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Table of Contents:

President's Message

Upcoming Programs You Won't Want to Miss!

New Directories with Member Photos at the September Meeting

Star Awards Honoring our LongTerm

Members

New Member Gathering Planned for Sept 26

Public Policy This Year

Get to Know Your Leaders

The LEAD Program a

New Way To Mentor Yavapai College

Students

Sign Up Now for Great Decisions Groups

Save the Date....AAUW Arizona Fall Forum

Book Group Opportunities: Prescott Valley Book Group

Thursday Evening Book Group

*Click on any title to go to that article*

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## Newsletter Sept-Oct 2015

### President's Message



Gail Shay,  
President

by Gail Shay Here it is almost fall, but, since we haven't met for a while and have been off doing many other things during the summer, I thought I'd address some of the issues and events we plan to focus on for the current AAUW year. Much of this is based on both the feedback from last March's neighborhood meetings and our summer 2015 Board Retreat, where we did a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. The strengths and weaknesses are focused on internal issues, based solely on our own organization. The opportunities and threats are issues external to our organization. There have been many positive strengths mentioned for AAUW Prescott, not the least of which are our valuable members, great programs, active Board, many and varied interest groups,

Sister-to-Sister program, and on and on. What we should not do is become complacent, but rather, continue to seek ways of improving what we do and how we do it. So this year, we will begin to address the following issues as a work in progress, which will entail the involvement and cooperation of all of you:

- **Public Relations** – we will begin searching for a member who is willing to work to improve our visibility and make us known in the community (any volunteers??).
- **Ties with the community** – this entails everything from building/strengthening our college relations to broadening our fundraising to involve the community.
- **Focus on AAUW's mission** – we need to keep the broad mission of AAUW in the forefront when planning our meetings and activities.
- **Meeting venues** – our plan is to create a spreadsheet of potential available meeting places with their associated limitations, costs, etc.
- **Public Policy and Community Action** – these two committees need to be at the forefront of our organization – visible, publicized and accessible. For a start, each committee will have a table at most of our general meetings.
- **Ongoing integration of our newsletter and website** – we have already made great strides in coordinating these two important conduits of information and will continue to look for ways to make them even more accessible and useful.

***We look forward to a lively year of fellowship and activities together!***

## Upcoming Programs

### **September: Back to School Time for AAUW!!!**



by Anne Barton Thank goodness we didn't have to start when the local elementary and secondary schools opened on August 6th!! Back in my day, better known as the Dark Ages, we didn't start classes until the Tuesday after Labor Day. We in AAUW will get to go

back to school on Saturday, September 12, at 9 a.m. in the Community Room in the Library Building at Yavapai College.



***What a program has been planned! You won't want to miss this one!***

Here is our Agenda:

- 9:00—9:30 a.m. Meet and greet, with refreshments
- 9:30—10:15 a.m. Juice and cookies at the Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center (FEC), with a guided tour of the facility (Be sure to wear your walking shoes.)
- 10:15—11:30 a.m. An overview of our two local scholarships (Mary Alice Moulton and the Centennial Scholarships). Our speakers will include Vickey LaMotte, the FEC Director; Paul Kirchgraber, Director of Development for the Yavapai College Foundation; and several of our past scholarship recipients.

***This program will focus on what AAUW is all about— helping women in our community get the education they need to succeed in today's world.***

**We will have fun! We will learn new information! We will meet community members who share our values! We will meet local students who appreciate our interest and financial assistance! We will be inspired!**

[top of page](#)

## The New Directories Are Here Including Member Photos!

*Or WILL be at the September 12<sup>th</sup> general meeting. Please remember to pick up your directory at the meeting OR arrange for someone to pick it up for you at the meeting.*

A BIG thank you goes to Dot Williamson who volunteered to incorporate the member photos for this issue, to Suzanne Scudder for proofing, to Wendy Jones, Stephanie Brown and numerous members of the Photography Interest Group for locating and/or taking photos.

## October: The Life and Times of Mary Jane Colter, Designer & Architect...



by Annette Gauthier **Mary Jane Colter** (April 4, 1869 – January 8, 1958) was one of the very few female American architects in her day. She was the designer of many landmark buildings and spaces for the Fred Harvey Company and the Santa Fe Railroad. Many of the buildings she designed in the Grand Canyon National Park are still in use today. Master Docent Marsha Painton will be with us to share her amazing life and career. **Our October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the Phippen Museum in the lower gallery.** Social time

will begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by our general meeting announcements. The program begins at 10:00 a.m.



**also in ~~October~~ November:**



**Star Awards Honoring Long Term Members**

*Prescott AAUW will be honoring long-term members at the general meeting Saturday, ~~October 10~~. **Star Awards have been changed to the November meeting on Saturday, November 14th.** There will be some 50-year honorees this year, so attendance is encouraged to congratulate them on their membership achievement.*

[top of page](#)

**New Member Gathering**

- **When: Saturday, Sept 26**
- **Time: 10:00 a.m. to noon**
- **Where: Marlene Walsh's**
- **RSVP: [prescottaauwbranch@gmail.com](mailto:prescottaauwbranch@gmail.com)**

The address and directions will be sent when you RSVP



**Attention, new members!** All members of AAUW Prescott who have joined in the past year and have not yet attended this event are invited to our New Member Gathering on Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. to noon, at the home of Marlene Walsh. We offer this gathering to welcome and orient our newest members into our organization. It is a chance to socialize and get to know some of the people behind the organization as well as fellow new members, with a nice mix of seasoned board members and “newbies.” Invitations will go out soon, but if we somehow missed you, please contact one of our Membership Co-VPs so we can add your name to our list. Membership Co-VPs, Marlene Walsh and Pamela Evans, can be reached by email at [prescottaauwbranch@gmail.com](mailto:prescottaauwbranch@gmail.com)

[top of page](#)

## Public Policy



by Debra White The first Public Policy meeting for 2015-2016 will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 1:00 p.m. in the Elsea Room on the second floor of the Prescott Public Library. All Public Policy meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., unless a change

is noted on the Prescott AAUW website or provided in the Thumb Sketch. **All AAUW Prescott members are always welcome.** Legislative Day for 2016 is already scheduled, so mark your calendars for February 23, 2016. Your Public Policy Committee is looking at ways to make participation in this day more engaging. If you have suggestions, please email your committee co-chairs, Debra White and Susan Lanning. Better yet, attend our September meeting and share your ideas in person. The 2015-2017 National Public Policy brochure should be available shortly. The focus of Public Policy at both the national and state levels remains the same, and the brochure only reflects wording changes made to clarify priorities.

## Get to Know Your Leaders



### **Louise Dubel: Community Action Co-Chair Looks**

**Forward to her New Role** Zeal to work for the education and advancement of women in our society brought Louise Dubel to AAUW in June of 2014. Since then, she has been involved in Sister-to-Sister, Woman-to Woman, the Dreams-to-Reality event, and the summer mentoring program at Yavapai College. Louise especially enjoys the hiking group and the chance to associate with all the fine women of AAUW Prescott.

## Prescott Valley Book Group



by Susan Goe The September meeting of the [Prescott Valley Book Group](#) will be Friday, September 18th, at 10:00 a.m. The book for September is "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline. The PV Book Group meets at the Prescott Valley Library in the Genealogy Room on the second floor.

Upcoming books are: Oct. 16th – “The End of Absence” by Michael Harris  
and Nov.20th – “Doc: A Novel” by Mary Doria Russell.

[top of page](#)

## The Lead Program



by Claudia Greenwood [See Photos from the LEAD luncheon](#) Last January, when the Yavapai College administrators were searching for solutions to the problem of student retention through a program that would bridge the summer between high school and fall admission to college, they came upon the AAUW national website and discovered the community action program, “Young Women in the Lead.” The fact that Prescott AAUW had been involved in mentoring programs for women and girls on the campus for over 10 years resulted in a call to Patti Blackwood seeking support. Prescott’s community action committee then wrote a statement of commitment in support of a proposed grant: “To participate in the summer bridge program would extend the positive influence AAUW members initiate through the Sister-to-Sister program. To serve as role models in this additional program, we would, once again, advance our mission.” The college received the grant, and on May 31 at a barbecue on campus, many Prescott AAUW members met the young women who would participate in the 8-week summer program designed to help them overcome the challenges of entering and staying in college. As this was a new experience for all involved (Yavapai College, AAUW, and the students), it challenged everyone. As time went on and kinks were

straightened out, however, comfortable relationships took hold that served the students well. One AAUW mentor reported that her student was at first quite apprehensive, but gained the confidence to negotiate college successfully. “I believe that our visits have contributed to that confidence.” Another AAUW mentor wrote that she enjoyed having the opportunity to encourage a young woman to prepare herself for “a productive life and career” and for giving her reasons to complete her education. We have not yet seen the student evaluations or had a debriefing with the college advisors to the program, but most agree that The Lead program was a success. Some of our members will keep in touch with the students. Their extended contact will provide additional insight into the benefits of our participation. Many thanks to those who participated. Our being asked to do so acknowledges the importance of having a deep well of role models for the young women in our community. The fact that members made the commitment during the summer speaks not only to their passion for the success of young women, but also their generosity. Prescott’s AAUW is the association of ACCOMPLISHED, UNSELFISH women! Summer program coordinators: Mary Bauer, Donna Gaddy, and Claudia Greenwood [top of page](#)





## Sign Up for Great Decisions – 2016



by Gayle Rumble We're taking sign-ups for the 2016 Great Decisions groups, which are a wonderful way to learn about foreign policy. We discuss foreign policy issues while staying away from political positions. We obtain (from the Foreign Policy Association) booklets and DVDs highlighting major world issues that affect the United States. Before the meetings, we read the articles in the booklet to help us understand the issues. At the meetings we watch a short DVD, and then have wonderful and enlightening discussions. You can get more information about Great Decisions from the Foreign Policy Association website (<http://www.fpa.org>). There is a charge for the booklets and DVD that runs around \$25 for singles and \$30 for couples sharing a booklet. We currently have two groups that meet during the day. The evening group may include your spouse, but it is not required. All the current groups are full, so I am taking names of those who may be interested in being part of a new Great Decisions group. If you are interested, please let me know via e-mail no later than October 10. Please include if you are interested in a day group or evening group and if you'd like to include your spouse.



[top of page](#)

## Save the Date for Fall Forum



by Sara Wolters

- **What: AAUW Arizona Fall Forum**
- **AAUW & ASU New College are joining for the Fall Forum**
- **When: Oct 29-31, 2015**
- **Mission: “Celebrating the 1965 Voting Rights Act – Gains, Losses and Next Steps”**



The multi-day program will explore the value of memory as members tell their stories of being among the activists 50 years ago who helped the movement toward passing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. All members are invited to share their memories and become a part of the ASU Oral History Project. Prescott AAUW Board members will have information about how to participate. There will be a one-day film festival showing five films depicting the efforts for and value of social change, including “Selma” and “Iron Jawed Angels.” The Saturday meeting will present a keynote speaker, still to be named, who will discuss the status of current voting rights, what is happening now and what the future holds. An afternoon session will turn the focus to local branches’ and individual members’ action plans regarding voting rights and the upcoming national election. Members will be able to attend some or all of these events on the campus of ASU West. As more complete details become available, postings will appear on the Prescott and Arizona AAUW websites. Information will also be distributed to members via email and at general meetings. For more information see the [AZ Sun Newsletter Fall Forum Registration Form top of page](#)

**Openings Available: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Evening Book Group**



by Patti Allen-LaFleur The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Evening Book Group, one of our newest book groups, has openings available to members. **We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month, at 6:00 p.m. in the Elsea Room of the Prescott Public Library.** We are still quite small and new

members would be really welcome! We alternate our book selections to include fiction and nonfiction; book discussion leader roles are assigned (voluntarily, of course) monthly. Additionally, we schedule a December meeting at a member's home and agree to read a short classic. For this December, we will read *Silas Marner*. If you would like to see the books we are scheduled to read for the next several months, [Prescott AAUW Thursday Evening Book Group](#). You can also email Patti Allen-LaFleur or Annette Gauthier if you are interested in joining. Patti will be at the back table during our general meetings if you would like to sign up or if you have any questions.

[top of page](#) September-October 2015 Thumb Sketch Vol. 64 No. 5