

President's Message



TRACY SMILES

I hardly know where to begin. Here I am, penning my first President's Message within the backdrop of a health pandemic, an economic crisis, and social unrest. There is little denial that we are living in extraordinary times.

However, despite all the challenges this last year brought to every aspect of society and every member of our community, we as an organization accomplished so much, and we continue to flourish. Knowing this keeps me energized and excited for the year to come regardless of "all that is."

One cannot underscore the sense of community our organization offers to women who have great energy, creativity, depth of knowledge and varying interests across a range of scholarly fields. Our members desire social outlets for intellectual stimulation and opportunities to maintain physical and emotional vitality. When one considers the breadth of programs, activities, and interest groups AAUW Prescott offers, there is little doubt in my mind that this branch is the embodiment of John Dewey's notion of a "life-long learner." Most of us would agree that our interest group offerings are among the best benefit for membership in our AAUW branch, yet, when the COVID-19 pandemic made social gatherings problematic, we found ways to connect. For example, members of the

Communications Team immediately began researching tools and procedures to make social contact possible for our most vulnerable members, and then offered three workshops on how to use Zoom for those unfamiliar with the platform. Other interest groups looked for creative ways to socially distance and yet meet safely, such as gathering on a member's deck, book group meetings held via Zoom, and the Travel Discussion Group's organization of an outing to the Heritage Park Zoo. Our Program Team has continued to look for excellent speakers and programs to offer with continued opportunities to learn about the issues that most affect us as women and advance our mission as AAUW members. Last year we set an ambitious fund-raising goal for our two scholarships and not only succeeded in meeting this goal, but exceeded it beyond all expectations. These are

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just a few of many examples of why I am proud to be a part of this vibrant organization. We continue thrive and do the important work despite the challenges.

I have had conservative friends in the area call us “too liberal,” and progressive friends call us “elitist” because of our name and education requirement for membership. Regardless of outside perception, we know that we are doing critical work for ALL women in our community through our community action, advancement of public policy, fundraising, and outreach. We have demonstrated through our actions a commitment to advancing gender equity for women and girls through education, research, and advocacy. June 4, 2020 marked the centennial anniversary of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote. When I reflect on the importance of this remembrance and the courage of our ancestors in bringing this to bear, I feel I am carrying on their legacy as an active member of AAUW. I am honored to serve as your president, and am looking forward to whatever the coming year brings.



Program Planning for 2020-21 In Full Swing, Zooming Possible

Program Co-VPs Ellen Anderson and Cathy Cunningham met with Tracy Smiles, this year’s



ELLEN ANDERSON



CATHY CUNNINGHAM

president, on May 20 for a Zoom brainstorming session on the program lineup for the 2020-21 General Meetings. Selection criteria for topics and presenters included: support for AAUW’s mission; expansion of awareness and presence of AAUW Prescott through connection with community and regional leaders and organizations; and, of course, members’ input from the 2020 Community Conversations event in March.

We will open our program calendar in September by hosting Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans. Mayor Evans was originally scheduled to present her topic of “A Northern Arizona Climate Action Plan,” at our April 2020 General Meeting. Because of COVID-19, the presentation was rescheduled. Additionally, we plan to feature a number of high-achieving women throughout the year who will be presenting a variety of topics about our local community and the state of Arizona. We are currently at work contacting presenters and plan to have a finalized speaker lineup by August 1st.

Look for the complete program listing at the back of the new Membership Directory and on the website. Please note that, until further notice, all General Meetings will take place via Zoom. Best wishes for a great summer and see you in September!



General Meeting On June 20 Introduces 2020-21 Board to Members

With the cancellation of the April and May general meetings, Tracy Smiles worked with the Communications Team to create a virtual meeting for the end of June. The result was a well-attended Zoom meeting hosted by Tracy and included introductions of new board meetings and acknowledgement of returning board members. In addition, Tracy was able to honor immediate past president Becky Gunn for the work she had done as president, especially as we were affected by the pandemic.

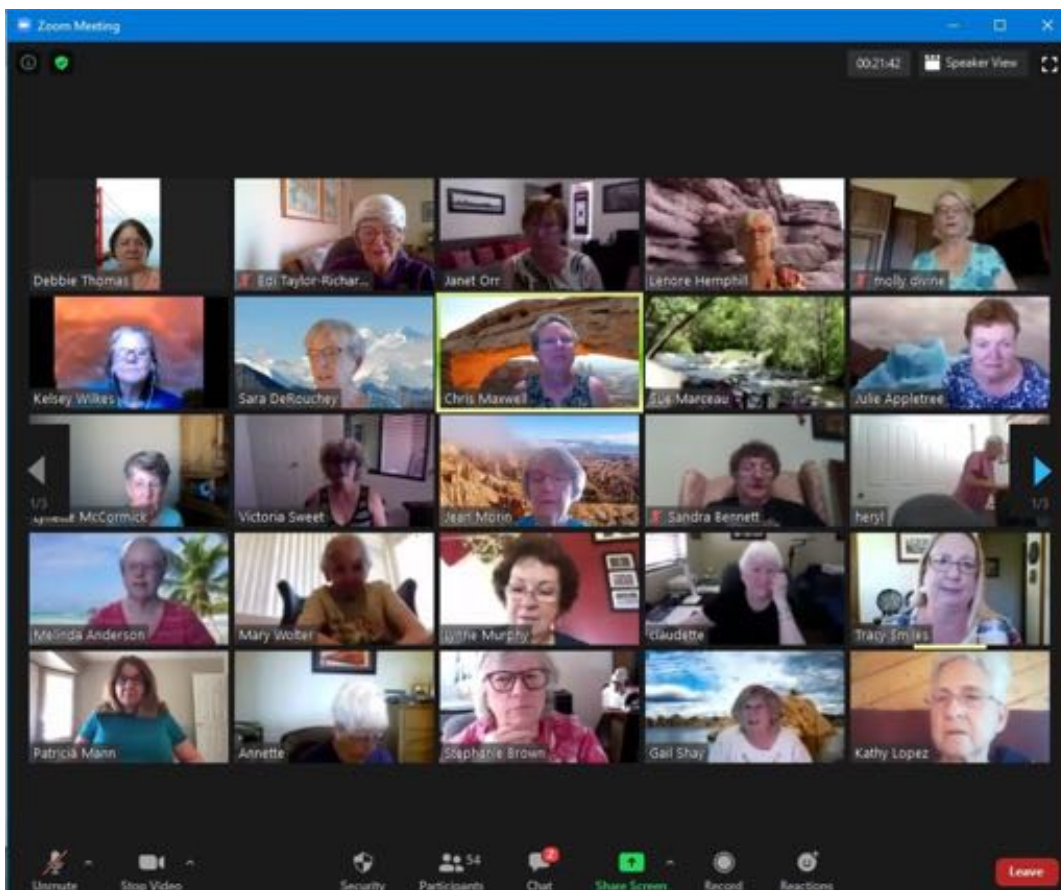
The Communications Team announced that interest group leaders would have the opportunity to meet with members via the

AAUW Prescott Zoom account and suggested that our account also be used for social gatherings. If interested, please contact the Sara DeRouche and Lenore Hemphill at commteam@aauwprescott.net to get started.

Tracy wrapped up the meeting by sharing a video celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote.



TRACY SMILES HOSTED THE INAUGURAL ZOOM GENERAL MEETING.



A SCREENSHOT OF THE JUNE 20 ZOOM MEETING SHOWS SOME OF THE MANY PARTICIPANTS.

Communications Team Creates Guide to Zoom Meetings

AAUW Prescott has obtained a Zoom Pro License for a variety of uses. General meetings may happen via Zoom (when necessary), and interest groups may choose to meet via Zoom as well. As with many things these days, there are a variety of ways to access information. Below is a quick guide for accessing a meeting when an e-mail invite has been sent to attend an AAUW meeting via Zoom.

You may have read or heard security concerns around Zoom. Zoom has increased security and AAUW Prescott will always password-protect meetings it sets up. Update your Zoom app(s) when prompted.

Prior to the meeting, decide how you are going to join the meeting: by dial-in on your phone or via an internet connection. You will receive the most functionality by using a tablet or a computer on an internet connection, but you can still call into the meeting on your phone.

Hints to Enhance Your Zoom Experience

- **Test your internet** connection and audio and video capabilities via <https://zoom.us/test>. Slow internet speed and non-functioning audio and video may hamper your experience in a meeting.
- **If you join a meeting before it officially starts**, you will be temporarily placed in a waiting room until the host/facilitator admits you.
- **As a meeting starts**, your audio may be muted by the host. The host will let you know what to do if you wish to speak.
- Ensure that your device is fully charged or plugged in prior to the meeting.

How to join an AAUW Prescott Zoom meeting

We recommend you download and install the Zoom app and create a Zoom account. Do this before the scheduled meeting. You will have a better experience and more functionality through the app than accessing the meeting via the [web browser](#).

Using a smart phone, tablet or computer

Download the correct app for your device using the links listed below:

- For Android tablet and smart phone, download Zoom Cloud Meetings in [Google Play](#).
- **For iPad or iPhone**, download Zoom Cloud Meetings in the [App Store](#).
- **For Windows or Mac computers**, download from your browser [Zoom Client for Meetings](#).

You may receive a pop-up warning concerning security of downloading the apps. These may be due to security settings in your browser or computer. You will need to approve of the warning to access the Zoom meeting.

Once you have the app and account set up, click the link in the invitation email to take you to the password-protected meeting. The link contains the meeting ID and password.

If you have already been using Zoom for meetings, you do not have to set up a new account for AAUW Prescott meetings.

Using your phone

If you are using only a phone, dial the phone number included in the email invitation. You will need to enter the meeting ID and password when prompted, so keep those handy from the email.

AAUW Prescott Directory Information

2020-2021 Directory Updates—Deadline July 30, 2020

In preparation for the Membership Directory to be distributed in September, we are asking each member to review your contact information in the current hard copy directory you may have or the directory file that has been sent via email. Please send changes to be made to the Directory team at: directory@aauwprescott.net by **July 30th, 2020**. If you want to submit a new photo, contact Stephanie Brown for information.

Requests for Hard Copy of Directory—Deadline July 30, 2020

As our Branch will not be meeting face-to-face before the Branch Membership Directory is prepared, members who wish to receive a physical directory may request one by emailing the Directory team at: directory@aauwprescott.net. The Directories will be ready for distribution at the September 2020 General Meeting.



Mary Hansen

In Memoriam: Mary Hansen March 30, 1945 — May 16, 2020

Mary's greatest quality was her witty sense of humor— her humor defused any tense situation anywhere, anytime. She was

the type of person one looks for in a leader. She took her jobs and responsibilities very seriously, but never took herself seriously.

Mary Hansen was thought of as a treasure to AAUW, Prescott. She served a term as Branch President in 2000-2001, and was involved in the Book Group, the Gourmet Group, parades, and Antique Auction fundraisers. She supported many activities that bolstered AAUW's ideals—including trips down to Phoenix in support of our mission.

Those of us who knew her felt very blessed for the experience. It truly was our pleasure to know her. We considered Mary Hansen a treasured friend. (Written by Wini Daniel, but echoed by the many who knew her).



Public Policy

The Public Policy Committee has set a goal to “promote dedicated, equitable and adequate funding for public education in Arizona.” This issue has become critical with the pandemic further restricting students’ access to education.



VICTORIA SWEET

In response to COVID-19 school closures, learning shifted to students’ homes. While some students had access to Broadband Internet that allowed for videoconferencing instruction with their teachers, other students without access to the Internet relied on the ability—and availability—of their parents to support their learning via completion of instructional packets.

During the spring, I learned of only one local school district that had purchased hotspots to provide internet access at home, starting with distribution to high school students. With limited

resources across public schools to provide access to the internet at home, what did this mean? The students in our quad-city area did not experience equity of learning opportunities.

Information from the U.S. Census Bureau has been shared by Frank Vander Horst, the Yavapai County Education Service Agency (YCESA) E-Rate Consultant. Here are the highlights for households with children in public or private schools:

- Nationwide, 8.9% have **no, or very limited**, Internet service (5.4 million households).
- In Arizona, 9.4% of households with K-12 students have **no, or very limited**, Internet service (114,075 households).
- Much greater percentage in minority households:
 - ➔White: 4.5%
 - ➔Hispanic: 9.2%
 - ➔Black: 20.1%
 - ➔Asian: 32.5%
 - ➔Mixed: 19.4%

In early June, Kathy Hoffman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, released the *COVID AZ Roadmap*. For 2020-2021, it includes guidance to local education agencies in [strategic](#) planning for continuity of operations and elements of a strategic plan for re-opening and possible closure.

As equity of opportunity is essential for all students' learning, the funding of internet access—especially high capacity broadband—has become especially important for our students. We encourage policies and budgeting to ensure this outcome.

Members Contribute Ideas for Quarantine Times

I found that giving back to others was a useful way for me to use my skills while homebound. A wonderful article was in the Quad City Business News about my project reported by our own Susan Marceau. I donated \$1100 to the Yavapai County Food Bank and \$350 to Stepping Stones Agencies. Please [click on this link](#) for more information. (Dr. Marla E. Jirak)

During these months of self-quarantine, I have tackled numerous small projects, but the most gratifying one has been writing special letters to 60 treasured people in my life. I only write when I can quietly focus on that one friend or grandchild or family member to explain their unique value to me, how I view them, and what I wish for them. (Kat Cooper)

One of my sisters and I have formed a classic book club with our nieces and nephews over Zoom. We read a classic book or short story each week and discuss it. So far we've read books and stories by Shirley Jackson, George Orwell, E.M. Forster, and the Chinese author Li Ruzhen—all authors whose works are accessible online. We have a lot of fun. It's nice to mix it up with the 'kids.' (Patti Allen-LaFleur)

I have been spending many hours helping OLLI shift to providing classes online. For this summer, we are offering 50 classes and workshops, and 225 people are taking a total of 678 classes. A great way to give our seniors an "outside" outlet. Mark and I led a class this spring, and I am facilitating a class this summer. (Deb Dillon)

I've spent a lot of time watching and/or participating in meetings and presentations on my computer, e.g., Senior Connection, AAUW National, Capitol Times, and several computer users groups. It actually gives me a feeling of

human contact, which is missing when we singles are confined to our homes. (Edi Taylor-Richards)

I've taken the time to call several old friends with whom I'd lost touch. And several have reached out to me. It's been great to catch up. I've started exercising every day like I did when I was working. I'm in better shape than I have been in years and have lost 8 pounds. I feel great and am sleeping better, too. I'm using our elliptical machine, dumbbells, and videos from our Amazon Prime Video *Be Fit* subscription for Pilates, yoga and weights. (Elaine Lawson)

For the Covid- slice of life: I am just as busy, but have more time since outside meeting/appointments and travel are reduced. Still not cleaning the house any more, though. We can see big lifestyle changes happening in real time as we watch them evolve: work from home, the reduction of traffic congestion, and a different sense of work/home balance; meetings and cocktail hours, telemed appointments, school graduations, weddings and funerals via Zoom. Can we hope for renewed interest in and reverence for science and education? And perhaps a more Depression Era appreciation of the important things: family, work, and toilet paper. (Stephanie Brown)



Interest Groups

Lunch Bunch Continues On



Lunch Bunch is gathering with social distance.

Covid-19 lunches: This has been an unusual year; none of us can compare these times to anything we have previously experienced. We have had to cancel Lunch Bunch the past few times and change venues when we have met. In May we met under Margie Crider's fabulous Globe Willow with the idea of selecting an outdoor venue where we could keep socially distant and where we would not be too hot. In June we gathered on the patio of the Hassayampa Inn. Next month will be a visit to an all-time favorite: El Gato Azul. We still have many members staying home to protect their health. We understand that, but we do miss you. Everyone, please take care of yourselves, and if you feel up to joining us again, please do so. (Marty Lewis and Margie Crider)



PV Book Group Meets Via Zoom

The Prescott Valley-based interest group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the PV Public Library. Currently, however, we are having meetings via Zoom, thanks to Marge Rubin. All are welcome, so let me know if you'd like to join our conversations. You would just

need to send me your e-mail address. Contact Susan Goe for more information at booksprescottvalley@aauwprescott.net. We hope to return eventually to our regular meeting place at the Prescott Valley Public Library. The remainder of our book selections for 2020 are:

- 7/17 Crossing to Safety Wallace Stegner
- 8/21 The Library Book Susan Orlean
- 9/18 Cutting for Stone Abraham Verghese
- 10/16 *Nickel Boys* Colson Whitehead
- 11/20 The Dutch House Ann Patchett



Mah Jongg Interest Group Celebrates Its First Year



The AAUW Mah Jongg Interest Group celebrated one year of playing this past March. We have had 4-8 players each week and had been meeting at

the Gateway Mall food court. Due to the COVID-19 virus we have not played since the middle of March. We will consider playing outdoors with masks, perhaps in late July or early August. We will keep you advised.

We welcome MJ players, with or without any experience. We are hoping to reinstate play once a week, but we have to decide WHERE and WHEN we will play, once it is safe to do so. **Come join us for fun and brain improvement!**

Marty Lewis and Laury Shayne are the Co-Leaders of this group. Please contact them if you are interested in the group at mahjongg@aauwprescott.net.

Adventure Group Plans Activity for July 3—RSVP Requested

July 3, 2020, 5:30-8:30p.m. marks the first adventure of the Fiscal Year.

All are invited to a unique hiking experience at the Morgan Ranch Nature Park. Join other members and guests in a leisurely hike on a one-mile loop trail in the Morgan Ranch Nature Park.

Hikers will leave from the parking lot in small-trail distancing groups beginning at 5:30p.m. With moonrise at 6:30p.m. and sunset at 7:45p.m. we are sure to have a really lovely hike.

The Morgan Ranch Nature Park (MRNP) preserves a portion of the historic Morgan/Cooper Ranch. The Cooper-Morgan loop trail is part of the Yavapai Trail system. The easy trail winds around boulders, through oak, manzanita, and juniper trees. Bird houses encourage a variety of native birds to nest along the MRNP Bluebird Trail. A picnic table and teak benches provide sitting areas for picnics, nature observation and relaxation. There are no restrooms in the park, but lots of bushes.

Bring a flashlight or headlamp, walking stick, and a 'virgin' snack (not touched by human hands) to contribute to the mystery...

FYI: The Full Moon on July 4 is the Buck Moon, named after the new antlers that emerge from a buck's forehead around this time of the year. It is also called Thunder Moon, Hay Moon, and Wort Moon. The Buck Moon will turn a shade darker for many people in North and South America, and Africa, as it is eclipsed by the Earth's penumbral shadow during a penumbral lunar eclipse. In the AZ time zone the eclipse will begin at 8:07 pm, July 4. For more information on this hike and to RSVP if you have not already, contact Kathy Lopez at adventure@aauwprescott.net.

Travel Group Makes Plans to Gather at Heritage Park Zoo



The travel group will gather at Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary on Tuesday, July 14th at 10 a.m. We will discuss travel misadventures and cancellation stories, as well as discussion topics for the coming year. The rental of the

pavilion, where we will meet, covers the entrance fee to the zoo, so you can visit the animals before we start our meeting at 11:00 and again after our meeting. Just tell the attendant you are with AAUW. We do ask that you make a \$5 contribution toward the entrance fee in the container provided at our meeting.

There are three picnic tables in a covered area and a large shade tree adjacent. You may bring a folding chair to increase social distancing options. Bring a mask, sack lunch, beverage, and a hat. Please RSVP to Janet Orr travel@aauwprescott.net by July 10.