



EMBERS

December 2018

December means—

Change – up North the weather shifts from pleasant to wintry days, while in Arizona the monsoons are a distant memory, and the pleasant days increase;

Gratitude – we have paused as a nation to cast our votes and given thanks for our abundant blessings;

Sacrifice – we have remembered those who have served this country well, earning the honorable title of Veteran;

Migration -- our attendance expands as our northern members migrate south for the pleasant winters of Arizona and the fellowship within AAUW;

Sharing – we share our generous bounty not only with holiday gifts for family and friends, but also with donations to those less fortunate through LAF, Family Promise, StreetLight USA, School Bell, Food Bank, Helen’s Hope Chest, or other charitable organizations for the needy or homeless;

Celebration – we celebrate the end of this tumultuous year and look forward to new beginnings with 2019. And since we celebrate more than 7,000 different holidays in our country, I’ll unabashedly wish you Happy Holidays—since my holiday is no more important than yours. But I would hope that whatever holiday you celebrate, it is with an “Attitude of Gratitude” for the blessings you receive.

Joanne Walen, AAUW East Mesa President

PLEASE NOTE!

Page six is a flyer for the Author Luncheon which may be copied as an invitation for friends, neighbors and whoever else you think might be interested.

The December general meeting will be in the Leisure World Theater.

2019 meeting dates - Our January meeting is on the 9th and the February meeting will be on the 13th.

December 2018

Calendar

Wednesday December 5

December General Meeting

Leisure World Theater 1:30pm

Speakers - Dr. Harriet Young, AZ AAUW Public Policy chair and Beth Lewis from Save Our Schools will speak on "What's Behind 'No Money Available' for Arizona Schools?"

Monday December 10

AAUW Quilters and Crafters 1pm

Quilters and crafters are invited to bring their handwork and join us in the Leisure World Sewing Room. New members are welcome!

Cindy Deatsman, chair

librarian2760@yahoo.com

Thursday December 13

Morning Book Group 9:30am

MBG will meet a week early in December. Lucia Causey, manor 639, will be our host. We look forward to seeing her Saint Lucia collection! Judy Taucher-Lewis will lead discussion on A GREAT ALONE by Kristin Hannah. Please let Lucia know if you will be there - lwcausey@aol.com.

Cindy Deatsman, chair

librarian2760@yahoo.com

Friday December 14

Great Decisions 9:15am

Great Decisions will meet at the home of Helen Sheriff, Manor 83, on Friday, December 14, at 9:15 a.m. Helen will facilitate the discussion on *Turkey: A Partner in Crisis*. Please do let her know if you will be attending (hsheriff1@cox.net).

Mary Hung, chair

maryhung4@gmail.com

Thursday December 20

Ladies of Literature 1pm

Our meeting this month will be at my home, 1094 Leisure World. Some members may have left for the holidays, but I hope we have a good crew for this meeting. We will be reading A PIECE OF THE WORLD by Christina Baker Kline. We welcome any new members; just email and let the hostess (me) know you will be coming.

Deanna Long, chair

deannalong4y3@cox.net

Wednesday December 29

Book Review 9:15am

Book Review meets at the cafe at Rec 2. One person reviews a book of her choice. Come join us! We'd love new members.

Pat Nixon, chair

patleenixon@cox.net

The Gourmets

The Gourmets is a small group of AAUW members who meet four times a year, twice with spouses/partners, to share a good meal. The group met recently and made plans for this year. If you are interested, please contact Carla Burman.

Monday November 26 - Lunch. Kathleen Wheaton, coordinator

Thursday January 10 - Winter Holiday celebration with spouses/partners,. Kathleen Wheaton, Diana Kilby and Pat Nixon, coordinators

Monday March 18 - Lunch out. Barb Caswell, coordinator

Saturday April 13 - Spring Fling with spouses or partners. Carla Burman, Jan Shriver, and Kay Eakin, coordinators.

Kay Eakin, eakin1@cox.net

Wednesday January 9 2019

January General Meeting

Colleen Howard, the STEM coordinator for Mesa Public Elementary Schools, will speak on "Creating Opportunities to Attract, Inspire & Retain More Girls in STEM."

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

What's behind the 'No Money Available for Schools?' discussion? Our December branch meeting will feature two special speakers talking about the financial and political issues of school funding. What was budgeted and why is it complicated by the repayment of bonds? Why was there no money available until the Save Our Schools (SOS) and Red for Ed movements took the discussion to the public?

Our speakers will be Harriet Young, PhD and Beth Lewis. Ms. Young is the Public Policy chair for Arizona AAUW. She is a retired Political Science professor at Northern Arizona University and holds a PhD in Political Science. Beth Lewis is the founder of Save Our Schools (SOS) and has taught 5th and 6th grades for eight years. Save Our Schools is a group of grassroots, nonpartisan, parents, teachers and business leaders supporting efforts to keep public money from being diverted to a universal school voucher program. Ms Lewis was awarded the Rodel Exemplary teacher Award and holds a BA degree from University of Notre Dame, and MA in Education from Arizona State University.

NOTE: The December meeting room is changed. It will be held in the LW Theater because the Club Room and ballroom were booked. Seating is limited so come early. You may want to carpool as parking may be at a minimum.

Barbara Caswell, Program Vice President

HOSPITALITY

At our regular meeting in November, Kay Eakin and her committee of Becky Murphy, Ruth Pinkus, and Joanna Larson used beautiful fall colors and decorations as the setting for the delicious treats they provided us. Both the very special cookies and the apples with caramel dip reminded us of the season. These treats were deliciously supplemented by samples of three varieties of Butter Braids being sold in the bake sale to benefit the Legal Advocacy Fund.

In December, Carla Burman and Kathleen Wheaton will work together with Marjorie Perkins to make sure our collective sweet tooth is satisfied.

Joyce Loland, Hospitality Chair

SURVEY RESULTS

At the November meeting, members were asked to respond to several questions. Here are the questions and a summary of the answers.

Why did you join AAUW?

Overwhelmingly to support education, meet others with similar interest, for mental stimulation....

What do you value about your membership?

Learning, make more social relationships, good work being done at the national level, supporting women and education, friends, speakers – stimulating programs, friendship of women from diverse backgrounds

Negative Value?

Unhelpful response to new ideas, hard to make friends, dues, always being asked for money, use of time in meetings on details that should be done by Officers, a little cliquy and hard to find a seat at meengs because "they are being saved for friends", represent white privilege. A fair number resent the number of appeals from the national AAUW...

There is an underlying feeling of "cliqueness"; several mentioned the difficulty of finding a table.

I have not listed every comment but I did try to group the ones that were repeated. To summarize, we have common values around education, scholarship fundraising, and the desire to be around educated caring women. Please help reinforce the positive and look for ways that we can eliminate the negative. You can send suggestions and comments to me at cdlackore@aol.com. All responses will be kept confidential.

Thank you for your openness.

Sandra Lackore, President Elect

***Current and back issues of EMBers
are available on our website,
<https://eastmesa-az.aauw.net>***

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

- 1) In the absence of a Membership VP, Betsy Flaten, Sandi Lackore, and I are hosting an afternoon get-together for our October guests and new member Ruth Klinge after Thanksgiving. This will be an opportunity for them to find out more about AAUW and our branch as well as visit with each other over a cup of tea or glass of wine.
- 2) Member Attendance Drawing. Don't forget to sign in each meeting when you pick up your name tag because at the end of the year, all members who have had perfect attendance will have their names entered into a drawing for \$10 off next year.

Joanne Walen, President

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON UPDATE

Planning for our annual scholarship luncheon is well underway. The luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 9. Put it on your calendar and also plan to help set up on Friday afternoon.

Ticket sales begin on December 5. Tables will be sold at 12:30 in front of the Theater. A table of eight will be \$320. Please have your check made out to AAUW Scholarship Fund. Individual tickets will be sold after the meeting for \$40.00

Diana Kilby is in charge of ticket sales. Call her if you have question. Talk with your friends and invite them to attend. Please remind them that they will be supporting our scholars. Maybe with a little encouragement you can fill a whole table with your friends.

Sandra Lackore has volunteered to handle the baskets. Contact her if you have questions. We hope each interest group will contribute a basket or two. Remember we want to reach a large variety of interests.

Kathleen Wheaton and Carla Burman are our Jewelry ladies. They have some nice pieces from last year that didn't sell so they are asking for a few more really nice pieces. The interest seems to be better quality pieces. Call Kathleen if you have questions.

Cindy Deatsman is looking for interesting items for the Potpourri table. She will take craft items and clothing accessories as well as collectibles. She needs volunteers to help organize and sell the items.

Our raffle is being handled by Jan Kelly. She needs tickets to museums or restaurants or consumable items such as salon visits, hair cuts, etc.

Lucia Causey announced our speaker, Jan Cleere, at the last meeting.

We need your help with our Scholarship Luncheon, so please, if someone asks you to help, say YES!

Judy Shahenian, chair

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2019

Please mark your calendar for TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019, our annual AAUW Legislative Day.

Arizona has another opportunity to go into the history books as the state that (finally!) passed the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment). Only one more state is needed for passage, and Arizona could be it.

Even if you do not vote in Arizona, we need your presence and voice to let the legislators know that this issue is important for the equal rights of ALL, not just women. We will have a carpool set up, leaving from the Rec 1 parking lot around 7:15ish. We will return by 2:30 pm.

Joanne Walen, President

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

Are you feeling frustrated, angry, fearful? Personally, I'm furious. I can't believe that in this century women are still being sexually harassed.

Fortunately, AAUW has always been ahead of the curve. LAF was established to provide funds, emotional support and legal advice to women were in education and the workplace. Finally women are coming forward instead of in the shadows. But they need our help.

We can either sit still or take a stand. Join with me and other AAUW members across the country and make your tax deductible donation to LAF now.

The next woman to be harassed may be your granddaughter.

Send your LAF donation to Rhysa Davis, 1148 Leisure World, Mesa AZ 85206 before December 3. If you prefer, you can support LAF at the December general meeting. Envelopes for your donation will be on the table.

Your financial support in the future of women.

Rhysa Davis, LAF chair

NOVEMBER 2018 MINUTES AAUW EAST MESA BRANCH

AAUW General Meeting: November 7, 2018

Call to Order: Joanne Walen, President, at 1:32 pm
Greeting to Members and 7 guests

Thank you to Hostess Committee and attendees for today's snacks

Elaine Prom: Quorum established

Minutes from previous meeting: No corrections and file report as mailed to EMBers and posted

Treasurer's report: No corrections and file report as mailed to EMBers and posted

Introduction of Judy Flannigan PLAN (Phoenix Legal Action Network). Topic: Immigration Challenges. Ms. Flannigan is a sole practitioner lawyer who is on the PLAN board which focuses on vulnerable immigrant groups requiring legal support in efforts to navigate the removal process.

Reconvene Business Meeting by Joanne Walen at 2:35pm

Unfinished Business:

Success of Fall Forum: This forum was successful with additional information and photographs on the state and Mesa branch websites.

Activity Fair: Joanne Walen, Sandra Lackore and Janet Zuber represented AAUW Mesa Branch at the Leisure World Activity Fair with interest in the organization and branch.

New Business:

Member Activity: Sandra solicited information regarding why members joined AAUW, the benefits and the negatives of the organization.

LAF Donations: Rhysa Davis explained the LAF bake sale promotion commencing through November and early December.

Need for New Membership VP: Joanne requested a volunteer for new membership VP. If no one volunteers, a person will be assigned to the position.

Directory Change: The change, designed to save money, will be in a pdf format which each member can print out and may include pictures of the members.

Women Rising Liaison: Our branch will will liaison with Gateway Community College Women Rising Program to attract new members to the Mesa branch.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Luncheon: Judy Shahanian explained the financial implications of the luncheon and the details of table purchase starting in December. Deanna Long presented background information on the scholars and information was presented on the changes to the raffle. Lucia Causey revealed the author - Jan Cleere, a local Arizona Author.

Adjournment: Joanne Walen at 3:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Byrd, Secretary

THANK YOU BARB!

We all owe Barb Peiffer a huge shout out and THANK YOU! for her years of unfailing service as our eblast emailer. So many of our projects have their success directly linked to her timely distribution of the mail that kept us all in the loop. We all sent you cyber-hugs, Barb, for your wonderful work.

The East Mesa branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presents its annual

Author's Luncheon
Scholarship Fundraiser
Saturday, February 9, 2019
featuring
Jan Cleere

The public is invited to attend this event to be held in Leisure World at Recreation Center 2 on Saturday, February 9, 2019. Doors open at 10:30 for guests to enjoy a raffle and Silent Auction sale and the opportunity to meet and greet this year's scholarship awardees. Author Jan Cleere will be available to autograph her book Levis and Lace - Arizona Women Who Made History. The book is included in the \$40 cost of the luncheon.

Jan writes extensively about the desert southwest, particularly about people who first settled the territory. Her freelance work has appeared in *Arizona Highways*, *Persimmons Hill* magazine, *Phoenix Women* and the *Tucson Quarterly*.

In 2001, she received recognition from *Arizona Highways* for Hostess of the West, the life of Elizabeth Hudson Smith, a black entrepreneur in Wickenburg in the early 1900s. Jan belongs to several professional writers' groups. She is a presenter for the Arizona Humanities Council, giving hour-long presentations to groups across the state. She and her husband reside in Oro Valley.

The purpose of this event is to raise money for scholarships for East Valley women attending college/university in Arizona. The awardees include recent high school graduates as well as women returning to higher education after a break to work or raise families.

Tickets may be obtained by contacting Diana Kilby at 210-219-7639 or texans@kilbys.com. For more information about this event please contact Judy Shahenian, chair, at 480-459-0455 or at dmsjas@mac.com. Guests are encouraged to use Leisure World's Southern gate located on Southern between Higley and Power.

