

President's Message



Molly Divine, President

The past couple of months have truly felt like winter to me, so I'm ready for the first signs of spring. However, that hasn't kept us from participating in our many branch meetings and activities in January and February.

In February we held the first of our two Girls Rock-It Day events with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, as

well as the annual Sister-to-Sister event. These are two of our major Community Action mentoring events, and are an important part of our fulfilling our mission in the community. We filled these volunteer positions early this year, so if you missed out, plan on signing up early next year. We also participated with other branches statewide at the annual Arizona AAUW Day at the Legislature.

For our March general meeting this year we are trying a variation on the Neighborhood Meetings which we have held in previous years in members homes. Due to declining participation the past couple of years, we are hosting seven neighborhood groups in separate locations in the same building as the Community Room/Library at Yavapai College on Saturday, March 9. We will have a short business meeting together, as well as a celebration of the 70th birthday of our Prescott AAUW branch, before we break out into our smaller neighborhood groups. We will also be launching a new Community Action project called Community Field Trips.

Appropriately, our first trip will be to the Launch Pad Teen Center in Prescott. The Executive Director of the Launch Pad Teen Center, Courtney Osterfelt, was one of the presenters at the January 2019 general

meeting, and her

presentation generated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm among our members. Please look for the separate article just below this one with details for the time and sign up information.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at one of our meetings or events. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas pertaining to our branch.

This Issue contains:

[President's Message](#)

[March 9 General Meeting](#)

[April 13 General Meeting](#)

[Trip to The Launch Pad](#)

[Save the Date!](#)

[New Member Coffee](#)

[Prescott Budget 2019-20](#)

[Rhone to Rhine Scholarship Event](#)

[Membership Renewal](#)

[Men are Welcome in AAUW](#)

[Connections to AAUW AZ](#)

[Public Policy / ERA](#)

[Legislative Day](#)

[Girls Rock-It Day](#)

[Rock-It Volunteers Offer Feedback](#)

[Sister-to-Sister Lunch](#)

[Meet Your Awardees](#)

[Sue Marceau, Rookie of the Year](#)

[Katie Wrigley, Mover and Shaker](#)

[Meet Long Term Members](#)

[Susan King](#)

[Kathryn Madden](#)

[Interest Groups](#)

[New Group – Mah Jongg](#)

[Healthy Living Group](#)

[Prescott Valley Book Group](#)

[Jan-Feb General Meeting Recaps](#)

Thank you for all you do to keep our branch thriving here in Prescott.

Molly Divine

March 9th—“A Different Kind of Neighborhood Meeting”

March 9th 9:00am

Yavapai College Community Room



We are doing something different this year for our Neighborhood meetings. We are gathering at 9 a.m. in the Yavapai

College Community room as usual for a short General meeting. We will

≥celebrate our 70th Anniversary as a branch of AAUW. After that short meeting, we will move to meeting rooms by neighborhood. Don't be worried if you don't know your neighborhood, we will have that info available as you arrive. A Board member will facilitate a discussion that will include a survey and time for questions and answers. We will then reconvene in the community room for some sharing of ideas and comments. We are hopeful that all of you will want to attend, not only to spend some time with your neighbors, but also to give the Board some valuable feedback about what you think and feel about our Branch.

April 13th: Maintaining Civility in Divisive Times



Basant Virdee is the Communications Coordinator for the [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#), a nonpartisan center for advocacy, research, and policy. She works on the Institute's signature Revive Civility Initiative, manages the

Institute's websites, newsletters, and creates reports about the Institute's programs. In addition, Basant leads the Institute's public programs in the state of Arizona. Basant holds a Bachelor's in Microbiology and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Arizona. She has been trained by the International Association of Public Participation in effective community outreach and engagement and has training in Nonviolent Communication and with in Circle Group Facilitation. Basant came to the Institute to help foster constructive dialogue and improve individual and collective well-being through teaching healthy communication skills. Basant was a speaker at last year's state AAUW conference. At her April 13 presentation for AAUW, she will discuss methods of communication in times of division and lack of civility in our society.

Sign Up for a Field Trip to *The Launch Pad*



Ta Da!! We are very excited to announce the details for our very first Community Field Trip.

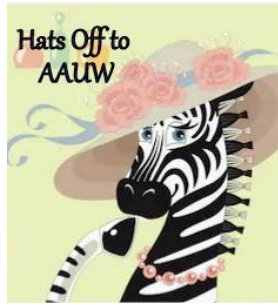
We have been invited to visit the The Launch Pad Teen Center. The date will be **Thursday, March 21st, at 4:00pm**. The address is 302 Grove Avenue, Prescott. As it is a central location we will not be arranging carpools for this event. The center is open until 6:00 that afternoon. There is no formal program for us at this time, but we will be interacting with the teenagers present, and will have a orientation by a member of the staff. There will be a limit of 14 members who will be able to attend, and it is a first-come-first-served opportunity.

Please contact Carol Shaw, cashaw6@yahoo.com, 847-602-8776 to sign up.

Save the Date!

The annual *Summer Social* will be held on **Tuesday, June 12, 2019**, in the Community Room at Yavapai College. Our theme this year will be “Hats Off to the AAUW.”

This is our showcase event to which we invite prospective members to learn about the



work of our branch. We would welcome the participation of members both in planning and assisting that evening. **Please contact Molly Divine with your generous offers to help.**

New Member Coffee



President-Elect Becky Gunn welcomed the new members and shared opportunities for participation and service in AAUW Prescott. New members shared personal stories about their education, experiences, and why they were drawn to AAUW. On February 16 Prescott AAUW Membership VPs Tracy Smiles and Carol Dosse, along with several AAUW Board members, hosted the annual New Member Gathering at long-time AAUW member Phyllis Moss’s home. The attendance for this event was robust, with sixteen new members and seven board members participating in sharing food, stories, and opportunities to network. New members 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. AAUW Prescott is excited to have these accomplished, energetic, and enthusiastic women as part of our organization

Prescott Budget 2019-20

| AAUW Prescott - Approved 2019-20 Budget | |
|---|--------------|
| Receipts | |
| Dues | 19,000.00 |
| Total Income/Receipts | \$ 19,000.00 |
| Disbursements | |
| Natl & State Association Dues | 13,600.00 |
| Total Disbursements | 13,600.00 |
| Net Dues (Memo Only) | \$ 5,400.00 |
| Budgeted Branch Expenditures | |
| Member Directory | 300.00 |
| Liability Insurance | 190.00 |
| Directors' & Officers' Insurance | 350.00 |
| Program Expense & Y/C Room Use | 1,200.00 |
| Summer Social (Membership Tea) | 200.00 |
| Installation | 50.00 |
| Officers' Retreat | 100.00 |
| Community Action | 750.00 |
| Public Policy | 200.00 |
| Public Relations | 110.00 |
| Office/Adm/Supplies | 950.00 |
| Hospitality - General Mtgs | 200.00 |
| Conventions/Conferences/Meetings | 400.00 |
| Fundraising Exp. | 100.00 |
| Memorial Contributions from Branch | 100.00 |
| Website Maintenance | 200.00 |
| Subtotal of Budgeted Expenditures | \$ 5,400.00 |

Scholarships

We invite you to Journey From the Rhine to the Rhone

at our upcoming Scholarship Fundraiser!

April 25, 2019
•Thursday, 5:00-7:00 PM

•Yavapai College Richard Marcusen Sculpture Garden

Enjoy an evening of music, food, beer, and wine!

Registration Now Open!



Membership Renewal for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

It is nearing time to renew your membership for next year. Dues are \$95 (of which \$59 goes to National, \$9 goes to AZ state and \$27 goes to AAUW-Prescott). \$56 of the total is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

What's In It For You?



Most Prescott members can see a variety of benefits at the local level:

Stimulating monthly programs, a wide variety of interest

groups, opportunities to contribute to the education of area women and girls, and an amazing circle of women with whom to interact. But only \$27 of your dues go to the local branch. What happens to the other \$68?

Focusing on our mission “To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy” and our vision of “Equity for all,” the national organization uses their portion of your dues (\$59) to focus on four major areas: Education and training; economic security; leadership; and governance and sustainability. (The full strategic plan is available at https://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/pdf_download/show_pdf.php?file=2018-AAUW-Strategic-Plan) This is accomplished through lobbying efforts, training of state and local leaders, research, and publication.

How about the state organization? What do they do with the \$9 they receive from you? AAUW of Arizona coordinates programs and disseminates information to and from the state’s fourteen branches, provides a variety of grants and scholarships, offers several programs and training throughout the year, and works on public policy issues for Arizona women.

Each level of AAUW – local, state, and national – provides an array of services and opportunities – a pretty good buy for \$95 a year.

There will be three ways to pay your dues:

Pay them online. You will receive an emailed invoice from AAUW.org in May. Follow the instructions in the email to pay with a credit card.

Send or give our Treasurer (Katie Wrigley) an \$95 check made payable to AAUW-Prescott.

Pay via PayPal, which will soon be an option on our website.

Our mailing address is AAUW-Prescott, PO Box 10881, Prescott, AZ 86304.

The deadline for renewal is June 30, 2019. Please feel free to contact me, Katie Wrigley, with any questions at treasurer@aauwprescott.net.

Thank you! Let’s keep AAUW-Prescott the strongest branch in the State!



What's in it for Me?



Did You Know...?

Men Are Welcome in AAUW



Men are welcome to join and participate in AAUW. There are no barriers to participation in AAUW on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class. AAUW Prescott has occasionally had male members, but there are currently no men in the group. If you know of someone, female or male who is interested in AAUW, invite them to join.

AAUW Prescott Connections to AAUW Arizona



As the largest branch in Arizona, it is important for Prescott to actively participate in the state organization. That participation may take the form of attendance at state-sponsored events such as the Fall Forum, communication with the state board and with other branches, or participation in leadership positions.

So what does the state organization DO? AAUW Arizona organizes three major events each year: Fall Forum, Legislative Day, and the Spring Conference, each of which is open to all members in the state.

The state offers a variety of grants which are available to local branches, they provide direction on a variety of topics, especially Public Policy issues.

They also facilitate communication and cooperation among the 14 branches around the state.

Currently, Prescott has a number of members who hold leadership positions at the state level: Patti Allen-LaFleur, Co-Vice President of Programs, College/University Relations, and Newsletter Layout;

Jeanette Polvani, Corresponding Secretary; Claudia Greenwood, Community Action; Sara DeRouchey, Webmaster; and Deb Dillon, Past President. As branch president, Molly Divine is also a participant on the state board.

The state has a few unfilled positions: Vice President of Membership, Bylaws/Policies, Elections, and Parliamentarian. Contact any of the current board members if you are interested in any of these positions.

Public Policy

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) by the Arizona Legislature in 2019 so that our state becomes the 38th (and milestone) champion in protecting every American with these 24 very important words in the U.S. Constitution.

Arizona legislators began 2019 with 100 first session days to become the 38th and milestone state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Shamefully, more than one-third of that opportunity has been squandered. Grandstanding political opponents continue their yearly assault by refusing to allow debate on the benefits of equality under the law for every U.S. citizen.

There’s no time to lose; the ERA needs our dynamic support. We must intensify the barrage of letters, emails, and calls to our legislators urging them to ratify the ERA. Our support and advocacy are vital to a better life for all Arizonans.

The will of the people is not served when lawmakers ignore voters’ wishes and employ prejudices,

trickery, and lack of conviction to prevent debate on a topic so important to the well-being of all Arizonans. If the guarantee of equal protections

I support the
**EQUAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT**

State Legislative Day Feb 26th



under the law for every U.S. citizen were not enough to push for the ERA, surely economic security for more than half of our nation's citizens ought to hold sway.

Chronic inequality in pay creates financial insecurity for single-parent households and their families, and perpetuates lifelong earnings disadvantages spanning generations. Such discrepancies affect every man, woman and child, and seep deeply into society as a whole. The ERA would foster the best in human potential and spur economic growth.

Working women in Arizona on average lose out on \$7,000 a year in wages, due to gender-based discrimination. That's a whopping \$6 billion a year. Our state's women earn 81.8 cents for every dollar paid to men. Unless changes are made now, Arizona's working women will not achieve wage parity for another 29 years. We must urge our legislators to push the ERA forward to ratification this year in the Arizona House and Senate.

Stay tuned to www.azleg.gov Four bills currently are in play regarding the ERA. Call, write, and/or email our legislators in support of them. Remind our lawmakers that the ERA guarantees equal protection under the law for everyone. Rise to ratify in support of the American dream. Your voice counts today more than ever.

For additional ways to support the ERA, email publicpolicy@aauwprescott.net.



Patti Allen-La Fleur, Prescott Public Policy Chair Sue Marceau, Prescott President Molly Divine, Becky Gunn, and Jan Herbert at AAUW State

An unexpected legislative scheduling change Feb. 26 at the Arizona Capitol upended the best intentions of some lawmakers to attend our Legislative Day 2019 breakfast honoring female leaders. Not so for Rep. Athena Salman (D-District 26) and Rep. Jennifer Pawlik (D-District 17), who joined briefly to meet AAUW-Arizona members and offer encouragement for our advocacy efforts.

The lawmakers' appearances were followed by presentations from two guest speakers highlighting advocacy methods and tools for the Fifty-Fourth Legislature and beyond. While introducing the speakers, state Public Policy Chair Harriet Young said legislators must be "re-schooled" to recognize that they work for the voters and not the other way around.

Speaker Joachin Rios is Arizona State Director for the State Innovation Exchange (SIX), an organization supporting legislation on progressive issues through a network of 1,500 elected officials across the 50 states. Women's issues are considered progressive causes, and therefore included in the support given to legislators on those topics. Rios said that SIX has expanded into 14 states in the past four years, and described the organization as the progressive version of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

Rios said that SIX "helps legislators be the best that they can be" by supplying them with policy research, communications, and outreach. Research, he said, is the "bread and butter of the organization," which offers a series of "policy playbooks" on issues such

as criminal justice reform, K-12 education fiscal options, the Electoral College, and water. SIX also has been involved with the Arizona Voter's Bill of Rights. Its communications initiatives include media relations training for legislators and guidance regarding how to speak about specific issues. The organization also serves as "a thought partner/advisor" to progressive organizations and engages in data collection through polls.

Rios suggested four tactics in working with lawmakers: 1) Go to meetings knowing what you want and ask for it in a polite, friendly, yet firm manner; 2) Elicit a better response from legislators by asking rather than demanding; 3) Make an ask during each encounter; and 4) Follow up post-meeting to remind lawmakers of the conversation and commitments made.

The second speaker, Rivko Knox, is an official lobbyist with the League of Women Voters (LWV). Key issues for the LWV currently are voting rights, dark money and redistricting, the latter of which will begin in 2022. Knox described LWV as "a non-partisan, but very political and progressive organization." She provided handouts regarding the Right to Speak (RTS) system and websites such as <http://www.vuu.org/legislative-advocacy> ; <http://www.cebv.us> ; and <https://my.lwv.org/arizona/lmv-metro-phoenix> . She also mentioned the Clean Elections website as a good source for voter education.

Lastly, Knox reviewed the powerful role of committee chairmen in getting bills heard and approved. She discussed "Strike Everything" bills, which are introduced at the end of a legislative session. They replace the entire language of a bill which already has met all the necessary deadlines with new, completely unrelated text under the original bill number. Strike is one option which could be used at this point for the ERA, now that all Senate and House bills regarding the amendment once again have been blocked from reaching the floor this session.

Girls Rock-It Day at ERAU

by Becky Gunn



On Feb. 12 five Prescott AAUW members (Maryse Doherty, Carol Dosse, Becky Gunn, Janet Orr, and Suzanne Scudder) participated in Rock-It Day at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. More than 40 mostly middle school girls attended. There were four

breakout tracks: Aviation, Engineering, Global Interest and Natural Sciences. AAUW members joined each track. There were hands-on activities as well as mental exercises.

All of us agreed that these girls were bright, articulate and passionate about



science, technology, math, and problem solving. AAUW's sponsored noontime speaker was Elizabeth Peters, a Yavapai College faculty member who teaches in both the

Electrical/Instrumentation and the Applied Pre-Engineering programs. It was an honor for those of us attending to support this program to advance our AAUW goals of equity for women and girls. A second Rock-It day will be held March 5 and will focus on high school young women.



Bottle-Rocket Experiment

[from Carol Dosse](#)

Enthusiastic Volunteers at Girls Rock-It Day

by Carol Dosse and Suzanne Scudder

AAUW volunteers helped pass out t-shirts, and then were attached to interest groups. I went with the Natural Sciences group: 10 girls ranging from 6-8 grade. We first had a physics lab, experimenting with sound frequency. The girls worked in pairs to determine how sound traveled through water, then added dry ice and repeated the experiment. They really enjoyed the hands-on activity. The ERAU student leaders were undergraduate women, who then shared their paths to STEM fields, as well as life at ERAU. The second activity was a Wildlife workshop led by a professor. She and her two TAs had fur pelts, plastic skulls, footprints and scat that the pairs used to identify Arizona mammals. They also used field guidebooks, and observed hairs under microscopes.

After lunch, two groups were formed to shoot bottle rockets outside and then see the planetarium. The girls were friendly and enthusiastic. They were fascinated by STEM fields, and were really engaged in the hands-on opportunities. I enjoyed being with them, and was impressed by ERAU's welcome, time and providing a variety of engaging activities



It was a wonderful day! The students and ERAU leaders were awesome! We are so fortunate to have such a resource as ERAU in our community, which actively reaches out and engages with students and adults alike! I was very fortunate to have been chosen to participate and will

urge others in AAUW to do the same. Thanks (Community Action Chairs Sandra McKnight and Colleen Jensen) for coordinating this opportunity to

encourage our young women to consider STEM careers.

Sister-to-Sister Feb 26

A recap of this annual event by Community Action Co-Chair Sandra McKnight and Volunteer Carol Dosse

The Prescott AAUW branch joined efforts with Yavapai Community College's Trio program for the Sister-to-Sister luncheon Tuesday, Feb. 26. The theme of this year's program was "Acting Mindfully." Those attending were Trio middle school and high school students from local area schools. Going with our theme of mindfulness, the students enjoyed a talk by Helen Stephenson, Director of the Prescott Film Festival and YC Film and Video program director. She shared her career path, including ups and downs, and how following her interests and passions led to her current dream job.

The Stage Manager gave us a tour backstage, demonstrating rigging and the light and sound boards. The interactive talk was engaging for the students. Emphasis was on enhancing every patron's experience. He and his college student team shared their passion for their work, and the high school students asked a multitude of questions about how things worked and opportunities in the field. Several students talked to him afterward about jobs as stagehands.

This was followed by a short talk and an interactive display of improv. Three YC students engaged the attendees in improv, and we all had a wonderful, laugh-filled time, which continued with each table enjoying charades together.

A taco bar lunch was served by Yavapai College's food service. AAUW was thanked for their sponsorship, including the lunch, and many students thanked volunteers personally. ***Those thanks belong to all of us! AAUW Prescott's dues really benefit our local students, and we hope everyone will consider joining in the several programs we sponsor so you can interact with the students too.***

Meet Your Awardees

Sue Marceau, Rookie of the Year



Sue's early years were spent with family at the family cabin in northern Wisconsin snowmobiling in winter and swimming, boating, waterskiing, fishing, and savoring the Blueberry Festival and carnival each summer. She always chose wicked-fast rides at county fairs and her

brother knew how to keep them spinning. She would have loved to share with him years later the five-loop eye-popping rollercoaster at Munich's Oktoberfest. Although Sue cherished global travel and meeting people everywhere while backpacking in Europe and the Middle East, she grew to think of Munich as her second home after working there for nine months. She had the opportunity to work on a team to put cell service into West Germany and assisted in planning Motorola-Iridium's satellite network across seven continents.

Sue's undergraduate degree is in journalism, German and French from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and a MBA from Northwestern University. Sue relocated her marketing and business consulting practice to Prescott in 2001. She also has returned to her roots of journalism and currently writes for entities as diverse as Quad Cities Business News, AZ Signals, Northern AZ Social, and the Yavapai County Contractors Association.

Katie Wrigley, Mover and Shaker



Katie grew up in Champaign, Illinois the oldest of six children. She attended Eastern Illinois University and graduated in 1976 with a degree in Accounting. She was fortunate to have been offered an internship with Arthur Anderson & Co. in her last semester of college. After just a few

weeks, an offer of a transfer to Phoenix came and she jumped at the chance to leave snowy Chicago in January. She has never looked back and considers Arizona her home.

She has been married to Bill since 1991. Although she has no children of her own, she enjoys spoiling her many nieces and nephews. In 2004, Katie and Bill sold a second home in Greer, AZ, and decided to build a vacation home in Prescott. After getting to know Prescott, they decided they'd had enough of Phoenix traffic and weather and made Prescott their permanent home. And they now own their old cabin in Greer again!

Katie works full time for Fann Contracting, but is happily counting the days to her June, 2019 retirement. Her favorite hobbies are sewing, cooking and reading.



Getting to Know Long Term Members

Meet Susan King



Susan was Prescott's AAUW president from 2004 – 2005. She has enjoyed a longer AAUW affiliation that others who have been introduced through these Thumb Sketch portraits. She was very active in the Covina, California, branch until moving to

Prescott in 1999, even serving a term as branch president. Of course, prior AAUW affiliation made her a perfect candidate for service on Prescott's AAUW board of directors. She accepted not only the appointed position of Corresponding Secretary, she agreed to serve as President-Elect, and then President.

Susan's career path prepared her well for leadership positions. Upon high school graduation from Salem High School in Salem, Ohio, Susan ventured north to Kent, Ohio, and the university there. Her bachelor's degree in Medical Technology with training at the Cleveland Clinic secured her a position with the medical instrument division of the DuPont corporation in Chicago. From there, her career took her to Wilmington, Delaware and Southern California, but also to many foreign countries where she conducted training on ever more advanced medical devices.

Even after completing her term as President and Past President of Prescott's branch, Susan has remained active in the organization. Beyond AAUW, her interests have included service to the Prescott Public Library's Friends of the Library. She and husband Bob have enjoyed outdoor activities in every season and many places. Currently, her personal focus has shifted to maintaining her health, home, and garden.

Ever interested in Prescott's AAUW being the best it can be, Susan encourages new members to become involved soon after joining. She encourages them to attend monthly meetings to expand their

acquaintances beyond the interest groups they may join. She also encourages all members to reach out beyond AAUW to garner support for our fundraising events. Additional suggestions include annual invitations to local as well as national scholarship recipients. In the past, these opportunities have reassured members that their contributions make a difference far beyond the life of the individual student.

Being affiliated with AAUW has enriched long-time members such as Susan King. Beyond the many friendships she has formed, she values the contribution that AAUW makes at all levels (local, state, and national) to the support of women and girls.

Meet Kathryn Madden



Prescott AAUW can benefit immensely from the experiences of long-term members. The women who have served in many capacities in the branch and who still support the branch with their membership, who have served in many capacities in the branch and who still support the branch

with their membership and participation have much to share. Such is the case of Kathryn Madden. Kathryn graduated from Cal State in LA, then went on to complete three additional years of postgraduate work to secure the necessary certifications to teach Learning Disabled children at all levels in the Alhambra city schools.

Her teaching experience in California was enriched by technology, something she found lacking in Arizona schools when she moved here in the late 1980's. She loved teaching, a fact that is reflected in her eyes and demeanor as she talks of her years in the classroom. She, in fact, continues to substitute on a regular basis! Her career was interrupted by family illnesses which brought her to Prescott. She admits

that Prescott demanded considerable adjustment but, once she found and joined AAUW, she became comfortable in her new town. With membership well below 100 there seemed a job for everyone. With her experience in technology she was put right to work on the newsletter.

In the years that followed Kathryn held many positions on the board and contributed to many projects. She misses some of those such as: Dr. Seuss celebratory readings in local schools, “You Do What?” career days, Teen Maze, and the Christmas parade. She recalls with laughter the parade in which she and three others rode in the back of a pickup truck dressed as 4 Calling Birds, wearing baseball caps with feathers and holding large yellow plastic phones!

Kathryn is the first long-term member to mention a regular column that AAUW had in the Courier. Co-sponsored with Yavapai Guidance clinic, the AAUW focused on women’s issues. How different it is today when we cannot even count on our meeting announcements being included in the Courier calendar! From the vantage point of her history, Kathryn expressed some concerns about our current branch. She feels that we have lost the connection to the national organization. She suggests that we restore our invitations to AAUW Funds recipients as a way of re-establishing that connection and lending meaning to our “Red Envelope” contributions. With our primary focus on local scholarships and on interest groups she expresses caution: “Prescott AAUW must not change its character or its course.” It is a part of a larger whole.

Interest Groups

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY AMERICAN MAH JONGG?



A new AAUW-sponsored Mah Jongg interest group will meet and start playing, or learning to play, MJ in the Gateway Mall Food Court area on Tuesday, March 5, from 1-4pm. The group will include veteran players and many who are new to Mj. Beginners are very welcome! Laury Shayne will be teaching and mentoring those new to MJ. We will decide when we meet and whether we will play every week or 2-3 times each month. We plan to have a lot of fun improving our brain processing and functioning as well as meeting new AAUW members. A sign-up sheet will be available on the back table at every general meeting. ***Do come join us!***

Laury Shayne and Marty Lewis, Co-chairs. mahjongg@aauwprescott.net

The Healthy Living Group

The Healthy Living group is gearing up for another year of interesting and thought-provoking discussions designed to help members maintain physical as well as emotional wellness. Some of the topics that have been suggested include those pertaining to eye, heart, and thyroid health as well as others exploring alternative therapies such as essential oils, acupuncture, and intuitive eating.



We are an interactive group with rotating discussion leaders, and this format allows us to research and share ideas. We learn from each other's knowledge and experience as well as from possible guest speakers. This group meets on the second Wednesday of every

month at the Prescott Library at 10 AM. Meetings last about 60-75 minutes which allows those who are also lunch bunch members to follow it up with a (hopefully) healthy meal choice!

Contact Healthy Living Group Chair: Linda Crider
healthyliving@aauwprescott.net

Prescott Valley Friday Morning Book Group



The Friday Morning Book Group – Prescott Valley meets on the 3rd Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the Prescott Valley Public Library in the Glassford Room. All are welcome. We definitely have room

for additional members.

Contact Susan Goe

booksprescottvalley@aauwprescott.net for more information.

Past General Meetings Recap

January 12, 2019: Helping the Homeless and Teens in Our Community

Two speakers lit up our January AAUW general meeting with their insightful presentations. Jessie Hans, director of Prescott's Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ) spoke about serving those in poverty. From a beginning program that provided home repairs, the focus broadened to address the need for safe and legal places to sleep for homeless Prescott residents. CCJ aims to achieve functional zero in homelessness by the end of 2019 (meaning housing for those who want it). CCJ has targeted several tiers of affordable housing, ranging from cottages to rooms, RV's and mobile homes and is a low barrier shelter, meaning it serves clients with mental issues and other traumas that make it difficult to apply through the usual formal paperwork. The current shelter usually serves about 1/3 women and 2/3 men, and about 80% of the clients are over 45 years of age. In addition to housing, CCJ provides advocacy, job readiness and a thrift store for clients.

Courtney Osterfelt spoke next. She has dedicated her work to creating The Launch Pad Teen Center in the Prescott area, of which she is now the Executive Director. This developed after a series of successful retreats offering informative and empowering sessions on topics important to teenagers, like life skills, job readiness, money management, sex education, and more. Courtney was able to put together The Launch Pad, the first successful teen center in the area, in order to have a place for teens to pursue these topics and have a safe place to meet and learn. Locations have changed from churches, Boys and Girls Clubs and a rented building to the new location, a warehouse building off 6th Street that will be remodeled to include an art studio, stage for music and poetry, an apprenticeship program, outdoor learning area, community space, mentoring areas and a functional coffee shop. The goal is to build a larger base of donors in the community, include the community (use of coffee shop), continue to offer WEB (Women's Empowerment Breakthrough) conferences, mentoring and tutoring,

workforce development, summer camps and sustainable revenue generating programs and opportunities.

February 9, 2019: The State of Women's Health in Yavapai County

Leslie Horton, Director of Yavapai County Community Health Services, introduced us to the full range of services and scope of concerns regarding the health of county residents. She celebrated the fact that women in the county enjoy a life expectancy of 81.6 years, greater than the national median of 79.9. That is the good news. So, too, is the better air quality and easy access to outdoor activities. She reminded us: "Get out and hike!"

While women in the county experience a slightly higher incidence of breast cancer than others in the state, their survival rate exceeds that of other areas. She cautioned that women must not neglect to have PAP screening, no matter their age. Heart disease, also, remains a concern. Vigilance, good behavioral choices, and positive social and economic factors improve every individual's quality of life.

Of greatest concern to the many agencies that deal with health-related issues is the county suicide rate, twice that of the state. The agencies are working together to provide expanded and improved mental health services. Family services are central to their mission as well. TLC (total life care) is a new program that engages law enforcement and schools as well as health care providers in an attempt to mitigate the effects of adverse childhood experiences.

The task of supporting residents in such a large and diverse county as Yavapai certainly is challenging, but Leslie assured us that her team and partners are up to the task.