



Winter 2021, January

## President's Message

Dear AAUW East Mesa Colleagues

Happy New Year! As we greet the year 2021 we have come thru a deep valley. But we can see the other side. A vaccine and more to come have been developed; that gives us hope that we may be back to normal in a few months.

Until Leisure World opens our meetings to non-residents, we are planning to continue our ZOOM meetings. We will hopefully be able to have a face to face installation of officers in April. We will continue to be careful because we care about each other.

Betsy Flaten is in charge of our January 6th meeting, and you can read more about that inside the EMBERS. I want to thank Joanne Walen for picking up the role of editor of the EMBERS this year. As usual, she has done a terrific job; it is full to the brim with helpful information for each of us.

A year ago, in November I asked you all to complete a short survey. As I have worked through this year, I have kept the result of that survey before me. Your response to the question was.

What do you value about your membership in AAUW?

“Learning, make more social relationships, good work being done at the national level, supporting women in education, friends, stimulating speakers.”

I think we have tried to live out these values, and I would encourage us to continue to work on them as we move into a hopeful 2021.

Sandra Lackore  
President of the East Mesa Branch of AAUW

Information about Special Interest Groups including meeting dates and times is on the website:

<https://eastmesa-az.aaup.net/interest-groups-2/>

## CONTACTS FOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### BOOK REVIEW

Pat Nixon

[leapatnixon@cox.net](mailto:leapatnixon@cox.net)

### GOURMET DIVAS

Lynn Peters

[lynnpeters56@gmail.com](mailto:lynnpeters56@gmail.com)

### THE GOURMETS

Carla Burman

[burmanCL@yahoo.com](mailto:burmanCL@yahoo.com)

Kay Eakin

[eakin1@cox.net](mailto:eakin1@cox.net)

### GREAT DECISIONS

Mary Hung

[maryhung4@gmail.com](mailto:maryhung4@gmail.com)

### LADIES OF LITERATURE

Joanna Larson

[kirbydog3@icloud.com](mailto:kirbydog3@icloud.com)

### LUNCH BUNCH

Marje Perkins

[Marje.perkins@gmail.com](mailto:Marje.perkins@gmail.com)

### MORNING BOOK GROUP

Bev Byrd

[ybbord13@hotmail.com](mailto:ybbord13@hotmail.com)

Judy Ruth

[judyrruth449@gmail.com](mailto:judyrruth449@gmail.com)

### PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Sandra Lackore

[cdlackore@aol.com](mailto:cdlackore@aol.com)

### QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS

Judy Shahrenian

[dmsjas@mac.com](mailto:dmsjas@mac.com)

## INTEREST GROUP UPDATES JANUARY

### The Book Review Group

Welcomed new members on a Zoom meeting. We will meet on Zoom again on January 20th at 9:15.

New members are welcome: just email me: [leepatnixon@cox.net](mailto:leepatnixon@cox.net).  
Pat Nixon, chair.

Great Decisions will meet on Friday, January 8, at 9:15 a.m., by Zoom. The topic will be *U.S Relations with the Northern Triangle*, with discussion facilitated by Jocie Iszler. The Zoom invitation will be emailed to members by Betsy Flaten. Please contact me ([maryhung4@gmail.com](mailto:maryhung4@gmail.com)), for more information.  
Mary Hung, Chair



### Diversity & Inclusiveness

Monday, January 11 @ 4:00PM BY ZOOM

Betsy Flaten and Mary Linnemann will lead a discussion about ways our AAUW East Mesa Branch can advocate for the legislative recommendations listed in the Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as well as to examine the effect of historical trauma on Native American health equity. Included in this discussion will be the long-term impact of Boarding Schools on Indigenous children and families and the significant loss of community and land caused by the allotment policy of the Dawes Act.

*The objective of the Dawes Act was to assimilate Native Americans into mainstream...society by annihilating their cultural and social traditions.*

*Historian Eric Foner observed that "the policy proved to be a disaster, leading to the loss of much tribal land and the erosion of Indian cultural traditions." The law often placed Indians on desert land unsuitable for agriculture, and it also failed to account for Indians who could not afford the cost of farming.*

*As a result of this Act, over ninety million acres of tribal land were stripped from reservation control and sold to non-natives.*

A second part of the meeting will be to take a look at the new AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness Tool Kit referenced in a separate article.

To take part in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion discussion on January 11, contact Betsy Flaten at [katperson@msn.com](mailto:katperson@msn.com)

## Ladies of Literature 2020/21 Calendar

3rd Thursday at 1 p.m. via Zoom

The Books chosen to read for January through April are:

January 21: *Dominicana* by Angie Cruz facilitated by Betsy Flaten.

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

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

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

Anyone wanting to participate may email Joanna Larson: [kirbydog3@icloud.com](mailto:kirbydog3@icloud.com) to receive a Zoom invitation.

The goal of the **Lunch Bunch** interest group is to get to know members in small groups while enjoying lunch at local restaurants. COVID-19 put Lunch Bunch in a precarious situation. I am delaying our meetings until January and will then re-evaluate. We will start in January with ZOOM lunches or brown-bag lunches outside. If you would like to participate either way, please send your email to Marje Perkins, [marje.perkins@gmail.com](mailto:marje.perkins@gmail.com).

## INTEREST GROUPS, cont.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL BRANCH MEMBERS.**

**AAUW Gourmets meet January 22, 2021 at 10 a.m.: Coffee Klatch & Zoom Class: Learn How to Make Yeast Cinnamon Rolls in One-Hour from Start to Eating:**

**Everyone is welcome to join for a virtual visit.**

**Participants don't have to make Cinnamon Rolls. . . It is also an opportunity for Socializing and Friendship.**

**And even if Members do make Cinnamon Rolls there will be time to talk while the Cinnamon Rolls rise & when they bake—there are only a few actual minutes of preparation.**

**To receive a Zoom Link Invitation:** Please contact Carla Burman at: [burmanCL@yahoo.com](mailto:burmanCL@yahoo.com)  
Or

Kay Eakin at: [eakin1@cox.net](mailto:eakin1@cox.net)

There will be a Cinnamon Roll Ingredient Kit available for a minimal cost for anyone who does not want to buy 10 pounds of flour or an entire bottle of Saigon Cinnamon; Order deadline will be 1 week before the class. For Leisure World residents, kits will be available for pickup on the patio at 502 Leisure World. For non-residents, pick-up will be on Kay Eakin's patio at 350 Leisure World. Payment for the kit would be dropped off when the kit is picked up.

Anyone who wants the Cinnamon Roll Ingredient Kit, please contact Joanna Larson at [Kirbydog3@icloud.com](mailto:Kirbydog3@icloud.com).

The Cinnamon Roll recipe and instructions will be e-mailed 2 weeks prior to the Zoom class. The only equipment needed will be a rolling pin (or wine bottle—full if you would like to drink as you bake); a 9-inch X 13-inch cake pan; a stiff spoon; a rubber spatula and parchment paper (optional). The Kit cost and ingredient list will be e-mailed with the recipe for those wanting it.

The instructions will also include more information than members may want to know about kitchen chemistry (why this recipe is so fast); baking history; baking bread in the desert; why some flours make a better baked good than others; and information ad nauseam. The information will be indexed so members may select only the information that interests them without having to read everything.

**Bon appétit**

### Morning Book Club

Meets at 9:30 am on January 21, 2021 via Zoom.

Our Morning Book Club January selection is *King Peggy* by Peggielene Bartels.

Nana Amuah-Afenyi VI, known informally as King Peggy, is the first female and reigning chief of the town of Tantom, Ghana. Born in Ghana and a naturalized citizen of the United States since 1997, she moved to the United States in the 1970s when she was in her early twenties to work as a secretary at the Embassy of Ghana in Washington, D.C., where she still works. Following the death of her uncle in 2008, she was selected as his successor through a series of traditional rituals. Although she spends only a few weeks a year in Ghana, she plans to become a full-time ruler after her retirement from the embassy.

Morning Book Club selections vary through all genres with future 2021 selections of *Grapes of Wrath*, *The Long Call* and *Last Boat Out of Shanghai*.

Morning Book Club meets via Zoom on the third Thursday of the month and is co-chaired by Judy Ruth and Bev Byrd. Please contact Judy or Bev if you wish to participate.

Beverly Byrd  
[ybbord13@hotmail.com](mailto:ybbord13@hotmail.com)

FINAL REPORT from STUDY COMMITTEE ON MISSING and MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN and GIRLS will be the TOPIC for the **JANUARY 6 MEETING** of AAUW EAST MESA BRANCH.

Our speaker for the [January 6](#) AAUW East Mesa Branch general meeting is **Rep. Jennifer Jermaine**, of LD18 in Chandler. In 2019 Representative Jermaine sponsored House Bill 2570, which was signed into law with broad bipartisan support, and she currently chairs the Committee Investigating Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Jermaine and her family have lived in Legislative District 18 for 8 years. She has spent years in the nonprofit sector and helping people start and succeed in small businesses. She is the co-founder of Stronger Together and the We the People Summit, both of which empower individuals to strategize and collaborate to influence public policy.

As a Legislator her focus is on restoring education funding, providing equitable healthcare, protecting our civil rights, and honoring our shared values.

Representative Jermaine has a BA in International Business from San Diego State University and an MPA in Public Administration and Non-profit Administration from Arizona State University.



Arizona's Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has posted its final report, including dozens of specific legislative, law enforcement and other policy recommendations to address the ongoing crisis. After nearly a year of in-depth research, which was slowed by COVID-19 and some enforcement agencies choosing not to participate, Arizona got its clearest picture to date of the increasing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

The full report can be found [here](#).

"Our work will not end with this report; this is only the beginning," said Chairwoman Rep. Jennifer Jermaine, D-Chandler. "The findings and data in this report will drive administrative and legislative action needed to help prevent future abductions and murders of Indigenous women and girls in Arizona. We dedicate this work and this report to the lives lost and to the Tribes that have inhabited this land since time immemorial. It is our hope and expectation that this work will save lives."

#### **AAUW DIVERSITY TOOLKIT**

As Maya Angelou said, "In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength."

AAUW's Inclusion & Equity Committee has just updated its toolkit to help our members and others to celebrate their differences and incorporate inclusive practices into their everyday lives.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

As the Inclusion & Equity Committee — made up of member leaders dedicated to our mission, vision and values — launches this updated [set of resources](#) on diversity, equity and inclusion...one of our key goals within the plan is to: Embody the goals and spirit of inclusion, diversity and intersectionality across all AAUW activities and participants.

We need to not only *value* the importance of intersectionality, diversity and equity, we must *do* the work — and it is lifelong work, core to our mission and vision. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and the injustices of today mirror our shameful history, from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.

AAUW must commit and continuously recommit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. But, as AAUW is nearing 140 years old, we also acknowledge that as an organization we have a lot of our own work to do in diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our commitment to diversity is not just among the staff at the national office, or with the nationally elected board — this must be a commitment from all of our 170,000 members and advocates around the nation who believe in our vision of equity for all. That means we must hold each other accountable, we must set bold goals and be transparent about where we are and where we are going, we must be lifelong learners in reading, listening and understanding. This is work we must all embrace, and I'm grateful to the Inclusion & Equity Committee for putting forth a roadmap to help guide your individual and group work ahead.

Our author, William Kent Kreuger, has written about missing and murdered indigenous women. Here is his comment about why he chose such a subject.

*Windigo Island* by William Kent Krueger

**Bookreporter.com: I finished reading your latest book, WINDIGO ISLAND, in one sitting. Its story plays out over the course of a little less than a week, following the grim discovery of the body of a teenage girl washed ashore on Windigo Island in Lake Superior. A year previously, the victim had run away from home with a friend named Mariah Arceneaux, who is still missing. When it develops that Mariah is distantly related to Henry Meloux, Cork O'Connor's old friend and mentor, Cork is drawn into a search for the missing girl, which takes him across the state and into the dark and grim world of the sexual exploitation of young Native American women. WINDIGO ISLAND will certainly open the eyes of many readers who didn't know about this tragic situation. How did you first become aware of it? And what inspired you to use it as the basis for your new novel?**

**William Kent Krueger:** My own eyes were opened several years ago, when I began working significantly with a couple of Native organizations in the Twin Cities, both of whom I've acknowledged in the book: the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center and the Ain Dah Yung Center. These are two organizations that provide support for Native women, adolescents and children who are dealing with the myriad difficulties that go along with being Native in a white culture, one that has a long history of ill-treating the indigenous population of this country. I've occasionally tackled social issues in my novels; it's one of the things I like about writing mysteries. I've found that I can discuss important contemporary issues in a story, and so long as the issues are couched within a compelling mystery, readers will stay with me, and just maybe have their awareness raised a bit.

In talking with the folks involved in these two important and effective organizations, the suggestion arose: Do you think you could write a story about the trafficking of vulnerable Native women, one that might help broaden awareness of this issue? How could I say no?

## LETTER FROM AAUW CEO KIM CHURCHES ACKNOWLEDGING OUR DONATION:

Dear AAUW East Mesa (AZ) Branch leaders and members,

I hope this note finds you and all your branch members safe and well and that you've drawn strength during these challenging times from the bonds that connect AAUW members.

Goodness, what a year 2020 has been. As we enter the final weeks of December, all of us at AAUW National continue to work from home, as we have since mid-March—which seems like years ago! I'm so proud of our national office staff and all they've accomplished to pivot to virtual programs, increased advocacy and a fierce commitment to our mission this year.

This week, I learned from our team that your East Mesa Branch made a generous gift to our Greatest Needs Fund. Please share my personal thanks with all those whose passion for AAUW's mission made this gift possible.

Your AAUW Greatest Needs gift provides flexible support, which is especially important now as we've faced challenges on every front. We are working to ensure that gains we've won won't be lost—in educational opportunity, economic security, leadership and every arena in which we work.

The pandemic has exacerbated and highlighted inequities that run deep and, with your support, we're meeting the moment. Just recently, I wrote an op-ed for *Newsweek* about how COVID19 is so tough on working moms, and what policies and actions we can take towards economic recovery. But it's a long road ahead. I'm proud to report that your national staff is as hard at work and as motivated as we've ever been to secure equity for all women and girls.

Please take every precaution and be safe this holiday season. Thank you, thank you, thank you—and I hope to "see" many of you on a Zoom AAUW webinar soon!

With gratitude – and onward to 2021,  
Kim Churches

Kimberly Churches (she/her/hers)  
Chief Executive Officer  
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**Advancing equity for women and girls**

## **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

**"Save the Date"**

Feb. 27, 2021

AAUW Scholarship Event

Poisoned Pen's Barbara Peters  
will  
host a webinar with William  
Kent Krueger!

This will be a Zoom meeting and  
free to  
everyone. More information  
will be  
coming soon. Time will depend  
on Barbara  
and Kent.

So mark your calendar for Feb.  
27, 2021

Judy Shahanian  
Event Coordinator  
[dmsjas@msn.com](mailto:dmsjas@msn.com)

**EMBERS EDITOR**

My term as Newsletter Editor will end in April, so I'm already actively seeking someone who would be willing to take on this position. Thanks to Cynthia, our former editor, the template she passed on to me in Word is so easy to work with that I find I can put the newsletter together easily in 1 or 2 days once all articles are in. It's a simple matter of "copy and paste." If you have any computer skill(s) at all, please consider offering your time for this important job. You can contact me ([jwalen.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:jwalen.aauw@gmail.com)) or Sandra ([cdlackore@aol.com](mailto:cdlackore@aol.com)). It has been a pleasure working remotely from Nevada for you this year.  
Joanne Walen



## AAUW EAST MESA BRANCH

## FINANCIAL REPORT

BRANCH ACCOUNT

Number of 2020-21 Branch members 66  
 Cash Balance at 11/30/2020 \$ 19,035.47

INCOME

	FY to date	Spending Plan	Remaining Budget
Larney Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transferred from Schsrp Acct Fundraiser	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	\$ 0.49	\$ 8.00	\$ -
Member Dues Deposit	\$ -	\$ 920.00	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 19,035.96</b>	<b>\$ 928.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

EXPENSES

PO Box rental (3/2021)	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Room Rent/Programs	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Branch Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,085.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,085.00</b>

BOARD MEMBERS

President	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
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
<b>Total Board Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 423.00</b>	<b>\$ 415.50</b>

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	\$ -		\$ 15,500.00
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
<b>Month's Total Grant Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 13,163.85</b>	<b>\$ 22,500.00</b>

**CASH BALANCE 12/31/2020****\$19,035.96**

## LARNEY TRUST RESERVE &amp; CONTINGENCY FUND

Remaining LT Grant Monies & EMB Dedicated Funds	\$ (13,163.85)	
* Contingency	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ 1,500.00

FUNDS AVAILABLE for use at 12/31

**\$ 4,372.11**

