



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

August 2025

## Supporting Students in Our Community



### Amazon Wishlist for San Marcos Students Was a Huge Success!

Dr. Henderson, San Marcos principal, was stunned at the generosity of our branch!

Although there were only four Amazon Prime days on which to order items, she received many of the products on the Wishlist. All these items will be used to reward *positive student behavior* throughout the school year. She thanks our branch from the bottom of her heart!

## 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 occasion 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:**  
**August 21**  
**September 18**

---

### **Save Our Schools Update**

As you may remember, Save Our Schools AZ spoke at one of our meetings and highlighted the almost \$1 billion cost of ESA Vouchers in our state. According to SOSAZ, **NO CHANGES** were made to the program even though many called for guard rails to rein in the wasteful spending of our tax dollars.

The Legislature also approved an additional no-strings-attached \$52 million check for vouchers to cover unbudgeted expenses from last school year. Meanwhile public schools got the bare minimum 2% increase in funding.

Also, it was just released that many people are saving the money they have received from the voucher program for their child's college education. Most of the recipients of the voucher funds hail from zip codes in wealthy communities.

**AAUW is for equitable school policies.** If you want to know more about the ESA Voucher program, click on the link below. Also, let your state legislators know how unhappy you are with this monumental waste of your tax dollars.

[SOS-AZ - ESA Vouchers](#)

Vice-President of Public Policy

---

### **Let's Get This Party Started!**

I hope you are having a great summer.

Plans are getting underway for the 2026 AAUW SEV fundraiser, scheduled for Friday, March 13, in the Cottonwood Ballroom, and we need your



help!

To ensure another successful event, this is the time to get our committees organized and chairwomen in place.

The committees are:

- Decorations
- Publicity
- Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Programs and Ticket Design

Volunteers are needed for all committees and to help define the event's theme, menu, and the type of event to be presented. Step up now to be a part of this special annual event.

## 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**





## Branch Member Is an Author

AAUW-SEV member Lura Dymond is publishing a book of short stories titled *Vampire Granny & Other Surprising Stories*. The ebook is already available. The paperback is on preorder at Amazon and will be published on August 6. It will also be available at Barnes & Noble and other places.

The short stories are fantasy and science fiction. In the title story, a reluctant vampire has found a normal life, as much as she can, by being the neighborhood granny who bakes and babysits. When her handsome, vampire son visits, can she keep her secret safe?

While skipping through time in London, with the help of green and silver pills, Janey and her boy toy Timmy become embroiled in the 1381 Peasants Revolt and wonder if they'll ever return home.

Green tree sprites, only eight inches tall, see red when developers attack their sacred hill. Soon they take on the mighty bulldozers.

This is Lura's second published book, and she hopes to publish a novel soon.

---


## AAUW National News

### AAUW's CEO Gloria L. Blackwell in the News

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), the leading organization for gender equity in higher education, responded to the U.S. Supreme Court granting a request from the Trump Administration to proceed with a reduction-in-force affecting nearly 1,400 employees. *The following is a statement from Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW's Chief Executive Officer:*

"Secretary McMahon's claim that these layoffs 'will not directly' harm students and families is flatly false. These mass layoffs, the wholesale dismissal of thousands of civil rights complaints, the withholding of billions in federal funding, and the chaos imposed on borrowers are not mere administrative errors—they are deliberate tactics that threaten educational equity, student safety, and financial security."

We are already witnessing direct impacts on students:

- **Civil rights enforcement crippled:** The Office for Civil Rights dismissed 3,424 complaints between March 11 and June 27, shutting the door on investigations into discrimination across race, disability,
- 



sex, and national origin.

- Borrowers in chaos: Uncertainty over which agency will manage federal loan portfolios, coupled with servicers pausing the tracking of loan-forgiveness payments, has left millions of students unable to verify their progress toward relief
- Critical programs cut off: The Department has withheld nearly \$6.8 billion in formula funding—jeopardizing English learner services, after-school programs, and special education supports that students rely on to succeed.

All of these actions are a betrayal to our students, and AAUW will continue to fight to restore and defend their rights.

---

## Calendar of Events

### BOARD MEETINGS:


August 13, 2025  
September 10, 2025  
October 8, 2025  
November 12, 2025  
December 10, 2025  
January 14, 2026  
February 11, 2026  
March 11, 2026  
April 8, 2026  
May 13, 2026  
June 10, 2026

### BRANCH MEETINGS:

October 20, 2025 - Welcome Back - Poolside Oakwood  
November 17, 2025  
January 19, 2026  
February 16, 2026  
March 16, 2026  
April 20, 2026

### Happy Hours:

August 21, 2025  
September 18, 2025  
October 16, 2025  
November 20, 2025  
December 18, 2025  
January 15, 2026  
February 19, 2026  
March 19, 2026





April 16, 2026  
May 21, 2026  
June 18, 2026

## **EVENTS:**

November 1, 2025 - Fall Forum  
December 13, 2025 - Holiday Funds Luncheon  
March 13, 2026 - Scholarship Fundraiser

---

# **SEV Branch Special Interest Groups**

---

## **Bridge Group** **Mon., Aug. 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.

---

**Movie Group**  
**Thurs., Aug. 7**  
**Early Afternoon**  
**Majestic Chandler 9**  
**Arizona Ave. and Chandler Heights Rd.**  
**Possible Movie:**  
**Superman**  
**Ice Cream afterwards**

---

**Summer**  
**Book Club**  
**Mon., Aug. 11 - 1:00 pm**

**Location: TBD**  
**Book: *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple**

---

**Lunch Bunch**  
**Thurs., Aug. 14 - 11:30 am**  
**Mama Thai Kitchen, Chandler**

---

## **Happy Hour**

**Thurs., Aug. 21**

**4:30-6:00 pm**

**Location: Grill on the Green at Ironwood**

**No reservation required**

---

## **Evening Book Club**

**Tues., Aug. 26 - 6:00 pm**

**Location: Grill on the Green**

**Book: TBD**

---

## **Dinner Group**

**Next meeting in Sept.**

---

## **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

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



Try email marketing for free today!