



# THE SAGE HEN

## A Quarterly Publication of the AAUW Nevada State Council

### 2021 - 2022 Volume 1 - September, 2021



Mission Statement: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



## AAUW Celebrating 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

***Did you know that AAUW is celebrating our 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year – 2021?*** I, like many of you, am aware that AAUW was founded in 1881 – and our commitment to equity for women and girls is as important today as it was then! But it didn't hit me that 2021 is the 140 year milestone until I was reviewing the AAUW Strategic Plan to see if there were any changes or edits to the 2018 adopted plan. (Can I blame the lack of awareness on COVID??) There are no changes to our areas of focus – Education & Training, Economic Security and Leadership, but it was noted there is an improved set of goals – the 2.0 version. You might want to check out the info to see if your Branch goals should also be improved. See <https://www.aauw.org/strategic-plan-2-0/>.

In commemoration of AAUW's 125 Year Anniversary, ***Historic Principles 1881-2007*** was produced. It begins: "During these 125 years of public participation at the local, state, national, and international levels, AAUW has evolved clear principles that underscore its mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Basic to these principles – which form the body of policy that empowers the Association, its Branches, divisions, and individual members – has been the conviction that true equality requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the larger community." Needless to say, this statement is still relevant to 2021!

Throughout the document, specific resolutions or actions taken during the 125 years are highlighted in all areas of public policy. Definitely an interesting read. Especially interesting was the info about the ERA. In 1953, AAUW was neutral regarding passage; Supported ERA in 1971 and then top priority for ratification in 1975. In 1977, AAUW adopted policy of not holding conventions in unratified states. And then in 2003, AAUW urges all states and Branches and members to take action to bring about ratification in three more states!

As I read through the entire document, I saw that AAUW's historic principles provided the means for the continuing evolution and focus of AAUW's positions. It also reaffirmed that our AAUW members truly influence AAUW's course of action.

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President's Message  
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I was particularly interested in the challenges that were included. I wonder if these could be relevant today as we celebrate 140 years as AAUW.

1. "There ought to be one or two Alumnae at each State capital, whose duty it should be to oppose all education bills of a pernicious tendency. Nothing less than eternal vigilance will keep the educational standard even as high as its present unsatisfactory position." (1901 report of the Committee on Educational Legislation) ***Definitely an encouragement for public policy advocacy at the local level. If you have not yet joined AAUW's Action Network – now is the time to do so.***
2. "The machinery of democracy is a delicate thing. It is like a pair of scales in which a steady and continuous balance must be maintained between the powers of the people and the execution of those powers by its delegated representatives. A lax or uninformed people, an ambitious or indifferent representative body, and the necessary equilibrium is disturbed." (AAUW Journal Editorial, Summer 1951) ***What, if anything, can AAUW do to maintain the equilibrium? What role, if any, can AAUW members play in the redistricting process?***
3. "Social need exists. The fact of its existence frowns at us from every street of our large cities; the consciousness of its existence plays through our philosophy. What is the actual relation which we, as college women, should bear to that need? We cannot refrain from this question, for it is part of the great question of our day." (1890 – Vida D. Scudder, author of paper presented to Association of Collegiate Alumnae) ***Is this still a challenge for AAUW today? What, if anything, is our role? Does AAUW's focus on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion pertain to this discussion?***

While AAUW has certainly accomplished a great deal over the last 140 years, what is also evident that there is much yet to be done. What role do YOU think AAUW can play in meeting the needs that still exist? What are YOU willing to do as an individual member? What can WE do as a local or state affiliate?

Caroline Punches  
President, AAUW Nevada





## AAUW Nevada Council Update

**YOUR AAUW Nevada Executive Council** held our first meeting of the 2021-22 Fiscal Year on August 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. In addition to the elected and appointed officers, we also had several Branch Presidents in attendance as active participants. Thanks to all who attended and especially those who provided input during the meeting..

***AAUW Nevada adopted a balanced budget for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year.*** AAUW Nevada receives dues of \$9.00 from each member in Nevada. Our current membership is at 292, which results in an income of \$2,628. Operational expenses account for \$1,045. Our financial support for collaborative women's organizations as well as the sponsorship of students to attend NCCWSL total \$1,575. That leaves us a balance of \$8.00.

***Conversation with US Senator Jackie Rosen*** – Debbie Nicholas, our Public Policy Chair, is coordinating with the staff members of Senator Jackie Rosen to establish a Zoom meeting to discuss national legislative issues of interest. Stay tuned!! AAUW National encourages Branches and affiliates to have at least an annual conversation with their elected officials

***AAUW Nevada Leadership Conference – Spring 2022?*** -- Jennifer Verive is developing ideas for a Spring Leadership Conference. This would again take place via ZOOM – since our 2021 conference was such a great success. YOUR ideas and thoughts about topics/speakers can be sent directly to Jennifer at [Jennifer.verive@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.verive@gmail.com).

***AAUW Nevada will participate in an amicus brief to support Nevada Attorney General's lawsuit to recognize Nevada's ratification of the ERA.*** The original lawsuit was dismissed for lack of standing and that case is now on appeal. The law firm of Boise Schiller has agreed to represent us pro bono. We will be joining Nevada NOW and Nevadans for the ERA and other advocacy groups who worked for Nevada's ERA ratification.

***WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR AAUW NEVADA COUNCIL TO DO??*** We would like to know what YOU want from YOUR state council! AAUW's structure calls for a state organization. In order for us to be successful – we need to hear from YOU! What activities would you attend? Remember AAUW Nevada is a membership organization! YOUR dues include payment to AAUW Nevada! What services and activities are important to have as options? Feel free to share your thoughts via email to [cpunches206@charter.net](mailto:cpunches206@charter.net).



## PUBLIC POLICY by Debbie Nicholas

AAUW NEVADA  
Sage Hen  
September, 2021

Hello, Nevada AAUW Members! 2021 is quickly wrapping up and redistricting and the 2022 mid-terms will be approaching soon! Please keep informed on all the issues and connect with your representatives through email, Instagram, Twitter, or phone - whatever your preference! As voters, we all must remember that our participation in the process and our opinions matter! Volunteers are needed to assist with upcoming activities. Please contact me if you are interested!

[Nicholas89451@gmail.com](mailto:Nicholas89451@gmail.com)

### National

The AAUW Public Policy Committee solicited feedback from members and identified edits and priorities for vote in May of 2021. The full document of 2021-23 AAUW Public Policy Priorities can be found online at

[AAUW Public Policy Priorities – AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

### Highlights include:

- Passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights
- Strengthening and vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Adequate and equitable funding for and access to quality public education
- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces and communities
- Access for all women to the full range of health care services to ensure economic security
- Increasing the number of quality jobs that pay a living wage
- Freedom in the definition of self and family, including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures

I encourage everyone to keep updated on our national website, be active through our **‘Two-minute activist’** campaigns, tune into local and state news. There are decisions made on every level of government which have long term implications not only to us but to our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

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

### Statewide Heads Up - *Nevada Recovers Listening Tour*

75 meetings planned between August and October to take public comment and weigh in on spending priorities for the federal funds on their way to Nevada.

- These meetings will allow you to provide input into spending priorities. “We need help,” Treasurer Zach Conine said during a briefing with reporters on Monday. “We need help from the rest of the state to tell us the things that are wrong and how we can fix them. The state has an unprecedented amount of money and an unprecedented amount of work in front of it.”
- “This represents the largest investment that the federal government has ever made in the state of Nevada,” Sisolak said. “While it may be tempting to try and spend this money quickly, make headlines and get it out there, we have a responsibility to make sure that this money is invested deliberately and intentionally.”

### Redistricting

The US Census Bureau released the 2020 data in legacy format on August 12, 2021 and will release a more user-friendly format of data by the end of September. According to the Nevada Legislature website, the preliminary data indicates that the State Population grew by 15% and will continue to have four seats in the US House of Representatives. Since Census data was not available during the legislative session earlier in 2021, no action was taken for redrawing of lines during the session. Nevada has no redistricting specific deadlines but would need to convene a special session to have new districts in time for the 2022 elections.

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## Public Policy

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As public policy officer, I want to hear from you on what you want our state priorities to be, and innovative ways in which we can reach out and accomplish our goals in progressing legislation on all levels. Please contact me at [nicholas89451@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas89451@gmail.com) if you would like to talk about ideas, and connections we can make. I would welcome all feedback and ideas, and happy to call or Zoom to discuss them.

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## SCHOOL BOARDS

School Board Trustees are under attack throughout the country, and Nevada is no exception. They are being intimidated by a small but vocal group. Please consider emailing the Trustees to give them a word or two of support. If you can, please think about writing them several times a year to buck up their spirits. It must be demoralizing to be publicly castigated for doing the best they can. Here are some suggestions for your messages, but use your own words.

Schools are responsible for turning our students into well-informed citizens. America is a nation of free, open, and vigorous but respectful debate. Our students should be educated in the American culture of free expression of ideas. We are letting them down when we rant and rave and set a poor example for them. Our students at all levels need to be taught how to work their way through myths and competing narratives. We have to calm down and realize that public schools are not corrupting our children by teaching them to be critical thinkers. Thank you for your hard work in achieving our goals. Please continue to follow the directive of our Governor and our health departments. Follow the science.

Now, here's how to email your message:

- Go to the Nevada Association of School Boards (<https://www.nvasb.org/>).
- Click on menu.
- Click on school district information.
- Click on Superintendents.
- Find your county.
- Send your message to the administrative assistant in your county.
- Ask she/he to forward your message to each Trustee.

Sometimes the website is out of date. If your message is kicked back, please contact the Executive Director of the NASB, Deb Oliver, 775-687-9225 or email [doliver@NVASB.org](mailto:doliver@NVASB.org)

For Washoe County residents, you can send a message to each Trustee by emailing [publiccomments@washoeschools.net](mailto:publiccomments@washoeschools.net).

Thanks for all you do for your community and AAUW.

Bonnie Barber ([bbarber99@yahoo.com](mailto:bbarber99@yahoo.com)) and Janice Flanagan ([janflangan@aol.com](mailto:janflangan@aol.com))





## Starting the DEI Dialogue

By Dr. Jennifer Verive, DEI Coordinator, AAUW Nevada

This year, AAUW Nevada will be exploring AAUW National's Call to Action regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). National has positioned DEI as a key governance matter for all Branches. On their website and through a webinar series, AAUW National offers clear guidance and robust content to help Branches understand and explore DEI concepts. The desired outcome of this work is to create a more diverse and inclusive culture within our Branches.

As the state's DEI Coordinator, I am wondering what role the State Council can play in assisting Branches to develop DEI-related plans and activities that are aligned with National's perspective: How can we help you? Are you looking for ideas? Guidance? Resources? Please share your thoughts with me via email ([jmverive@gmail.com](mailto:jmverive@gmail.com)) or call/text at 775-315-4748.

### Let's Start at the Beginning: Who are You?



To get us thinking about DEI, I'd like to start with the construct that is the foundation of the DEI movement – Identity.

On their website, AAUW National states, "Identity is a combination of characteristics, attributes, experiences or behaviors that make us each who we are."

Social Psychology tells us that when we answer this question, we often use labels that place us into a group. For example, I might answer the question, "Who are you?" by saying that I am a white, middle-aged, middle-class, straight woman, a mom and businesswoman, who enjoys reading mystery novels.

Within the DEI context, these labels are "dimensions of diversity" – the things we notice about others that make them similar or different from us.

What labels do you use for yourself? For others?

### Assimilation or Acculturation? Neither!

The idea of America being a melting pot – where individual identities blend as one -- is being abandoned by the DEI movement as the many different cultural groups within our country demand to have distinct and equal identities.

*"Today, the terms mosaic society and tossed salad are replacing the melting pot concept. In a mosaic society, individuals maintain their own cultural patterns, such as language, lifestyle, and religious practices. Differences are valued and appreciated, as when countless colored stones join together to form a mosaic, or when carrots, lettuce, cucumbers, green peppers, and tomatoes maintain their shapes, color, and taste in a tossed salad. As a result, individuals can be proud of their cultural heritage and uniqueness instead of being ashamed of their differences."* [Read more from this AAUW National resource: <https://extension.psu.edu/an-overview-of-diversity-awareness>]

### Exploring Our Identity Often Requires Having a Difficult Conversation

AAUW National warns that effective, honest conversations about identity and other DEI concepts will be, by definition, personal, and thus may well be uncomfortable. Before embarking on any DEI plans, National recommends we sharpen our skills in having a difficult conversation. Start by establishing ground rules and then engage membership in a group



## Starting the DEI Dialogue

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activity. There are several suggestions on the website -- one activity requires participants to chop an onion --- comparing chopping an onion to having conversations about DEI issues, “Sometimes they produce strong reactions - they stink, they might make us wrinkle our nose, or even produce some tears.”

For the full list of Ground Rules and other guidance around having difficult conversations:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/difficult-conversations/>

You can download the onion chopping activity suggested by AAUW National here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/562837d1e4b0c53c5afbc078/t/5c087ab26d2a73338183d2ba/1544059570678/Leadership+Lessons+%26+Inclusion+Starting+the+Conversation.pdf>

In addition to our personal identities, each of our Branches has an identity. What is the identity of your Branch? How does that affect who “fits in” and who doesn’t?

I hope these questions get you thinking about AAUW National’s DEI initiative and how your Branch will meet this call to action. Please share your thoughts with me and let me know how your AAUW Nevada State Council can support your efforts!





### ***From the Capital Branch:***

The Capital Branch is looking forward to a very busy Fall 2021. We will host our annual Membership Meeting at the Governor's Mansion as we encourage our members to bring friends and family who are interested in joining our Branch. We will share our goals for the year and set our sights on working with DEI Tool Kits designed to expand our horizons.

Capital Branch has continued to work with Envirolutions to support STEM education in our schools. Our volunteers package kits for teachers to use with their students. Despite the Pandemic, our volunteers supported this program through the last year.

Our Interest Groups continue to flourish and many are meeting in-person taking the necessary precautions. They have been reading, hiking, knitting, creating great gourmet food, and learning amazing foreign policy through Great Decisions. These Interest Groups have something inviting for everyone.

Our Pecan sales fundraiser will kick off soon and we will be treated with the very best Georgia pecans. Besides snacking on the chocolate-covered and cinnamon glazed, they make the absolute best pecan pie! Let us know if we can tempt you further this Fall!

All our best for the coming year!

### ***From the Las Vegas Branch:***

The Las Vegas Branch is hoping to go back to in-person meetings starting this September 2021. We look forward to locally advancing the mission, values, and focus of AAUW throughout the Las Vegas communities. At our kickoff meeting, our Las Vegas Branch will be giving out three \$1,000 college scholarships to local women. The scholarships will help to support their educational funding, while pursuing their academic work and continuing their community outreach.

### ***From the Tahoe Nevada Branch:***

The AAUW Tahoe Nevada Branch has been very busy. Our Annual Meeting was held in June with a wonderful catered luncheon and review of the year as well as elections and meeting of our three scholarship recipients. This was attended by 40 of our 128 members.

Our Branch had an entry in our local 3<sup>rd</sup> of July parade where 20 members walked with signs, honoring our local heroes of education, alongside three beautiful members' convertible cars, all decorated. We also inducted our new officers and held our strategy meeting in July to plan out our year, keeping in mind Education and our Community.

Our *Meet and Greet* in August (held at our local Lake Tahoe beach) was very successful! We asked that people bring guests to promote more membership. We have 8 interest groups in our branch that also have monthly activities. Please enjoy our monthly newsletter at <https://tahoe-nv.aauw.net/aboutus/newsletter/>.







## BRANCH PRESIDENTS

AAUW NEVADA  
Sage Hen  
September, 2021



### **Boulder City Branch - Dr. Valerie McNay (Continuing President)**

Valerie McNay learned about AAUW while working on her doctoral dissertation (to study women in educational administration) at and working fulltime for the University of Kansas (KU), off campus at University Affiliates Program (UAP) and Bureau of Child Research in Parsons, KS. She discovered that AAUW's scholarship programs were being offered to advance equity for women through research. She was impressed by the long history of AAUW's efforts to advocate for women in higher education and the funding AAUW provided to Maria Curie for her radiation research.

After relocating to Boulder City, NV in 1994, Valerie learned of the AAUW Branch in the community and has been a member ever since. She appreciates the historical significance of the Boulder City Branch because it is related to the construction of Hoover Dam. Reportedly, the engineers and other managers, hired to build the Dam in the 30's, came from the East and Midwest, bringing their educated spouses, who supposedly had been home economics majors. It was these women who joined together to form an AAUW branch in a rural community with no institution of high education in the area at the time.

### **Capital Branch - Janice Noble, Ph.D. (Continuing Co-President)**

Honor and privilege barely begin to express the gratitude I feel as Co-President of the Capital Branch. As a member of AAUW for the past six years, learning about and being involved with this organization has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience. It feels like the cherry on top of a career journey that has taken me places I would never have dreamed. I collect degrees like some folks collect stamps! Nursing, B.S. in Human Services, M.A. in Education, M.B.A. and Ph.D. in Education. I was probably the most senior person in my graduating classes. Nurse, educator, academic administrator, and finally personal trainer have been my fun and exciting career.

I'm looking forward to more excitement and adventure with my Capital Branch AAUW colleagues this year!



### **Capital Branch - Chris Perdomo (NEW Co-President)**

Chris received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Psychology at Sonoma State University in northern California and a Master's degree in Education with a concentration in Learning Disabilities at the University of Idaho. She taught elementary school in Carson City and went on to complete the requirements for an Educational Leadership license for the state of Nevada. Employed as an Assistant Principal and Principal in Douglas County, upon retiring from the public school system, she was hired as Principal at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School in Carson City, NV and retired from education in 2013.

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### **Fallon Branch - Carol Roeder (Continuing Co-President)**

Carol Roeder first came to Fallon in 1977, not knowing anyone. Luckily, she met Genie Cunningham, who invited her to join AAUW. An active member until 1982, Carol moved back to California where she taught in a small two-room school until 1993. Carol graduated from San Jose State in 1955 and taught Kindergarten and First Grade in San Jose for many years. In a new job, she taught grades 4 through 8; a wonderful experience, but lots of hard work.

Carol took over as President of the Fallon Branch for the first time in 1994, and has served as President, on and off, since then. She also serves as Treasurer of that branch. Presently, the Fallon branch has 20 members and its main goal is raising money for scholarships.

### **Las Vegas Branch - Judith Ingham (NEW Co-President)**

Judy has been a member of AAUW since 1978, originally joining in Rhode Island. When she moved to Las Vegas in 1983, she joined the Las Vegas Branch and has served in the past in a variety of Nevada State offices: Vice-President of Membership, 1984-1985; Las Vegas Branch Board member; Vice-President Membership Assistant, 1992-1993; and Treasurer, 2016-2018. Judy holds a B.A. and M.Ed. in Elementary Education and recently retired after teaching for 46 years (11 years in Rhode Island and 35 years in Nevada).



### **Las Vegas Branch - Shirley Hills (NEW Co-President)**

Shirley Hills has been a member of Las Vegas AAUW for five or six years. Prior to this, she was a member of Shoreline-Edmonds (Washington) group for several years in the early 80's. Holding degrees from the University of Washington and Seattle University, Shirley was in education for 43 years, 34 of these in the suburb of Seattle known as the Shoreline School District, where she taught grades 2-6, and was adjunct associate professor at Seattle Pacific University, University of Washington, and Seattle University teaching education classes. Shirley retired in 1998, but was then asked to return to do intervention classes for three years. While teaching, Shirley held leadership roles in administration, in curriculum development and in crisis management.

In 2003, she joined Clark County Schools as a Literacy Specialist for 7 years, the last 2 years teaching fourth grade in all boy classes. This was a fitting assignment as Shirley has six grandsons!

Now retired, she enjoys having time to read, garden, travel and be involved in the boys' lives. She and her husband were carpool grandparents for 16 years, a great joy watching boys and their friends grow up.



## Reno Branch - Courtenay Burns (NEW President)

Dr. Courtenay Burns serves as the Director of Government Relations at Waterford.org. She received her Bachelor's degree from Berea College and her doctorate in Political Science from the University of Nevada, Reno. Though her academic research focuses generally on public opinion and interest groups in the United States, at Waterford.org her research emphasis is on the use of technology in early childhood education. In her free time, Courtenay volunteers with the American Legion Auxiliary and serves as the Program Chair of Nevada Girls State, an Americanism program that teaches young women who have just completed their junior year in high school about democracy and government through hands-on experience. In addition to AAUW, she is involved with the Nevada Women's Lobby.



## Tahoe Nevada Branch - Laura Durica (NEW President)

A member of the Morgan Hill, California Branch of AAUW after she retired from IBM in 2010, Laura has been a member of the AAUW Tahoe Nevada Branch since 2015. She has served as Programs VP, Communications Chair and President-Elect. Having graduated in 1978 from California State University, Sacramento with a degree in Electrical Engineering, Laura worked for IBM for 31 years in various areas of Computer Manufacturing; Manufacturing Automation, Network Engineering, and Data Warehousing. She became a certified PMP, Project Manager. Laura and her husband, Bill, grew up in the Sacramento area and brought up their two daughters in Morgan Hill, CA. She has two grandsons that take her breath away, and loves to travel,

kayak, hike, golf as well as various other outdoor adventures. Laura enjoys all the women she has met and works with as she pursues her interest in STEM programs for girls. She looks forward to meeting more AAUW members over the coming year.







**HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AAUW MEMBERS FOR 50+ YEARS!**

### Fallon Branch



**Nancy Marie Hedges** currently enjoys her retirement on the farm where she has lived for the last 65 years. She graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a B.S. in Home Economics in 1945. She married Weldon Hedges in 1948 and they had five children. In 1957, they settled in Fallon, Nevada.

As one of the first middle-aged women who went to work after starting her family, Nancy commuted daily to the University of Nevada and obtained an elementary teaching certificate. She commenced teaching first grade in the Fall of 1963 and taught for the next 22 years as either a first or second grade teacher.

Nancy has been active in AAUW for many years and has held all the local chapter offices. She was AAUW Fallon's Woman of the Year in 1984 and

Community Woman of the Year in 1998-1999. She was President of the local teachers' association in 1977-1978.

Nancy remains engaged with her lifelong interests in reading, walking and church, i.e. the Fallon Methodist Church, and of course, still likes to attend AAUW meetings and activities.

### Capital Branch

**Shirley Hammon** graduated from Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania in 1954 and moved to Arizona to teach elementary school children for nine years. In 1964, she moved to northern Nevada, and joined the Fallon AAUW Branch that July as she had wanted to be an AAUW member.

In 1969, she moved to Carson City and joined the Capital Branch. Shirley was the Pecan Sales Chair from 1970 to 2016.

Her main interest is equal opportunity for women. Through her Branch's fundraising efforts, including pecan sales and Feast of Chocolate, the Capital Branch has been able to award local scholarships and to contribute to AAUW fellowships annually to advance equal opportunity for women.



**Barbara Jepsen** was born and grew up in Maryville, Missouri. After high school, she attended the University of Nevada, graduating in 1956. Moving to Carson City, she adopted Nevada as home and taught elementary school, and later was a reading specialist in the Carson City public schools.

After retiring, she continued working with young people as a storyteller and volunteer. She has been active in the local AAUW Branch, spearheading many projects and assisting with scholarship fundraising. She and her late husband of 65 years have two sons, and Barbara still lives in Carson City.

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**Jane Johnson** is a Lifetime member of AAUW, having joined the Reno Branch in 1967 before moving to Douglas County, and Capital Branch in 1980. She has served in several capacities here, including three years as Branch President. Her mother was also a Lifetime member of AAUW before Jane.

Jane graduated from Stanford University, taught elementary school for 36 years, and holds a Master's degree from University of Nevada, Reno. Jane has been a widow for many years, but continues to love the outdoors in Carson Valley, especially riding her bicycle. She plays cello in the Carson City Symphony and in an early music ensemble called Consort Canzona. Jane has one daughter and two grandchildren with beginning careers in STEM.



**Las Vegas Branch - No photos available**

**Ruth Johnson** has been a member of AAUW since 1966. She's a mother to five children, a pastor's wife, pianist, reader, and avid reader. Ruth has lived in Lewiston and Jamestown, North Dakota. In 1970-72 she was her state's AAUW President.

From North Dakota, they moved to Green Valley, Arizona for her husband to pastor a United Methodist Church. While North Dakota AAUW State President, she led the women to lobby the state legislature to ratify the ERA amendment; and the state established six additional chapters.

Ruth's adventures are many. She ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Jamestown, but got a third of the votes cast. Her candidacy led to several women running for statewide offices. She and her husband moved to Las Vegas when he retired. In the Las Vegas Branch, Ruth leads the book group and offers good counsel.

**Martha Wood** has been a member since 1965. She is a retired speech therapist. While in Michigan, she was her chapter President. Upon retirement, Martha and her husband moved to Las Vegas to escape the snow. She has been an active member of OLLI (Ollie Life Learning Institute) at UNLV. Over time, she has taught thirty-one classes for them. The arts are a lifelong interest of hers. In her spare time, she plays bridge, is a student of art and music, and loves reading crime novels. Martha's home town is Detroit, Michigan. She was President of our Las Vegas Branch in 1990.

**Mary Gafford** has been a member since 1966. She's spent her entire career at Roy Martin Middle School in Las Vegas. She taught English and Spanish, Creative Writing, Journalism, and Newspaper. Mary was President of Las Vegas Branch in 1977-1978. She is active with the Southern Nevada Women's History Project and has contributed chapters to their publications. Additionally, she is a member of the Mesquite Club, Genealogy, Descendants of the Mayflower, and DAR. Her hometown is Dallas, Texas.

**Nora Wieland** has been an AAUW member since 1965. She was a chapter President in California, held additional positions, and was District Director for LA County. Her professional career was as a teacher and a supervisor of practicum teachers. She is active in chapter book clubs, bridge, Smith Center functions. Another hobby is rose cultivation. Nora's hometown is Cabool, Missouri. She has degrees from Missouri and Pepperdine Universities. Nora says, "Now I just enjoy other people's work."



## Boulder City Branch



**Alice Hoelzer-Hawthorne** graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, Kenosha, WI in 1978 at age 38, and joined Racine Branch where she served as Program Chair. She has also been a member of the Wheaton, IL Branch (1986-89), and the Madison, WI Branch (1990-94), serving as Co-President and Book Sale Chair. With a stop at the Traverse City, MI Branch (1995-99), Alice has been a Las Vegas/Boulder City Branch member since 2015, serving as a longtime member of the Scholarship Committee.

**Barbara Morris** graduated from Cal Poly, Pomona, CA, with a B.S. and earned her MA from LaVerne College in Special Education, working with the aurally handicapped in schools. In the 1970s, she joined the Ontario/Upland Branch, transferring to the Boulder City Branch in about 1998. She has served us well as Membership Chair with a long run as EF and LAF Chair. A self-described “worker bee,” Barb has been a major supporter of all the Branch activities.



**Marilyn Swanson** graduated from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in January, 1951 with a B.S. in Home Economics, a major in Food and Nutritional Research. She joined AAUW in 1964 in Boulder City, was Branch President for five years, Vice President for one term, and served on various committees, (such as State Convention Chair twice when it was held in Boulder City) and a Home Tour hostess almost every year since it was organized. Marilyn served as EF and LAF Chair for many years, was Nevada State Study Topic Chair for two years, attended many Fall conferences in Tonopah, state conventions, regional conferences and three association conventions. Her daughter is also a lifetime member!

**Linda Gardner** (Honorary) graduate in 1968 from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. She joined AAUW in Coos Bay-Bend, OR (1969-75) where she served in many Board capacities, including President. She moved to and affiliated with Branches in Las Vegas (1975-78) and Boulder City (1977-84). In the late 70s she served as Nevada State Public Relations Chair. Linda became a member of Redding, CA Branch (1984-90) and then from 1990 to present, Bend, OR Branch, serving as Membership VP and President, as well as grant writer on the Tech Trek Committee. She serviced AAUW of Oregon Board as Program, Communications, and Membership VPs, is currently a dual member of both Bend, OR and Boulder City, where she serves as Boulder City Membership and Treasurer. Linda has attended many Oregon State conventions, as well as Association conventions in Washington, DC and Anaheim, CA. She has been a contributor to EF and LAF, and is a Legacy Circle Member.







# SAVE THE DATE

## RENO ACES GAME

Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

Who's playing? Salt Lake Bees

Where? Reno

Ticket Cost? \$18

Where are our seats? Infield Reserved!

In Collaboration with other Northern Nevada AAUW chapters

This is an evening game and spouses, friends, family and neighbors are all invited! To purchase tickets, please visit

<https://offer.fevo.com/aces-vs-salt-lake-bees-rqljqvz-7b28acc>



For more information: Debbie Nicholas at (775) 843-0775 or [nicholas89451@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas89451@gmail.com)



American Association of University Women Tahoe Nevada is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation formed in Nevada and registered with the Nevada Secretary of State (Federal Tax I.D. #943055754). Our purpose is the advancement of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.



# PLEASE JOIN US

## FOR ANOTHER AAUW FUNDRAISER **GAME AND CARD PARTY**

**ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>  
AT THE PARASOL BUILDING**

**5:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.**

**5:30 - 6:30 - SOCIAL HOUR**

**6:30 - LET THE GAMES BEGIN**

# \$ 25

**MEMBERS, SPOUSES,  
FRIENDS, FAMILY**

**APPETIZERS, DESSERTS, WINE**



**MAH JONGG**



**MEXICAN TRAIN  
DOMINOES**

**SPACE IS LIMITED - R.S.V.P. EARLY  
(BUT NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>)**

**BONNIE YACHBES- (954) 868-1456 OR EMAIL: BONICOOKER@AOL.COM**

**ESTHER LEVANDOSKI - (775) 831-2434 OR EMAIL: RUNNINGBLUECATS@GMAIL.COM**

**\*\*PLEASE BE SURE TO INDICATE WHAT APPETIZER OR DESSERT  
YOU'LL BRING SO WE DON'T DUPLICATE**



**POKER**

**BRING WINE DONATIONS TO  
MILLIE SZERMAN'S HOME,  
633 WOODRIDGE CIRCLE, INCLINE VILLAGE, NV  
BY OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**

## **WHITE ELEPHANT SALE**

**BRING A WHITE ELEPHANT ITEM  
ALL PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO AAUW**

**LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER**



**EVERYONE NEEDS TO WEAR A MASK, UNLESS  
THEY (OR YOU) ARE EATING OR DRINKING!**

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