flora/fauna descriptions

We are planning to be out around 2.5 hours

Weather conditions and equipment:

Bring a MASK and wear as needed

Wear layers, hiking shoes/boots, hat, sunscreen, and bring hiking poles

Plenty of water- 2 bottles minimum/ stay hydrated!!

Food:

Trail snacks

No restaurant planned; fast food restaurants on Watson under the bridge (optional)

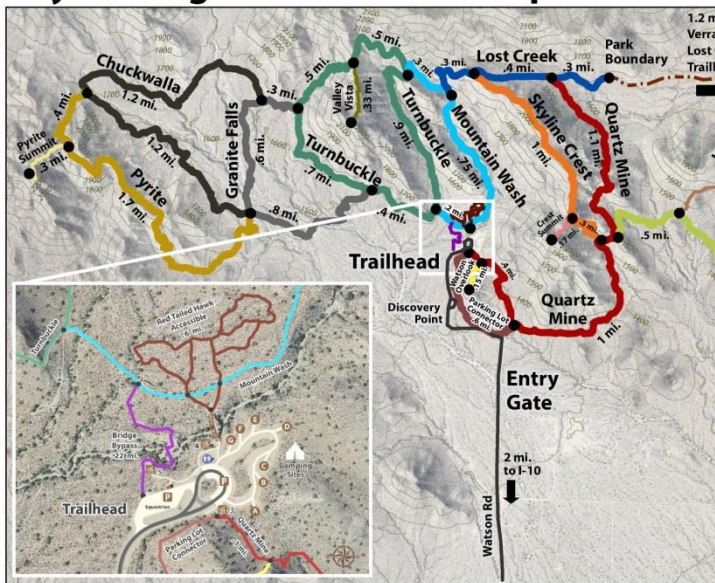
RSVP to: Melinda Lewandowski by Monday, October 19th, 2020 (let me know which level hike you are interested in)

Email: melinski24@hotmail.com Phone: (623) 210-4245

*Please let me know if you are meeting at the library or trailhead

*Reminder- Share expenses with your driver.

Skyline Regional Park Trail Map



For more information, visit www.buckeyeaz.com

TRAIL CODE	TRAIL NAME	LENGTH (MILES)	USE BY	RATING	ELEVATION GAIN (FEET)
RH	Red Tailed Hawk	.6	Hiker	Accessible	
MW	Mountain Wash	1.06	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Moderate	400'
BB	Bridge Bypass Equestrian Trail	.22	Horse	Easy	25'
PC	Parking Lot Connector	.6	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Easy	160'
QM	Quartz Mine	2.6	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Moderate	445'
WO	Watson Overlook	.15	Hiker	Moderate	120'
SC	Skyline Crest	1.3	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Difficult	530'
CS	Crest Summit	.17	Hiker	Difficult	200'
TG	Tortuga	1.5	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Easy	340'
JS	Javelina Summit	.9	Hiker	Difficult	745'
LC	Lost Creek	1.03	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Moderate	440'
TB	Turnbuckle	3.00	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Moderate	560'
V	Valley Vista	.33	Hiker	Difficult	270'
GF	Granite Falls Loop	1.7	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Easy	280'
CW	Chuckwalla	2.4	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Easy	210'
PT	Pyrite	2.1	Hiker, Bicyclist, Horse	Moderate	565'
PS	Pyrite Summit	.3	Hiker	Moderate	180'

Skyline Regional Park Trail Guide

Reading Trail Marker

Emergency Trail Markers are located posts every 1/4 mile. If you need help, reference the nearest marker to assist personnel in identifying your location.

The letters indicate the name of the trail case MW = Mountain Wash Trail and they provide information on distance travel segment at quarter mile intervals.

GIRLFRIENDS AND MORE

Time to come together for socializing, making/deepening friendships, having fun!

The purpose of this group is to provide fun experiences for members with husbands/significant others or singles who would like some "girltime".

We will meet about once a month for lunch, coffee hour, or some other social event. The first organizational meeting was held on Tuesday, June 12th .

Two Co-Chairs were named. They are Maryalice Quinn and Jane Warner. Melinda Lewandowski volunteered to help out this fall. During this meeting several events were suggested such as movies, plays, teas, tours of museums, farms, Cardinal Stadium, etc, Antiquing, breakfasts, lunches, dinners and games.

If you are interested in joining this fun loving group that values friendship and sharing in group activities, please RSVP.



October 27, 2020

Girlfriends and more Zoom Meeting
Please RSVP suzannesjames@gmail.com

Note: Beginning in October we may have, in addition to our Zoom meeting, a separate Outing Meeting for those members who are comfortable to adventure out.

ZOOM INVITATION MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Suzanne James is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: My Meeting
Time: 11:00 AM Arizona

Every month on the Last Tuesday

Monthly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAvcevorzqrGtS8hdMiNLo2OVF1pldFvGPC/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsrD0vGtWWsRmHRpwIAI_oZ_TzmHZcjbduxBfhLip9TgykGdRkY6JzFP7G](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAvcevorzqrGtS8hdMiNLo2OVF1pldFvGPC/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsrD0vGtWWsRmHRpwIAI_oZ_TzmHZcjbduxBfhLip9TgykGdRkY6JzFP7G)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84265013100?pwd=UVMYzTFINGJlcVBNQVBBRXNQM2dCdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 6501 3100

Passcode: 561917

AAUW-NWV Annual Holiday Breakfast

Celebrating
40 *Years*



December 17, 2020 @ 9AM

Briarwood Country Club

20800 N 135th Ave., Sun City West, AZ 85375



Plated Breakfast Menu:

Orange Juice

Seasonal Fruit Cup

Toasted English Muffin with Eggs and Cheese

Choice of Breakfast Ham or Sausage

Country Style Breakfast Potatoes

Freshly Baked Muffins

Sub Gluten-free and Vegetarian offered

Beverages included: Regular/Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, Hot Tea

Musical Selections provided by

AAUW-NWV member, Barbara Imbrie.

Cost per member: \$13.00

Send Reservation and Check to:

Melva Hull, 22827 N. Arrellaga, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Maximum of 50. No Refunds. Payment due by December 10, 2020



Information: Contact Rosemary Dougherty, Coordinator; rosemaryd4@cox.net

Briarwood Covid19 Protocols will be observed

Member Name _____ Contact Number _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check _____ Cash _____



OCTOBER 2020

Happy Halloween



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Memoirs 9:30	6 Snowbird Books 11	7	8	9	10
11	12 Board Mtg- 9 Mon Book Club 2 Hike - Flagstaff 9	13	14 Non-fiction Book Club 6	15 General Meeting 9	16	17
18	19 Open Book Club 2	20	21	22	23	24
25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 Hike -Skyline 9	27 Girl Friends 11	28 TRUNK OF TREATS	29 TRUNK OF TREATS Girl Frends More 11	30 TRUNK OF TREATS	31 TRUNK OF TREATS

Looking ahead . . .

November 2 -Memoirs
November 3- - Election Day

NWV AAUW Newsletter

Ten issues of our newsletter are published yearly, September to June.

Newsletter Co-editors

Dorothy Alexander – ddalexander13@gmail.com – 317-607-8856

Ronda Clark – rondagclark@gmail.com – 206-384-2662

Next Deadline: October 25

Please submit all articles formatted in Microsoft Word.

Do you want to join our team? We are having much fun and becoming friends as we work!

Come Join Us!