

Prescott (AZ) Branch AAUW

AAUW branch in Prescott AZ



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Newsletter Nov-Dec 2020

President's Message



Tracy Smiles, President

Remembering Our Ancestors

One of my favorite living authors, Jacqueline Woodson, was recently interviewed by Gayle King on CBS about her latest book. During that interview Gayle brought up the passing of Chadwick Boseman (of Black Panther fame) and how Woodson had responded in a social media post. Woodson explained, "my message was he is one of the ancestors. I believe that people don't leave us completely, they...transcended into someone...I think you wouldn't be here...I wouldn't be here without our ancestors and I think about that a lot. I think about the weight we carry and that we don't have to just think about the people in this life supporting us, but the ancestors and what they brought."

I think all of us have ancestors whom we can credit for carrying us through difficult challenges because of what they brought, and continue to bring; ancestors who were present in our lives, and those who inspired us from afar. One such person in my life was my maternal grandmother. She grew up in Franklin Center, PA, close to Lake Erie, on a small farm during the Depression, a time she described as, "No one around us knew there was a depression going on, we were all dirt poor." After completing the 9th grade at the one-room school she attended, my grandmother went to work as a cook and housekeeper. Soon thereafter she got pregnant, married, divorced, and with two children, a limited education during a time in which single motherhood was judged against a callous moral code, my grandmother was on her own. She took employment at multiple low-wage jobs to support her young children. While employed as a short-order cook and waitress at a small café, she befriended, to quote my grandmother, "a college girl." My grandmother would explain how daunting it was to have a college girl come into the restaurant "just to talk with me." During one of these visits, my grandmother asked her friend what college was like. She responded, "It changes your outlook on life completely." It was then my grandmother made the decision to go to

college herself. Borrowing my great aunt's high school diploma and "lying through my teeth to the Mother Superior" of the Catholic university she would attend, my grandmother eventually earned a Master's Degree in Social Work and taught special education in one of the poorest areas in Trenton, NJ, for 30 years, missing only one day to attend her brother's funeral. This woman, through her courage and hard work, changed the trajectory of my family. The support this ancestor brought me has impacted my life in every way.

This past month we lost the great Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She, too, is one of the ancestors now. I can't remember what I was watching, or what I was doing when I heard the news of her passing, but I will always remember how it felt—like a punch to the gut. Like many of you, I suspect, in response to this loss, I read countless reports, and watched documentaries and testimonials about the extraordinary contributions she made in realizing equal rights for women as a lawyer and justice of the Supreme Court. She, too, continues to support us in carrying on the work for the betterment of women and girls with what she brought.

As I reflect on my grandmother's and RGB's legacies, I feel more affirmed in the important work we, as members of AAUW, tirelessly do for education, research, and advocacy to advance gender equity. We have a scholarship that supports women like my grandmother in seeking higher education, sponsor activities that inspire girls to pursue STEM careers, and lobby legislators to protect the rights of women and girls, and to ensure equal access to education, health care, and pay. These are just a few of the powerful ways in which we honor our ancestors and put to use what they brought us. Today, with gratitude for the ancestors, I look forward to carrying on this work with you.

Tracy

Programs

General Meeting – November 14, 2020

9:15 Join Zoom Mtg. | 9:30 Announcements | 10:00 Program

Honoring Women in the U.S. Military

Retired Colonel Felicia French will discuss the highlights; trials, and tribulations of 32 years as a female in the U.S. Army and National Guard. She has unique experience as a veteran who began her career as a 17-year-old private and worked her way up the ranks, retiring as a full Colonel.

During her three decades of service, she completed 4 deployments; including humanitarian missions in Honduras and the Dominican Republic as a nurse and medical commander. She also completed a 3-year deployment in Germany during the Cold War as a Medical Evacuation helicopter pilot, and her final military assignment was as a Senior Medical Advisor in Afghanistan.

Col. French will also discuss her recent experience as a volunteer at the Navajo Nation helping to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.



Felicia French

General Meeting – December 12, 2020

PASS, Give a Gift of Mentoring

9:15 Join Zoom Mtg. | 9:30 Announcements | 10:00 Program

At our December virtual meeting, Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS) Executive Director, Carmen Frederic, and Director of Programs, Katee Norris, will be updating our members on the work of the Shelter. We will also be introducing our new Woman-to-Woman mentoring program alliance between PASS and AAUW – Prescott.



Carmen Frederic, Executive Director

Carmen Frederic was the original Executive Director of PASS when it was known as Prescott Area Women's Shelter. Carmen was the Executive Director from 2009 to 2015 and rejoined the team in 2017. Carmen has worked in the non-profit field for over 20 years and brings with her knowledge and abilities in managing shelters and working with the homeless population. Carmen is originally from Oregon and helped open the first teen shelter program in her hometown, worked for the local Education Service District with low-income families and their children, and ran a transitional housing program. Carmen holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Family Studies.

Katee Norris, Director of Programs

Katee Norris holds a Bachelor of Arts from Pacific Lutheran University in Washington State. After a year working in an AmeriCorps job at Federal Way Public Schools, Mrs. Norris and her husband Josh, moved to Prescott. In Prescott, Mrs. Norris held a position as a VISTA with PASS. In 2014, Mrs. Norris was promoted to Director of Programs, overseeing a wide array of self-sufficiency programs for their guests. Recently becoming a Registered Nurse, she continues to work for PASS, utilizing her new skill set to assist in an even greater capacity. She is passionate about the work being done at PASS and believes fully in the innate worth of every human being.

Woman-to-Woman Mentoring Program

With the approval of the Board, AAUW Prescott is creating a collaborative relationship with PASS and the women they serve to mentor their clients to reach their educational and employment goals.

Mentoring opportunities will be offered in two areas:

1. GED and higher education
2. Employment readiness

AAUW volunteers will be recruited and matched with a PASS client to support their educational and employment journey. Of course, with COVID-19 still rearing its ugly head in the Prescott area, we will have to play the timing of the start of this valuable program accordingly. Stay tuned, and, if you are interested in volunteering, please let Kelsey Wilkes know!

A Victorian Stroll in Prescott

submitted by Deb Dillon and Kathy Lopez

AAUW's "A Stroll Through Victorian Prescott" was a vivacious success on many levels. The weather was beautiful, many non-members participated, and we got so many enthusiastic responses. With only two months to implement and with the additional challenge of COVID, the scholarship committee continued the tradition of providing an event for members and the public to socialize and to donate. Mucho thanks to the many donors who contributed \$4000+!!! to the Prescott AAUW Centennial Scholarship Fund. These volunteers are commended for keeping a sense of humor while working under daily deadlines:



Julia Appletree – AAUW Scholarship Committee Co-Chair (Kudos for stepping up!)

Sandra Bennett – AAUW Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

Kathy Lopez- Fall FunRaiser Ringmaster

Karen Leja – Guide through the Magical Maze of YC Support Systems

Jean Morin – ReSearcher, whose geocaching project inspired the concept

Lynne Murphy – Editor in Chief of Guide (Great amateur historians!)

Barb Michelman – Chief of Editor of Guide

Deb Dillon – Publicity Hound (I lied when said you would not have to do much!)

Katie Wrigley – 24/7 Donor Contact (You can unstrap that laptop from your body now!)

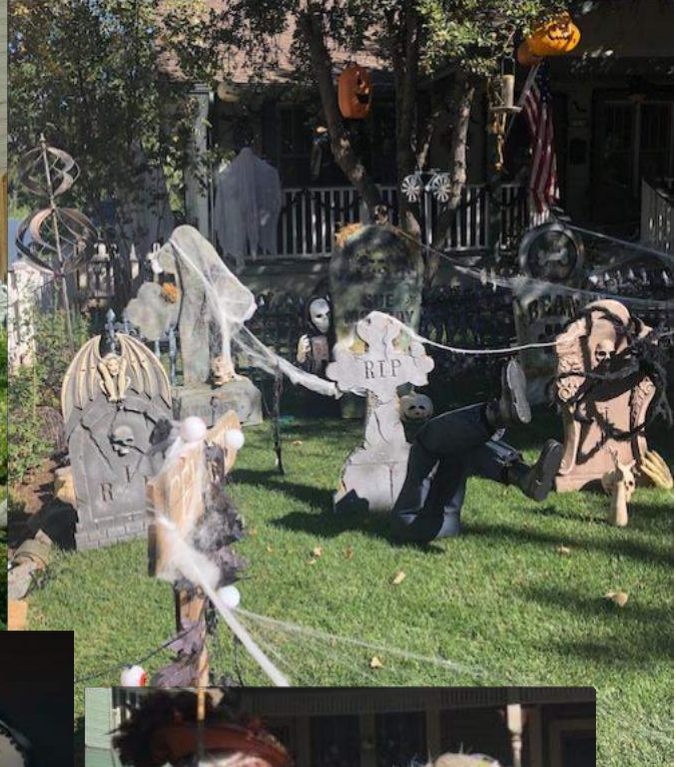
Anne Barton – Mentor and Cheerleader (Keep calm and make some dough ladies!)

Tracy Smiles – Would someone PLEASE volunteer to be this lady's President-Elect!

Thanks to all members who participated and publicized this event!

You can still donate and obtain the guide! Follow this link to the YC website.







AAUW Prescott Board Brief

September/October 2020



Deb Dillion

The board voted unanimously to endorse “Yes” votes on the PUSD and HUSD overrides and HUSD bond issue in the coming election. The state AAUW has endorsed a “Yes” vote on Prop 208.

The board was notified that AAUW Arizona is providing a \$500 grant to each branch to fund projects related to public education.

In lieu of a winter/spring scholarship fundraiser, the Scholarship Committee will hold a virtual “Red Envelope” campaign in December.

It is unlikely that Yavapai College venues will be available to meet in person until at least Summer 2021. AAUW Prescott will continue to hold its General Meetings via Zoom.

The current membership is 176.

At its October 16, 2020, meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for FY 2023, and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67, and \$72, respectively. Dues for Prescott branch members will include state and local dues making them \$98, \$103, and \$108, in each of the respective years.



Dana Marie Kennedy

Disrupt Aging

Links to the presentation by Dana Marie Kennedy, State Director of AARP Arizona, at the Prescott AAUW Zoom Meeting, October 10, 2020.

[Link to PowerPoint](#)

[Link to Other AARP Resources](#)

AAUW Arizona Fall Forum

Saturday, November 7, 2020, 10:00 am to 2:45 pm via Zoom ([Registration Required](#))

Taking our Trailblazing Advocacy to the Next Level: Becoming a Better Champion for All Women and Girls



- **Definitions of systemic racism** (Dr. Stephanie Trautman Robins – Department Head: Gender and Women’s Studies – University of Arizona)
- **Manifestations of systemic racism** (Liane Hernandez – Community Outreach & Education Director -YWCA)
- **Opening up to accountability** (Kristen Garcia-Hernandez – Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona)
- **Applications to AAUW** (Kim Churches – CEO AAUW)
- Break – 12:30pm – 1:00pm
- **Small group work** (Zoom Break-out discussions)
- **Action Items with branches** – large group report out
- **Closing remarks**

The Registration Deadline: Tuesday, Nov. 3rd

To register, please follow the link: <https://forms.gle/doNVsuSCWutKMEyb6>

Membership



Penny Briner Ewell,
Membership Co-VP

September provided perfect weather for Annette Gauthier, Membership Co-VP, to host a new member coffee at Finn Park. There were seven new members and six board members in social-distanced attendance with coffee and conversation enjoyed by all. For those who couldn't attend, directories and name tags were delivered to them. If you are a new member and didn't receive a directory and name tag, please let Penny Briner Ewell or Annette Gauthier know.

We are also happy to report we have two new members. Please welcome Barbara Allen and Susan Southwick to our ranks!

Public Policy

AAUW has advocated with our local representatives over the past several years via our annual Legislature Day when we go to the Capitol to visit the people we have elected and support our five primary public policy issues:

1. Funding public education;
2. Passage of the ERA by the Arizona Legislature;
3. Equal pay;
4. Open access to health care for women; and
5. Ending sexual harassment.



Victoria Sweet

We have sent our position on these issues to the Capitol to emphasize our commitment. The job now is to hold our legislators accountable, elect those who support us across the board, and vote for ballot measures that advance our top goal of sustained funding for public education.

Our state requires a \$3 billion increase in the annual education budget to reach the average per-pupil funding in the United States. Several measures on the state and local election ballot would increase budgets for public education across the state and in our communities:

First, a vote for the Invest in Education Act, Proposition 208, would increase per-pupil funding by \$1 billion a year throughout Arizona;

Second, a vote for an 8% override in the Prescott Unified School District would benefit Prescott area students;

Third, a vote for a bond and a 5% override in the Humboldt Unified School District would assist students in the Prescott Valley, Dewey, and Humboldt areas.

I encourage election participation on Nov. 3 by all of our AAUW-Prescott members. Every vote counts, and we need yours.

Scholarships



RED ENVELOPE EVENT FOR AAUW CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Since we can't have an in-person holiday gathering this year, the Scholarship Committee will be sending out a virtual "red envelope" to our membership via email, asking for your usual generous contributions to our Centennial Scholarship. This scholarship benefits a woman student at Yavapai College studying in a STEM field.

Interest Groups are encouraged to arrange ZOOM get-togethers for their members to exchange holiday plans and news.

Watch your email later in November for this unique way of supporting our scholarship funds in this unusual year, with hopes that in 2021 we can be back to seeing each other in person.

Happy Holidays to All from the Scholarship Committee!



Interest Groups

The Lunch Group updates by Margie Crider

Although we have fewer attendees, the Lunch Bunch has still managed to find outdoor space for lunches. We are not sure how this will work as the weather gets cooler. Our September lunch was at Lazy G Brewhouse. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. We had eight members enjoying the diverse menu that day. If you have not been there you should try it. Several of us loved the salads. I've also been told that the burgers are great.



Margie Crider

In October, we ate on the patio at Iron Springs Cafe. They often have very interesting specials. Marty and I test restaurants for space, comfort, and safety. Often with the assistance of several other volunteer testers.

The Craft Group

The Craft Group has only met once this year. Just three of us, Edi Taylor-Richards, Carol Dosse, and Margie Crider met in Margie's backyard to do some painting. Carol painted some rocks making an address rock as a gift. Edi and I painted glass plates. Edi painted a frog on her plate and I (AKA the Crazy Cat Lady) painted cats on mine. This meeting was also supervised by my cat Caliope, who is of a size and age to no longer be able to get over the fence or under the gate, so is allowed outdoors under human supervision.

Since both groups are trying to meet outdoors or in a very open area we may not be able to meet much in cold weather. Edi would love to learn about paper quilling if anyone knows how to do this and would volunteer to teach this, please contact me. I am also hoping for suggestions and requests from others in the group. Carol was telling us about some collages she's been doing. It sounds like a fun project for our group.

I hope everyone can stay safe and healthy until we can have proper meetings again.

Travel Discussion Group – Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 1:30 pm

Vista Park Ramada – 1684 Saraona Dr. enter from Willow Creek Road or Prescott Lakes Parkway / Smoke Tree Lane

Some picnic tables in the ramada, but you may bring chairs to maintain more social distance. Wear masks also.

Topic: Travel in the time of Covid-19. Issue: Managing the last minute travel and arising issues.

RSVP to Janet Orr

