



Valley View

Co-President's Message



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you have all had a good holiday season. I say "good" because I am old enough to realize that Happy, Exciting, Full, are not necessarily words that describe our holidays any longer. So, we can each describe "good" for ourselves.

2026 offers a world of changes and opportunities for our branch. I find that exciting for a woman my age! We are moving our meetings to La Posada, freeing up many hundreds of dollars to be used for other expenses. We are meeting at 1 p.m. instead of 9 a.m. and who knows how that will change our schedules. And we are planning an arrangement with the Pima Community College Foundation to streamline our scholarship award process as well as providing an opportunity for scholarship donations to be made through a 501(c)(3) organization. This will make donations tax deductible and eligible as a Qualified Charitable Donation from a retirement fund. PHEW.

I would like to thank the members who were so attentive and agreeable to my presentation of these plans at last month's meeting. We are all working toward the same goals and your willingness to work within our plans is heartening. We need your ideas and assistance to reach those goals, and I know you will come through.

Enough excitement. I was moved by the presentation on dyslexia last month by Dr. Spooner. Didn't we all know fellow students in our classes as children who had reading difficulties, and for our members who are teachers, I am certain this issue was ever present. I can only hope that

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting:

10:00 a.m., Monday,
January 5, 2026
Via Zoom

General Meeting:

1:00 p.m. (social) 1:30
(program), Tuesday,
January 20, 2026
3rd Tuesday of the month,
La Posada Recreation
Center, 685 S. La Posada
Circle #37, Green Valley

Website:

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

Next Valley View Deadline:

Articles: January 24 to
valleyviewgv@gmail.com

Calendar items:

January 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
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Green Valley, AZ
85622-0178

Co-President's Message – continued

all school systems are as intent on tackling this issue and helping these children as the Sahuarita School system seems to be.

Next month looks to be just as interesting with a presentation by Alex La Pierre on Sonora's Culinary Heritage. As an Easterner, I find the rich, and vastly different, heritage of the Southwest fascinating.

Happy news that the mad women of the Mah Jongg group will grow larger in February when the classes for new players are complete. See the note in Interest Groups about how to sign up.

Our thanks to Nancy Bodmer and her crew of volunteers who will be putting up (and taking down) American flags on La Cañada for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 19th. This is a proud tradition for our branch.

I know that there are many members happy to see a resurgence of our Public Policy group. Marilyn Kern has written about their most recent focus and activities for this issue.

Please remember our Keeping Girls in School program with supplies or a donation.

One more reminder: have you checked your jewelry box and dresser drawers for that costume jewelry you no longer (or never did) wear? As Kraylen says, "You would be surprised what sells." Our Scholarship Fund will thank you.

THIS MONTH AT LA POSADA!

Gerry Peterson

Women in Herstory

Jane Austen is remembered by most of us as an excellent writer, most famously as the author of "Pride and Prejudice" (1813), a novel that reveals the limited roles of women, class and marriage. She never married, prioritizing her writing career and independence while not wanting to sacrifice her freedom. The 1800s for women demanded domestic duties, which would have limited her time for novels. Her life of artistic fulfillment over expectations of matrimony shaped her legacy as a writer and enriched all our lives. She is quick to critique social norms and limitations faced by women in her lifetime, revealing the everyday lives of women and the challenges they faced. Her core themes, sharp critique, and insights into human nature remain profoundly relevant today, making her books classics for all time.

Sharon Rezac Andersen

January Program: Beef, Wheat & Chiltepín: Sonora's Culinary Heritage

Tuesday, January 20, 1:00 p.m. (social) and 1:30 (program)

La Posada Recreation Center
685 S. La Posada Circle #37
Green Valley



Alex La Pierre

(619) 777 0040
info@borderlandia.org



borderlandia.org

Find out how the confluence of geography, environments, cultures, economics, and religion shaped the culinary culture of the Sonoran Desert in this seminar with historian Alex La Pierre. If you ever wondered what makes Sonoran cuisine unique and what sets it apart from Mexican gastronomy, this program is for you.

We hope you will join us!

Needles and More is responsible for bringing treats to the January meeting

Upcoming General Meeting Programs 2026

Date	Topic	Presenter
February 17	From Girdles and Gloves to the Glass Ceiling and Beyond	Bonnie Boyce-Wilson, Debbie Hansen AAUW Arizona "We Made History!" Project
March 17	Current Borderland Issues/Status	Marilyn Kern , AAUW Green Valley Branch member, will moderate a panel discussing desert searches and water drops, border watches and federal immigration court hearings.

It's Here! New location and new time!

Our general meetings will now be held 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.

Directions:

Enter the La Posada campus off Continental on **Park Centre Drive** just as you would if you were going to Posada Java.

Drive past Posada Java to the first stop sign at **Morningstar Drive**.

Turn left on Morningstar and take that to the next stop sign at **La Posada Circle**.

Turn left on La Posada Circle and keep *right* as it curves around. You will soon see signs for the Recreation Center, which will be on your right.

The AAUW sign will be at the parking lot entrance.

Parking is limited so carpooling is recommended.

Member News

Member **Sharon Lyons** was featured in the December 13 issue of the Green Valley News for her role in starting the Rancho Resort food drive 18 years ago. This year the food drive raised more than \$7,000 with 26 volunteer neighbors involved. Annual proceeds from the drive, which takes place the first Saturday in December, go to Sahuarita Food Bank and Resource Center. Sharon had nine years of experience organizing food drives in her neighborhood in Toledo, WA. We are so proud of Sharon and her Rancho Resort neighborhood for serving our community so well!

Membership Corner

To both new and long-term members—thanks for attending the general meeting! Be on the lookout for red ribbons on nametags if you want to meet someone new! Thanks to long-term members for including these new folks in conversation and activities.

At the December meeting, the Membership Committee was delighted to see that members are starting to look for their renewal date when they sign in! If you haven't noticed, your renewal date appears next to your sign-in check box. Since it can be confusing, I've sent out a reminder to those whose membership was due this fall, and I'll email the December renewal group as well! If you're still feeling in the dark, contact the Membership Committee at gvmembership@gmail.com. We always have renewal forms handy during general meetings, and forms are also available on the website.

The Committee is losing a valued member as **Pam Duchaine** steps away after several years. You'll still see her smiling face at general meetings! Happy New Year, Everyone!

Alice Sowards

VP Membership, and Membership Committee



Membership Committee members **Alice McKenzie** and **Alice Sowards** (left) and **Pat Young** and **Pam Duchaine** (right) greet members and guests at the monthly general meetings

AAUW Arizona News

The Board of AAUW Arizona has approved a **Gun Violence Resolution** and is asking that AAUW members contact their elected officials and public office candidates to support measures to decrease gun violence. You can read the full resolution [here](#) on our branch Public Policy page. Scroll down to Public Policy Resources. It lays out very clearly the devastating impact of gun violence in our society and the advocacy that AAUW Arizona will engage in to bring clarity and common-sense strategies to combat gun violence.

Remember that if you are using the AAUW name in any communication to the media (i.e. editorials, social media, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor) it must first be approved by the Board.

Scholarship News

Help our Scholarship Fund with your jewelry donations!



This month is your last opportunity to donate your old jewelry to benefit our branch's scholarship program. **Kraylen Miholer** is re-selling all your fine and costume jewelry that's been sitting in your jewelry box. She runs an eBay store and will be donating the proceeds from the jewelry sale to the scholarship fund.

Bring any old jewelry to the **January general meeting**. 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.

(Scholarship News continued on next page)



Green Valley, AZ Branch
Scholarship Drive 2026

Over the years our branch has helped fund many Pima Community College students in their pursuit of higher education and a better life. Your donation will help us continue this important initiative—and be an investment in the future.

Please make your check payable to AAUW-GV, noting "Scholarship" in the memo line.

Mail to: AAUW-GV Scholarships
P.O. Box 178
Green Valley, AZ 85622

Donation Options: *Every donation is meaningful and appreciated!*

One way to look at it:

\$25 _____ Please, just don't ask me to bring cookies.

\$50 _____ I don't want to peddle products to friends and family.

\$100 _____ I do not want to walk, run or swim in any event.
Here's the money I would have raised.

Other Amount \$_____ I am making this donation to express my sincere
appreciation for having nothing to clip, buy, sell or do, except
fill out this form.

Note: We are currently investigating an option that would allow scholarship donations to qualify for 501 (c)(3) tax benefits; we will know more early in the new year. In the meantime, AAUW-GV is not a 501(c)(3) organization; tax deductions do not apply.

Please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email / Phone: _____

AAUW member: yes _____ no _____

December Meeting Recap

We had 48 members and four guests at our December 16 general meeting, including our speaker's parents! Our speaker was Dr. Jan Spooner, principal at Sopori Elementary School in Amado. She has been with the Sahuarita Unified School District since 2008. In addition to a bachelor's degree in journalism, she has three master's degrees and a Ph.D. For the last decade, she has been working to design and facilitate professional development about dyslexia within schools and families.



Dr. Jan Spooner, principal of Sopori Elementary School

Dr. Spooner presented research from reading specialists that affirm that one in five children have dyslexia and that it is often hereditary. It can range from mild to severe but the earlier it is discovered, the less work it takes to correct. Children with dyslexia are often labeled “lazy” by parents and teachers, but the real problem is actually a neurobiological “glitch” in how the brain processes and decodes words.

To appreciate how dyslexia intervention (or non-intervention) can harm or help, consider this statistic: 47% of all prison inmates have dyslexia and 48% of the world's richest people have dyslexia. It all comes down to money and who has access to specialized intervention.

Funding for dyslexia programs in schools does not begin to cover the costs for interventions that students need. Extensive tutoring with a reading specialist can often turn frustrated non-readers into prolific readers and successful leaders in the arts, business, politics, and academia.

For an informational TED-Ed video entitled “What is Dyslexia?” click [here](#).

Public Policy



Our seven-member local AAUW group has met two times since October. Our focus for now and throughout 2026 will be on informing everyone about how the state and national elections next year will affect us locally. Following our state AAUW Public Policy priorities, our major focus will be on public education: pre-K through community college level, and on women's and family health care. Our interest in these issues involves the effect political and legislative decisions have on our local children, young girls, women, and families.

The committee decided to start with our public libraries in Green Valley and Sahuarita and our only Green Valley public school, Continental. **Susan James** and **Alice McKenzie** went to both public libraries, which are operating under the rules and regulations of the Pima County Library system. The Sahuarita Library is situated close to Sahuarita High School, Middle School and one elementary school. Because of its location, this beautiful new library serves many more purposes than a traditional library. It is a community gathering spot, first class! After school is the busiest time. There are game rooms, computer rooms, music rooms, special activities of all kinds, and even snack options—purchasable, of course. How all this will work in the future is still a question. Presently, all libraries are providing a much-needed, well-used and appreciated public library service. Our public library's future is anyone's guess.

Susan and Alice found out that Sahuarita Library has a very well-planned and thought-through request form for anyone who wants to change or suggest changes in book selections and/or areas of display. We have a copy if anyone would like to see it. So far, there have been no significant or worrisome concerns from parents.

Alice Sowards and **Marilyn Kern** made their visit to Continental School which is pre-K through 8th grade. Their visit was with the school librarian and the technology coordinator. It was an excellent visit. Parental involvement is superb and very supportive. All classrooms have their own libraries which the students, parents, and teachers keep well-stocked. Serious efforts are made throughout the school to encourage reading and technical knowledge. The immense library has specific sections dedicated to the grade levels of the school. Everything seemed very effective. Another visit will be made to ask questions about curriculum in grades 6-8.

(Public Policy continued on next page)

Public Policy – continued

Continental School, like all Arizona schools including Sopori in Amado (Sopori is part of the Sahuarita Unified School District) is required to follow the rules and regulations of the Arizona Department of Education. Some of those rules are set by the state legislature, some by overlays from the federal government, and some are just state education department rules.

As this committee follows through on education this year, we will keep you informed about the changes that seem to be brewing for these libraries on issues of DEI and sexuality. Next month we hope to have a report for you about health care provisions for women and families.

Speaker on Immigration Issues

Alyson Ball, who has spoken at several AAUW Green Valley meetings, will be presenting “How Did We Get Here? 2025 U.S. Immigration Policy at the Southern Border and Within.” Her presentation will take place on Wednesday, January 14, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church of Green Valley, 300 W. Esperanza Blvd. The presentation will also be on Zoom. Registrants will receive a Zoom link via email prior to the event. It is free but donations are welcome.

U.S. immigration has changed significantly during 2025 and will undoubtedly continue to evolve during 2026. Executive Orders and Department of Homeland Security policy and procedure changes have radically altered the immigration landscape throughout the country. During this presentation, Ball will review what occurred during 2025, explore how border issues influenced the national situation, and discuss how national policies are impacting both the southern border and interior communities nationwide.

This program is sponsored by Border Community Alliance. Register to attend at bordercommunityalliance.org and click on “Tours & Programs”

AAUW National News

AAUW National has a host of informative webinars on social justice, advocacy, professional development, STEM, and membership. Take a look at the recent “Table Talks: Tips for Bold Conversations,” from the AAUW Inclusion and Equity Committee, at this [YouTube link](#).

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
See next page for details

MLK Day Flag Raising: All volunteers and drivers have been contacted. We are awaiting assignments until pick-up location of the flags is known. Once the location is known, a letter will go out to all volunteers. Thank you for your help raising the flags on La Cañada on this very important holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.



KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL of Continental School THANKS YOU for the different sanitary products you have gifted to us and wish you all Happy New Year! Please remember us in 2026 because our periods will continue as we continue to change and grow.



Joyce Davison
Chair, Keeping Girls in School

(Community Outreach News continued on next page)

Annual Rally
to
End Violence against
Women and Girls

Aka 1 Billion and Rising—Rise for Freedom! <https://www.onebillionrising.org>

Saturday
February 14, 2026
10 to 11 a.m.

Intersection of La Canada and Esperanza
Green Valley

If you can, please wear red or purple and
carry an appropriate sign

Rules & Requests

Invite Family and Friends to Join Us
Stand on corners only (not medians)
Don't jay walk — Don't stand in the street
Don't block traffic or pedestrians
Stay off private property
Be Energetic! Smile! Wave!

Women, Girls and Transgender Females are Not Safe
Help Us Raise Awareness - Stand with Us!

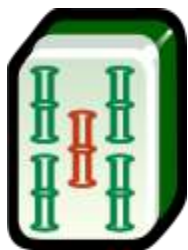
American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Green Valley

Interest Group News

New year! New opportunities! Check out one or more of our Interest Groups to join. Your presence will enhance the group, and you will be enriched in return!

Linda Winterland
Interest Group Chair

BEGINNING MAH JONGG CLASS



Back by popular demand is a Beginning Mah Jongg Class! We will meet in the Game Room at La Perla in La Posada. AAUW member Diane Mikolyzk has enthusiastically offered to teach the class.

The classes will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 2, Wednesday, Feb. 4, and Monday, Feb. 9. You should plan to attend all three classes. 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**.

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

EXPLORING WOMEN'S CULTURE

The **Exploring Women's Culture** Interest Group celebrated the Winter Solstice on December 4 at the home of **Sharon Rezac Andersen**. As is custom for this celebration, attendees wrote on paper whatever they wanted to change or rid themselves of for next year and burned the paper in the fireplace. This ritual is accompanied by attendees drumming on Karen Lueck's steel tongue drum. In addition, the attendees placed peace branches in the Ukrainian Peace Tree.



Gail Garrison drums while **Karen Lueck** and **Lorelei Schober** look on.



Interest Groups Calendar

Jan. 6, 9:30 a.m., *Mostly Fiction Book Group* – We will meet at the home of Paula Kulina. Paula will lead the discussion of *You Dreamed of Empires* by Alvero Enrique. Please let Paula know if you plan to attend. Contact Liz Adams for more information.

Jan. 8, 1:00 p.m., *Exploring Women's Culture* –We will meet at Sharon Rezac Andersen's home to usher in the New Year. We will discuss our optimism and a chance to embrace new beginnings, including what unites us in our pursuit of a better tomorrow. To toast the New Year, cultural foods will be shared. (Note the date change because of New Years.) Contact Sharon Rezac Andersen for more information.

Jan. 12, 3:00 p.m. & Jan. 27, 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.

Jan. 13, 1:30 p.m., *Afternoon Fiction* —We will meet in the Apache Room in La Perla on the La Posada campus to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Sara DeRouchey will lead our discussion. For more information, contact Kathy Davisson.

Jan. 14, 1:30 p.m., *Mystery Book Club* -- We will be meeting in the Sunset Ramada in Desert Meadows (weather permitting). Sara DeRouchey will be leading the discussion of *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Contact Karen Lueck for more information.

Jan. 21, 20:00 a.m., *Non-Fiction Book Group* – Claudette Haney will be leading the discussion on AI via Zoom. Contact Karen Lueck for the Zoom link.

Jan. 23, 11:30 a.m., *Out to Lunch Bunch* –We will be having lunch at Goyitas located at 100 W Duval Mine Rd Ste 110. Please RSVP to Nancy Bodmer so she can arrange reservations.

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 15th 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

Editor: Amy Perlick
Calendar: Henne Queisser
Proofreaders: Sharon Lyons, Henne Queisser, Linda Winterland

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