



American Association of University Women
Southeast Valley (AZ) Branch
Chandler, Gilbert and the Greater Southeast Valley
southeastvalley-az.aauw.net • aauw.sev.az@gmail.com



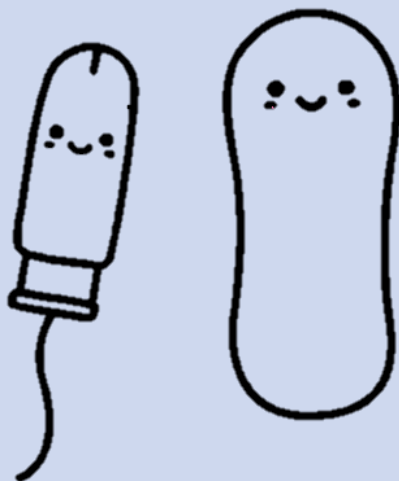
The Prickly Pear Newsletter

January 2024



Next Branch Meeting

Period Packing
Event



Monday, Jan 15

5:30-7:00PM

Sun Lakes

United Methodist Church

9248 E. Riggs Rd.

Lindsey Hall

5:30-5:40 - Social Time

5:40-6:10 - Branch Business

6:10-7:00 - Period Packing

Project

AAUW is committed to supporting girls' and women's health initiatives, including the reduction of "period poverty" — a term that describes when financial circumstances or inadequate education hinders access to menstrual hygiene products. About 500 million people worldwide, or a fourth of all those who menstruate, are thought to experience period poverty.

AAUW Southeast Valley Branch is doing our part to help reduce period poverty at some local CUSD schools. Please join us on **Monday, January 15** for our Period Packing Event, held during our January Branch Meeting. We will pack period kits for girls attending Galveston, Hartford, San Marcos and Frye Elementary Schools and Willis and Andersen Junior High Schools.

2nd Annual Happy Hour Fashion Show



Reminder....

Mark your calendars for the second annual **Happy Hour Fashion Show (HHFS)**. It will take place on **Friday, February 2, 2024, 4 - 7 pm, in the Cottonwood Ballroom.**

There will be raffle baskets, a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle along with appetizers and a cash bar. And, of course, the wonderful Fashion Show

displaying beautiful clothing and jewelry from Judy Wear Boutique. This is our biggest scholarship fundraiser of the year! Last year we provided eight \$1,000 scholarships to deserving girls and women attending Chandler/Gilbert Community College, and we hope to surpass that this year.

Purchase your seat(s) or table(s) now. Seats are \$30 per person and \$240 for a table of eight. If you have a full table of eight, it will be a reserved table, so you needn't worry about rushing to get a table. You can purchase your seat(s) with cash, or a check made payable to AAUW – SEV. Forms to purchase seats are available at the monthly branch meetings or via email by contacting aauw.sev.az@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you all there! Let's all help build that scholarship fund to its largest amount yet.

February 2, 2024 Cottonwood Ballroom



Red Envelope Holiday Brunch was a huge success!

The AAUW Southeast Valley Branch **Holiday Funds Brunch** was held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at the Sun Lakes Country Club. It was a wonderful success. Those in attendance enjoyed the festivities. The beautiful Angel center pieces were lovely, and the brunch was delicious. Our Arizona State President shared her personal history and the vision for the future of Arizona's AAUW. Jodi Ligget spoke about the battle going on in Arizona regarding abortions. Will Arizona keep the 15 week ban or go back to the 1846 territorial law of completely prohibiting abortion? She gave us an inside look into her approach to the steps needed to interact with the legislature. She talked about the Arizona constitutional change that signatures are being collected for now and the uphill battle that it is facing in the current Arizona legislature. Jodi is incredibly knowledgeable and articulate, and she presented the issues facing the state in a nonpartisan way.

Our generous members donated over \$3000 to the various national funds which allow AAUW to support areas such as education and leadership. Now more than ever, we as members of AAUW must support the important work done by our national organization. AAUW was founded in 1881, and it continues to work tirelessly on behalf of women and girls to advance laws,

policies and practices that ensure equity in education, employment and economic security-and equal justice for all. Thank you all for supporting the work of AAUW.

**We carried signs, we
cursed the times, marched
up and down the streets.**

*We had to fight for women's rights
with blisters on our feet.*

-Dolly Parton



AZ Ballot Initiative for Reproductive Freedom

Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions: This was chosen as AAUW Arizona's Number One priority for 2023-2024 action. And this is the year Arizonans are mobilizing to guarantee to Arizona women the freedom to make their own reproductive health decisions. Nine out of 10 Arizonans agree these decisions should be made free from political interference.

The ballot initiative would amend the Arizona constitution to include a woman's right to make her own decision on abortion. It will restore abortion access in Arizona by preventing politicians from limiting abortion before fetal viability.

AAUW Arizona's action plan is a statewide, branch by branch, member by member plan and includes joining in the collection of the 383,923 signatures needed by July 3, 2024, for the November 2024 election. The next step would be an endorsement of the ballot initiative by AAUW AZ. And finally your VOTE YES in November 2024 for the initiative after it has qualified for the ballot.

The petition will be available to sign at the January meeting.

VP Public Policy

Here are some additional educational links:

[Arizona for Abortion Access](#)

[Indivisible Events](#)

Membership News

Please join your board in welcoming our new members to our branch. You will find contact information in the branch handbook.

Renewals:

Members who joined July 2020 or later will renew membership during the month of their initial membership. Our membership VP will send a reminder when it is time for you to renew. It is a simple task to go to the National Website and renew your membership.

**SEV
Branch Special
Interest
Groups**



**Legislative Day
2024**

**Afternoon
Book Club**
Mon, Jan 8, 1pm

The book will be *The Gown*, by Jennifer Robson

Mark your calendars
for Arizona
Legislative
Day at the State
Capital:

Lunch Bunch
Thurs, Jan 18 12:00 pm

Great Decisions
Wed, Jan 24, 3:00pm

Topic: Politics in Latin
America

**Evening Book
Club**

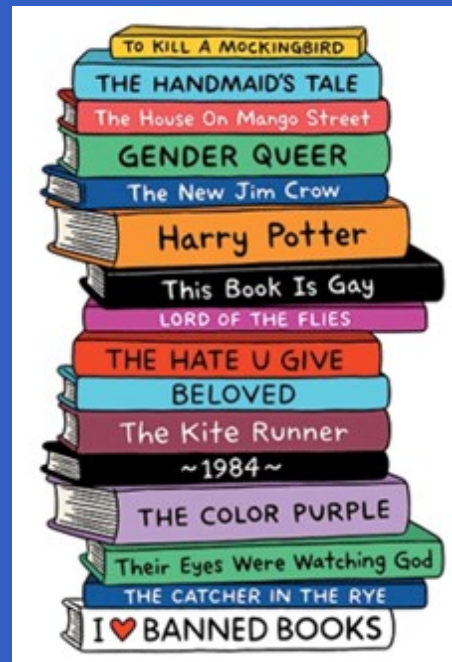
Tues. Jan 30 7:00 pm

The book will be *Bright
Young Women* by Jessica
Knoll.

Southwesters
Details of day trips to
come

Dinner Club
Next meeting in February

February 21
Details to come!



Are you part of a Southeast
Valley Branch Club, or do you
have an idea for an article?

**Deadline for the next
PRICKLY PEAR: Jan. 22**

**EMAIL YOUR IDEAS
HERE**

**Branch Calendar
Spring 2024**

January 15 -- Branch meeting
and period packing

January 22 -- Prickly Pear
submissions due

Bridge Players

Next meeting in Feb

It meets on the first Monday of each month at the Poolside at Oakwood. This is a fun, not competitive, bridge.

Mahjong

Details to come

Members should refer to the Prickly Pear found on the Members Only web page for contact information for any of these events.

February 2 -- Happy Hour Fashion Show

February 19 -- Branch Meeting

February 21 -- Legislative Day

February 22 -- Prickly Pear Submissions due

March 18 -- Branch Meeting

March 22 -- Prickly Pear Submissions due

April 15 -- Branch Meeting

April 22 -- Prickly Pear Submissions due

Thirsty for more information?

Explore our website

Go to SEV website

Join us on Facebook

SEV Facebook

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by byaauw.sev.az@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!
