



American Association of University Women
Southeast Valley (AZ) Branch
Chandler, Gilbert and the Greater Southeast Valley
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The Prickly Pear Newsletter



January 2025

January Branch Meeting



January 20, 2025
5:30 - 7:00 pm
Sun Lakes United Methodist
Church
9248 Riggs Road

AAUW Arizona Public Policy Co-chairs Beverly Byrd and Betsy Flaten will speak about the Policy Center that is a recent addition to the AAUW National website.

With the creation of the Policy Center on the AAUW National website, there is an increased focus on public policy with a dedicated staff. Beverly and Betsy will discuss how AAUW National's focus fits with AAUW Arizona's priorities, and our next steps as a branch to strengthen state and national advocacy as we transition to a changing and challenging political environment.

Meeting Schedule:
5:30 - 5:40 - Social Time

5:40 - 6:10 - Branch Business
6:10 - 7:00 - Speaker

Red Envelope Brunch Fun



Our December Red Envelope Fundraising Brunch was another successful event. A **Big Thank You** to the planning committee of Susan Bliss, Karen Bliss, and Beth Zdeblick.

Thanks to Sharon Gale for allowing us to raffle the her wonderful centerpieces and to Barb Moser for donating the raffle baskets for the San Marcos teacher manuals.

As part of the event we honored the AAUW SEV Branch past presidents. We thank these women for sharing their talents and time with our branch. We appreciate each of you!

Did You Know?

Does it seem like AAUW is always asking us for money?

I get it. The requests do keep coming.

However, did you know that for more than 130 years, AAUW has funded the educations of countless women so they could follow their dreams. From astronauts to zoologists, the recipients of AAUW's fellowships, grants and awards represent nearly every imaginable field of endeavor. As of 2024, AAUW has given more than \$146 million to over 14,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world.

These recipients include some of the most [influential voices](#) of the past two centuries — women who have helped shape history — as well as nonprofit organizations at the forefront of driving social change. For more information go to [AAUW.org](#). You will be impressed by all that our organization has done and is doing. They will not stop, even when the going gets rough and progress is slow.

Together, we can and will achieve a vision of equity for women and girls.

Ellie King
Vice-President of Public Policy

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

By Beth Zdeblick

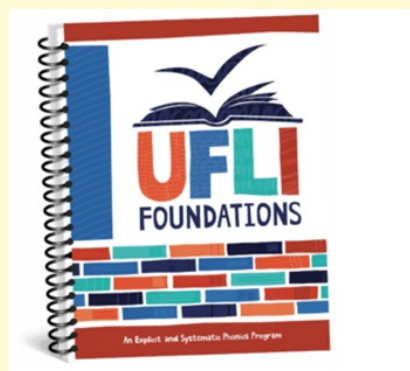
The members of AAUW SEV never cease to amaze me with their generosity and commitment to the goal of supporting women and girls in education.

When I realized I would not receive a grant from AAUW Arizona, and I had already promised San Marcos Elementary School five teaching manuals, I knew I could count on all of you to help. **And you did in an unbelievable way!**

Between raffling one basket at the November branch meeting and raffling two baskets at the Holiday Funds Brunch (compliments of Barb Moser) almost \$700 was collected. With Sharon Gale's generous offer to donate the proceeds from her beautiful Christmas Village centerpieces, another \$235 was raised.

San Marcos now owns **eleven** teacher manuals to support their reading curriculum! Carey Paulo, the reading specialist at San Marcos, shared the amazing news with the teachers, her principal, and even the office staff. To quote Carey, *"We appreciate all of you at the Southeast Valley Branch of AAUW, and your efforts to raise the money for our teachers and students. You are amazing!"*

The UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) manuals will provide the San Marcos teachers with lesson plans, assessment profiles, center activities, apps, and decodable passages. So . . . not only do the teachers benefit and thank us, but most importantly, so do the students.



**Calendar of Events 2024-
2025**

BOARD MEETINGS:

January 8, 2025
February 12, 2025
March 12, 2025
April 9, 2025
May 14, 2025

BRANCH MEETINGS:

January 20, 2025
February 17, 2025
March 17, 2025 Branch Annual Meeting
April 21, 2025 Induction of Officers

EVENTS:

February 5 and 6, 2025 Legislative Days
February 21, 2025 Scholarship Fundraiser
March 29, 2025 Spring Forum

SEV Branch Special Interest Groups

Bridge Group Mon., Jan. 6

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

Mahjong Group Wednesdays, 1:00 pm Oakwood Ballroom Tables 6-7

Afternoon Book Club Mon., Jan. 13 - 1:00 pm

**Book: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*
by James McBride**

Lunch Bunch

BJ's Brewhouse
7151 W. Ray Road, Chandler
Thurs., Jan. 16 - 11:30 am

Great Decisions
Wed., Jan. 22 - 3:00 pm

Topic: High Seas Treaty

Evening Book Club
Tues., Jan. 28 - 6:00 pm

Book: *The Ride of Her Life*
By: Elizabeth Letts

Dinner Group
Next Meeting TBD

AAUW Southeast Valley | AAUW Southeast Valley | Southeast Valley, AZ 85224 US

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