

July & August 2024
DESERT BREEZE



Las Vegas (NV) Branch

American Association of University Women

Happy Summer!

*Save the date!
Ice Cream Social*



WHEN: Sunday, August 18, 2024

TIME: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

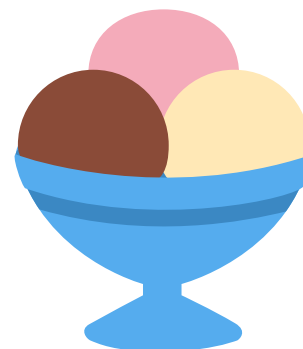
WHERE: Cam Usher's home

6468 Fosco Ct.

Las Vegas, NV 89131

RSVP: Cam Usher

702-375-0702 (cell)



Guests are welcome. Bring a friend and introduce them to our AAUW Las Vegas Branch members.

Support our local Girl Scouts. Donate a sleeping bag. Bring it to the Ice Cream Social. See the details on page 4.



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



Our June Out to Lunch group met at Kona Grill for an enjoyable lunch and we look forward to our next Out to Lunch in August.

In June, our board met to begin planning for the 2024-2025 year. We have some great possibilities for topics for speakers, many of those topics were recommended by our members. We will continue to offer topics that support the mission of AAUW.

As we discussed the recruitment of new members, we want to challenge all our members to help us accomplish this. Every member can be a recruiter. Most individuals join AAUW and other organizations because someone they know told them about the organization and invited them to a meeting or activity to learn more about the organization. So, we challenge all our members to bring guests to our meetings and activities, so we can grow our membership with individuals that support the work of AAUW.

As we look to fall and the upcoming election, there are many issues that impact women this year. We are working hard to hold an event with candidates running for office so we can hear their status on issues that are important to AAUW and women.

We are pleased to be able to offer six scholarships of \$1,000 each this year, due to the generosity of our members. We thank everyone who has supported our scholarship fund this year. We will announce the 2024-2025 recipients in September.

Our annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Sunday, August 18 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Cam Usher's home. We hope you will join us and feel free to bring a guest. See more information and details in this newsletter.

As we continue to stay focused on our mission of gender equity and economic and economic security.

Janis and Marilyn



**Guest Speaker
Shay Powell
Director of Condo Resort Operations
Palms Place**



Executive Board Planning Meeting



LAS VEGAS BRANCH NEWS

Congratulations to the new 2024 - 2026 Executive Board members:

Secretary: Dr. Afi Bruce

Vice President Program: Dr. Evelyn Thompson Hilbert



INTEREST GROUPS

- **Bridge: Cam Usher (702-456-0702)**
- **Book Club: Kathryn Robinson (702-458-1747)**
- **Out to Lunch Bunch: Janis Schoen (516-376-9856)**

*Details for **Out to Lunch** will soon be announced for our **August** get together.



THE GIFT OF GIVING



Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada

The Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada are in need of approximately **30-35 sleeping bags** for an overnight camping experience called Taste of C.A.M.P. This event will offer a camping opportunity to 50 community troop girls who might not have the opportunity to experience camp.

They need them by September 15th. If you would like to donate one or more lightweight sleeping bags to this effort, you may **bring them to our Ice Cream Social in August**, and we will ensure that they are delivered to the Girl Scouts. If you cannot attend the Ice Cream Social but would still like to donate sleeping bags, **they can be dropped off at Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada, 2941 Harris Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89101 Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



Public Policy Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert



Happy Summer Ladies!

It's summertime, and things are heating up both figuratively and literally! We're on summer break, but our work never takes a break! While we love socializing and sharing laughs, the AAUW mission remains very serious.

Recently, I took on additional AAUW responsibilities, including Nevada State Legislative Chair, Las Vegas Public Policy Chair, and Program VP. I've been reflecting on how I can best contribute to these roles. As a woman and a woman of color, the erosion of our rights can feel alarming, but it is not insurmountable.

I dedicate this newsletter to the fearless women who came before us and urge our AAUW sisters to draw strength and wisdom from their legacy. Together, WE WILL PREVAIL!

During my recent visit to Washington, DC, I enjoyed the usual tourist activities, such as visiting the Capitol, the White House, and various museums. I also had the privilege of meeting with Congresswoman Susie Lee and Senator Catherine Cortez Masto to present my doctoral research on trauma-informed practices in the workforce!



LOCAL

We are planning our annual candidate forum for September. More information will follow. Email me if you want to participate. I look forward to an exciting year of ushering in new ideas and collaborations, while we honor those who have gone before!

STATE & NATIONAL

Here are some great resources from Debbie Nicholas, our outgoing AAUW State Legislative Chair. She left some big shoes to fill.

Here's an insightful discussion of the Supreme Court decisions past, present, and future on the interrelationships of voting rights, civil rights, reproductive rights, gun rights, and more.

https://www.youtube.com/live/MWuyCtwvUhY?si=ULZ5p0Jt4_0PpbTr

FEDERAL UPDATES:

- We have the New Title IX rules!!! Finally. There are a number of legal challenges (26 states have pending litigation), and Congress is also attempting to oppose them.
- These should go into effect on August 1. All school districts are in the process of revising their Title IX policies.
- The rules had several changes, which were primarily survivor protection focused on sexual assault victims, protections for pregnant and parenting students, and LBGTQI student protections.
- Toolkits are available on the AAUW.org website for outreach to school boards.

We also have an online Letter to the Editor Template for use. The best grassroots activity is to 'talk to your friends and relatives.' One-on-one conversation seems the best way to educate and move votes. Remember to listen, see if common ground exists, and offer resources!

We have upcoming Equal Pay Days on the calendar!

- June 13 is LGBTIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day
- July 9 is Black Women's Equal Pay Day
- August 7 is Mom's Equal Pay Day
- August 28 is Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay Day
- October 3 is Latina Equal Pay Day
- November 21 is Native Women's Equal Pay Day

Additional Resources and Organizations:

Let's consider who we can collaborate with ... here's a start of a list much more to come! Please email who you want to collaborate with!

1. The Nevada Women's Lobby: <https://nevadawomenslobby.org/>
2. The Human Rights Campaign: <https://www.hrc.org/>
3. Plan Action: <https://planaction.org/>
4. [PLEASE ADD TO THIS LIST]

National News



National is on high alert for SCOTUS activity this month. Expecting rulings on cases affecting the availability of contraception, abortion medication, and emergency treatment. Our interns attended a hearing which highlighted how scarce OBGYN care is becoming in certain states and areas. (50% of GA counties do not have a practicing OBGYN). Cost of obtaining health care of all types for women is becoming more expensive by both travel and time off work. Many women seeking abortion or other reproductive care now travel over 750 miles.

Online Voter Engagement Guide (content is there now...pdf version to come)
Elections Resources Page lists upcoming training!!

- * June 26, 2024 - Developing Local Head-to-Head Voter Guides
- * August 8, 2024 - Preparing for National Voter Registration Day
- * August 21, 2024 - Leveraging Social Media for Voter Education
- * October 16, 2024 - Issues in the Home Stretch & Voter Protection

Register online at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/>

From Meghan Kissle, Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy at AAUW National:

They ask that every branch [share this letter](#) (if this link doesn't work, paste this web address in your browser to see the letter and list of supporters here:

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/02/Title-IX-Coalition-Letter-to-Schools-6-27-24.pdf>) with their local school and university administrators in July, urging them to implement policies consistent with the new Title IX rules swiftly.

We're expecting several votes in July, which will attempt to block implementation, so expect several calls to engage with Two-Minute Activists. Additionally, this morning, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a devastating blow to the regulatory authority of federal agencies that may have significant repercussions to civil rights, employment, and education laws.

These challenges only increase the importance of demonstrating local support for strong and comprehensive protections against gender-based discrimination in education!

As you can see, there are many opportunities to get involved with AAUW policy advocacy. Contact me to get involved!




Dr. Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert, DPP | email: ethilbert1@gmail.com | text: 415-377-0470

Our Las Vegas Branch member, **Claudia Merrill**, has two upcoming performances with Grace City Opera Theatre. The Grace City Opera Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit organization established to preserve, educate, promote and perform the Master Works of African American and African Descent Classical Composers. It is called An Afternoon of Sacred Music, Arias and Spirituals. The two performances will be held at the Henderson United Presbyterian Church, at 601 N. Major Ave., Henderson, NV, on July 28, 2024, at 3 pm, or August 18, 2024, at 3 pm. The donation is \$25.00, with an afterglow to follow. No donations will be taken at the door. All reservations must be in advance and can be made via PayPal at gracecityoperatheatre@gmail.com or via cash app at \$GraceCityOperaMi. Donations can also be made at www.gracecityoperatheatre.org. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Contact **Claudia Merrill** if you have any questions (725-333-2158).

The Grace City Opera Theatre Presents

A Concert of Sacred Music, Arias and Spirituals



Featuring Artists



Claudia Merrill Adrienne Mondeau Special Guest Artists

The Henderson United Presbyterian Church
Sunday August 18, 2024 at 3pm
601 N Major Ave, Henderson, NV 89015.
Afterglow reception to follow

Seating Reservation \$25, for more information please call 725-333-2158
Follow the QR links to make your seating donation
or visit www.gracecityoperatheatre.org
No Donations at the Door



Grace City Opera Theatre is a 501c3
Non-Profit Organization

All Donations are 100% Tax Deductable

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals now occur throughout the year. While most of our branch members have June 30 membership expiration dates, our newer members may have a membership renewal date that occurs in a different month. The Membership Directory included each member's renewal dates this year.

Beginning In April, members that have renewal dates of May and June will begin receiving monthly email notices from AAUW regarding renewing your membership. There will be a link to renew, using a credit card, or you may still send a check to our treasurer, Letti Dowell (see Letti's address below).

Members will begin receiving renewal notices approximately three months prior to their renewal date and will continue to receive them through the grace period, which is three months after the renewal date or until the member renews their membership. After the three-month grace period, members that have not renewed their membership are dropped from the membership.

All members with May - September renewal dates should be sure to renew their membership no later than August 31, to ensure that your membership does not lapse and so we can be sure to include you in our membership directory for 2024-2025.

Membership dues remain at \$98 for branch members, \$18.81 for student affiliate members and \$17 for Honorary Life Members.

Honorary Life Members should send their membership dues of \$17 to Letti Dowell, Treasurer. Renewing members may also send a check to Letti to renew their membership. Letti's address is: 9633 Gavin Stone Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89145.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CLAUDIA MERRILL

CAROLYN MUISE

WONDA RINER

WELCOME REINSTATED MEMBER

MARY WILLIAMS



Special Announcements



Birthdays

Cam Usher	7/2
Ann Dreschler	7/3
Mary Ann McDaniel	7/10
Kathryn Robinson	7/10
Letti Dowell	7/15
Ouida Brown	7/23
Barbara Straight	8/10
Marilyn Zimmerman	8/12
Dottie Alt	8/15
Agatha Addo-Quaye	8/20
Jer Robertson-Strange	8/29

Next AAUW Meeting

September 21 The Summit

Board Meeting

August TBA
September TBA

Officers & Committee Chairs 2023 - 2025

Co-Presidents: Janis Schoen & Marilyn Zimmerman

Vice President Membership: Shirley Hills

Vice President Programs : Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert

Secretary: Afi Bruce

Treasurer: Letti Dowell

Immediate Past Co-Presidents: Shirley Hills & Judy Ingham

Public Policy: Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert

Newsletter: Judy Ingham

Scholarships: Marilyn Zimmerman & Shirley Hills

Mission

Gender Equity
Economic Security

Values

Intersectional
Inclusive
Intergenerational
Empowering

Focus

Economic Security
Education
Advocacy