



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

July 2025

Summer Giving Project



This year's SEV summer charity giving event was held on June 19 in conjunction with our monthly happy hour at **Grill on the Green** in Ironwood and was another great success.

Patty Cummins, Community Action Chair, organized the Branch project to support **Meals to Grow**, a program of Matthew's Crossing Food Bank. The program provides weekend backpacks for school-age children and their families. Approximately 1,400 backpacks are distributed each week, year round, in our community.

SEV members always come through with amazing support for our community. Patty reported that in spite of the 113° temperature, we raised \$400 in cash donations and filled three large Matthews

Crossing donation boxes (see photo) with a wide variety of food.

Thank you to Grill on the Green's Food & Beverage Manager, Karla Ellis. Karla was so helpful organizing space for the event along with overnight storage of the donations until Matthews Crossing's Friday pick

up.

A special thank you to all SEV members who generously donated to this very worthy community program.

Photo: Karla Ellis (left) and Patty Cummins filled three donation boxes with a variety of food for Matthews Crossing Food Bank.

Photographer: Renee with Matthew's Crossing Food Bank

Summer Happy Hours



Spending Your Summer in the Arizona Heat?

Join your fellow AAUW SEV members each month for Happy Hour. Members are invited to enjoy a relaxing social with each other and invited guests during this gathering where food and drinks will be at happy hours prices.

Location: Grill on the Green at Ironwood
Time: 4:30-6:00 pm

Dates:
July 17
August 21
September 18

AAUW Two Minute Activists Alerts

Join AAUW advocates in the fight for equal pay, equity in education, paid leave, protections against sexual harassment, and more. Click the link to sign up to get regular alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to your legislators, writing letters to the editor and other timely calls to action. I know that sounds like a lot, but it is really easy!

<https://www.aauw.org/act/action-network-join/>

Have you tried the **Two-Minute Activist** link at AAUW.org? If not, please try it. You won't believe how simple it is! I have included the link below.

Just click on the link, look at the issues that AAUW is prioritizing, and choose at least one to make your voice heard. Click on the link below to see the current issues and let them hear you roar!

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Vice-President of Public Policy

Fall Forum 2025



FALL FORUM COMING NOVEMBER 1



Theme: "Hands off our History and our Future!"

Where: Cottonwood Country Club, Sun Lakes, Arizona

Home of our AAUW SE Valley Branch

(The location is south of Phoenix off the I-10.)

The AAUW SE Valley Branch and their members will be our hostesses. We have two dynamic speakers on women's history secured, and we are also working on an impactful speaker from Arizona state government.

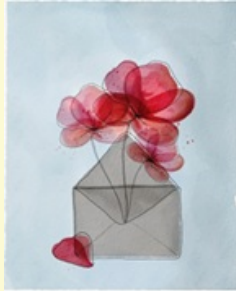
Please accept our invitation to spend a day with your friends and share enthusiasm for being a woman in 2025.

by Marge Whitman

*AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls
through research, education, and advocacy*

Thinking of You

AAUW is interested in the challenges faced by members and would like to reach out with a card.



If someone knows of a member in a tough spot, they can email the "Sunshine Person" to get a card sent on behalf of the membership.

AAUW National News

AAUW's CEO Gloria L. Blackwell in the News

Curious about how we can create a more equitable pay system in higher education? This article from Inside Higher Ed explores five essential questions that challenge current practices and offer a roadmap for change. Take a moment to read and share it with your networks to spark important conversations about fairness, transparency, and institutional accountability. [Read the article](#) and share on social media!

Calendar of Events

BOARD MEETINGS:

July 9, 2025

August 13, 2025

September 10, 2025

BRANCH MEETINGS:

See you in October!

EVENTS:

July 17, 2025 - Happy Hour

August 21, 2025 - Happy Hour

September 18, 2025 - Happy Hour

SEV Branch Special Interest Groups

Movie Group

Wed., July 2

Early Afternoon

Harkins Chandler Crossroads Town Center 12

Germann and Gilbert Rds.

Possible Movies:

F1 and Materialists

Ice Cream afterwards

Bridge Group

Mon., July 7

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 to:

Lunch Bunch

Thurs., July 10 - 11:30 am

Keegan's Grill, Chandler

Summer

Book Club

Mon., July 14 - 1:00 pm

Book: *The Second Chance Book Club* by Stephanie Butland

Happy Hour

Thurs., July 17

4:30-6:00 pm

Location: Grill on the Green at Ironwood

No reservation required

Dinner Group

Wed., July 23 - 5:30 pm

Valle Luna - Chandler

Evening Book Club

Tues., July 29 - 6:00 pm

Location: Grill on the Green

Book: *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn

**Afternoon
Book Club**
Next Meeting in Sept.

Great Decisions
Next Meeting in Oct.

Mahjong Group

Need a new leader.

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

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