



# THE SAGE HEN

## A Quarterly Publication of the AAUW Nevada State Council

### 2021 - 2022 Volume 2 - January, 2022



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

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

As we begin our new year, many of us will be making New Year's resolutions. I encourage you to include AAUW in your resolutions this year, either as an individual or collectively as a Branch. Branches could resolve to create a more inclusive environment or create a new fundraiser to enable a Branch donation to AAUW's Greatest Needs or another designated fund. Individually, we could resolve to actively participate as a Two Minute Activist, attend at least one AAUW National webinar per quarter, or become more active as a volunteer at the local or state level. So many possibilities! Any one of these resolutions would have a positive impact for ourselves, our Branches, and elected officials. Taken together, our AAUW resolutions will help us achieve equity for all in our own communities and beyond.

J. Allen Shaw cautions us: **"Don't make resolutions without an action plan! The secret to success is right in your hands!"** Or as Catherine Pulsifer notes, "The meaning of resolution is 'a firm decision to do or not do something.'" If you make a firm decision about something, **then you must take action and set a deadline - in other words, set a goal!"**

There is certainly lots of support for creating an action plan to align with your AAUW New Year's resolution. And, there is no shortage of possible resolutions. **Need a program idea?** Take a look at the AAUW webinars. Many of the programs feature not only former AAUW fellows but current leadership within AAUW. The topics include everything from Professional Development to Social Justice to Advocacy and Membership/Town Hall meetings. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

- Want to be a more engaged Two-Minute Activist? Sign up here!

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

- Want to have a more inclusive branch? Check out this DEI Toolkit.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/plugin-play-dei-programming/>

- Want to just be inspired or learn from a different perspective? That was my goal in attending some of the webinars last year. And, boy was I inspired! I was truly impressed with the speakers and their dedication to their specific focus of study. In fact, I even purchased a couple of their books. Thinking I would read and then maybe suggest for our AAUW Book Discussion Group. Or, maybe you just want to hear from someone with a different perspective than yours.

Many of our AAUW funded scholars are now experts in their fields. For example, **Dr. Patricia Bell-Scott** was a 1984-85 Fellow. She authored *The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray*. Most recently, she was the consulting producer for the documentary, *My Name is Pauli Murray*. Don't know who Pauli Murray is?? Just check out this link: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1 - 2
Nevada Council News	2
Opportunity Awaits	3
National Program Fund	4
Public Policy	5
Reno Women's March	6
In Memoriam	7
Branch News	8 - 10
State and Branch Archives	11

(Continued on Page 2)



---

President's Message  
(Continued from Page 1)

*AAUW just celebrated its 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! That's right! For 140 years, AAUW has evolved to become the leading voice in advancing gender equity. For inspiration for your AAUW New Year's resolution, check out the anniversary celebration. It was via Zoom and featured **Dr. Nigozi Okonjo-Iweala**, the Director General of the World Trade Organization and one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2021. She was the recipient of the 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award! Check it out at*

*<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/awards/aauw-alumnae-recognition-award/>*

*All AAUW members can be very proud of our investment in the AAUW Fellowship program. AAUW fellows have done exceptional work. They are truly amazing women.*

*If nothing else, make a resolution to learn more about AAUW's rich history and take great pride in all that has been accomplished in 140 years.*

*Happy resolving! And Happy New Year!*

*Caroline Punches, President, AAUW Nevada*



Your AAUW Nevada Executive Council is planning to do another state-wide leadership conference/convention this Spring. Since our 2021 event was so successful, we will be doing this again via ZOOM. We are in the process of finalizing the program/speakers. But **YOUR input and suggestions** are always welcome! Just send me an email to [cpunches206@charter.net](mailto:cpunches206@charter.net)! The Council is meeting in early January – so send your thoughts in soon.





**An OPPORTUNITY for YOU  
to participate at the State level!**

**AAUW Executive Council members are elected for a two-year term and the terms of those serving during the 2020-2022 term are expiring as of June 30, 2022! New Executive Council members must be elected for the 2022-2024 term of office which officially begins July 1, 2022!**

Those elected officers whose terms are expiring are:

- Caroline PUNCHES
- Jennifer Verive
- Debbie Nicholas
- Marian Stanton
- Pam Sheldon
- Millie Szerman

Jane Johnson is in her first year of office. Janice Flanagan serves as Past-President to provide guidance. Janet Usinger and Doris Dowden were appointed.

**According to our ByLaws and Policies and Procedures, a minimum of 5 Council members and a maximum of 9 are to be elected by the membership.** The term of office is for two years AND a Council member can serve a maximum of two terms (or four years). Council members are NOT elected to specific roles - but to the Council. The Council then elects the officers. The required officers are: Administrator/President, Finance Officer/Treasurer, and Secretary.

The Council is required to meet only two times per year. However, we recently have been meeting three or four times - and all Council meetings are done by ZOOM! The Council has adopted a strategic plan which focuses on increased communication with Branches and providing training opportunities!

**Interested?? Or want to suggest someone to the Nominating Committee?? Please reach out to Jennifer Verive ([jmverive@gmail.com](mailto:jmverive@gmail.com)) Janet Usinger ([usingerj@unr.edu](mailto:usingerj@unr.edu)) or Miriam Stanton ([mikistanton@aol.com](mailto:mikistanton@aol.com)).**



## **AAUW of Nevada Members support National Program Funds!**

***Congratulations and Thank You*** to those AAUW members who have financially supported AAUW National Funds! Between January 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021, 82 gifts were donated by individuals and Branches in support of National funds for a total of \$5,801. Incredible generosity! And, I am sure more will be donated during the final quarter, thanks to the AAUW National Board and staff volunteering to match up to \$75,000 from members.

AAUW Nevada donors earmarked 72 contributions to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. The Education & Training Fund received six gifts. One gift supported the Economic Security Fund. One donor supported the Governance & Sustainability Fund and two gifts were donated to the Linda Hiebert-Sekiguchi fund. Some donors actually gave more than one gift in support of a program.

We know this has been a very difficult year for our Branches as they worked to fund their own programs and local scholarships – so the support of so many members to our national organization as well as supporting local fundraising efforts is truly commendable!

***Way to go Nevada AAUW Members!***







## PUBLIC POLICY By Debbie Nicholas

AAUW National Public Policy has been very busy, as always, contacting our legislators, partnering with other organizations, and moving our public policy agenda ahead.

In this issue, I wish to highlight all the wonderful research that is available on the AAUW.org website. There are many webinars being done (and these are an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge without needing to travel or leave your home). Visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars> for a list of webinars you can view.

► I highly recommend from December 15, 2021 - Exploring *Tough Policy Issues through an AAUW Lens: Political and Non-Partisan*, and December 2, 2021, Creating *Inclusive Spaces*.

► A treasure trove of research exists on topics including:

- The Gender Pay Gap,
- Barriers to Women in Leadership,
- Women & Student Loan Dept,
- the Power Gap at America's Universities,
- the STEM Gap,
- Sexual Harassment at School among other topics.

You can read more at <https://www.aauw.org/research/>

Please visit the website regularly, for updated information and as always, sign up for the 2-minute activist at [Two-Minute Activist – AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881](#). This is an extremely easy way to connect with your national representatives, but **never underestimate the power of local activism!** Stay in the know about local issues and contact your elected officials with your opinions.

Our voices are more important than ever in these divisive times and your officials need your input and guidance!

In Nevada, we have so much work to do to move our mission for equity for women and girls forward. Please contact me if you have special interest areas and can volunteer by giving some time to working with our partners in educating voters and other initiatives. You can reach me at [nicholas89451@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas89451@gmail.com) or cell 775.843.0775.

### Volunteers Needed in 2022 -

Our partner agency, Nevada NOW, is forming a coalition to educate the public and get out the vote in Nevada for passage of the federal ERA. If you can assist in this, please contact Jen at email or phone below. I will be sending periodic updates as events or needs arise.

Jeri Burton  
President Nevada NOW  
Phone: 702-682-5459  
Email: [jeri@nevadanow.org](mailto:jeri@nevadanow.org)



**Save the Date: 2022 Women's March  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**

This one is specific to Reno – but others will occur around the state)  
Visit <https://map.womensmarch.com> link for locations around the country.

"Since 2017, through some amazing solidarity, Reno Women's March organizers began to plan what issues to address through the march. It was important to speak about stronger advocacy for Black, Indigenous and People of Color."





We are sad to learn that former AAUW Nevada President, **Robin Morgan** (1977-1979) died on September 25, 2021 in Pleasanton, California. Robin, her husband Walt, and their five children moved to Las Vegas in the early 1960s, where she became active in the Las Vegas Branch and then at the state level. In the 1970s, she was instrumental in the founding and organization of Nevadans for ERA, an organization that AAUW Nevada sponsored. Soon after the end of Robin's presidency in 1979, she and Walt moved to Livermore, California. She was an active member of the Livermore-Pleasanton Branch in California until her death.



**Robin Morgan**



**Mary Anne Convis**

August 30, 1929 - November 24, 2021

Capital Branch is remembering Mary Anne Convis as she passed from this life on November 24, 2021. She was a long-time member of AAUW until 2020 when her health no longer permitted her involvement. She is remembered by her dear friend, Shirley Hammon, as a "Doer," tirelessly working behind the scenes and at the forefront as a supporter and activist for Women's Rights. The Nevada Women's History Project was one of special interest to her and she acted as Co-Chair for the organization. Mrs. Convis was instrumental in securing a spot in our nation's Capital for the creation and placement of a statue of Sarah Winnemucca. A copy of the statue is also located in our Nevada Capital.

Mrs. Convis is fondly remembered by our Capital Branch for having opened her home many years in a row for the Branch's annual holiday party. Besides the traditional holiday decorations, her home was always graced with her amazing Santa Claus collection. She is remembered for her spirit of activism and willingness to always lend a hand. She will be missed.



Fallon Branch lost two of their longtime members this past year:

- Jane Randall, who served as State Recording Secretary
- Myrt Reichard, who was known in Fallon as the Carousel Lady, as she always had a carousel horse by the road, decorated appropriately for the season!





### ***From the Boulder City Branch:***

The Boulder City Branch had a successful wine and chocolate tasting in November, 2021, the first fundraiser for the Branch since the pandemic began. Ticket sales, donations from businesses and gifts from members and friends were enough for the Branch to award six (6) scholarships of \$500 each to local college women. In December, Branch members gathered at a restaurant for a social evening. Branch members are hoping to resume the annual Home Tour in 2022 to raise more scholarship funds. Regular monthly meeting will resume in January.



Bartenders: Linda Gardner, Jean and Ernie Biacsi, and Bill and Donna Heileman



Chocolate Servers:  
Sharon McLaughlin Newby  
and Judith Hoskins

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

The last quarter of 2021 was particularly busy and fulfilling for the Capital Branch. We've been working on integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) into our activities and have had an amazing set of experiences to share. In October, we were fortunate to have Elizabeth Villalobos, Ph.D., assistant professor of World Languages and Literature from University of Nevada, Reno, as our speaker. As a recipient of AAUW funds that supported her dissertation research, she presented her research on border studies and human rights.

In November, on a beautiful Fall afternoon with trees in full autumn colors, we spent two hours touring The Stewart Indian School. The museum afforded us insight into the 80-year history of the School through the eyes of the Alum, amazing artifacts and pictures of the students throughout the history, including athletic and cheerleading outfits. The gift shop was a popular stop with beautiful artistic jewelry and school memorabilia. And last, but certainly not least, was the walking tour of the grounds. A Smartphone connected to the voice tour explained the history and buildings of the school.

December offered our Branch a truly wonderful opportunity to once again come together for our annual Holiday Gathering hosted by Mary Wilson. Much of the three tables overflowing with enticing, festive food created by our Gourmet Group, took centerstage for this wonderful event, and special thanks goes to Mary Wilson for opening her home to us.

Our January speaker, Shadi Martin, Dean of the School of Social Work at University of Nevada, Reno, will speak on the Inequities of the Pandemic. We are very pleased to have her join us and look forward to her insights.

Special thanks, too to Shirley Hammon and Kathy Steinle, who have once again outdone themselves with our annual fresh-from-Georgia Pecan Fundraiser! And don't forget to mark your calendar to attend our Feast of Chocolate on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Tickets to attend are available right now!!

(Continued on Page 9)





Branch News  
(Continued from Page 8)

***From the Fallon Branch:***

We are all so happy to be able to meet together again. Our September Membership potluck was enjoyed by all. In October, our speaker was the new county health nurse who gave us information on what was happening in Churchill County as far as COVID was concerned. We were even able to get our 3rd shot. November was a tour of the new Fallon Youth Club building. It is a magnificent building and provides services from K thru high school students. December was our Candy Sale. We make homemade candy and have been selling it at Christmas Fairs for many years. The hardest part is not snacking on it while we package it.

We are in the process of planning our January New Year's Luncheon and White Elephant Sale. Sadly, we have lost two of our older members in the past few months. It helps remind us that we never know what tomorrow will bring.

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

The AAUW Las Vegas Branch has been meeting in person this year. We have had engaging speakers give us their insight into the inner workings of our community. Our September speaker was Hollis Gillespie, the new Director of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. She talked about our rich Nevada woman's history and how it is on display at the museum. Hollis arranged a tour of the museum for our members. We were able to see many displays, including one of the Nevada Woman Suffrage and of Lilly Fong, an Asian American champion for education and our 1966 – 1967 Las Vegas Branch President. We had Nevada Senator, Pat Spearman, Branch member, Dr. Melody Rose, who is Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education, and attorney Lauri Thompson, who was the 2002-2004 Las Vegas Branch President. All enlightened us on current Nevada legislation, diversity, inclusion, and education. We have more great speakers lined up for the new year, and are looking forward to continuing our mission of advancing gender equity for women through research, education, and advocacy.

The Las Vegas Branch had a wonderful turnout for our yearly scholarship fundraiser in November. We raised over \$3,000 from donations and auction items.

We had a trunk full of donated items from our December meeting that we delivered to SafeNest, an organization that supports women who are escaping from domestic abuse. We are very thankful for the generosity of our members.

Our interest groups have been very active. Bridge Group, Book Club, and Lunch Group have kept us connected during a trying time.

***From the Reno Branch:***

The Reno Branch continues to conduct our meetings by Zoom. Although we miss the in-person interaction, Zoom has allowed us to present a wider variety of programs because we aren't limited to local speakers.

In October, we heard from Ted Martinez, retired president of Central New Mexico College and a former Peace Corps volunteer in Belize and Guatemala, about his experiences with volunteer groups providing aid to stranded migrants at the Mexican border in Arizona.

Closer to home, Tammi Tiger and Gary McKinney spoke to us in November about the concerns and opposition of the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone and the Atsa koodakuh wyh Nuwu (People of Red Mountain) to the open-pit lithium mining activities threatening Peehee mu'huh (Thacker Pass in Humboldt County). In addition to protecting this sacred site where the First Nevada Cavalry slaughtered a band of Paiute families (12 Sep 1865), the tribes have concerns about environmental impacts, mismanagement of local water resources, and harm to wildlife habitat, including breeding areas for endangered sage-grouse.

(Continued on Page 10)



Branch News  
(Continued from Page 9)

***From the Reno Branch: continued***

Our December program brought us even closer to home, highlighting educational advocacy efforts in our branch. We met our two 2021 scholarship winners—Devon Picklum, a PhD candidate at UNR, studying ecology; and Gabriela Davalos, a student in TMCC's dental hygiene program. (The Reno Branch has established a scholarship fund, administered by the Nevada Women's Fund, that awards two scholarships each year to nontraditional Nevada women students—one at UNR and one at TMCC). And we heard about the Nevada Promise Program from two of our participating branch members—Sara Velez Malea and Teri Sandoval—and met the TMCC students they are mentoring—Andrea Cansdales and Andrea Banatao

***From the Tahoe-Nevada Branch:***

The Tahoe-Nevada Branch membership continues to grow (now at 142 members) and we have nine Special Interest Groups that keep members connected between monthly program meetings,

We had a few hiccups in August and September due to the Tahoe basin fires, but were able to hold Board Meetings via Zoom, though other activities were cancelled. The Board is busy with reviewing some of our financial procedures, as well as reviewing our future goals in our Strategic Planning Committee.

In November, we held a program meeting with our local Incline Education Fund as the guest speaker, introducing us to their goals in support of the schools. We also held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual LunaFest fundraiser, from November 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>. This year we tried it *hybrid* style and brought in \$500 more dollars from last year for our Scholarship Fund. Our December holiday party was an *Afternoon Tea*, enjoyed by 29 members.

We have planned speakers for January through May for our monthly program meetings, keeping things diversified. These include a discussion on Bitcoin, learning about additional local charities and meeting with the schools to determine their volunteer and additional needs for the rest of this year. We hope to work with other organizations to build a volunteer database for all non-profits over the next year.





## AAUW Nevada and Branch Archives

Since 1974, the Nevada Historical Society (NHS) in Reno has housed the archives of historical material for AAUW Nevada and its various Branches, both active and disbanded. The NHS seemed like an appropriate repository since its founder, Jeanne Wier, was also a founding member of the Nevada Branch of AAUW (the original name of AAUW Reno and the first AAUW Branch in Nevada).

A few years ago, a small group of volunteers formed the AAUW Nevada Archive Committee to reorganize and catalog the collection to make it easier for researchers to find material and for branches and the state to add material.

We're now ready to accept new items into the collection and encourage state leaders or Branches to contribute their historical files. For guidelines on preparing files for the collection and for arranging for their transfer to the NHS, please contact Byllie Andrews ([byllie@gmail.com](mailto:byllie@gmail.com); 775-250-3641) or Holly Gallup ([galluph@gmail.com](mailto:galluph@gmail.com); 775-425-3289) on the Archive Committee.

If your Branch has donated materials to other collections in the past (for example, at UNR or UNLV), the Archive Committee would like information on what was donated and where so that we can reference that material in our NHS collection.

--Holly Gallup, AAUW Nevada Archive Committee

