



Winter 2021, February

President's Message

I love February!

Since I was a young child writing out my class valentines (yes, we sent one to everyone in our class) I have had a deep affinity with telling folks "I Love You."

Nowadays folks would probably tell you we use the term too loosely. It has grown overused and undervalued. But I can't help but think that the world would be a whole lot pleasanter if we just took the time to let folks know how special they are.

In these troubling times I want to let each and every one of you know how much I value your spirit, your commitment, your dedication to the values of AAUW. As we walk forward into 2021, we can be a beacon of support to those with whom we interact every day, be it our families, our neighbors, or the person social distancing from us in the grocery line.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our February 3rd meeting. We will have a report from our nominating committee that will introduce our leadership for the next two years.

Sandra Lackore
President
East Mesa Branch AAUW

"Some strive to make themselves great. Others help others see and find their own greatness. It is the latter who enrich the world we live in." Rasheed Ogunlaru

Information about Special Interest Groups including meeting dates and times is on the website:
<https://eastmesa-az.aauw.net/interest-groups-2/>

CONTACTS FOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK REVIEW

Pat Nixon

leepatnixon@cox.net

GOURMET DIVAS

Lynn Peters

lynnpeters56@gmail.com

THE GOURMETS

Carla Burman

burmanCL@yahoo.com

Kay Eakin

eakin1@cox.net

GREAT DECISIONS

Mary Hung

maryhung4@gmail.com

LADIES OF LITERATURE

Joanna Larson

kirbydog3@icloud.com

LUNCH BUNCH

Marje Perkins

Marje.perkins@gmail.com

MORNING BOOK GROUP

Bev Byrd

ybbord13@hotmail.com

Judy Ruth

judyrruth449@gmail.com

PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Sandra Lackore

cdlackore@aol.com

QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS

Judy Shahenian

dmsjas@mac.com

INTEREST GROUP UPDATES FEBRUARY

The Book Review Group

Welcomed new members on a Zoom meeting. We will meet on Zoom again on February 17th at 9:15. (3rd Wednesday each month). New members are welcome: just email me: leepatnixon@cox.net. Pat Nixon, chair.

Great Decisions will meet on Friday, February 12, at 9:15 a.m., by Zoom. Judy Taucher-Lewis will facilitate the discussion on *Brexit and the European Union*. Betsy Flaten will be sending the Zoom invite to members. Mary Hung, Chair (maryhung4@gmail.com)



Download from
Dreamstime.com
This advertisement content is for promotional purposes only.

9802988
Vengle | Dreamstime.com

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 @ 4:00 PM by ZOOM

At our January meeting we discussed health equity for Indigenous women. This month we intend to act on what we learned and will begin a postcard campaign to support legislation to extend and enhance the work of the *Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People*. We will also send postcards to advocate for the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) at the federal level and for domestic violence legislation being proposed by The *Arizona Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence* at the state level.

Black History Month will be the educational focus of our February meeting, as we go from learning in more depth about equity issues to writing postcards and taking action as advocates to change those inequities.

If you are interested in joining the Diversity and Inclusion Interest Group, contact Sandra Lackore at cdlackore@aol.com or Betsy Flaten at katperson@msn.com.

Ladies of Literature 2020/21 Calendar

3rd Thursday at 1 p.m. via Zoom

The Books chosen to read for February through April are:

February 18: *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham facilitated by Mary Flaten.

March 18: *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman facilitated by Linda Humphrey.

April 15: *The Deepening Stream* by Dorothy Canfield Fisher will be facilitated by Ruth Pinkus.

This book is out of print. Ruth has 3 copies, and I have ordered a copy. We scheduled this book so members wishing to borrow it would have time to do so.

Joanna Larson

kirbydog3@icloud.com

February Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch interest group's goal is to get to know members in small groups while enjoying lunch at local restaurants. We are not comfortable eating out, but we can have great conversations about eating out.

Ideas for venues.

1. Barb Caswell graciously offered her large backyard for a Lunch Bunch. Barb lives outside Leisure World. Bring your brown bag lunch and visit in her spacious back yard.
2. Coffee on the Promenade at Rec 1. Bring a thermos of coffee and copies of your favorite dessert recipe. (We can't eat, but we can talk about yummy sweets.)
3. ZOOM meetings to get acquainted and discuss going out— Fun questions: What is your favorite place to eat because of the atmosphere? Where is the most unusual place you have dined? What was your most romantic outing? Who are your favorite lunch people? What is your favorite meal when dining out? Have you had lunch with a famous person? What was the best service you received in a restaurant?

We will continue with virtual meetings for February.

Contact me if you are interested in joining Lunch Bunch.

Marje Perkins

marje.perkins@gmail.com

INTEREST GROUPS, cont.

The Gourmets will follow Joanna's great Cinnamon Koffee Klatch with an outdoor restaurant lunch in early March. Details will be sent to members in February. If you are interested in visiting our group, contact Carla Burman burmanCL@yahoo.com

Morning Book Club meets February 18 at 9:30 am via Zoom.

February Selection is *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

The Grapes of Wrath was first published in 1939 and chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s. It tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, who are driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California.

The discussion will be a compare and contrast with our November selection - *American Dirt* - that is hailed as "a *Grapes of Wrath* for our times" and "a new American classic." It is a modernized version about a Mexican woman forced to leave behind her life and escape to the United States with her son.

Morning Book Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. New members are welcome, so please contact Bev Byrd or Judy Ruth if you are interested in participating.

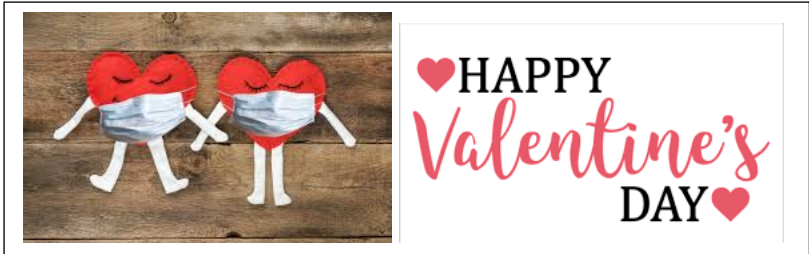
Beverly Byrd
ybbord13@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

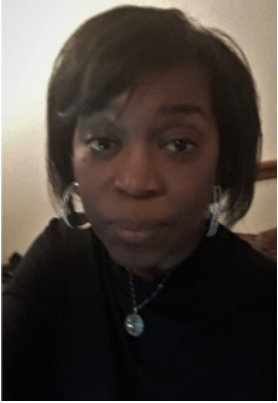
Welcome to new members...

Kathy Emken
akemken@gmail.com
503 Leisure World

Jackie Radenbaugh
bobbyjackie@hotmail.com
1358 Leisure World



AAUW MEETING SPEAKER: FEBRUARY 3, 2021.



Janita Pickett Gordon, Executive Director
Mesa Public Schools Foundation

Background—Twenty-eight years of education, public policy and philanthropy experience in foundations, nonprofits and academic institutions. Areas of special expertise include: major gift strategies with private foundations and individuals; engaging prospective donors in the investment of education, economic development, social justice and leadership development opportunities for women and girls through events/exclusive experiences; creating revenue streams to sustain nonprofit organizations; solicit and secure seven-figure naming gifts; establishing Level 5 Teams, planning and implementation of strategies to increase major gifts, building collaborative/community partnerships, monitoring and evaluating philanthropic strategies including individual solicitations, board development and training, marketing and communication strategies; Empowerment of youth through program design and evaluation.

Most Recent Experiences:

Girl Scouts of the USA, Senior Philanthropic Strategist, New York 2011-2018

Arizona Community Foundation, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, Phoenix Arizona (2006-2011)

Arizona State University, Senior Director of Development and Marketing, Tempe Arizona (1999-2005)

Janita will share with us the work of the Mesa Public School Foundation in furthering the development of women, girls and minority groups. She will also focus on how our funds will further their work.

MENTORING

There are many individuals and organizations that award scholarships to worthy scholars, but there are only a few that mentor the students they select. AAUW East Mesa (AZ) Branch mentors the scholars they've selected to receive their scholarships. In the fall of 2018, I was asked to become a mentor and be on the Scholarship Committee. It didn't take me long to make the decision to say "Yes".

What is mentoring? "Mentoring is to support and encourage people to manage their own learning in order that they may maximize their potential, develop their skills, improve their performance and become the person they want to be", said Eric Parsloe of The Oxford School of Coaching and Mentoring. Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen and a push in the right direction. A mentor is someone who explores with the mentee their current career/education situation, provides support and advice (when asked), empowers them to reach their goals without prescribing solutions or recommending the education plan. A good mentor should have good listening skills and the qualities of being honest, trustworthy, supportive and always approachable.

In September of 2018, I met Maria, my mentee, for the first time. I was armed with questions to ask about her family, education goals and how she enjoyed spending her free time. Maria is a busy mom with two children, a part-time job and a husband that is supportive and helpful. She loves being at Mesa Community College and takes a leadership role in the activities available. As our relationship has developed over coffee, breakfast or lunch every two or three months and texting in between, we've become good friends. Sometimes I'm there just to be a good listener for her to throw out ideas of what to do for the next semester. Often just stating her ideas out loud is all she needs in order to plan. When asked for my opinion, I'm always cautious in my response. Most of the time I ask Maria questions to help her think through the situation. She tells me that she loves our meetings because I help her to sort through the available choices. Last week when we met for lunch, she gave me a gold bookmark with a butterfly attached. She explained that her dad always called her butterfly in Spanish. I was touched by her gift, but it was the card with the gift that filled my heart. The card read, "Thank you for taking me under your wing and caring about my growth and transformation. You are an inspiration and bright guiding light." As with most volunteering experiences, I receive as much from Maria as she does from me and perhaps even more. In my retirement, it's so nice to know that I can make a difference in someone's life by just being there for them, listening and asking a few good questions.

Submitted by Judy Taucher-Lewis
AAUW of East Mesa (AZ) Branch
Scholarship Committee-Chair

Please Review this Urgent New Info

(some changes or additional info from the newsletter)

AAUW Arizona Legislative Day

Tuesday, Feb. 9 @10:00 am-12:00 noon
A Virtual Legislative Day
(link will be sent closer to date)

Topics and Speakers:
State Rep. Athena Salman
Overview of legislation - Jodi Liggett*
Update on Education
Voter Suppression

Stay tuned for more information!

2021 National Conference

for

College Women Student Leaders

(NCCWSL)

May 25th and 26th 2021
A Virtual Conference

AAUW announces the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) 2021 conference will be a fully virtual experience. While we value opportunities to gather in person, we do not anticipate global health conditions being favorable for a large gathering in May 2021. Broad participation and access to a virtual conference experience will offer more students the opportunity to participate. Early bird registration cost = \$95 and opens Jan. 15th.

Every year the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) offers skill-building workshops that challenge and inspire our attendees to make an impact on their campuses and in their communities long after they leave the conference.

*Jodi Liggett has been hired to be a Legislative Consultant for the State. She will be available to lead Arizona AAUW (and its branches) in constructive ways to influence our legislators.

**American Association of University Women of East Mesa (AZ) Branch
General Meeting Minutes January 6, 2021**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Sandra Lackore.

Program: Betsy Flaten introduced our speaker - Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya (of the Hopi Nation) She serves as Executive Director of Honwungsi Consulting Services. She has an impressive resume, and she shared with us the findings of the Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and suggested ways we can be advocates for the study's recommendations. We appreciate your presentation and look forward to helping with this issue.

Quorum established - 34 members in attendance

Minutes from December meeting: One minor correction. Unanimously approved to accept.

Treasurer's report: Sandra Williamson presented the report, which was included in the January EMBers. Approved; filed for audit.

Scholarship Luncheon: - Judy Shahenian reported that she is working with Patrick from Poison Pen to coordinate the details of the webinar on February 27, 2021.

Nominating Committee: Sandra Lackore reported that the nominating committee of Judy Shahenian, Betsy Flaten and Doreen Nystadt, will provide nominations for office at the February meeting, and voting will take place at the March meeting.

By-law changes - Beverly Byrd: The by-laws govern the branch; revisions are made every two years. There are minor revisions to the by-laws, which will be reviewed and approved by the board of directors. The changes will be presented to the membership at the February general meeting. Also will affect administrative policies and job descriptions. After the board meeting on January 27, updated documents will be distributed to membership.

Announcements - Board meeting January 27, 9-10 a.m.; Larney Trust meeting January 28, 4 p.m. February 3rd meeting - speaker will be Janita Pickett Gordon, Director of the Mesa Public Schools Foundation.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Dill, Secretary
AAUW Mesa East Branch

AAUW EAST MESA BRANCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

BRANCH ACCOUNT

Number of 2020-21 Branch members 66
 Cash Balance at 12/31/2020 \$ 19,035.96

INCOME

	FY to date	Spending Plan	Remaining Budget
Larney Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transferred from Sclsrshp Acct Fundraiser	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	\$ -	\$ 8.00	\$ -
(\$11.50 X 80 members) Member Dues Deposit	\$ -	\$ 920.00	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 19,035.96	\$ 928.00	\$ -

EXPENSES

(annual Box rental du 3/21) PO Box rental	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
(pd \$337 on 5/29/20) Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Room Rent/Programs	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 575.00
Hospitality-meetings	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Directory printing	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Newsletter-postage/printing	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
BOD end-of-year luncheon	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
State Conventions	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Regional Conventions	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
AAUW Funds-Nat'l & State	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Branch Expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,085.00	\$ 1,960.00

BOARD MEMBERS

President	\$ 7.75	\$ 100.00	\$ 92.25
Program VP	\$ -	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
Membership VP	\$ -	\$ 133.00	\$ 133.00
Secretary	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Treasurer	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50
Communications	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Total Board Expenses	\$ 7.75	\$ 423.00	\$ 407.75

2019-20 LARNEY RESERVE GRANTS remaining funds	\$ -	\$ 5,509.00	
East Mesa Branch - Dedicated Donation Funds	\$ -	\$ 7,654.85	
Mesa Public Schools Foundation \$5,000 eye exams/glasses; \$8,500 technology; \$2,000 clothes & shoes			
AZ AAUW grant reimb. for Education donation	\$ (500.00)	\$ 500.00	\$ 15,000.00
AAUW National-Emerging Needs	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
EMB Programs	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
Scholarship Lunch Expenses	\$ -		\$ 4,500.00
Dir/Officers Liability Insur-due 6/2021	\$ -		\$ 500.00
Month's Total Grant Expenses	\$ (500.00)	\$ 13,663.85	\$ 22,000.00

CASH BALANCE 1/20/2021

\$19,528.21

LARNEY TRUST RESERVE & CONTINGENCY FUND

Remaining LT Grant Monies & EMB Dedicated Funds	\$ (13,663.85)		
* Contingency	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ 1,500.00	
FUNDS AVAILABLE for use at 1/15	\$ 4,364.36		

East Mesa (AZ) Branch

Program: February 27, 2021 Scholarship Promotion Event

2020-2021 Meeting Calendar

General Meetings: 1:00 visiting 1:30 – 3:00 Meeting convenes

Wednesday – January 6, 2021 By Zoom

- Program – Representative Jennifer Jermaine- speaking on the report from study committee on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.
- Announcement of Nominating Committee

Wednesday – February 3, 2021 By Zoom

- Program – Janita Pickett Gordon, Director of the Mesa Public School Foundation, speaking about the Foundation’s impact on Women, girls and minority groups.
- Nominating Committee announces candidates for officers of AAUW 2021/2023

Wednesday – March 3, 2021 By Zoom

- Program -Joy Klein from the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF)
How does the ACF scholarship program impact women’s educational needs with a focus on minority women.
What is ACF’s vision in the area of inclusiveness and diversity of scholarship applicants?
- Election of officers
- Approval of Changes in Bylaws

Wednesday – April 7, 2021

- Installation of officers
- Lunch - TBD

Board Meetings

Wednesday January 27 – 9-10:00am by Zoom

Wednesday February 24 – 9-10:00am by Zoom

Wednesday March 24 – 9-12:00pm lunch (tbd) new and outgoing board members

Updated 12/17/20