

## President's Message



Penny Briner Ewell  
President 2022-23

Welcome to the 73rd year of AAUW here in Prescott! It seems as though we just had our May meeting, and here we are ready to launch into another exciting year of programming and activities. Whether you are a current or a prospective member, I am glad you are visiting our webpage, and I invite you to

explore the information available.

Though there were a few AAUW housekeeping tasks to take care of this summer, my first official duty as President was to hold our annual AAUW Board Retreat in early August. It was wonderful to see many of the board members for both a social, and working time – and work they did! My focus for this year in AAUW is engagement. I asked your board members to brainstorm new ways to engage our current membership and also engage with the greater community. They came up with a treasure trove of ideas that we will implement throughout the year! The energy I felt at the retreat bodes well for a great year.

Please plan to attend our “Bring a Friend” meeting to be held September 10th in the Community Room at Yavapai College. This is our opportunity to recruit new members to the branch and show the many ways that AAUW benefits the community. The Scholarship and Community Action committees, as well as the Interest Groups, will have the opportunity to share their information with potential members and maybe even recruit some new participants from current members as well.

One of the exciting activities for this year will be the Arizona Women's Forum which is sponsored by the Yavapai College Foundation and AAUW. Please take some time to peruse the information on the website about this two-day conference to be held in late January. It is a great opportunity to not only gather as women and engage in topics that interest us, but all proceeds from the conference will benefit the AAUW scholarship funds we have with YC. Find more information here or at [www.yc.edu/azwomensforum](http://www.yc.edu/azwomensforum).

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to mention our out-going President, Tracy Smiles. Not only did she serve as President for two years, but she guided us through two years of COVID with grace, compassion, tenacity, and hope. Thank you, Tracy, for leading us on and being flexible and creative at every turn!

I look forward to representing you, the membership, as your President this year. Whether you participate more in general meetings, start or discover a new interest group, help raise money for scholarships, or participate in community action, let's have an engaging year together!

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## September General Meeting

### September Social for Members and Guests



September's meeting will be a combination of summer socials of the past and the "come and find out" event of last year. The meeting will be an opportunity to socialize with other AAUW

members and potential new members, enjoy refreshments provided by the Board, and see the wide range of interest groups that AAUW Prescott offers. If you know of anyone interested in joining, please invite them to attend.



## October General Meeting

### October General Meeting



Our October program will feature Laurin Custis, Yavapai County Registrar of Voters. She will take us on a journey that demonstrates what route a ballot takes

from preprinting to being counted. She will discuss security measures instituted to preserve confidentiality, integrity, and privacy of the voters.

Additionally, we will learn about misconceptions, falsehoods, and misunderstandings that have been seen as facts related to voting. This should be an educational and helpful program to better prepare us for the November General Election.

## Women's Forum



Exciting news for AAUW! We are the primary sponsor for the first annual AZ Women's Forum. Our theme for 2023 will be "Today's Pioneers." Our co-sponsor for this event is the Yavapai College Foundation. Our objective is to educate, engage, and entertain Arizona women who support the women following in their footsteps.

This stellar event will be held at the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center in Prescott, AZ, on January 27 and 28, 2023. The Friday evening reception, beginning at 5 p.m., will provide event registration, appetizers, an art show and silent auction, a book exhibit, and live entertainment provided by the Yavapai College Jazz Band.

Saturday will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast with live music from Janet Worthington followed by our keynote speaker, Alice Ferris. You will recognize Alice immediately from her work with PBS (Public Broadcasting Service). She is currently also a consultant with the Yavapai College Foundation.

After our speaker, participants will have the opportunity to choose two out of four panel discussions: Literary Arizona; Paying It Forward; Healthy, Wealthy and Wise; and Mind, Body and Spirit. Our forum will close with a luncheon and a talk by Yavapai College President, Dr. Lisa Rhine. The art show will

continue until the luncheon when the silent auction will close.

All proceeds go for scholarships for Yavapai College Students.

The ticket costs for the event are:

Friday Reception \$50.00  
Saturday Sessions \$125.00  
Combination ticket. \$150.00

Information from Anne Barton



## AAUW Business Membership Report



We are happy to report that we added four new members to our branch this summer. Please watch for them at our September meeting and welcome them to our vibrant Prescott branch. New members include Diana Platika, Gayla Hurson, Kathleen Lippiatt, and Vicky Conder-Elliot. We will be scheduling a new member coffee later in the fall so that our board members can meet with the new members. Emails will go out to confirm the date.

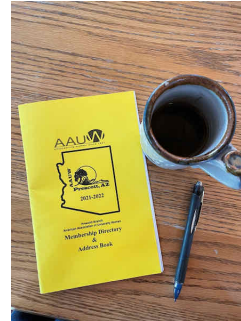
Our new Membership Co-VP is Marla Jirak, and she will be working with Patti Allen-LaFleur this year. Patti would like to extend a heartfelt “Thank You” to Annette Gauthier who mentored her this past year.

We will be looking for a new Co-VP next year as Patti moves on from that position. If you’re thinking about volunteering for this dynamic position for the 2023-24 year, certainly contact Patti or Marla at the next meeting. It is a great way to get to know so many of our members.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining AAUW Prescott, please have them contact Patti or Marla at [membership@aauwprescott.net](mailto:membership@aauwprescott.net).



## Directory Update



The 2022-2023 AAUW Membership Directory will be delayed this year due to changes in how the National AAUW organization is updating membership renewals. While this delay is frustrating, it gives all of

us another chance to update our phone numbers, email addresses, etc.

Email your changes to [directory@aauwprescott.net](mailto:directory@aauwprescott.net). If you would like a paper copy of the Directory, you can request one at that email address as well. Once we get the final membership renewal information from the National Organization, the Directory team will get the directory finalized. Watch for more information!

Lenore Hemphill



## Critical School Board Elections in November

Our local school boards will be electing new members in the November elections. I am so saddened that our schools have become an integral part of our national tug of war. This is playing out in our own community.

The well being of our students and schools needs to be at the heart of the discourse. Please



familiarize yourself with the positions of the candidates ... making sure that this is the case before you cast your ballots, and for heaven's sake, VOTE.

The official election information is at [ycesa.com/election-candidates-2022](https://ycesa.com/election-candidates-2022). Unfortunately, several candidates have not filed statements on that site. There will also be a couple of candidate forums, so watch for that information.

If you would like to know my personal recommendations for the Prescott board, please email me at [debd@aauwprescott.net](mailto:debd@aauwprescott.net).

In case you wonder why I am not running for re-election, my husband and I are preparing for a move to Ireland next year. Otherwise, I would certainly have run again.

Deb Dillon



## Community Conversations, General Meeting, March

March 12th, 2022, found 22 members discussing how our organization moves forward in the future. Members were asked to consider three broad questions:

1. Community Action: What would you like to see AAUW do in our community, or what type of presence would you like us to have? Where/how can we impact the lives of girls and women?
2. Critical Issues: What do you think are the critical issues facing women nationally, in AZ, and locally?
3. Women's Forum: Are there topics, dynamic speakers, or panel discussions that would interest

you during the Forum, January 27-28 at Yavapai College?

Though our attendance was low, many good ideas were generated. Regarding community action, our members indicated they are interested in "doing something" which encompasses everything from tutoring immigrants to mentoring to working with women and children-centered charitable organizations to field trips to learn about organizations we support.

Critical issues that were discussed included financial equity, affordable and quality education/childcare, health care, violence and abuse, food and housing security, access to services, and women's rights. Finally, the AZ Women's Forum in January was discussed to consider speakers, topics of interest, and potential breakout sessions.

Miriam Haubrich and Jet Sletten, Program Co-Vice Presidents, and Penny Briner Ewell, President, met over the summer to plan topics, speakers, and activities for the year based on the information from the March conversations. You'll find in this year's programming there are panel discussions, a working meeting, plans to collaborate with others, and even a requested field trip – all planned around topics that interest you, the membership, most. As for the Arizona Women's Forum, it is well on its way to being a conference where there is something for everyone.

Come join us for a great year of programs and activities!

Penny Briner Ewell

## Community Action

### Reality Store News

Once again, this fall and spring, we are planning to present The Reality Store at Prescott High School. We are excited that this is part of the AAUW Community Action program at PHS. This is for the Freshman Academy and will serve about 280 boys and girls this fall in 8 classes. We will serve two more large classes next spring. We really need your help in presenting this effective program. Yes, you will be given a specific task to perform. And there will be training.

The Reality Store is an experiential process in which students pretend they are 25 years old. Each chooses a career, their family size, and receives a paycheck and then circulates among many tables choosing and paying for their family's needs for a month. The idea is that they choose and experience the lifestyle that their line of work and paycheck affords them. They can then decide if their choices can support them or not and what needs to change. They also realize the importance of education in creating the future lifestyle of their dreams. It is quite

impactful as most students have no idea of the actual cost of living. They begin to realize that everything is expensive, and that training and education are essential!

If you volunteer, you will be assigned a specific task: to "staff" a table and interact with the students directly. We anticipate around 280 boys and girls will participate in November. Training is provided, and more information will be sent to you if you volunteer.

The dates for the Fall are Nov. 1, Nov. 8, and Nov. 15.

Approximate arrival/departure times are:

Nov. 1, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Nov. 8, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Nov. 15, 7:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

You can choose one date, two dates, or all three dates. But, you must be present during the entire time for the date(s) you choose. ***We will have a table for sign-ups at the AAUW General Meetings in September and October. Come by and see us!!***

If you have questions, you may send an email to [realitystore@aauwprescott.net](mailto:realitystore@aauwprescott.net) or call Pat Mann. Please leave a voicemail. Thanks for your support! We can't do this without you!



## Scholarships

### Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Committee is soliciting donations of art by and about women for a silent auction at the Women's Forum in January. All proceeds will go to our Scholarship funds. If you know a woman artist you think we should contact, if you have items you'd like to donate, or for more information, contact Sandra Bennett or Julia Appletree.

Sandra Bennett



## Interest Group Reports

### Dining In All Directions



The Dining in All Directions group held its annual kickoff potluck Aug. 27th at the home of Suzy and Dan Furlong. The members look forward to another year of delicious dining. Each group consists of 6 or 8 diners, and dinners are held in their homes. The host sets a theme or menu, provides the main dish, and assigns other items to her guests, such as dessert, appetizer, etc. Anyone interested in joining this Interest Group should contact Dot Williamson or Sandra Bennett to be added to a waiting list.  
Sandra Bennett

## Genealogy

Have you always intended to extend your family tree past your great-grandparents but didn't know where to start? Or maybe you have a mystery in your family tree such as an unknown great-grandmother, or you heard rumors of a Salem witch, Revolutionary War ancestor, or an Irish ancestor in your family. Or perhaps you just got your DNA test back and would like to know how to use your results to research your family. All of these (and more) are good reasons to join our Genealogy Interest Group.

Our group is composed of members who range from absolute beginners to experienced genealogists. At each meeting, we explore a topic of relevance to our genealogy research such as how to use the genealogy websites, where and how to research, organizing your research, how to use DNA to extend or prove your family tree, and much more.

We take turns presenting a topic, and we also watch videos by the experts. Sometimes members do a presentation on an interesting ancestor or on a research problem they have (a "brick wall"). We ask questions, and we help each other. This is not a class, but if you are new to genealogy, you will soon know enough to make a good start

on your family tree. And, if you are experienced, you can jump right in!

We meet from 2-4 p.m., usually on the first Monday of the month. In September and January, we meet on the second Monday. We are



currently meeting on Zoom.

We would love to have any interested members join our group. Please contact me, and I will send you the Zoom link.

Melinda Anderson



## Great Decisions



“We’ve enjoyed learning about the many issues affecting our country and its foreign policy. The reading material is helpful, the lectures a bit stodgy but very informative, and the timing has been particularly amazing. All of us hosted and were able to choose dates and topics we preferred. So this February we learned about Putin, only to have him invade Ukraine the next month; we learned about the Quad Alliance which was favored by Abe Shinzo of Japan, only to have him assassinated the next month; and we focused on Myanmar (Burma) in July and about ten days later coup resisters were executors. August is about outer space, so we are very much hoping to focus on exploration, although the militarization of space is obviously of interest. It’s a rare treat to actually get to discuss some important topics with people who have a variety of opinions and are willing to engage politely. Plus sometimes there are snacks!

Stephanie Voss

## Healthy Living Group



You’re invited to join us at Healthy Living when we meet at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in the Elsea Room of the Prescott Public Library. We end in enough time for the hungry members to get to Lunch Bunch. This fall we will cover topics such as skin care, Bi-Polar Disorder, the benefits of Yoga, and brain health. Our topics vary and we never seem to run out of interesting subjects to discuss. Come join us!

Lynne Murphy



## Mah Jongg



Do you want to learn how to play? If you haven’t played for a while, do you want to brush up on forgotten rules and methods of play? Or, do you just want to join other AAUW members to play Mah Jongg? We invite you to join the group on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. at the Prescott Gateway Mall. We play for about 2 hours using

the *National Mah Jongg League, Inc* card. Please contact Laury Shayne or Edi Taylor-Richards (contact information in the Membership Directory) or contact [mahjongg@aauwprescott.net](mailto:mahjongg@aauwprescott.net) to join us or for more information.  
Edi Taylor-Richards



## Special Event Bike Ride



Several members have discussed organizing occasional group rides on some of the very easy mountain bike trails here in Prescott, such as the Peavine and Iron King Trails or parts of the Brownlow Trail. Some of us ride hybrid bikes, others pedal assist mountain bikes, and others ride regular mountain bikes. We are proposing a bike ride for about an hour with an optional picnic or wrap-up at a local cafe afterwards. We are including spouses or partners in this event.

If you would like to join this group we would be happy to have you. Since we are not actually an interest group at this point, there will be a sign-up sheet during the September meeting at the Special Events table. If you would like more information about this you can email Patti Allen-LaFleur. Her email can be found in the latest directory.

## In Memoriam – June Olson Ruth

July 11, 1925 – July 8, 2022.

June joined AAUW Prescott in July of 1995. She was a very active member for 27 years! During her career she had worked as a pediatric nurse and taught nursing. She was also active in the Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, serving as Secretary. After her husband died in 1999, June continued her very active life in Prescott and visiting various foreign countries. For memories of June shared by AAUW members and her official obituary [click on this link](#).

