



The Sun – September 2024

REGISTER NOW

AAUW ARIZONA FALL FORUM

Saturday, November 9, 2024

9:00 am- 3:00 pm

NOW WE LEAD

Featuring Keynote Speaker:

Melissa LaDuke

AAUW Board of Directors, Ph.D.

Afternoon Speaker:

Magdalena Verdugo, YWCA CEO of S. AZ

Ramada by Wyndham, Viscount Suites, Tucson East

**Cost: \$40 includes lunch pay by check or Zelle to
AAUW at 425-533-5770, or send a check to
Sandy Williamson, 2569 Leisure World, Mesa, AZ 85206**

ARIZONA FALL FORUM
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IN THIS ISSUE

AAUW Arizona Fall Forum	1
AZ – AAUW State Board 2023-24	2
AAUW Mission Statement	2
President’s Pen – Becky’s Musings	3
Now We Lead - Arizona AAUW Fall Forum	4
State Bylaws Revisions	5
Public Policy	6
School Board Elections	8
Branch Highlights	9
Books to Add to Your Reading List	13
Note from the Editors & Web Links	13

***AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through
 research, education, and advocacy.
 Empowering Women Since 1881***

President's Pen

Becky's Musings



It's the beginning of our year...at least for most of us we begin holding our general meetings in September. The State Board met in July and has already been busy setting up committees and planning events. We are in the midst of planning our Fall Forum which will be held in Tucson the 9th of November. The Forum will focus on leadership and the skills and resources necessary to lead our Branches. Please read the article in this newsletter for more details. Registration opened on September 1.

While the Board on the whole has met via Zoom, it is wonderful to be able to meet at least once a year in person. We will do so on November 8, the afternoon before Fall Forum. We encourage all Branch Presidents to attend.

What is our focus this year? Our new Public Policy chairs Betsy Flaten and Beverly Byrd are working to deepen our Public Policy programming throughout all of our Branches. They have developed a Public Policy manual which should help each Branch organize and lead programs that will energize and motivate our members to participate in Public Policy.

We, as the State Board, want to provide more support and resources to the branches. We recognize that our State organization is most effective if we are available to provide assistance to the branches so they can be successful. We also are continuing to support both full reproductive health care and funding for schools.

Many of us joined AAUW for the issues it supports. In our culture today it concerns many of us that our issues appear to be partisan. They are not. Our issues relate not to political party but to women's rights. We focus on empowering women. We focus on issues related to access to quality education; we provide financial support for women students; we work toward breaking those glass ceilings; we support pay equity; we endorse quality health care for women in all facets of a woman's life. We do this through research, but we also do this through advocacy. Advocacy is political by definition, but it is not partisan.

I encourage each of you to be as active as possible in supporting our issues. We cannot let those whose positions oppose women's rights impede our involvement. We have worked as an organization for 150 years for women's rights. Let us not forget our organizational heritage. Let us be involved! Let us advocate for our issues. And, regardless of which political party you support, please vote. When every person votes, their voice is heard.

Have a great fall and I look forward to seeing you at Fall Forum.



Becky Gunn, President



Now We Lead Arizona AAUW Fall Forum - 2024

by Marge Whitman, Program Co-Vice President

Come with your friends to explore a woman-focused, refined, better approach to leadership! On November 9, 2024, in Tucson, Arizona, AAUW women from around the state will listen, learn, and share their stories with each other, to deepen our understanding of this new way of leading

Two outstanding leaders, one a national AAUW officer, **Melissa LaDuke, Chair of the Board's Inclusion and Equity Committee**, and the other, **Magdalena Verdugo, CEO of the YWCA Southern Arizona**, will share, through an interactive interview process, their experiences and insights into successfully leading organizations. The focus of this transformative leadership style is not a checklist of schedules and agendas, but rather a revelatory discussion of the values and tools that will facilitate member involvement and participation in fulfilling the purposes and projects of the organization.

We are privileged to have worked with **Linda Alepin, a nationally-recognized author and educator**, as a leading organizer in the Fall Forum's focus, who has shared with us her knowledge of internationally successful leadership. Each attendee will receive a copy of her book, *Shifting Context: Leadership Springs from Within*. There will be an opportunity over lunch to network and share wisdom on how to successfully lead not only your Branches, but also how to connect with organizations that share our AAUW values and mission—equity for all.

There will be humor and humility, respect and caring,

Please plan to come and make new friends, explore Tucson, and grow your commitment to AAUW.
(Tucson Viscount Suites, 9 am to 3 pm. Special Room Rates available, information on the Registration Form on page 1)



State Bylaws Revisions



The State Board has approved a few revisions to our State Bylaws. In order for them to be officially approved, a member vote is required. This vote will occur at the Fall Forum where there will be a short business meeting to consider and then hopefully pass these revisions. In order for there to be a voting quorum at the business meeting there MUST be representation from a majority of active branches. The Board would appreciate participation at this meeting from all Branches.

You will receive an official notification of the vote no later than October 1st.

Revision 1: Change Term Length of Presidency

Currently the President serves a two-year term after serving as President-Elect for the second year of the previous President's term. The suggested by-law revision reduces the President's term to one year followed by a one-year term as "Past President." The President-Elect is elected to serve in that office for the one-year term of the President.

Rationale: The workload of the President is at times very heavy and asks a great deal of the individual serving as President. With the new revision, the person in essence has the obligation to serve on the Board for three years, but it will be less stressful and demanding.

Revision 2: Adding a Treasurer-Elect

Currently the Treasurer serves a two-year term and then turns the office over to a newly elected Treasurer. The suggested revision calls for the election of a Treasurer-Elect in the second year of the Treasurer's term.

Rationale: There is currently no mentoring/training of a new Treasurer which makes it more likely that the Treasurer will not understand the multitude of duties and complexities of the position when they begin the position. The revision allows for a one-year training period for the Treasurer's position, thus making the transition from Treasurer to Treasurer go more smoothly.

Revision 3: Public Policy position moves from Chair to Vice President

Currently the Public Policy Chair(s) is an Appointed Position. This revision changes Public Policy to an Elected office as Vice President.

Rationale: Public Policy is the foundation for AAUW. We exist in large part to educate and advocate for public policy – the rights of women. Because it is the center of our focus, it is important that we make Public Policy part of our Executive Committee which consists of our elected officers.

If you have any concerns / questions about these revisions, please contact Becky Gunn at ubecky@gmail.com

Public Policy Announcement

By Beverly Byrd, Co-Chair



With the Arizona Abortion Access Act (Proposition 139) on the November ballot, Arizona for Abortion Access kicked off an educational campaign on September 7-8. It was hosted by Arizona for Abortion Access; the events were opportunities to educate the public on the Proposition and its impact on women.

As one of their supporting organizations, this is an opportunity for AAUW-Arizona members to celebrate getting Prop 139 on the ballot and discuss next steps as we head to November.

For other events in your area, check:
mobilize.us/arizonaforabortionaccess



**by Betsy Flaten and Beverly Byrd
AAUW Arizona Public Policy Co-Chairs**

Politically, 2024 has been a year to remember, which is why it is so critical our voices are heard and our votes counted. Besides the Presidential election, state and local elections impact our lives—who will populate Arizona’s future political positions, who will control the Arizona house and the Arizona senate and decide key propositions and amendments at the state level. So how do we go about ensuring that the state legislators, school board officers, and state Supreme Court justices represent our values and positions on key issues?

Knowledge is power.

- * Educate yourself on each candidate’s stance.
- * Do the candidates’ beliefs and agenda align with not just your values, but also with the AAUW priorities and goals?
- * How will the candidates’ stance on propositions and amendments affect women’s rights and liberties?
- * How have they voted in the past on these issues?
- * Educate yourself on the propositions and amendments through the print material distributed prior to the election.

Vote the entire ballot.

- * With 11 propositions and 3 amendments on the Arizona ballot, voter fatigue can set in, resulting in “ghosted” ballots, in which voting occur only for top presidential and state candidates.
- * Arizona’s ballot could easily be 2 - 3 pages long.

Know your state’s voting dates and mail-in deadlines.

- * Early voting varies by state, with some states as early as September 20 to those states without early voting.
- * Arizona early voting starts October 9.

With knowledge and nonpartisan conversations, we can empower other voters to vote knowledgeably.

- * Participate in educating other voters about the candidates and issues. Politics, as we know, can be a volatile subject, but choosing to educate voters on issues and candidates can be done in a nonpartisan way.

Engage younger voters.

- * A recent poll found that 57% of youth, ages 18-34, are likely to vote in 2024 with another 15% “fairly” likely to vote.
- * Education on the candidates and issues is key to this block of voters.

November’s elections could empower or disenfranchise women’s rights and freedom of choice. No matter the outcome, we will continue to engage and educate voters.



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: CRITICAL FOR OUR CHILDREN!!

You, a responsible citizen, are standing in a ballot box, scanning a 2-to-3-page ballot. Along with voting on other candidates and amendments, you scan the school board candidates. You realize that most, if not all, of the names are unfamiliar. *Hmmmm, you think, I have no idea who to vote for. Really, does it matter? It's just the school board.*

Why is it critical that you be informed about the school board candidates? In national elections, many people skip or “ghost” their school board candidates because they appear at the end of the ballot, long after voter fatigue sets in. It’s even worse for local elections when only 10% of the voting population shows up to vote in their school board elections.

Yes, it really does matter. The Public School Board sets policies for the administration of the district, oversees the superintendent who is responsible for the day-to-day operations, determines the quality of the buildings your child spends their days in. They approve the curriculum for your child’s classroom, select the textbooks your child reads, and the online programs your child logs countless hours on. They assess safety procedures during emergencies and choose the bus company that ferries your child home.

Know your school board candidates. Understanding their stance on critical issues will make you a better-informed voter. Consider the following questions:

- * What would be their budgeting priorities?
- * How would they ensure that all students have access to a diverse and historically accurate curriculum?
- * How would they respond to challenges to books or the curriculum?
- * What is their understanding of the importance of Title IX and how to ensure the law is enforced?
- * How would they ensure that all students have access to high level STEM courses?
- * How would they ensure that all students feel safe and included at school, regardless of their ability, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual identity?
- * What is their attitude toward the authorization of charter schools in the district?
- * Are any of their policies antithetical to AAUW Arizona’s public policy priority to ensure “equal access to quality public education for all students” including “access to diverse curriculum that represents historically accurate information.”

Knowing a candidate’s background, previous voting record and stance on critical issues that reflect AAUW priorities and values is key to ensuring the best candidate will secure that school board position.



East Mesa

by **Janice Dill**
President

East Mesa AAUW Sponsors Stick 2 Reading Program

The East Mesa AAUW supported the Mesa Public Schools Foundation Stick 2 Reading program this summer. The program distributes books to kids on summer break.

Our AAUW group found out about the program from one of our members, Marcie Hutchinson, President of the Mesa School Board.

The program helps keep kids hooked on reading over the summer and provides them with free lunch in addition to books. The program started during the pandemic and has grown since then. Marcie is pictured with one of the books distributed.

This summer, about \$25,000 worth of books were distributed at different locations with the Mesa Public Schools. The program is open not only to students in the Mesa Public Schools; any school-aged student can participate.



The program depends on volunteers to purchase and distribute the books. Members of the East Mesa AAUW were on hand to help. This program took place in June, 2024, and changed locations every week. It also included an evening at the Mesa Public Library that included free books, interactive storytelling, and reading activities for all ages. Our branch was thrilled to be a part of this activity; we are exploring other opportunities to volunteer with the Mesa Public Schools. The money we contributed to the program was made available from the Vilet Larney Trust.

The STEM Gap

When it comes to 'innate' abilities, there's zero evidence to support the notion that boys are better at math and science. Yet these limiting stereotypes persist.



Green Valley

by Amy Perlick, Co-President



Past and Current Branch Presidents

The Green Valley Branch celebrated their 50th Anniversary at our annual Spring Brunch on April 16.

We were honored to welcome Becky Gunn, AZ AAUW President, as keynote speaker. Becky spoke about the importance of committing to the AAUW mission by advocating for universal access to quality, affordable health care for women, funding and access to quality public education, and programs for education, training, and support for women's success in the workforce.

We also honored 14 Past Presidents, and a new Honorary Life Member.

It was a fitting tribute to the many women who have contributed to the Branch's success and growing membership.



“Keeping Girls in School “

The Green Valley branch was once again a recipient of a Community Action Grant from the state AAUW. They use the money to fund our “Keeping Girls in School” initiative, which provides feminine hygiene products to the local K-8 school.

On August 13, members of the “Keeping Girls in School” steering committee met with the school nurse to deliver the product.

The branch will also be accepting in-kind donations of feminine hygiene products at our monthly meetings to distribute to three other locations in southern Arizona.

Last spring the branch awarded

\$1500 scholarships

to Pima Community College to

five worthy candidates.

Our annual fundraising event

supports these scholarships.

Northwest Valley

by **Rosemary Dougherty**
President

Our 2024-2025 year is going to be filled with food for the mind, body, and soul.

I am beginning this message by stating that I am extremely grateful for the outstanding people who fill the Board and appointed positions for this term. A fabulous team. We will work together for the betterment of our Branch and keep our title of the largest Branch in the State of Arizona.

A lot was accomplished over the Summer. The Budget Committee met and drafted a budget in July. The Board will approve a final budget to be presented to the membership at the General Meeting on September 19.

We once again have an active STEM Committee, chaired by Gloria Fried and Shelby Merwin. They already have donations to get their work started. There has not been a STEM Committee since I was President in 2018-2019. I am so thrilled.

Our “firecracker” Program Chair Jeanie Pennington has worked tirelessly for all of you. You can review meeting topics and speakers in the Branch calendar, posted as details are confirmed. Kudos to Jeanie!

I wish to thank all of the Summer Survivor Hostesses. The luncheons were marvelous and a successful vehicle to keep us in touch with each other.

I look forward to seeing you all at our first General Meeting on Thursday, September 19 at 9:00am at the Sun City West Foundation. A light continental Breakfast will be served before the meeting.

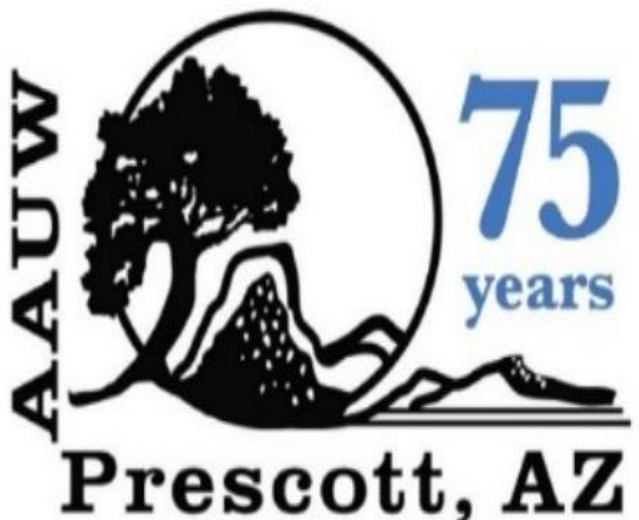
Now is the time to come together in support of our Mission and keep AAUW vital as an organization. We must increase our efforts to ensure gender equality for all women and girls.

Prescott

by **Miriam Haubrich**
President

- ✚ Prescott AAUW is gearing up for an exciting fall of programs and service. September voter registration at our 3 colleges and universities.
- ✚ Our members will encourage registration as students start their fall semester.
- ✚ New members and veteran members will have the opportunity to seek new interests and switch things around a bit as they survey what's available at the interest group tables.
- ✚ The September meeting is again being held at the lovely Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College.

**What more can you want as
we start a new year of . . .
service, community, and
moving our mission on.!**



Scottsdale

by Alice Buck
President

Spring and Summer 2024 have been busy times for Scottsdale Branch. First in line: We have been working to bring in many new transfer members from Phoenix Branch—about 15 right now.

We are still working with National to sort out who has brought her membership over to us. We are looking forward eagerly to incorporating the Phoenix Branch members and their long legacy into Scottsdale Branch as we all work to bring AAUW's mission of equity and education for women and girls to Arizona.

And Lennie Andrews from Phoenix Branch is now our Co-Vice President Finance, a great help. Another project which we worked on all year long with Program Coordinator Linda Nance, bringing it to fruition in the spring, was our **Adopt-A-Book program**, which we have done for over 13 years.

We gather new or slightly used kids' books for a Title 1 school, then sort them and put an AAUW bookplate in the front of each include an AAUW bookmark.

This year we gave over 470 books to Hohokam Elementary School, and we were assisted on Distribution Day by the Student Leadership group from Hohokam met us to assist with unloading and getting the books into the school.

The students were very excited and eager to be the first to select their books!



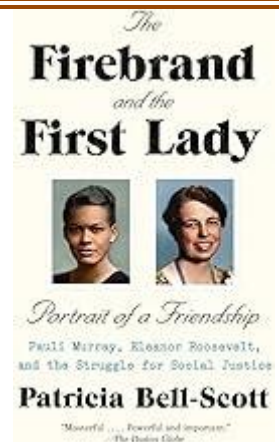
Books by AAUW Fellows & Grantees to Add to Your Reading List

The Firebrand and the First Lady:

Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice

by Patricia Bell-Scott

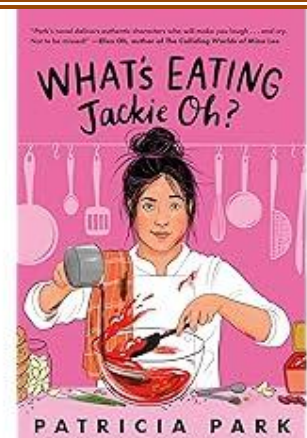
The riveting history of how Pauli Murray—a brilliant writer-turned activist—and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt forged an enduring friendship that helped to alter the course of race and racism in America.



What's Eating Jackie Oh?

by Patricia Park

A Korean American teen tries to balance her dream to become a chef with the cultural expectations of her family when she enters the competitive world of a TV cooking show. A hilarious and heartfelt YA novel from the award-winning author of Imposter Syndrome and Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim and Re Jane.



ARIZONA SUN

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Please submit all articles to both emails.

Please format in Microsoft Word and photos as Jpeg.

Next Deadline: October 31, 2024

USEFUL LINKS

AAUW Arizona State <https://www.aauwarizona.org/>

AAUW National <https://www.aauw.org/>

