



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

March 2024

## March Branch Meeting

### Guest Speaker



She will speak about her desire to change how the community views grief, death, and dying. Her mission is to normalize conversations around death so families can plan ahead before the need arises.

**Monday, March 18**

We are thrilled to welcome one of our scholarship recipients as our guest speaker.

Nicole Caldwell, an Arizona

**5:30 - 7:00 pm**

**United Methodist Church  
9248 E. Riggs Road  
Lindsay Hall**

native and mother of one, is a  
Funeral Celebrant and Grief  
Coach. She will be enrolling in  
Mortuary Science in the Fall at  
Chandler-Gilbert Community  
College.

5:30-5:40 - Social Time  
5:40-6:10 - Branch  
Business  
6:10-7:00 - Speaker

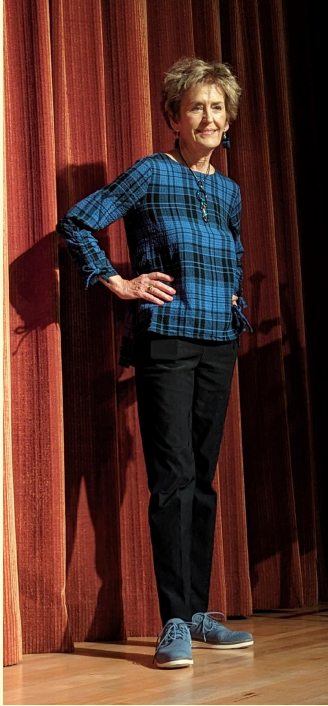
## Happy Hour Fashion Show

### Was a Huge Success!

On February 2, 2024, AAUW Southeast Valley Branch held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Happy Hour Fashion Show Fundraiser. This year the event was sold out and featured SEV members modeling stylish clothing provided by Judy Wear boutique. In addition to the fashion show, guests enjoyed happy hour appetizers, a silent auction, a raffle, and learning about the AAUW SEV Scholarship program.

Thanks to the support from our members and guests, the branch raised \$10,000 which will support 10 \$1000 scholarships for talented women to further their education. These scholarships will be awarded by our scholarship committee to women attending Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

Check out these very stylish models (they are also SEV members!).



## Arizona AAUW Legislative Day

Seven women from our AAUW chapter attended the Arizona AAUW Day at the Capitol February 21, 2024. The AAUW State President, Becky Gunn, opened the meeting. Adrian Fontes, Arizona Secretary of State, then welcomed us to the Capitol and gave a brief history of the building. He stressed the need for everyone to recognize and appreciate the humanity in others, especially those with whom we disagree. He answered a variety of questions related to his role as Secretary.

Following Fontes, there were presentations by two members of Governor Hobbs's Administration: Sarah Brown, Director of Strategic Planning and Budget, and Zaida Dedolph-Piecoro, Health and Human Services Policy Advisor. They discussed Governor Hobbs's proposed budget including, but not limited to, health care

(licensing reform, rating systems), housing initiatives (tax credits, mortgage assistance), child care (caregivers, employment), and education (enrollment, facilities, future investments).

Brahm Resnik, an anchor, reporter, and the host of "Sunday Square-Off" on channel 12, followed with a brief history of his life. Born in Canada, he moved to the US where he established his career. Several years later he became a citizen, an emotional event he ranks equal to the day of his marriage and the births of his children. Resnik shared several anecdotes related to interviewing politicians and attending decision-making sessions. He answered questions following his talk.

The final speaker was Richie Taylor, Communications Director in the Arizona Attorney General's office. He discussed the intricacies of his role as a Director in the Attorney General's office and answered numerous legal-related questions.

This was an interesting and enlightening morning and underlined the complexity of government and the democratic process.

Vice-President Public Policy

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## State Initiatives 2024

ON NOVEMBER 4, 2024, branch presidents, public policy chairs, and the AZ state board came together to determine three initiatives that all branches would support over the next several years. They are as follows:

1. Universal access to quality, affordable health care including self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions
  2. Adequate and equitable funding and access to quality public education, and opposition to the use of public funds for non-public elementary/secondary education
  3. Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship
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# SEV Branch Special Interest Groups

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## Bridge Group Mon. March 4

It meets on the first Monday of the month at the Poolside in Oakwood. This is fun, not competitive, bridge. Please RSVP by the Friday before the meeting.

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## Lunch Bunch Fri. March 8 - 11:30 am North Italia Restaurant in Gilbert RSVP by March 6

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## Afternoon Book Club Mon. March 11 - 1:00 pm

Book: *Her Hidden Genius*  
by Maria Benedict

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## Evening Book Club Tues. March 26 - 6:00 pm

Book and location to be  
determined

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## Great Decisions Wed. March 27 - 3:00 pm

# AAUW SEV Strategic Goals And Objectives

Our Strategic Goals and Objectives were updated in Spring of 2023. Along with other great information, you can find these on our website.

[Click here to view our Strategic Goals and Objectives on our website](#)

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## Branch Calendar

March 18 - Branch Meeting, Speaker, Election of Board Members, Budget

March 22 - Prickly Pear Submissions due

April 13 - Spring Forum, 2nd Initiative (Education)

April 15 - Branch Meeting, Speaker, Installation of New Board

April 22 - Prickly Pear Submissions Due

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Topic: Science Across Borders



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## Dinner Group Will meet in April

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## Southwesters Details of day trips to come



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