



Journeying into 2020

I remember journeying into 2000. There was fear and trepidation about computers, the stock market, airplanes- - all the things that were subject to changing to a new century. We worked hard to solve those problems before the New Year was to arrive, and guess what: here we are, hardly remembering that fear and trepidation.

But isn't life just like that sometimes. If we lived in the moment and didn't worry so much about the future, we might be a lot happier. I will admit, I sometimes worry about my journey down the road of life. I was worried about accepting the presidency of AAUW. But as I reflect on the past few months, I am grateful for each of you. And I am most appreciative of your willingness to step up and step out of your comfort zone.

You have discovered about me, I hope, that I am a Disney fan. Walt Disney and his writers sought to share a little wisdom in most of his animated features. I want to quote from one that speaks to me and I hope to some of you:

"Life is a journey to be experienced, not a problem to be solved" Pooh – From *Winnie the Pooh*

I hope that each of you walks boldly into 2020 "Imagineering" the possibilities for the East Mesa Branch of AAUW.

Sandra Lackore
President AAUW East Mesa Branch

AUTHOR SELECTED for AAUW SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

William Kent Krueger, winner of the Edgar Award for his stand-alone novel *Ordinary Grace*, and author of the Cork O'Connor mystery series will be the featured speaker at the AAUW East Mesa Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon on March 28, 2020.

The Cork O'Connor mystery series is set in the north woods of Minnesota. Protagonist Cork O'Connor is the former sheriff of Tamarack County, a man of mixed heritage—part Irish and part Ojibwe.

Krueger's work has received a number of awards, including the Minnesota Book Award, the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award, the Anthony Award, the Barry Award, the Dilys Award, and the Friends of American Writers Prize. His last nine novels were all *New York Times* bestsellers.

Ordinary Grace, Krueger's first stand-alone novel, received the Edgar Award—given by the Mystery Writers of America. His second stand-alone novel, *This Tender Land*, was a new release in September.

AAUW FOLLOW UP: 4454-Violet H. &

Norbert H. Larney Fellowship

The first funding through the Larney Trust Committee was a Fellowship in the name of Violet and her husband Norbert. This Fellowship, funded this past spring, has provided its first grant to Varina Clark.

Award Year: 2019-20

Award: Selected Professions Fellowship

Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

Location: Los Angeles, California

Discipline: Health and medical sciences

Degree & Specialization: M.D., Medicine

While volunteering within inner-city clinics and global health settings, Varina Clark became passionate about reducing health-care disparities. Her current research explores potential biomarkers that will help to lay the foundation for therapeutic targets for pulmonary hypertension—associated right ventricular failure. As a future clinician-investigator, her goal is to take an active role in the bench-to-bedside approach to treating debilitating diseases, addressing health disparities, improving health outcomes and providing culturally responsive, comprehensive health care to patients.

Sponsors:

1845 - Tristan Holvick-Norton
1112 - San Diego (CA) Branch
1888 - Karen Tibodeau Manelis
4454 - Violet H. and Norbert H. Larney

Submitted by Sandra Lackore

Scholarship Luncheon Plans

*Tickets will go on sale at the Jan 8th meeting at 12:30 p.m.

*The plan this year is to have the 12 Scholars at the front 12 tables with their mentors. The Scholars want to talk with you on a more personal level. If you want a table with a Scholar please call Diana Kilby ASAP at 210-219-7639. You will have 6 guests to pay for. The mentors will pay for their luncheon ticket and the Scholars' tickets are covered by the AAUW East Mesa Branch.

*Kay Eakin is in charge of the napkins. She needs some volunteers to starch and press the napkins she already has. More will be collected when we know how many tickets have been sold. Folding napkins will take place on the 27th of March at 2:30 pm.

*Jewelry is handled by Kathleen Wheaton and Carla Burman. Gail Sweet has already volunteered to help. They will need many hands on the day of the event. Additional information to follow.

*Sandra Lackore is taking care of the baskets and will provide guidelines at the January meeting.

*We will not be doing a typical raffle this time. Jan Kelly will be over seeing a 50/50 raffle. She will need helpers to sell tickets at the event. Multiple dollar amounts will be awarded. Call Jan 480-616-9495 if you wish to volunteer for a few minutes at the luncheon.

*Betsy Flaten has provided an article in the Embers about the author.

*Jan Shriver, treasurer, will need cashiers on the 28th of March.

*Barb Caswell will take care of the hostesses this year. Volunteers are needed to greet and direct guests to all the wonderful things inside the ballroom.

*Joanna Larson has volunteered to work with the catering. More information will be available closer to the luncheon.

Please call me with any questions.

Judy Shahrenian

Scholarship Luncheon Coordinator

Follow Up on Giving

Many of you who were able to attend our December AAUW meeting heard about the donation made to the Mesa Public Schools from the Larney Trust Funds for STEM related educational needs. The following is just some of what was enabled with that educational gift:

- **Mac Book Air** – was purchased, delivered and is being used in the SIM office for website maintenance/videos/and administrative purposes.
- **Virtual Reality Headsets** – were purchased, and are being used by 5th & 6th grade students attending field trips to the Mesa Public Schools' Aeronautical Center for Exploration (ACE) located at Salk and Lowell Elementary.
- **Three of six web cams** with power sources were purchased and are in use at the Lowell Elementary ACE location
- **IPads** have been purchased for school use.

“Thanks to the generosity of East Mesa AAUW, we have made revisions and updates to the STEM program.” –Colleen Howard, STEM Specialist, Mesa Public Schools

Joanne Walen

Thank you to AAUW members for your generosity!

Jan Kelly loaned her van, time and driving skills.

Members also contributed \$600!

Judy Ruth

*The only way to live is by accepting
each minute as an unrepeatable
miracle.*

Storm Jameson

Membership Matters

Welcome New Members to AAUW East Mesa

Be sure to add *Molly Brenza* and *Mary Linnemann* to your AAUW Directory and welcome them at our general meeting and interest groups.

Betsy Flaten,

Membership Vice President

SAVE THE DATE!
Plan to attend Legislature Day at the state capitol.

Wednesday, February 4, 2020
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MEET WITH ARIZONA LEGISLATORS

LEARN ABOUT PENDING LEGISLATION

AAUW Arizona has five focus items: fully fund education, pass the ERA, stop sexual harassment, guarantee access to health services, and equal pay. We plan to ask legislators to give us some insight into what might pass in the legislature.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m.

AAUW members will assemble for short presentations by our legislators. Women leaders of the House and Senate are invited to speak about what is proposed for the 2020 session and to respond to our questions.

10:00 a.m.

Secretary of State Katie Hobbs will speak about what her office is doing to insure safe, honest, and secure elections—a hot topic for the 2020 national elections.

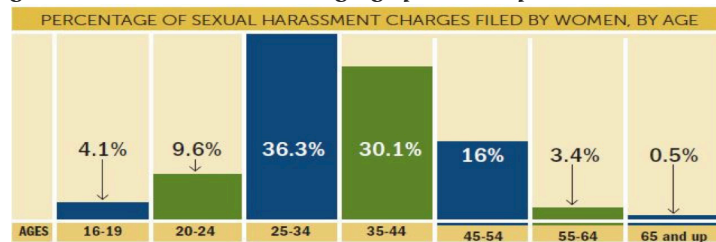
Betsy Flaten

JUST RELEASED...

RESEARCH REPORT from AAUW documents how women of all ages experience workplace sexual harassment.



Workplace sexual harassment can take a toll on women’s physical and mental health, limit their job choices, reduce prospects for career development and even force them out of the workforce. These negative effects compound over time, reducing women’s lifetime earnings and contributing to both the gender and retirement wage gaps, the report concludes.



Source: AAUW analysis of 1995-2016 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sexual harassment charges data, acquired by BuzzFeed News.

WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT...

Threatens women’s mental health and physical safety

“The impact [of being sexually harassed] has been profound: insomnia, anxiety, depression. It has had very negative effects on my career.”—Susan, 55

Psychologists report that sexual harassment can lead to depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

— Organizational behaviorists link it to an increased risk of long-term physical health problems.

Erodes women’s short-and long-term economic security

“I was ‘encouraged’ to find employment elsewhere and told that reporting would reflect badly on me.”—Ramona, 49

—In AAUW’s survey of 311 women, 38 percent of women who’d been harassed said it contributed to their decision to leave a job early, and 37 percent said it disrupted their career advancement.

(continued on the next page)

—When women decrease their hours or leave their job to avoid a harasser, it reduces their wages and ability to save and build wealth.

—Older women who leave a job because of harassment often face ageism on the job market and may consequently retire early, missing out on what might have been their peak earning years.

—Women who report harassment risk receiving unjust performance reviews, getting ostracized by coworkers and being denied promotions or raises.

Contributes to the leadership gap

—According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research and AAUW, women who attempt to avoid a harasser can miss out on valuable on-the-job training and mentorship— which are critical in helping women rise into leadership positions.

LEGAL REMEDIES are LIMITED

Although federal law *appears* comprehensive and robust, employees who are harassed at work are often unable to access justice. **Barriers include...**

— Narrow standards about the kinds of employers covered by existing laws...employers with fewer than 15 employees are exempt.

—The exclusion from coverage of various categories of workers, including contractors and unpaid interns.

A limited time frame for bringing charges.

—Onerous standards of proof: Courts have narrowly interpreted the definition of sexual harassment so many egregious complaints have not met the required standard.

—Reduced liability: The Supreme Court has narrowed the circumstances in which employers and coworkers can be liable for harassment.

—Non-disclosure agreements and mandatory arbitration: These can prevent employees from speaking out and/or pursuing legal remedies.

PART TWO: COMING IN FEBRUARY: WHAT CAN WE DO TO END WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

The report is based on an AAUW analysis of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) data, a review of academic studies on sexual harassment and an exclusive nationwide survey of AAUW members and their networks.

<https://www.aauw.org/files/2019/11/Limiting-our-Livelihoods-Full-Report.pdf>

Betsy Flaten, Public Policy Chair

2020 Calendar for Groups

THURSDAY, Jan 16th @ 9:30 a.m.

The Morning Book Club will meet to discuss *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff. Helen Sheriff will be the hostess and the discussion will be led by Judy Taucher-Lewis. New Members are welcome. Please RSVP if you will attend or not attend to Helen Sheriff. Contact Bev Byrd for information on the book club.

WEDNESDAY, Jan 29 @ 10:00 a.m.

The Public Policy Interest Group will meet at the home of Betsy Flaten. The topic will be *Preparing for Legislative Day* and will include an overview of the legislative interview process. Contact Betsy Flaten if you plan to attend. New members are welcome.

The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

Albert Schweitzer

THURSDAY, Jan 16th @ 1:00p.m.

The Ladies of Literature AAUW Book Group will meet to discuss the book *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Gann.

Hosted and facilitated by Jocie Iszler .

AAUW Quilters & Crafters

MONDAY, Jan 13th AAUW Quilters and Crafters

Members will meet in the sewing room at LW.

We will be tying quilts that will be donated to charity. You may want to bring you hand sewing kit with large eyed needles. And a thimble!

Judy Shahanian

FRIDAY, Jan 10th @ 9:15 a.m.

Great Decisions will meet at the home of Joanna Larson, Jocie Iszler will facilitate the discussion on *Decoding China/US Trade*. Please let Joanna know if you will be in attendance.

Mary Hung, Chair

BOOK REVIEW GROUP

Meets the third Wednesday at 9:15 at The Cafe in Leisure World. See you January 15, 2020

Thanks
Pat Nixon

AAUW General Meeting: December 4, 2019 Minutes

Call to Order: Sandra Lackore, President at 1:30 pm.

Greeting to Members: 3 guests present and 2 joined the East Mesa Branch.

Thank you to Joyce Loland and the Hostess Committee for today's snacks. Barb Caswell will now take over as Hospitality Chair.

Elaine Prom: Quorum established

Minutes from November meeting: Posted with no corrections: approved

Treasurer's November report: Posted with addendum; file report for audit. The Scholarship Committee audit was received and recommendations implemented.

Program: Scholarships: Exploring The Violet Larney Legacy: Presentation by Sandra Lackore and Judy Taucher-Lewis. Detailed presentation on Violet Larney, her legacy and how the Trust Fund is administered.

Old Business:

- Nomination Committee: Joanne Walen announced solicitations will go out shortly. Candidates will be announced at the February General Meeting and elections will take place at the March General Meeting.
- Scholarship Luncheon: Judy Shahanian announced the luncheon plans are progressing well and discussed logistical changes to be implemented this year. The Scholarship Committee will meet to discuss how to move forward with increased funding from The Violet Larney Trust. Lucia Causey announced that William Kent Krueger will be the featured author at the luncheon this year.
- Next Months Program: Judy Ruth announced next months speaker will be Peter Bezanson, CEO Basis Coordinator. She thanked everyone who brought donations for Asylum Seeker Project.
- Public Policy: Betsy Flaten announced the special interest group will meet December 11.

Announcements:

- As Nancy Rusten will be relocating in 2020 to Michigan, a replacement is needed as the Scholarship Historian.

Upcoming Meetings:

- January 13: Violet Larney Trust will meet to recommend disbursements for the balance of 2019-2020.
- January 22: The Board will approve or disapprove recommendations from the Trust Committee for funding.
- February 5: At the General Meeting, the board will report the decisions on the final 2019-2020 approved disbursements.

Adjournment: Sandra Lackore at 3:00 pm.

Beverly Byrd, Secretary