



# Valley View

## Co-President's Message



Unlike many of our members, I was never a teacher. My career was in association management, mostly professional member associations. And in those roles, I was often responsible for membership recruitment and retention. There was a common phrase in all the organizations: **members are our greatest asset**. I remembered that truism when I

attended our branch's New Member Tea last month. The gathering was organized by Alice Sowards, membership vice president, and Bev Peake, membership vice president-elect, who opened her home for the event. They hosted eight of our ten new members along with current members and board members.

What was special about this event for me was that I got to meet and talk with some of our new members. But also, it was wonderful to see how engaged everyone was. There were lively conversations and interesting observations and enthusiasm. Linda Winterland came well-prepared to describe our Interest Groups and activities to the new members, replete with handouts. Current members shared their interest group experiences, with several noting Exploring Women's Culture as a favorite. Marie Cory, former co-president and Honored Member, recounted the history and the importance of our Keeping Girls in School initiative. As she pointed out, we strive to support our scholarship program, but Keeping Girls in School is also important. If we don't help these girls now, they won't be applying for scholarships later. The book groups, our St. Andrew's Children's Clinic support project, and Needles and More—all were noted. And all members, especially the new members, were encouraged not only to participate in Interest Groups, but to propose ideas for new groups.

(Continued on next page)

### Board Meeting:

10:00 a.m., Monday,  
December 1, 2025  
Via Zoom

### General Meeting:

9:00 a.m. (social) 9:30  
(program), Tuesday,  
December 16, 2025  
3rd Tuesday of the month  
Canoa Hills Center,  
3660 S. Camino del Sol.

### Website:

<https://greenvally-az.aauw.net>

### Next Valley View Deadline:

Articles: December 20 to  
valleyviewgv@gmail.com

### Calendar items:

December 15 to Henne  
Queisser

**Cards (condolences, get well, etc.):** Stacie Meyer



[Follow us on Facebook](#)

### Membership:

Alice Sowards at  
gvmembership@gmail.com

### Mailing Address:

AAUW Green Valley Branch  
PO Box 178  
Green Valley, AZ  
85622-0178

## Co-President's Message - continued

We have some very interesting new members! Look for the red ribbons on badges that identify them. Please take time to get to know new members and help them feel welcome. You and our new members are all our greatest asset!

You can read on pages 9-10 about the AAUW Arizona Fall Forum in Sun Lakes, just south of Phoenix. I was fortunate to attend and found it inspiring and informative. Feedback from the luncheon discussion groups, which focused on generating new ideas and sharing success stories, should prove helpful as our Public Policy team works on our advocacy efforts. There is a lot to think about, and a lot to do.

Also, kudos and many thanks to Paula Kulina and Judi Brauns who stepped up when our November meeting speaker could not attend due to Covid. With less than 24 hours to prepare, both did a great job! You can read all about it on page 8.

Emily Dickinson described Thanksgiving as a day “celebrated part at table, part in memory.” I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, one that brought fond new memories with friends and family. I will also take the opportunity to wish everyone Happy Holidays. Enjoy this very special time of the year!

***Nancy Puckett***

### **December Program: What is Dyslexia and Why Does it Matter?**

Our planned speaker for December is unavailable, so our Program Committee has put together a new outstanding program for us.

**Tuesday, December 16, 9:00 a.m. (social) and 9:30 (program)**

**Canoa Hills Center, 3660 Camino del Sol**

Dr. Jan Spooner, Principal of Sopor Elementary School in Amado, has done extensive research on the topic of dyslexia. For the last decade she has been working to design and facilitate professional development about dyslexia within schools, and to work with families to reach a better understanding of dyslexia.

**We hope you will join us!**

**Out to Lunch Bunch is responsible for bringing treats to the December meeting**

## Upcoming General Meeting Programs 2025-26

| Date   | Topic   | Presenter   |
|--|---|---|
| January 20<br><b>New location!</b><br><b>See below</b> | Beef, Wheat & Chiltepín: Sonora's Culinary Heritage     | Alex LaPierre, co-founder of Borderlandia                                     |
| February 17  | From Girdles and Gloves to the Glass Ceiling and Beyond | Bonnie Boyce-Wilson, Debbie Hansen<br>AAUW Arizona "We Made History!" Project |

### Beginning in January 2026: new location and new time!

Our general meetings will be at:

**La Posada Recreation Center**  
**685 S. La Posada Circle #37**  
**Green Valley, AZ 85614**

Social time will begin at 1 p.m. and the program will start promptly at 1:30. We will be done by 3 p.m.

Detailed directions to the new location will be provided at the December general meeting and will be published in the January Valley View.



### Keeping Girls in School needs your help!

Would you be willing to help out at the **Keeping Girls in School** table at one general meeting? **Joyce Davison** is doing a terrific job managing this valuable program by herself. It would be wonderful if five volunteers over five meetings could support her by joining her at the program table where she provides information and collects donations. Let **Gerry Peterson** or Joyce know if you can help.

## Membership Corner

A warm welcome to our newest member, Regina Collins, who joined us in October. Our newest members are recognizable at general meetings because they wear a red ribbon on their name badges. That makes it easy for you to introduce yourself and include them in Interest Groups and activities.

Thanks to those who have renewed their memberships! Remember that renewal forms are available at each general meeting and on the AAUW Green Valley website. Several members have renewal dates before the end of the year. You can easily check your renewal date on the sign-in sheet at general meetings, or you can contact the Membership Committee at [gvmembership@gmail.com](mailto:gvmembership@gmail.com). See you at the next meeting—and bring a friend!

***Alice Sowards***

***VP Membership, and Membership Committee***

### **NEW MEMBER TEA**

On November 12, the Membership Committee held a New Member Tea at the home of Membership VP-elect Bev Peake. And a delightful setting it was, with panoramic close-up views of the Santa Rita Mountains! The committee provided a delicious array of sweet and savory treats. Add to that, warm and welcoming conversation, and we all enjoyed getting to know each other a little better!



*New members from left to right: **Donna Haas, Nina Campfield, Peg Evans-Brown, Alice McKenzie, Betty Johnson, Gina Collins, Gayle Ryer, Patti Nakoneczny***

(Membership Corner continued on next page)

## Membership Corner - continued

Eight of our newest members and 13 of our long-standing members attended. We piqued their interest in our Interest Groups, projects and Board positions. Linda Winterland led us off with a description of our current groups and an invitation to form new Interest Groups.

We took time for each member to give a thumbnail sketch of their life, original interest in AAUW, and the Interest Groups, projects, and positions they participate in or would like to join. Discussion was lively, thoughtful, funny, and at times poignant. Always on our mind was that AAUW members do important advocacy work for girls and women. Each new member was able to take home a little goody bag complete with a reference list of Interest Groups to contact. We look forward to having these newest members participate in our activities!



***Bev Peake, Membership VP-elect, and  
Alice Sowards, Membership VP***



***Marie Cory shows off the treat table***

## New Member Bios Information

If you're looking for bios of our new members, the Board recently voted to move them to a password-protected page in the Members Only section of the AAUW Green Valley website. This was done to protect their personal information since the Valley View is now accessible to anyone who searches the internet for it.

Please go to the [Green Valley Branch website](#) and click on Members Only. Enter the website password and you will be able to see all the resources available to members, PLUS the New Member Bios. If you are on a public computer, such as at the library, remember to close the page before leaving. If you don't close it, it stays accessible to anyone who uses the computer after you.



## Scholarship News

### You can help our Scholarship Fund with your jewelry donations!



The Board has asked Kraylen Miholer to once again sell our old jewelry, but this time it will benefit our scholarship program. Kraylen runs an EBay store that re-sells new and used jewelry, and she will re-sell all the **fine and costume jewelry** that's been sitting in your jewelry box for years and donate the proceeds to the branch **scholarship fund**.

Kraylen will be taking your jewelry donations at the December and January general meetings. Please put what you want to donate in a Ziploc bag with your name on/in it and anything interesting or differentiating about the pieces you are donating such as history, origin, or age of jewelry. You will be asked to sign a waiver agreeing that you won't receive any cash in exchange for the jewelry and that your donation is not tax deductible.

***Please remember to check drawers, shelves, and jewelry cases for those bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and pins you haven't worn in ages and are willing to donate.***

**Thank you -- you'd be surprised what sells!**

### Green Valley Branch represented at PCC Scholarship Fair

On November 18, 2025, Pima Community College held their annual Scholarship Fair. **Sharon Rezac-Andersen** and **Karen Lueck** represented the Green Valley Branch. Each year, the number of fair attendees has grown. This year it was estimated that there were more than 500 attendees. It is a wonderful opportunity to share information about our scholarship program with new and returning, full and part-time students.

(Scholarship News continued on next page)

## Scholarship News - continued

Attendees included people who are just graduating from high school as well as those seeking to make a change in their lives. In addition, we met other community groups who offer scholarships, as well as academic advisors from high schools and other colleges and universities.



***Sharon Rezac-Andersen and Karen Lueck at the Pima Community College Scholarship Fair***

We should all be very proud of our efforts to provide scholarships. Education is what unites AAUW members. Through our scholarship program, we are helping others receive the benefits that an education has offered us.

***Karen Lueck***  
***Chair, Philanthropy***

## AAUW National News

The National AAUW website provides in-depth information on the organization's policies and priorities. [Here](#) is a link to information on the work they have been doing to promote and advocate for social justice and full access to constitutional and civil rights across the American populace.

## November Meeting Recap

We had 45 members and 3 guests attending our November 18 general meeting. Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker was unable to attend due to a COVID diagnosis. Thanks to the generosity and experience of our membership, we were treated to two delightful and informative talks.



Member **Judi Brauns** told us about her experience as an ELL (English Language Learner) teacher, working with children speaking 11 languages in California, the Hmong in Minnesota, and Spanish speaking adults in Arizona. She cited “Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities,” which are the real challenges faced by ELL students, beyond just learning a new language. Judi shared some stories of immigrant communities continuing their cultural norms while in the United States.



Member **Paula Kulina** shared her genealogical research into her grandfather Harry Peary. She pieced together his colorful life, which started as Philip Shafer, by consulting military records, census records, and his death certificate available through Ancestry.com. She contacted the U.S. Navy and obtained his full personnel file, which hinted at the reason behind his name change.



## AAUW Arizona News

On Saturday, November 1, five AAUW Green Valley branch members travelled to Sun Lakes to participate in the AAUW Arizona Fall Forum 2025. The theme of the Forum “Hands Off Our History and Our Future!” was well-attended with over 80 women from all seven Arizona branches.



*AAUW Green Valley members attending the Fall Forum 2025, (from l to r): **Amy Perlick, Gerry Peterson, Sharon Rezac Andersen, Nancy Puckett, Gail Garrison***

The first speaker, Dr. Mary Logan Rothschild, gave a well-researched and captivating account of the history of the women’s movement, beginning with its ties to the abolition of slavery movement and continuing through the creation of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), to present-day efforts to undo many of the advances women have made in the last 50 years. As a professor at the University of Washington, Dr. Rothschild formed the Women’s Studies department in 1971.

(AAUW Arizona News continued on next page)

## AAUW Arizona News - continued

Dr. Melanie Sturgeon spoke about the importance of and need for saving and archiving women's oral histories. As the State Archivist of Arizona for 16 years, she was instrumental in the effort to get a statue of Frances Willard Munds erected in her honor at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza at the Arizona state capital. Munds was president of the Arizona Equal Suffrage Association and was instrumental in obtaining the right to vote for Arizona White women in 1912. (Black and Native American women did not earn the right to vote until the Voting Rights Act of 1965).

Bonnie Boyce-Wilson of the AAUW Northwest Valley Branch spoke about the impact on women and historically underrepresented groups caused by the loss of DEI programs. She urged us to "challenge the narratives driving the backlash [against DEI] and work toward creating workplaces where everyone has the opportunity to thrive." As a side note, Bonnie Boyce-Wilson will be speaking at our February general meeting along with Northwest Valley Branch member Debbie Hansen, about the AAUW Arizona "We Made History!" project.

During lunch, attendees were divided into random groups to brainstorm how to advocate on a variety of topics important to women, including access to healthcare, economic security at work and beyond, higher education, civil rights and DEI, and local schools and school boards.

Six AAUW branch members, including our own branch member Sharon Rezac Andersen, shared first-person stories of their roles in changing the world for women and girls.



***Jodi Liggett***

The day ended with a panel presentation about how a non-partisan effort to pass HB 2816 in the Arizona legislature was successful through the efforts of two Arizona representatives (one Democrat and one Republican) and advocates for the developmental disabilities program. One of the most powerful speakers was the 14-year-old sister of a boy with severe developmental issues who told us about her successful effort to arrange a meeting with a legislator who opposed the bill. It was a good lesson in bi-partisan advocacy. Jodi Liggett, founder of Arizona Center for Women's Advancement, introduced the panel by saying, "Honestly, this episode will be taught in future policy seminars and political science courses."

## Community Outreach News

### Upcoming Events: Save the Date!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Flag Raising  
Contacts: **Nancy Bodmer and Karen Lueck**

Monday, January 19, 2026

Rally to End Violence against Women and Girls  
Contact: **Libby Beyrer**

Saturday, February 14, 2026

**Save the Date**  
**Annual Rally to**  
**End Violence against**  
**Women and Girls**  
**Saturday**  
**February 14, 2026**  
**10 to 11 a.m.**

American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Green Valley

(Community Outreach News continued on next page)

## Community Outreach News - continued

We now have all the volunteers and trucks needed to raise the flags on January 19, 2026, for **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**. Stay tuned in December for information to prepare for the day's schedule. Flags are now located at the building behind Abrego South and we will have the exact location available soon.

Flags will still be raised at Continental Road to Esparanza. All trucks may want to take a trial run the day before just to be familiar with the new route. More information will be available later. Please contact **Nancy Bodmer** with any questions.

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We had to cancel our lunch making for the **St. Andrew's Children's Clinic** in November because they were unable to get the needed permits to get the children across the border for medical treatment due to our government shutdown. We are expecting that the clinic will be back up to speed in December, so we will be making lunches on December 3. The clinic cancellation for November meant we were also unable to conduct our planned member visit and tour of their facilities, but we will reschedule a visit in early 2026.

**Kraylen Miholer**

\*\*\*\*\*



Just a reminder that **Keeping Girls in School** can accept cash donations as well as products. You can purchase Always Teen pads, Always Liners, and hand wipes, and bring them to the KGIS table at our general meetings.



**Joyce Davison**  
**Keeping Girls in School Chair**

## Interest Group News

It's the season of giving so why not "gift" yourself by joining one or more of our Interest Groups? We have a variety!



Do you enjoy reading and discussing books? Check your schedule and sign up for **MOSTLY FICTION**, **FICTION**, **MYSTERY READERS** or **NONFICTION** book discussion groups. Reading lists are provided on the sign-up sheets at the general meetings.

If you'd like to celebrate various events/people/holidays/customs, then **EXPLORING WOMEN'S CULTURE** is for you. **NEEDLES AND MORE** welcomes those with creative interests...whether a needle is required or not! **MAH JONGG** is so popular that we play weekly. And who doesn't like to have lunch with friends? Sign up for our **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH**.



Come meet new friends and acquaint yourself with new ideas. Interest Groups allow friendships to develop. We always welcome new ideas for an Interest Group. Contact Linda Winterland.

**Linda Winterland**  
**Interest Group Chair**

## BEGINNING MAH JONGG CLASS



Back by popular demand is a Beginning Mah Jongg Class! We have a teacher and are looking at February dates. If you are interested in this class for true beginners (i.e. you don't know what the tiles are called and have never seen a Mah Jongg card), please contact Amy Perlick. As soon as we have a location and dates we will let you know.

If you already have some basic knowledge of the game, join us at our weekly games. We are always willing to help beginning players!



## Interest Groups Calendar

**Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m., Mostly Fiction Book Group** -- We will meet at the home of Mary Beth Kresnicka. Margret Bridgford will lead the discussion of *My Side of the River* by Elizabeth C. Gutierrez. Please let Mary Beth know if you plan to attend. Contact Liz Adams for more information.

**Dec. 4, 1:00 p.m., Exploring Women's Culture** -- We will meet to celebrate an early Winter Solstice, a time for reflection, renewal, and hope. This day symbolizes new beginnings, to embrace the darkness in oneself and the world. We will burn in the fireplace what we want to get rid of in 2025, as we acknowledge the first day of winter and coming of a New Year. Contact Sharon Rezac Andersen for more information.

**Dec. 8, 3:00 p.m. & Dec. 23, 9:00 a.m., Mah Jongg** -- Mah Jongg meets the second Monday of each month from 3-5 pm and the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9-11 am at La Perla's Apache Room in La Posada. We also try to schedule two pop-up games a month at Canoa Hills Rec Center. If you want to be informed about pop-up games, please email Amy Perlick to be added to the list.

**Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m., Afternoon Fiction** -- We will meet in the Apache Room in La Perla on the La Posada campus to discuss *Sipsworth* by Simon Van Booy. Pam Duchaine will lead the discussion. For more information, contact Kathy Davisson.

**Dec. 10, 1:30 p.m., Mystery Book Club** -- We will meet at the Sunset Ramada in Desert Meadows Park. Kraylen Miholer will lead the discussion on *Lost Hills* by Lee Goldberg. Contact Karen Lueck for more information.

**Dec. 19, 11:30 a.m., Out to Lunch Bunch** -- We will have a coffee hour at Posada Java. You may have lunch, visit with friends, and have a beverage of your choice and maybe a dessert. It will be a joyous occasion before the Christmas holiday. Please RSVP to Nancy Bodmer so she can arrange seating for you.

**Non-Fiction Book Group** -- Due to the hectic holiday season, there will be no meeting in December of the Non-Fiction Book Group. We will resume our meetings in January.

**Mondays, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Needles and More** -- The Needles and More interest group meets every Monday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Lantana Room in La Vista at La Posada. For more information, contact Pat Young.

**Contact Linda Winterland if you are interested in starting a new group.**

**Send calendar items to Henne Queisser by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

## AAUW Green Valley Board 2025-26

### Elected Officers

Co-Presidents  
Vice President Membership & Directory  
Vice President Membership Elect  
Treasurer  
Treasurer Elect  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Program Vice President  
Program Vice President Elect  
Nominating Committee

Nancy Puckett & Gerry Peterson  
Alice Sowards  
Bev Peake  
Gail Garrison  
Annie Stitt  
Sue Schmuck  
Stacie Meyer  
Paula Kulina  
Brenda Quick  
Sharon Lyons

### Appointed Positions

By-Laws  
Communications  
Community Outreach  
Fundraising  
Hospitality  
Parliamentarian  
Philanthropy  
Public Policy  
Newsletter Editor

Cynthia Surprise  
Claudia Levin  
Claudia Levin  
Vacant  
Kathy Davisson  
Jane Lateer  
Karen Lueck  
Judy Thut & Marilyn Kern  
Amy Perlick

### Ancillary Positions

Archivist/Historian  
Calendar  
Interest Groups  
National Funds  
Raffle  
Webmaster  
Assistant Webmaster  
Honored Members Committee  
Blast Chair  
St. Andrew's Clinic Lunches  
Keeping Girls in School

Pat Young  
Henne Queisser  
Linda Winterland  
Gail Garrison  
Ann Bradford & Marcia Salley  
Sara DeRouchey  
Henne Queisser  
Amy Perlick  
Kathy Davisson  
Kraylen Miholer  
Joyce Davison

## Valley View Notes

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**AAUW Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls  
through research, education, and advocacy.**