



Summer 2020, July

President's Message

Dear AAUW East Mesa Ladies:

We may be house bound, but we are keeping in touch and planning for our future together, whatever that may look like!

Thirteen of us met recently by ZOOM call to discuss our Special Interest Groups: their focus and meeting content. Our Interest Group facilitators are planning for our new normal, such as it may be. At this time, we also introduced a new Interest/Initiative Group with a focus on Diversity and Inclusiveness. The initiative was approved by the Board at their June meeting. You will find an outline of the group initiative in this issue of the Embers.

We also have set the date and location for our October Ice Cream Social. Again, it will look different from last year. This year we will have available ice cream novelties, similar to what Leisure World has offered during the summer. There will be fewer germs with pre-packaged ice cream, and they will be FREE to all who make a reservation to attend. Jan Kelly and Judy Ruth will announce, closer to the time, how to make your reservation. The program will focus on our interest groups--what they offer and how you can get involved.

I am so proud of the responsiveness of our new board, our interest group facilitators, and all our members for staying in touch this summer. I urge you to reach out and call, text, or face-time a member of AAUW just to stay in touch; it is so important in these times.

If you would like to be part of a small group implementation team for the Diversity Initiative, please send an e-mail to me at cdlackore@aol.com.

We are still Imagineering our possibilities.

Sandra Lackore
President of AAUW East Mesa Branch



June 2020 AAUW ZOOM Board meeting

Diversity and Inclusiveness Initiative:

This initiative will reflect the values of AAUW by promoting diversity and inclusiveness through education, discussion, and programs that highlight cultural, racial, and ethnic differences. By doing so, we will commit financial resources to programs, activities, and collaborations that encourage personal awareness so our members will better appreciate and value the diversity of various cultures and races and proactively look for inequities in the treatment of these differences.

Elements of Diversity and Inclusiveness

1. Establish a sense of belonging for everyone

This initiative may be about going outside our comfort zone and outside our community.

2. Branch members will drive inclusiveness

This initiative should not be perceived as a top down task, but one that supports the continued growth and success of our branch.

3. Inclusion is ongoing to maximize connection

Members' continual sensitivity to diversity and inclusion will drive a diverse and cohesive branch.

4. Focus on helping individuals thrive

As the initiative moves forward, this should be our goal.

Summer Book Club

Today, eleven senior citizens, members of AAUW Summer Book Club, experienced the “new normal.” They gathered via Zoom to discuss **Island of Sea Women**. One by one, faces popped onto computer screens in neat little squares. We greeted each other with friendly hellos. The arrangement of boxes resembles *The Brady Bunch* (television show opening) or *Hollywood Squares* (the TV quiz show). Each emerging face got a wave and a hello. We waved to Nancy from her home in Michigan.

The meeting hostess, Sandra, gave a few directions about the mute button, located at the top right of each picture. Sneezes, yawns, barking dogs, TVs, phones ringing, random conversations, and flushing toilets are not sounds we need to hear.

I am proud that we accept challenges and adapt to new technology—a terrific way to reconnect in this unusual time in history.

Zoom is a new catchword. Two months ago, zoom was the phrase for a fast speed. Now Zoom flows through our speech with ease—talking to friends and family, holding a meeting, conversing for work, and attending school classes.

The opening conversation on our Book Club Zoom meeting revolved around how long it has been since we had a haircut. With the yellow line around the box glowing, indicating the person was talking, participants turned their heads side to side to brag about the new length of their hair.

Now down to business. The moderator, Betsy, went around the computer screen, asking ladies in boxes for their reaction to the book. Usually, we go around the room, calling on members sitting on chairs arranged in a circle. Familiar. The responses to the work were varied. Participants explained how they reacted to the unique culture of the haenyo (female divers.) The friendship of Young-sook and Mi-ja how their long-life friendship affected their lives. The conflict on Jeju Island was an engaging topic.

Being a former teacher, Betsy used the traditional way and asked us to raise our hands when we wanted to comment. We discussed questions about the book for over an hour. Diane had to leave early for a dental appointment, but she stayed with us from her car (hands-free, of course.)

Book Club concluded. A smile for everyone as we said good-bye. A click of Sandra’s computer and everyone went away. I lingered at my desk with my chin resting on hands, thinking—how far I have come in 79 years. As a teenager, I stood in front of a phone on the wall. I spoke to an operator, and she connected my calls. I talked to my friends while my conversation ran through a telephone wire. Today I sat in front of my computer. I saw and spoke to ten friends without any wires.

“You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.” C. S. Lewis

Marje Smith Perkins 5/21/2020

FIGHTING for RACIAL JUSTICE WHAT WE CAN DO

East Mesa Branch Public Policy Interest Group

Kimberly Churches, AAUW CEO has described work we all, as AAUW members, will want to do for our part in *righting years of wrongs toward black and brown people* and to be part of the healing of America. Here are some **ideas and actions** that AAUW East Mesa Branch members can engage in as we seek to learn more about systemic racism in the U.S. We invite you to join us.

1. LISTEN - Listen to the Black and Brown leaders and members of our community when they speak. Because many people are struggling with enormous pain and despair, *we can self-educate instead of asking Black and Brown people to teach us.*

A good place to start is with programs on the subject of Race offered by PBS.

I Am Not Your Negro, an Oscar-nominated documentary based on James Baldwin's unfinished book about race in America and narrated by Samuel Jackson, is a journey into Black history that connects the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's with #Black Lives Matter and the fight for racial justice of today. Available on Amazon prime, it can also be live streamed on your lap top or iPad.

[ed. So good - including the music and videography -I plan to watch it again!]

More like this...

<https://www.pbs.org/about/blogs/news/pbs-to-address-race-and-racism-in-america-through-broadcast-and-streaming-content/>

2. LEARN - Read articles and books. Follow blogs or Instagram posts.

Click the link to the Washington Post article by Keisha Blain, 2016-2107 AAUW American Fellow alumna, about "the problematic history of policing in this country."

Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the United States - from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/05/30/violence-minneapolis-is-rooted-history-racist-policing-america/>

Books we recommend:

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism

New York Times best-selling book by **Robin DiAngelo** that explores the "counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality."

[ed. Good way to examine how systemic racism affects us - no matter our good intentions!]

Watch **Robin DiAngelo** speak about her book at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45ey4jgoxeU>

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness

Austin Channing Brown's memoir "dissects growing up in a radicalized America and how white, middle-class, Evangelicalism has contributed to the era of rising racial hostility. Throughout the 182-page memoir, she chronicles moments that helped shape her as a woman, her journey to self-worth and learning 'what it means to love Blackness'."

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

Bryan Stevenson was a young Harvard-educated lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending "the poor, the wrongly condemned, and . . . those trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system."

The stories told within these pages hold the potential to transform what we think we mean when we talk about justice.

*Michelle Alexander, author of **The New Jim Crow***

Note: The movie **Just Mercy** - based on this book is available for rent on Amazon Prime.

3. SPEAK UP - Talk to your family, children and friends. Talk to them about how today's injustices mirror our own country's shameful history. Saying "Black lives matter" is important and needed. This is a historic moment that requires our vocal support.

[ed. Remember, if we don't speak up, we are complicit in perpetuating racism.]

4. VOTE - And make sure everyone is able to access and exercise this important right. Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate, but people of color often experience discrimination at the ballot box.

Promote vote by mail and the use of absentee ballots. Join AAUW in its work to make voting more accessible to black and brown communities.

Postscript: An Invitation

Join our summer public policy group in August to discuss "Racism 101" and to share books and ideas that have you thinking and acting to end systemic racism.

Contact Betsy Flaten at katperson@msn.com to join this Zoom conversation.

The following is a statement from AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches



AAUW joins the country in mourning the losses of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed across our nation. Our country needs healing. But healing will only come with justice. As an organization we condemn racism.

Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and today's injustices mirror our shameful history — from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. There can be no justice or equality when Black and Brown communities are seen as less deserving of basic human and civil rights.

On behalf of our 170,000 members and supporters, we commit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. We also acknowledge that as an organization we have our own work to do.

And, as a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we will work to advance the policies and systemic changes identified in the [New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing](#) and [Vision for Justice](#) platform.

AAUW Releases Gender Agenda for 2020 Election

Urges federal and state candidates to commit to policies protecting women's economic security

With the election season moving into high gear, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has released its 2020 Gender Policy Agenda, which outlines the organization's top priorities for advancing the economic security of women and their families. "Women make up the majority of American voters, and we have the power to ensure that all the candidates pay close attention to the policies that directly affect our lives and the lives of our families," said Kim Churches, AAUW's chief executive officer.

"While we are a fiercely non-partisan organization, we are not values neutral: Throughout our 140-year history, we have advocated for laws that improve the lives of women and girls—and we'll continue to do so.

"We urge all candidates for state and federal office—regardless of party—to commit to these priorities. We also ask *every* American to stand with women and to cast their vote in what is arguably one of the most consequential elections in our nation's history," Churches said.

Highlights of the AAUW Gender Policy Agenda include:

- **Supporting new laws to close the gender pay gap:** Despite their advances in the workplace, women still are paid on average just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man.
- **Implementing paid sick and caregiving leave:** The U.S. does not guarantee paid time off for illness or caregiving leave. Enacting such policies would benefit not only individuals, but employers and the economy as well.
- **Reducing student debt:** Women hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.46 trillion educational debt and need more programs and policies to alleviate the burden.
- **Instituting robust protections against harassment:** Sexual, racial, and other forms of harassment in the workplace and academic institutions impede the ability of women to fully access education and achieve economic security.
- **Expanding opportunities in STEM:** These are the most rapidly growing fields, yet women and girls continue to face bias and discrimination that hinder their success.
- **Protecting and expanding the right to vote.** Voting discrimination is a threat to the very foundation of our democracy; ensuring the right to vote is an essential first step toward establishing all the other policies AAUW advocates.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and more than 800 college and university members. Learn more and join us at www.aauw.org

AAUW EAST MESA BRANCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

BRANCH FUND

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Number of 2020-21 members 68
 Cash Balance at 5/29/2020 \$ 12,258.31

\$ 7,652.23

Income

FY to date Spending Plan Remaining Budget

Larney Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ 15,785.00	\$ -	
Fundraiser	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Joan Prodoehl Donations	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Interest	\$ 1.03	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.69 Interest
2020-21 Dues Deposit	\$ 338.50	\$ -	\$ -	
Total income	\$ 12,697.84	\$ 15,785.00	\$ -	\$ 7,652.92

Expenses

3-2020 PO Box rental	Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ 70.00	\$ (10.00)	
	Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
Comptry Club	Directory	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 42.20	
\$260+\$300+208.85	Programs/Room Rent	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (454.90)	
M Kunde/hospitality	Conferences/Hospitality	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 12.55	
	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (40.00)	
	Insurance	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
	Conventions at State/Regional	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
Nat'l & State	AAUW Funds	\$ (852.00)	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Branch Expenses		\$ (852.00)	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 199.85	\$ - Total Scholarship Exp

BOARD MEMBERS

President	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Program VP	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Membership VP	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Secretary	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Treasurer	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 8.00
Communications	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Total Board Expenses	\$ -	\$ 305.00	\$ 283.00

LARNEY RESERVE GRANTS remaining funds \$ 5,846.00
 Directors & Officers Liability Insur 7/1/20-6/30/21 \$ (337.00)
 \$ -

Month's Total Grant Expenses \$ (337.00)

CASH BALANCE 6/30/2020

\$ 11,508.84 \$ 5,509.00 \$ 7,652.92

LARNEY TRUST RESERVE & CONTINGENCY FUND

Remaining LT Grant Monies \$ (5,509.00)
 * Contingency \$ (1,500.00) \$ 2,100.00 \$ 1,500.00
FUNDS AVAILABLE for use at 6/30 \$ 4,499.84

Marvel Bongart Scholar 2020-2021

Marvel Bongart was an active member of the East Mesa Branch of AAUW. She had been President of the Local Branch, a state AAUW officer, a teacher, educator, and principal with a dedication to education. Marvel had been a resident of Leisure World since 1990. In 2004 she became ill, and the local Branch, wanting to share her memory, worked diligently to raise \$100,000.00 to create a Fellowship in her name at the National AAUW.

The 2020-2021 award, from this Fellowship, has been made to Ann Brunton a student at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Ann Brunton's coursework focuses on water-resource engineering with an emphasis on watersheds of the Southwest United States. She is active in the Society of Women Engineers and Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society.

Ann is the 9th recipient since the Fellowship has been fully funded.



Violet H. and Norbert H Larney Scholars, 2019-2021

LILY HSUEH

Award Year: 2020-21

Award: American Fellowship

Institution: Arizona State University

Location: Tempe, Arizona

Discipline: Economics

Degree and Specialization: Publication Grant, Environ. & Natural Resource Economics, Environmental Policy and Management, Political Economy, Governance, Applied Econometrics, Climate Change, Ocean & Marine Resources, Toxic Chemicals

Project Name: Corporations at the Climate Crossroads: Multilevel Governance and Global Climate Action

Lily Hsueh is an economist and a public-policy scholar. Her research investigates how the environment and the global commons are managed and the ways in which behaviors of firms and organizations are shaped by multiple forces, from markets to government policies. Drawing on large-N statistical analyses and illustrative company case studies, Hsueh's book project on corporations and climate change develops a political economy argument about multilevel governance drivers of corporate climate action.

Sponsors:

4454 – Violet H. and Norbert H. Larney

1829 – Nora Harris Perry

1045 – Fresno (CA) Branch

1887 – Arlene M. Black



Name: [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 and 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



Rocky Mountain Regional Roundup (Virtual)

June 20, 2020

The Rocky Mountain Regional Conference, held virtually by ZOOM Webinar for the first time, was attended by approximately 130-150 AAUW members, the largest showing ever. There were 24 from Arizona, 26 from Nevada, many, many from Colorado, the host state. And others from New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Kim Churches led off the morning with a rousing speech about some new efforts in recruitment happening at National, particularly with the Equity Project; she was followed by Board Chair Julia Brown, whose talk was marred by technical difficulties. However, she provided a copy of her remarks, which I can send if you ask (joanne.walen@me.com) and a link to see the talk by Ms. Churches and the state presidents. **BEWARE**: the link **EXPIRES** on **July 20**. Arizona is the host state for the next Regional in 2022.

Meeting Recording: (available until July 20)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/v-BTKrL-rmJOal300GzxR415Go2_eaa8gydl8_sLzRwW0NNhX6QGCasJGOJZdWPQ

Access Password: 8t*5%!*&

MEMBER NEWS UPDATES

Two longtime AAUW members moved “home” to be with family during the midst of the pandemic.

Nancy Rusten sold her Leisure World home and left for Ann Arbor, Michigan in March 2020. She has stayed connected to East Mesa through ZOOM and the Summer Book Club but would like you all to know her new address: 401 W Oakbrook Drive, Apt. 306, Ann Arbor MI 48103; cell: 734-277-3812; her email remains the same: pn2rusten@yahoo.com.

Joanne Walen sold her LW home as well and headed north to Reno NV on April 30. As she and the movers moved out, the new owners moved in. Her “home away from home” for 3 days was the living quarters in her daughter’s horse trailer, as they traveled with one horse and three dogs. Joanne stays in touch through Board meetings, Public Policy ZOOMs, and the newsletter. Her new address is 11500 Pickens Drive, Reno NV 89511; cell: 775-432-5282; same email as always: joanne.walen@me.com.

American Association of University Women of East Mesa (AZ) Branch Board Meeting Minutes June 10, 2020 (Zoom Meeting)

Welcome and Call to Order: Sandra Lackore at 1:15 pm

Board Members Present: Sandra Lackore, Judy Ruth, Beverly Byrd, Betsy Flaten, Elaine Prom, Sandra Williamson, Janice Dill

Guests: Joanne Walen, Jan Kelly

Board Members Absent: Marilyn Kunde

Quorum: Established

Announcements: Shirley Davis will assume the appointed officer position of Publicity effective July 1, 2020. The September Board Meeting on Zoom is scheduled September 9 at 1 pm (PT).

Minutes from April Board Meeting: Approved: Posted with no corrections

Treasurers Report: • Financial Reports: The following financial reports were reviewed by Sandra Williamson: Scholarship Luncheon refunds, revised March 2020, April 2020, May 2020 and June through the 10th. • Update on bank signature: Sandra Williamson is now a signer on the East Mesa branch account and has full access to the accounts. She contacted the bank branch manager to request a credit card for the East Mesa account. • Update on Insurance: Effective July 1, 2020, the board and officers will be covered by liability insurance at a cost of \$337 annually. • IRS Filing: Sandra Lackore will verify how to file tax information with the IRS, which previously had been done through AAUW National. • Scholarship Fund Audit: As a request of the Board, Sandra Williamson will contact Rhysa Davis and the Scholarship Audit Committee requesting a Scholarship audit report verifying its accuracy. The current monthly financial report is accepted with gratitude as posted and filed for audit.

Membership Update: Per Betsy Flaten, there are 68 paid members of the branch. Thirteen previous members did not renew as a result of moving out of state or for other reasons. Betsy will consider a Zoom Welcome Meeting online in lieu of a Tea if social distancing continues in the fall. Sandra Lackore will explore the option of printing branch membership cards for the 2020-2021 year.

Program Update: Jan Kelly reviewed the tentative 2020-2021 meeting schedule based on room availability and social distancing protocols. The October Ice Cream Social may be moved to the Pavillon based on availability.

Special Interest Groups: Sandra Lackore will coordinate a Zoom meeting for all Special Interest Group chairs to strategize how to maintain member communication and how to conduct Zoom meetings in the fall if needed.

New Committee: In accordance with the Bylaws of the American Association of University Women East Mesa Branch Article XII, Section 2, Sandra Lackore proposed the creation of a new committee "Diversity and Inclusiveness". After discussion, the proposal was approved by the Board. Beverly Byrd will spearhead the creation and development of the committee.

Public Policy: The Public Policy Committee has been meeting through Zoom and are identifying goals based on their initiatives.

Summer Book Group: The Summer Book Group has been conducting their meetings through Zoom and have had very positive response.

Newsletter: Joanne Walen will be publishing a July EMBers newsletter to facilitate and maintain communication with branch members on branch initiatives.

Adjournment: Sandra Lackore at 2:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Beverly Byrd, Secretary