

## President's Message



After having such a mild winter, when warm coats seldom left the closet, we're getting ready for spring and trees in bloom! But, wait! What's with this cold, rainy weather? You mean we could still get snow? Yes, this winter has been unlike most we've experienced here in Prescott.

Who knows, weather wise, what is in store for us?

But, in AAUW Prescott things are popping! We're like what they used to say about the mail carriers who walked the streets delivering mail...."neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." (As a former educator, I so wanted to put commas in that phrase, but there were none in the quote! Let me say that grammar check agrees with me!)

The new member coffee that was held on February 3rd found six enthusiastic women ready to jump right in! As a matter of fact, two want to start a new book group, while another is assisting at ERAU's Girls' Rock-it Day in March. We even discussed possible Board positions with them and none ran away in fright!

At the AAUW General Meeting on February 10th, we honored our four 50+ year members.

All four have been actively involved over the years, two serving as president and another saying she'd done everything except president. I assured her that there was still time for that! So, congratulations and

thank you to Claudia Greenwood, Doris Piatak, Vera Stewart, and Edi Taylor-Richards for working to advance equity for women and girls over the years! You're invaluable!

In the past few years it has been difficult to convince women they really did want to get up very early to attend Legislative Day at the Arizona State Capitol Building. But, this year we had six enthusiastic women attend. Major attention was given to moving ERA forward in our state....our patience is wearing thin on this!

The first Girls' Rock-It Day was held on February 6th at ERAU. What amazing opportunities are available to today's young women! Remember when we could choose from majors like education, nursing, or secretarial training? Times have changed! The world is their oyster now. Hopefully, the girls attending will get excited about the STEM programs

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available to them in college. A second Girls' Rock-it Day will be held on March 6th, and eight more AAUW women will have an opportunity to assist in it.

On March 10th, members will have an opportunity to meet others in Neighborhood Meetings. Rather than meet in the Community Room at Yavapai College, a member will open her house to neighboring members for a more intimate time of sharing interests and discussing just what our branch is doing....or, not doing. What a wonderful way to get to know members. Be sure to attend your meeting. You may be surprised at who lives just around the corner!

Mark your calendars for the second annual scholarship fundraiser, An Art-Full Afternoon in the Garden, on Friday, April 20, 2018. We've ordered perfect weather again. This year's theme is The Mad Hatter's Tea Party and will be held among the blooming iris in the Marcusen Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College. See a detailed article further on in the Thumb Sketch. Don't miss out on this fantastic spring event!

In closing, I've been preaching all year about getting involved in AAUW, not just as an onlooker, but also as a full- \$edged participant. It's happening! Newer members are getting their feet wet! As Tracy Smiles said at the last meeting, "Getting on the Board was the best thing I ever did! I got to know so many new people and I learned so much about the inner workings of our great organization!" There are all sorts of places where you can #t in....Just do it!

## March 10th: Annual Neighborhood Meetings

On March 10th, AAUW will be having its annual neighborhood meetings. We will meet at 10:00 AM in member homes in smaller settings to get to know one another and discuss ways to strengthen our branch. Board members will be at each meeting to

help facilitate discussion.

We are meeting by neighborhood:

Copper Basin-Timber Ridge, East Prescott South Prescott

Thumb Butte, Central Prescott

Iron Springs, Forest Trails

Willow Creek, NE Willow Creek

Prescott Lakes, The Dells

Williamson Valley North., Granite Oaks, Southview

Prescott Valley

The hostess for each neighborhood meeting will email directions to her guests. Watch for your email. Special thanks to our members who are opening their homes for this special meeting.

## April 14th Program Highlights Title IX Issues

### *Title IX on College Campuses: What it Means Today*



Monica Belknap

The April 14th general meeting will feature two outstanding presenters who will describe what Title IX covers, an especially relevant topic today.

Monica Belknap, the Director of Student Conduct/Community Standards & Title IX Coordinator at Yavapai

College and Liz Higgins Frost, Associate Dean of Students & Title IX Coordinator at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, will be the speakers for this dynamic and relevant topic.

They will also discuss the responsibilities placed on colleges and universities per the [US Department's Office for Civil Rights](#). We will also hear how YC and ERAU manage and address reports of sexual violence/harassment on campus. For more information before the meeting, go to the [ERAU Title IX Policy](#) page.



Liz Higgins Frost

## Hospitality Chairs Ask for Donations

Kathy Lopez and Jean Morin, Hospitality co-chairs, are collecting AAUW publications for use in a project. Please give the ladies your old State and National magazines, fliers, etc. **When in doubt, throw it out (to us)!**

## Annual Summer Social Set for June 12, 2018

Plans are being made for the annual AAUW Summer Social, to be held in the Community Room at Yavapai College on June 12, 2018, from 5:00-7:00PM. This is an opportunity for us to showcase the AAUW mission and all of the interest groups....plus good food! Newer members and prospective members will be invited as special guests. So, be thinking about whom you would like to invite into AAUW Prescott membership or just someone who may be interested in finding out more about our fantastic group of women.

## Public Policy News

### *Becky Gunn Reports on Several Events*

The Public Policy Committee held its monthly meeting on February 6, 2018, at the Prescott Public Library with a small group in attendance. The topic for the meeting was the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) which is being supported by the National and Arizona Branches of AAUW. The meeting, facilitated by Becky Gunn, gathered information from several



sources: National Council of Women's Organizations, the Blog for Arizona, the National Organization for Women, and AAUW. Discussions included the relevancy of the ERA in the 21st Century, the varying issues on which there is inequality for women, and the current process being pursued in the Arizona Legislature. This discussion was in part to prepare for the Arizona AAUW Legislature Day (Feb 20).

## Arizona Legislative Day: Informative, Well Attended

Forty AAUW members attended Legislative Day on Feb 20 and declared that the day was a success. We met compatriots from other AAUW branches and listened to, exchanged ideas with, and asked questions of four different state representatives. The day focused in large part on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), but also on the processes of getting legislation to be considered and then passed.



The morning began with Representative Becky Nutt from LD14, substituting for Speaker of the House Mesnard who was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Rep. Nutt emphasized STEM and educational issues along with issues concerning water availability. She did not address the ERA issue with which we are so concerned.

The second speaker was Representative Hanley, a Democrat from the Tucson area, who has introduced the ERA for legislative consideration for the past two years. She emphasized the necessity for the ERA and

the frustration of proponents of that amendment due to the unwillingness of Judiciary Committee Chair, Rep. Farnsworth, to hold hearings on the submitted bills.

The third speaker was Michelle Ugenti-Rita, a Republican Representative from District 23. She also submitted a bill to support the ERA. She, too, is frustrated that her bill has not been heard in committee. Representative Ugenti-Rita is passionate about the ERA because she is for “fairness and equity. It is a human issue, not a partisan issue.” She researched the issues associated with the ERA and believes if all legislators did the same, many others would be supportive of the Amendment. She proposed that women need to work together, but also need to listen to others’ concerns and issues. It is only by engaging our legislators in dialogue that we will be able to move the ERA forward.

The fourth speaker was Representative Athena Salman, Democrat from LD 26, the youngest legislator in the House. She is part of the class of 2017 where women hold 40% of the offices in the House. Rep. Salman is a remarkably articulate, passionate, issues-oriented woman. She is definitely pro-woman which means she supports the ERA, but is also involved in other legislation relating to women. She submitted a bill this year to ensure that incarcerated women would have adequate sanitary supplies. While the bill was not passed, by proposing the bill she moved the correctional system to change their policy. She is a model for young legislators and was inspiring to all of us attending. She is a strong voice for the power of women.

Those attending from Prescott were Deb Dillon, Becky Gunn, Lynne Murphy, Sue Marceau, Patti Allen-LaFleur, and Janet Herbert. Each participant expressed that the day was well worth the time and drive and would encourage more participation at next year’s Legislative Day.

## Upcoming Public Policy Meetings

The **March 6th** meeting will include a presentation on reproductive justice by the area coordinator for Planned Parenthood, Desiree Perez. The **April 3rd** meeting will focus on STEM education. In addition to a report from those who worked during STEM days at Embry Riddle, Andy Fraher, the STEM Outreach Director at Embry Riddle, will give an update on STEM activities at that university.

The Committee **will not be holding a May meeting** due to the conflict with the Sister-to-Sister event.

## New Coffee Welcomes Six Newcomers

On February 3rd, The AAUW Board hosted the bi-annual New Member Gathering at Betsy Peek’s home. The six new members who participated shared how they came to live in Prescott, as well as information about their backgrounds, education, and careers. In turn, Board members discussed the many ways to be involved in the organization, such as the interest group offerings, opportunities for community outreach, as well as openings to serve on the Board. Prescott AAUW is excited to have these accomplished, energetic, and enthusiastic women as part of our organization.



## AAUW-Prescott Volunteers at ERAU's Girls Rock-It Day

By Molly Divine

On February 6, 2018, eight members of our Prescott branch were privileged to assist with Girls' Rock-It Day at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



The day included breakout sections that focused on Aviation, Engineering, Global Interest, and Physical Sciences. The University utilized their professors to offer hands-on workshops for small groups of girls from middle and high schools in our quad-city area. Forty young women were signed up for the February event, and there are 40 more young women signed up for the next event, with a similar format, which will be held on March 6, 2018.

Our Prescott branch applied for and received a grant from AAUW Arizona for \$200 for each of the two keynote speakers we were fortunate enough to line up. Our February speaker was Elizabeth Peters, an instructor at Yavapai Community College. She related that she grew up in the area, attended Yavapai Community College, and worked in Electrical and Instrumentation Technology before she returned to teach in this subject area.

Our speaker for the March 6th Rock-It Day will be Dr. Sian Proctor, a geoscience professor at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix. An accomplished scientist, Dr. Proctor is sure to impress the young women with an amazing array of science activities of which she has been part.

This has been a great opportunity to collaborate with an esteemed local institution to help promote STEM study possibilities to local young women. Thank you for the support from our Prescott AAUW Branch.

## Community Action: Sister-to-Sister Date Set

At last! We have confirmed Tuesday, May 1st, as the date for the 2017-18 Sister-to-Sister luncheon. The event will include 10 students from each of the four area high schools, so we will need at least 40 AAUW members to join them from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Sign up at the February meeting or the neighborhood meetings in March—or send Claudia Greenwood an email by March 15th indicating:

- 1) your offer to help with planning (meet 10 a.m Friday April 13th at Claudia's to make invitations and plan the program)
- 2) your offer to help with set-up and clean-up (centerpieces and brochures)
- 3) your offer to help with check-in
- 4) your desire to attend.

To confirm your reservation send a check for \$20 by April 15th to the treasurer. Make the check payable to AAUW Prescott with "Sister-to-Sister" on the memo line.

See our [Sister-to-Sister website page](#) for a description and history of the event.

## Scholarship Committee Hosts Mad Hatter's Tea Party at YC Friday, April 20, 2018



Please join us for AAUW's second annual *Art-Full Afternoon in the Garden*, which will be held from 5:00–7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 20, 2018, in the Richard Marcusen Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College. The cost is **\$45.00** per person and includes food, wine tasting and music amid the beautiful sculptures and award-winning irises of the Sculpture Garden.

Come walk the paths to admire the sculptures and enjoy the spring flowering plants, including the stunning irises. Yavapai students will be available to

tell you about the sculptures and the sculptors. Food stations around the garden will feature a variety of tapas selections—both savory and sweet—paired with wines from the Southwest Wine Center (the Yavapai College teaching winery). As you amble through the garden, you'll be entertained with upbeat tunes provided by easy rock, folk, and harp musicians. And, naturally, experts from our local iris society will be available to tell guests about the array of splendid irises

All proceeds from this event will go to AAUW scholarships for deserving Yavapai College students.

Deadline for reservations is April 16, 2018. Tickets may be purchased online at YC Mad Hatter Page or you may mail a check to

AAUW Prescott  
P.O. Box 10881  
Prescott, AZ 86304

Tickets should be picked up at the Will Call desk at the Sculpture Garden entrance at the time of the event. Plan to attend, and bring a friend!

## Props Sought

### *Sister, Can You Spare a Hookah?*

The Scholarship Committee plans are in full swing for the Artful Afternoon fundraiser at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden.

**Tickets are now available for the April 20 event, and can be purchased**

**on the [YC Mad Hatter's Tea Party webpage](#).** Pick up invitations (to share with your friends) at the General meetings.

Our 2018 theme is Mad Hatter's Tea Party and we are looking for any *Alice in Wonderland* inspired props for the event. If you would like to donate,



contact Jean Morin, Katie Wrigley, or Kathy Lopez. If you have items to loan, we will make arrangements for you to bring them directly to the garden. Think whimsical: rabbits, caterpillars, mice, cats, frogs, flamingos, knights, queens, kings, top hats, cakes, hearts/spades/clubs/spades, playing cards, croquet, bows, keys, clocks, roses, fancy bottles, mushrooms, tea pots, large tea cups, chess boards (anything with black & white squares), anything you think might work to decorate tables and the gardens will be appreciated.

## Interest Groups Check In

### AAUW-Prescott Singles Interest Group

by Jan Wickliffe, Coordinator

Little did I know that when three of us, riding in a car on our way to a monthly meeting and challenged by the fourth rider to start a singles group, that this interest group would be so well received. Our thanks go to Elaine Smith, who made the challenge. The friendships that have been made are truly a blessing.



Our #rst outing had only three members and we enjoyed a day trip to Jerome. Today there are 38 members on my list of participants!

Our monthly activities consist of a Salon on the second Sunday of each month and a Dine Out on the third Friday of each month. We have three annual events, aside from our regular gatherings: Potlucks in the Pines on Memorial Day and Labor Day and an annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner the weekend before Thanksgiving.

We have no agenda; we just get together for fellowship and eating. Through the years we have gone to the Prescott Symphony, the Phoenix

Botanical Gardens, the Science Center, the Art Museum and the Musical Instrument Museum. Singles Group members are welcome to contribute ideas for additional activities. With our busy schedules, we average 5 to 20+ for our various activities.

If you are interested and qualify, talk to any of our members for more information.

## AAUW-Prescott Book Groups

### New Third Monday Book Group

The “New third Monday Afternoon Book Group” started in the spring of 2013 and we have been meeting in each others’ homes ever since. Because of this, we

originally restricted our group size to about 12 members.

Since so many of our members are avid travelers, we were able to

add two new members because we are rarely able to have full attendance. We are a diverse group with lots of interests and this has led to some very lively discussions on a wide range of books, both action and non-action. We choose our books for the whole year each September and always have a Holiday luncheon at the Hassayampa Inn.



### Fourth Thursday Book Group

The 4th Thursday book group has been around for a long time. It was one of the earliest AAUW interest groups, and some of the original members still participate. We read #ction and non-#ction – books suggested by our members who have already read

the book and understand that there is enough for a good discussion. We meet in members’ homes and our membership has stayed fairly static at 12 or 13 members. All participate, and no one is hesitant to say she didn’t like the book!

## First Wednesday Book Group

The First Wednesday Afternoon Book Group gathers monthly in members’ homes.

The group selects books representing a wide range of both #ction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary.

Group discussions are informal, sometimes reaching far a#eld, but always stimulating and supportive of each other.



## The Evening Book Group

The Evening Book group enjoys a glass of wine along with sparkling discussions concerning their books. Each

month’s meeting involves discussion of that month’s theme (such as Celebrations, Travel, Books set in state where you were born, etc.) and takes place at a member’s home.



## Interest Groups Easy to Form; Three New Groups Proposed

by Molly Divine

I love the enthusiasm for our many interest groups. As I have been attending branch events, and several of the interest groups, I have been very impressed with the importance these groups are playing in the lives of our members. I have also asked some questions about how to form a new interest group.

If you have an interest you would like to explore with other members there is an excellent chance that there are other members who would also be interested. So go for it!

1. Find 3-5 members who would commit to being in the founding group.
2. Identify the location(s), and check on the Master Calendar on our Prescott AAUW website to make sure we don't have scheduling conflicts. There are plenty of openings, just check first.
3. Identify one person who will serve as the Interest Group Leader. There is no commitment for activities other than the one of group leader, no obligation to attend board meetings. The Interest Group leader will be responsible for communications between the interest group and the Board, via email or phone, and makes sure that everyone attending is a current member of AAUW. It is recommended that group members take turns being the leader to avoid leadership burnout.
4. Present the information to the Board for approval and the information will be included in the master calendar, and on our web site. The board member responsible for being liaison is the President-Elect.



## New Interest Groups Proposed

Sue Fleming has expressed an interest in forming a Mah Jongg group, open to both new and experienced players. If you are interested, please contact Sue directly.

There has been an interest expressed in a “**Local Arts & Cultural**” group that would meet monthly to visit different points of interest in the area, possibly combined with a lunch. Thoughts include events at local art museums, visits to art galleries, historic destinations, and colleges. No name for this group yet, but the name “Arts and Cultural Events Interest Group” has been suggested. The thought in forming this interest group was to allow newcomers, as well as those of us who still haven't made the rounds by themselves, the opportunity to visit some of these attractions with a small group of like-minded members. Anyone out there who might be interested in starting this up?

I have also heard that many of our book groups are full at this time, so there is the possibility of starting another book group.

Whatever your social commitments are, thank you for continuing to support our current interest groups. Also, please be cognizant that some of our current group leaders would be open to receiving help with the leadership responsibilities. Offer to step up and assume some of the responsibilities to keep our interest groups vital and, well, interesting.

## AAUW-Prescott History

by Claudia Greenwood  
**AAUW and Yavapai College:  
Partners Uplifting a  
Community**

A continuously evolving partnership between Yavapai College and Prescott's AAUW was formed early in 2000 when Mary Alice Moulton and other representatives of AAUW attended a YC Governing Board meeting



and urged the development of a family enrichment center. They continued to attend these meetings, lobby District I legislators, and participate in a task force on child care until the Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center became a reality. In 2005 AAUW entered into an agreement with the college to endow the Mary Alice Moulton Childcare Fund, providing support to children of mothers attending classes on campus.

Also in 2005 we launched the Sister-to-Sister mentoring program with YC partner, ETS, a federally funded program targeting first-generation students in grades 6-12. Our events were held in a variety of venues until Yavapai College opened the Community Room on campus, which became our permanent home. Through our luncheon programs we have encouraged hundreds of young women to continue their education beyond high school.

In 2007 we initiated a second mentoring program. Thirty AAUW members joined faculty and staff from Yavapai College for a training session. For ten years our team of mentors provided encouragement to women returning to college. With the advent of on-line classes, the target population for this endeavor has become inaccessible to our team. The future of the program seems uncertain.

In recognition of Arizona's Centennial, AAUW began a new endowment: the Centennial Scholarship. This award targets second semester women in STEM fields on the Yavapai Campus. Fundraising for these two initiatives is an ongoing

endeavor as our branch seeks to provide support to an increasing number of Yavapai College students.

Other branch efforts in partnership with Yavapai College have

included Teen Maze (a county-wide effort encouraging youth to make good choices), the Dreams to Reality and Career Fair, Tech Savvy, and the mentors Traveling Team. Several of

our members serve on college committees, including the Family Enrichment Center. Our written support for federal grants is also sought. As YC President Penny Wills has said: "We are so fortunate to have the support of AAUW."

Most recently our branch members have participated in the summer LEAD program on both the Prescott and

Verde campuses of Yavapai College. When our branch wrote in support of an AAUW national grant to encourage women students entering college, we also agreed to participate in the summer orientation program as mentors.

Although the grant expired this past year, the college will extend the program and anticipates the continued support of AAUW mentors.

It is easy to see why the Prescott branch stands out among state AAUW branches. Its relationship with Yavapai College is unique. We are partners committed to uplifting our community.

