



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Is it too late for the ERA?

With the State of Virginia voting to ratify the ERA we now have the 38 needed states! But is it too late? Many lawyers and politicians would tell you the time has expired but leaders of the ERA movement and those of us that have lived with unequal rights will not give up. It is never too late to persevere for equal rights for all.

This month I participated in a video conference call with the AAUW state board. One of the actions taken was the awarding of grants for local branch projects. I am pleased to report that Sun City West was awarded a grant to provide "Equal rights amendment activity books" to Girl Scout Troops. 1,000 books have been ordered.

Another action taken was the purchase of a Dr. Seuss Book written by Bonnie Worth entitled "One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote." The Northwest Chapter will be placing these books in 5th grade classrooms.

I am so proud of the work going on in Arizona to educate and ratify the ERA no matter if the official time has expired. We will continue to educate and we will continue to persevere.

Sandra Lackore

President of the East Mesa Branch of AAUW

* Member Handbook

In publishing the Membership Directory this year, numerous challenges regarding format, publication and distribution were encountered, including reformatting and editing, printing and distribution to members who no longer reside in Arizona. In addition, the membership section required and continues to need additional editing after publication as a result of the member information changes and the addition of new members. In response to these challenges, the board is considering various options on how to proceed in the future and member input will be solicited if any is needed. Until a course of action is determined, all updates to the Directory will be via email or hard copy from the Membership Chair.

Scholarship Luncheon, March 28th

Tickets are on sale for \$40. They will be available at the next AAUW meeting on Feb 5th. You can contact Diana Kilby for tickets.

Thank you members who have volunteered to help with the luncheon. Set up at 3/23 at 2:30 pm.

Kay Eakin needs help ironing the napkins before the 23rd of March. You may bring your napkins in a plastic bag with your name on the bag to the next meeting in Feb.

We still need some helpers with hosting, selling 50/50 tickets, being a cashier, jewelry aids, and of course setting up on Friday and cleanup on Sat.

Each job is small but very important to a wonderful luncheon!

Judy Shahanian, Luncheon Coordinator

Great Decisions will meet at the home of Judy Taucher-Lewis, on **Friday, February 14, at 9:15 a.m.** Janet Kelly will facilitate the discussion on *The Philippines and the U.S.* Please let Judy know if you will be in attendance.

Mary Hung, Chair.

The Gourmets adventure in February will take place on **Monday, February 17th**, at All Pierog Kitchen and Euro Market, 1245 West Baseline, 101-103.

Meet at Rec 1 Parking Lot at 11:30.

All pierogi are made from scratch in kitchen from Polish Grandmas' recipes made by real Polish cooks.

Pirogi are served boiled or pan fried to order with caramelized onions, sour cream and bacon bit on the side.

Vegetarian and vegan options available. Dessert pirogi.

Quilt and Craft Group

Meeting in January was very successful with 3 quilts tied. Members have volunteered to bind the quilts. We should have at least 8 to donate to a worthwhile cause.

Next meeting is **Feb 10th at 1pm in the Sewing Room.**

We will be making plans for the rest of the season and where to donate our quilts.

Bring a UFO to work on and share with the group.

Judy Shahanian, Chair

Thursday February 20 at 9:30 am

Host: Joanna Larson

Book: *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei

This book is a non-fiction graphic novel, a new genre for the book club.

The Morning Book Club will meet to discuss *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei (best known for his role as Sulu on the television series Star Trek).

Joanna Larson will host and the discussion will be led by Bev Byrd. New Members are always welcome.

Please RSVP if you will attend or not attend to Joanna Larson. Contact Bev Byrd for information on the book club.

JAN/FEB 2020 CALENDAR CONTINUED

The **AAUW Ladies of Literature Book Group** will meet at **1:00 p.m. February 20th**. The book to be discussed is *The One in a Million Boy* by Monica Wood. Location to be announced. For information about the Ladies of Literature or the February location text or call Joanna Larson.

What's Up at the Arizona Legislature?

**Wednesday, Feb 5th
@ 1:00 p.m.**

Branch General Meeting
Club Room, Rec 1 at LW.

A report from AAUW
Legislative Day presented by
the Public Policy Interest
Group

BOOK REVIEW GROUP

Meets the **third Wednesday February 19th at 9:15** at The Café. We welcome new members.

WEDNESDAY,

Feb 19 @ 10:00 a.m.

The **Public Policy Interest Group** will meet at the home of Betsy Flaten. The topic will be *Responding to Legislative Proposals*. Contact Betsy Flaten if you plan to attend. New members are welcome.

Membership Matters

Membership Matters

Welcome New Members to AAUW East Mesa.

Sarah Martin and **Linda**

Humphrey are our newest members. Add them to your AAUW Directory and take the opportunity to meet them at our general meetings and interest groups.

Betsy Flaten, Membership Vice
President

You usually do not know that you
are in a bad mood until someone
brings it to your attention.

*From 8,789 Words of Wisdom by Barbara
Kipfer*

AAUW SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON author WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER, featuring his latest release: *This Tender Land*.



“a book you won't own. It will own you. Long, sprawling, and utterly captivating, readers will eat up every delicious word of it.”

In the grand American literary tradition of books like *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *A River Runs Through It* comes William Kent Krueger's masterpiece, ***This Tender Land***.

Krueger's novel tells the story of four children – orphans all – who embark on a bold and dangerous journey during the summer of 1932. They are fleeing a place of loss and cruelty—and a terrible crime that one of them committed. The means of their escape is a canoe which takes them down the Gilead River in Minnesota, on their way to the mighty Mississippi, in search of a possible home in St. Louis. The narrator, Odie, is a heroic little boy, a natural storyteller, full of mischief and bravado and spirit.

This is a big, satisfying, picaresque novel, full of unforgettable scenes and characters. Our four vagabonds are held captive by a farmer driven mad by the loss of his family; they fall under the spell of a traveling tent revival ministry led by a charismatic woman with a gift for healing; they encounter Hooverville shantytowns, people of all backgrounds and beliefs, and are tested in every way possible.

“Ask me, God's right here. In the dirt, the rain, the sky, the trees, the apples, the stars in the cottonwoods. In you and me, too. . .sure this is hard work, but it's good work because it's a part of what connects us to this land. This beautiful, tender land.”

The book also explores an overlooked piece of American history – the Native American boarding schools that were a fixture around the United States until the 1960s. These were schools, rife with abuse and hardship, where Native American children were sent to live apart from their families and communities, forced to assimilate into white culture.

This Tender Land has many of the same qualities that readers loved about Krueger's stand-alone novel ***Ordinary Grace*** – honest storytelling prowess; a flawless recreation of an earlier time in America; an evocation of the natural landscape that will haunt your dreams; and a moral center that isn't cheap or easy but that feels infinitely true.

With this engrossing, big-hearted story, William Kent Krueger shines a new light on the dark days of the Great Depression, exploring themes that are relevant to the world we live in today.

William Kent Krueger is the acclaimed author of the New York Times bestselling ***Ordinary Grace***, winner of the Edgar Award for best novel, as well as eighteen Cork O'Connor novels, including *Desolation Mountain* and *Sulfur Springs*.

To purchase tickets contact Diana Kilby. For more information about this event please contact Chairman Judy Shahanian.

PUBLIC POLICY

Workplace sexual harassment is a serious problem for women of all ages: It can have long-term repercussions on a their health, economic security and access to leadership positions.

Sexual harassment includes “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature, [But] harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature... and can include offensive remarks about a person’s sex. For example, it is illegal to harass a woman by making offensive comments about women in general.

“Although the law doesn’t prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted).”

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

WHAT CAN WE DO TO END WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

Individuals

*Keep records of harassment, tell their supervisor or the human resources department where appropriate and confide in family and friends.

(Continued on the next page)

*Consider contacting the EEOC to get help or file a charge.

*Consult AAUW's **Know Your Rights Employee Guide**.

Many women never report harassment: They are fearful of retaliation, which happens all too often.

Employers

*Outline a comprehensive harassment policy, create a complaint procedure that offers multiple points of contact, provide workplace training and regularly conduct anonymous surveys.

State Policymakers

*Follow the lead of Maryland, Virginia, California, Colorado, Nevada and New York in passing bills designed to stop workplace harassment and close the gender pay gap.

Congress

*Pass the **BE HEARD Act** (including the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act), which would strengthen and expand workplace harassment protections for workers.

*Pass the **EMPOWER Act**, which would increase workplace training and transparency.

*Pass the **Paycheck Fairness Act**, which would protect against sex-based pay discrimination; as well as the **Fair Pay Act**, which would require equal pay for work of equivalent value.

*Codify strong anti-retaliation provisions, prohibit non-disparagement and non-disclosure agreements, ban pre-dispute mandatory arbitration, expand protections to cover all employees and eliminate caps on damages.

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-2-pager.pdf>

Betsy Flaten

Public Policy Chair

AAUW General Meeting: January 8, 2020 Minutes

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

Thank you to Barbara Caswell and the Hostess Committee for today's snacks.

Elaine Prom: Quorum established

Minutes from December meeting: Posted with no corrections: approved

Treasurer's December report: Posted; file report for audit.

Program: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly about Charter Schools Inside and Outside Arizona; Speaker is Peter Bezanson, CEO Basis-ed.

Old Business:

- Nominating Committee: Joanne Walen announced they have a full slate for the open positions to be filled for 2020-2021. Candidates will be announced at the February Meeting, elections at the March Meeting and installation at the April Meeting.
- Arizona Community Foundation: Announcement will be made in February regarding enhancements to handling scholarship funds through the Larney Trust.
- New Member Meeting: Well received and consideration is being given to expanding it to include branch members to enhance communication and camaraderie among branch members.
- Scholarship Luncheon: Judy Shahanian announced the following changes: 15 baskets with a maximum value of \$80. Buy It Now option has not been decided. Table tickets sales started with individual tickets available. The following volunteers are needed: greeters, 50/50 sellers, baskets, jewelry and cashiers. Letters will be available for solicitations when companies ask for a non-profit tax receipt.
- Women in History: Ruth Pinkus's presentation was on Dorothy Canfield Fisher.

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 decline recommendations from the Trust Committee and nominees for 2020-2021 board positions will be approved.
- Legislative Day: February 4; signup sheet is available.
- February 5: At the General Meeting, the board will report the decisions on the final 2019-2020 approved disbursements.

Adjournment: Sandra Lackore at 2:50 pm.

Beverly Byrd, Secretary