



Valley View

Co-President's Message



Our Branch new year is off to an impressive start. We are really putting the “new” in New Year. To start, we moved to a new location for our general membership meetings. Leaving GVR’s rather pricey space at Canoa Hills Rec Center, we are now meeting at the La Posada Rec Center. Very generously, La Posada is not charging us for use of the space, a welcome and much needed savings. Our first meeting in the new location was January 20. The space fits well, but it was made a little tight given the large number of attendees that day. For better or worse, there was considerable social media coverage of the event, which prompted about ten members of the public to attend. This was due to the popularity of the speaker, Alex La Pierre, and the topic “Beef, Wheat & Chiltepín: Sonora’s Culinary Heritage.” All went well. No one was turned away, and the presentation was a hit. See page 6 of the Valley View for a recap of his talk.

In other news, effective immediately, we will be processing our scholarship program applications through the Pima Community College Foundation, or Pima Foundation. This new development will give more exposure to the scholarship program and streamline the application process for applicants and for our Scholarship Committee. That said, be assured that the Committee will still review all applications and make all decisions regarding choice of recipients and the amount of the scholarships. A wonderful added benefit is that the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to our scholarship fund made through the Foundation may be eligible for all available tax benefits. Find out more about this new opportunity on page 5 of the Valley View. And please, consider donating to the Branch scholarship fund. Every donation helps!

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting:

10:00 a.m., Monday,
February 2, 2026
Via Zoom

General Meeting:

1:00 p.m. (social) 1:30
(program), Tuesday,
February 17, 2026
3rd Tuesday of the month,
La Posada Recreation
Center, 685 S. La Posada
Circle #37, Green Valley

Website:

[https://greenvally-
az.aauw.net](https://greenvally-az.aauw.net)

Next Valley View Deadline:

Articles: February 21 to
valleyviewgv@gmail.com

Calendar items:

February 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

January also saw our Branch continue its tradition of putting up and taking down American flags all along La Cañada in honor of Martin Luther King Day. It is a project our Branch has undertaken for 17 years. Rain or shine, even in snow, members of AAUW GV are out early and back late afternoon to tend to the flags. Unlike last year in the cold and rain, this year the weather was sunny and mild. Many members are involved in this effort, but kudos to Nancy Bodmer and Karen Lueck who wrestle with all the details to make it a success. See page 9 for photos and details of the day. We can all be proud of this patriotic effort by our Branch!

In closing, here are some easily managed new year's resolutions to get involved. Coming up is the AAUW Arizona's Legislative Day, to be held in Phoenix on Wednesday, February 25. More information will be forthcoming soon but mark your calendar now. Note that Legislative Day is open to all. Our Branch's Annual Rally to End Violence Against Women and Girls is scheduled for February 14. It's a one-hour commitment, and it takes only an hour to make an impact. See page 10 for more information or contact Libby Beyrer.

Here's to a happy, healthy 2026 for us all! Cheers!

Nancy Puckett

Upcoming General Meeting Programs 2026

Date	Topic	Presenter
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.
April 21	Spring Luncheon and Fundraiser More details coming soon!	Entertainment by Silver \$ Duo

February Program: From Girdles and Gloves to the Glass Ceiling and Beyond

Tuesday, February 17, 1:00 p.m. (social) and 1:30 (program)

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

Presenters are Bonnie Boyce-Wilson and Debbie Hansen, co-chairs of the Arizona AAUW We Made History! Project and members of NW Valley Branch. Bonnie and Debbie will give a brief explanation of the AAUW We Made History! Project, the vital importance of women's history to the overall tapestry of American history, and the essential role of AAUW member stories. A majority of our members have witnessed over the past six decades the most dramatic changes in the status of women in history. We have lived to tell the tales of the challenges we faced and the actions we have taken to improve the lives of women and girls, including our own. Green Valley branch members will have a chance to reminisce about those challenges and changes.



We hope you will join us!

Exploring Women's Culture is responsible for bringing treats to the February meeting

In case you missed the January meeting!

Our general meetings are now 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.

New parking rules! Read carefully!

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 Morningside Drive. Turn left on Morningside and take that to the next stop sign at La Posada Circle. **Turn RIGHT on La Posada Circle** and keep left as it curves around. You will soon see signs for the Recreation Center, which will be on your left. **If there is no space in the parking lot, please park on the west side of the street opposite the rec center. At January's meeting most people parked on the same side of the street as the rec center and La Posada doesn't want us to park there.**

The AAUW sign will be at the parking lot entrance.

Parking is limited so carpooling is recommended.

Membership Corner

As we kick off 2026, we look back on our recent January meeting with great excitement and a sense of camaraderie. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and engage in meaningful discussions about our branch's objectives.

We are thrilled to announce that **five new members** joined our ranks, bringing our total membership to **113**! Welcome to **Susan Finley, Kathryn Lee, Irene Little, Mary Mapston**, and **Jackie Means**. We look forward to getting to know you better and benefiting from your skills and experiences.

(Membership Corner continued on next page)

Membership Corner – continued

As a reminder, the Membership team will be sending out notices to those whose membership is due next month. To ensure you stay connected with our branch, please check the renewal dates listed on the general meeting sign-in sheets. For your convenience, renewal forms are also available on our Branch website.

You can pay your membership dues either by cash or check during our meetings or by mail.

Thank you all for your continued support and engagement. Together, let's make 2026 a year of growth, friendship, and achievement within the AAUW Green Valley community!

The Membership Committee

Scholarship News

Great news!

Effective immediately, donations to our Branch scholarship program can now be made through the Pima Community College Foundation or, as it more commonly known, the Pima Foundation.

In addition to our usual promotional efforts, the Foundation will include our scholarship on its website, providing additional outreach to those in need, and they will also collect and process the student applications. Our Scholarship Committee will continue to review all applications, and make all decisions regarding choice of recipients and the amounts of the scholarship awards.

Even Better News!

Because the Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization, all donations made to the Branch scholarship program through the Pima Foundation may be eligible for all available tax benefits. Checks should be made out to **Pima Foundation** and include the name of the assigned fund (**AAUW GV Branch**) in the memo line.

Mail to:

Pima Foundation

4905C E. Broadway Blvd, #246

Tucson, AZ 85709

More details will be coming in an E-Blast shortly.

January Meeting Recap

We had 56 members and 10 guests at our January 20 general meeting. We suspect some of these additional guests attended through our promotional efforts in GV News and across social media. It was quite a crowd!



Alex La Pierre

Our speaker was Alex La Pierre, co-founder of Borderlandia, a bi-national organization committed to building public understanding of the borderlands. With a recent background in the nonprofit field in Ambos Nogales and in citizen diplomacy in the borderlands, Alex originally arrived in southern Arizona working for the National Park Service in the fields of historic preservation and heritage interpretation. A graduate of the University of Arizona, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, and a public historian, his studies focus on the Hispanic cultural heritage of the American Southwest and Mexico.

Alex's talk "Beef, Wheat, and Chiltepín: Sonora's Culinary Heritage" focused on the culture and history of the Sonora state of Mexico and how its culinary history came to Arizona. Missionaries, sent from Spain, followed the rivers north from Mexico into the United States. They brought with them Spanish culinary influences such as livestock, chickpeas, quince, lentils and wheat, and the Moorish influence in Spain included sugar cane and rice. The indigenous populations in Mexico wanted what the Spanish missionaries brought to the New World, but those Spanish influences stayed mostly in northern Mexico.

He started with the explanation of "carne seca," which is what we call beef jerky and how the Sonorans dried their beef to preserve it. Then came "carne asada," which is what we call beef barbecue. Given the climate in Sonora, the indigenous benefitted from two wheat crops per year, which contributed to the introduction of flour tortillas and coyotas. A coyota is a traditional Sonoran dessert made of flour, sugar, and milk. Alex likened them to "Sonoran Pop-Tarts." Chiltepín is considered the wild ancestor of all modern chilis and is native to the borderlands. It is commonly eaten fresh and green, pickled, or dried and red. Tumacácori is home to the only wild chili botanical area in the United States protecting this plant. Membrillo is another Spanish influence made by adding sugar to quince fruit and forming it into a paste.

Alex also mentioned the common beverages found in Sonora: saguaro and organ pipe cactus wine, bacanora which is a liquor made from the agave plant, lechuguilla which is a fermented agave drink, and vino de tapiro which is elderberry wine.

AAUW Arizona News – Save the Dates!



UPCOMING EVENTS



STATE LEGISLATIVE DAY

Wednesday, February 25

9:15 to 2 P.M.



AAUW ARIZONA SPRING CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 28

More Info . . .



Vision: Equity for all

Values: Nonpartisan, Fact based, Integrity, Inclusion & Intersectionality

Your help and expertise are needed!

Brenda Quick, who will be chair of the Programs Committee next year, would like your help. She could use at least **two more people** to serve on the committee. Also, if anyone has suggestions of topics or speakers for next year, she would welcome those contributions. You can find Brenda's contact information in the membership roster.

AAUW National News

New Webinars Now Available in AAUW's Webinar Library

If you're looking for fresh ideas and inspiration, be sure to explore the latest recordings now available on [AAUW's Webinar page](#).

- **The Future of Higher Education** (under "Social Justice" on the AAUW Webinars page)
In light of recent political attacks on higher education, this timely webinar created space for institutional leaders to reflect on the future of the field. The panel examined both the current landscape and the long-term implications of these challenges, while also exploring potential pathways forward. Drawing on their own roles and experiences, panelists shared valuable insights on leading through uncertainty and shaping the future of higher education.
- **Branches in Action: A Century of Advocacy, Fundraising & Impact** (under "Membership" on the AAUW Webinars page)
This webinar traces the history of AAUW branches, how they began, how they've shaped AAUW over time, and how they continue to fuel our accomplishments through advocacy, fundraising, and a shared commitment to equity for women and girls in higher education.

Did you know...?

AAUW's salary negotiation programs, Start Smart and Work Smart, have trained more 190,000 women to negotiate their salaries and benefits since the program's inception.

Between 2020 and 2025, AAUW awarded \$29.6 million in fellowships and grants to 1,538 women and community projects.

Community Outreach News

AAUW Green Valley steps up for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day for the 17th year!

Our branch raised the flags on LaCañada on January 19, 2026, for the 17th year. We had a lot of volunteers for this event: **Kathy Davisson, Nancy Helgath, Judy Knappe, Diane McIntyre, Alice McKenzie, Kraylen Miholer, Nancy Puckett, Sharon Rezac Andersen, Lynn Shinnick, Alice Sowards, and Elaine Walker.** In addition, our drivers were **Jan Canning** and Roger Brink, Ernie and **Paula Kulina**, Gary and **Kate Ovens**, Dave and **Marilyn Kern** with friends, and Bill and **Bev Peake.**

Thank you so much for your time and commitment to honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on his birthday. Special thanks to **Nancy Bodmer** and **Karen Lueck** for organizing this effort. Nancy stated, "We had so many people walk up to us and thank us for putting up the flags. There was a sense of hope, and it made my day just to hear this."



***Nancy Puckett, Diane McIntyre,
and Paula Kulina***



***Jan Canning, Diane McIntyre, and Nancy
Bodmer***

(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

Community Outreach News - continued

Keeping Girls in School



AAUW mission advances gender equity for all women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. In order for all girls, regardless of financial status, to realize their full potential, they need to take advantage of educational opportunities.

The \$500 Community Action Grant that our branch received has enabled girls in 5th - 8th grade in Continental School stay in school during the time they need feminine hygiene products. This grant enabled the **Keeping Girls in School** committee to gift the school a total of 1,204 Kotex Teen and Kotex Lite sanitary pads, 96 panties in various sizes and various brands, and 900 PDI Sani-Hands sanitary wipes.

Maureen Swartzentruber, Continental School nurse, and I keep in touch if more products are needed. When you bring products to our monthly meeting or make a monetary donation, our committee is able to purchase more items and distribute them to the school and our community effort. The community effort includes the needs of the Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and both local food banks. Please help KGIS continue to help the girls in Continental School and the community continue to advance their education by being able to stay in school.

Joyce Davison
Chair, Keeping Girls in School

For more information on our Community Outreach activities, [here is the link](#) to our website page.

Interest Group News

February is a month of hearts and flowers and birthdays. It's also time to be aware that we have three more months to join an Interest Group before our summer break! Please stop by the Interest Group table at a general meeting to sign up!

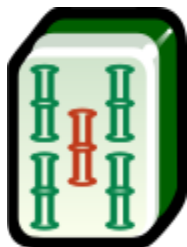
Linda Winterland
Interest Group Chair

Afternoon Fiction Book Group



Members of the Afternoon Fiction Book Group from l to r: 1st row: **Kathy Davisson, Sharon Lyons, Gail Garrison, Henne Queisser, Marilyn Taylor.** 2nd row: **Pam Duchaine, Judi Brauns, Jane Lateer, Jeanne Macauley, Nancy Puckett, Sara DeRouchey, Paula Kulina, Ann Bradford.** Not pictured: **Gerry Peterson (photographer)**

Beginning Mah Jongg class



The beginning Mah Jongg class is full, but we have started a waiting list. If you would like to be added to the list, 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!

Interest Groups Calendar

Feb. 3, 9:30 a.m., *Mostly Fiction Book Group* – The group will meet at the home of Linda Winterland. Linda will lead the discussion of *James* by Percival Everett. Please let Linda know by email or text if you plan to attend this meeting. Contact Liz Adams for more information.

Feb. 5, 1:00 p.m., *Exploring Women's Culture* – Exploring Women's Culture will meet at the home of Sharon Rezac Andersen to discuss World Day of Social Justice 2026. The United Nations theme, "Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice," focuses on the importance of inclusive policies that address systemic inequality. Please join in this lively discussion. Contact Sharon Rezac Andersen for more information.

Feb. 9, 3:00 p.m. & Feb. 24, 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.

Feb. 10, 1:30 p.m., *Afternoon Fiction* – We will meet in the Apache Room in La Perla on the La Posada campus to discuss *Absolution* by Alice McDermott. Sharon Lyons will lead our discussion. For more information, contact Kathy Davisson.

Feb. 11, 1:30 p.m., *Mystery Book Club* – We will meet at the Sunset Ramada in Desert Meadows Park. The book that will be discussed is *Homicide in the Indian Hills* by Erica Ruth Neubauer and presented by Judy Thut. Contact Karen Lueck for more information.

Feb. 18, 10:00 a.m., *Non-Fiction Book Group* – We will meet at 10:00 am by Zoom. Contact Karen Lueck for the Zoom link and for more information.

Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m., *Out to Lunch Bunch* – Out to Lunch Bunch will meet at the home of Nancy Bodmer. We will have chili and fixings. Make a small batch of chili for 4 people and we will combine for the "Greatest of All." Bring containers for take-home chili. We will need condiments and dessert. Water will be provided. Call or text Nancy for more details.

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.**