

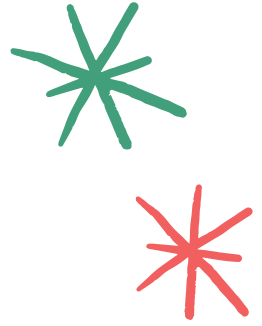
December 2024

# DESERT BREEZE



Las Vegas (NV) Branch

*American Association of University Women*



**December MEETING**  
**Saturday, December 15, 2024**  
**1:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Shirley Hills**  
**5824 McLennen Ranch Ave.**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

**Come join us at Shirley's home for our holiday meeting. There is no cost for lunch. Lunch will be catered by Jason's Deli. Guests are welcome, so bring a friend and join in the fun. No reservations are needed.**

**Please bring coats for the Girl Scout Drive and a few items for the Bridges Medical Mission.**



## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

**Thank you to everyone who participated in our scholarship fundraising event at our November meeting. We received \$2,721 in silent auction sales and donations to the branch. In addition, donations of \$600 were made to the Public Education Foundation in support of our scholarships. Bringing the total raised to \$3,321. Additional donations are still needed to support our 2025-2026 scholarships. Remember that donations can be accepted at any time during the year, not just at our event. See the information in this newsletter on how you can support our scholarships.**

**We are looking forward to our annual holiday gathering on December 15, at Shirley Hills home. Look for more information and details in this newsletter.**

**We have also combined our November and December Out to Lunch group, to avoid upcoming holidays. We will be gathering on Thursday, December 12, at Ohlala French Bistro. Please see the details in this newsletter.**

**We are again supporting the Girl Scouts on their coat drive. Members are encouraged to bring new or slightly used coats to our Holiday Gathering on Sunday, December 15, at Shirley Hills home or you can take your donations directly to the Girl Scout office. See the information in this newsletter for the details.**

**We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.**

**We continue to stay focused on our mission of gender equity and economic and economic security.**

**Janis and Marilyn**



Thank You!

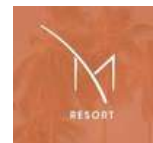
# Scholarship Fundraiser

Our annual AAUW Las Vegas Branch Fundraiser was a big success! Thank you all for your generous donations and thank you to those who participated in the auction. We are thrilled to announce that we have raised a total of **\$2,721!** We have received an additional **\$600** in donations from the Public Education Foundation. That brings the total to **\$3,321!**

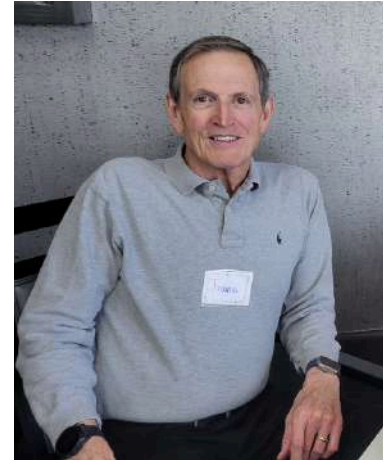
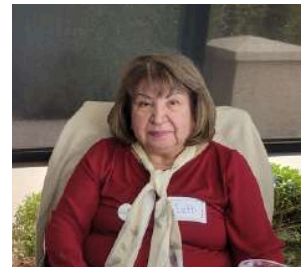
A special thank you goes to the Fundraiser Committee: **Afi Bruce, Letti Dowel, Marian Stanton, and Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert.** Thank you to **Marian Stanton and Afi Bruce** for putting together the beautiful baskets. Also, kudos go to **Marian Stanton, Helene Winkler, Janis Schoen, and Cynthia Smith** for getting the auction items.

Did you miss the fundraiser? Scholarship contributions can still be made. Can we reach **\$4,000?** We are almost there! Four scholarships would be fantastic! Checks and cash will be accepted at the Las Vegas Branch holiday party, on Sunday, December 15. Every little bit helps!

Thank You to our sponsors!







# The Gift of Giving

The Girls Scouts, in partnership with AAUW, are holding a COAT Drive. If you would like to participate, we will be supporting their drive by collecting items at our December 15 meeting at Shirley's.

The COATS and JACKETS will be donated to Las Vegas Rescue Mission, The Shade Tree, US Vets, and Shannon West Homeless Shelter. The coat sizes are mainly for men, women, and children.



**Cozy Coats**  
Drop-Off: Nov.18th - Dec. 16th  
Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada | 2941 E. Harris Ave  
Troop 79

Accepting gently used coats and jackets for men, women and children  
November 18 through December 15, 2024  
Contact Girl Scouts for more information: (702) 385-3677



In partnership with   
Donations will benefit The Shade Tree, Las Vegas Rescue Mission,  
U.S. Vets, and Shannon West Homeless Shelter



**Janai McFarland, an AAUW Scholarship recipient has sent us an update on her college activities. She will be traveling to Baja, Mexico, in January, to support the Bridges Global Medical Mission. I have highlighted, in green, some of the supplies that are needed. If you can bring any of these items to the Holiday meeting, it would be appreciated.**

**Greetings Community!**

**Happy end of semester! I am amazed at how quickly this semester seemed to fly by. I am doing well, continuing to excel in all my classes, and looking forward to ending the semester strong.**

**Some exciting things I have coming up are:**

- **Admission into the Spring 2025 cohort of full-time, summers off nursing students!**
- **Attending a nursing student medical mission with BRIDGES Medical Missions to Baja, Mexico January 5-11th!**
- **Presenting my INBRE summer undergraduate research at the Western Regional IDEA Conference in Anchorage, Alaska in February!**

**Additionally, some other goals I have for the upcoming year is to further develop my leadership skills by running for President of either our school chapter Student Nurses Association (SNA), the state level Nursing Student Association (NVNSA), and/or maybe even a national level position. I also applied for a summer research program through the Department of Homeland Security in efforts to explore its intersection with healthcare and enhance my development professionally.**

**Finally, in efforts to prepare for my medical mission I am accepting donations! Some items I am looking to collect are:**

- **Children's vitamins**
- **Prenatal vitamins**
- **Antihistamines (generic is fine)**
- **Anti-GERD (OTC omeprazole, antacids, Pepcid)**
- **OTC Pain relievers (Tylenol/generic; ASA, ibuprofen)**
- **Topical antiseptics**
- **Powdered oral rehydration formula**
- **Baby formula**
- **Gauze dressings, of all sizes**
- **Pregnancy kits**
- **Children's coloring books**
- **Small candies, balloons, or small toys for children**
- **Toothbrushes and toothpaste**
- **School supplies for children: paper, colored pencils, easy books in English**
- **Hydrocortisone cream**
- **Neosporin**
- **Antifungal creams**
- **Hygiene kits**
- **Reading glasses / donated prescription glasses**

**Thank you in advance for your assistance and contributions toward my medical mission and academic career. I appreciate your support as a continued member of my community!**

**Best Regards, Janai McFarland, LPN**





# **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND GROWING OUR BRANCH**

## **Membership Recruitment and Growing our Branch**

**Let's grow our branch membership. 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.**

**So, we challenge all our members to bring guests to our meetings and activities, so we can grow our membership with individuals who support the mission and work of AAUW.**

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

**Membership renewals now occur throughout the year. Most of our branch members have June 30 membership expiration dates. Newer members and those members who renew after the three-month grace period will have a membership renewal date that occurs in a different month. The Membership Directory includes each member's renewal dates.**

**Members will receive email notices from AAUW regarding renewing your membership approximately three months prior to the expiration date. There will be a link to renew, using a credit card, or you may still send a check to our treasurer, Letti Dowell. Her information will be included in the renewal notice as well.**

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

**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, at 9633 Gavin Stone Ave., Las Vegas, NV, 89145, by June 30.**



## **SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**While we hold our annual fund-raising event at our November meeting, we want to remind you that donations can be made throughout the year.**

**To make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund, checks should be sent to the **Public Education Foundation, P.O. Box 26243, Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0243**. Be sure to designate that the check is for **AAUW Las Vegas Scholarships**. The Foundation will acknowledge your gift.**

**You can also donate online to our Scholarship Fund at [www.thepef.org](http://www.thepef.org). Again, be sure to indicate that your donation is for **AAUW Las Vegas Scholarships**.**

**Non-Deductible contributions can also be made at any time by writing a check payable to **AAUW Las Vegas**. Checks can be given to our treasurer, **Letti Dowell**, at any meeting or mailed to her at **9633 Gavin Stone Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89145**.**

# AAUW Holiday Party!



**Join us at Shirley Hills home on December 15, at 1:00 PM, for a fun get-together. We will have food trays from Jason's Deli. Dress festive and bring a friend. There will be no cost or no need for reservations. Contact Shirley for Gate Code information.**







## Public Policy Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert



**Happy Holy-Days to all and all traditions and non-traditions!**

**The US Presidential Elections are over, at least so far as we can tell. Last month I shared my "Stop, Drop & Breathe" breathing exercise for anyone experiencing anxiety or stress. Please refer to last month's newsletter (November, 2024) if interested.**

### **STATE & LOCAL**

**Note that while Nevada Question 6, Right to Abortion Initiative (2024), was approved it will require another vote in 2026. We will also keep a close eye on a potential federal ban that would supersede state legislation.**

**Are you burning to act and not sure where to plug into? Check out [Mobilize US](https://www.mobilize.us). Go to [www.mobilize.us](https://www.mobilize.us) for more information. Below are some events in Nevada: (All times are Pacific.)**

#### **Community events**

- **Thu, Dec 12 · Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
PLAN Posada - Holiday Party**
- **Sun, Nov 24 · Election Response Center  
"Worth Fighting For" community gathering**
- **Sun, Nov 24 · EDF Action  
Las Vegas Podcast Club**
- **Thu, Dec 12 · Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
PLAN Posada - Holiday Party**
- **Tue, Dec 31 · Not Above the Law  
Trump Guilty Verdict Rapid Response Event**

**Find even more events & actions at [www.mobilize.us](https://www.mobilize.us)**

- **Do It Right Now ›**
- **LGBTQIA+ Events ›**
- **Text Bank ›**
- **Voter Registration ›**
- **Petitions ›**
- **Immigration and Refugee Rights ›**
- **Local Politics ›**
- **Canvass ›**
- **State Politics ›**
- **Virtual**

## **NATIONAL**

***Given the outcome of the election, many AAUW members are concerned about ERA, women's reproductive rights and education. AAUW-National's responses are below:***

***"I want to thank everyone for their patience as we have been evaluating how to proceed with our efforts to have the ERA published as the 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I'll be honest, given the outcome of the election, all paths forward in the near-term have challenges, yet we will continue to push.***

***AAUW is committed to an all-of-the-above strategy regarding pushing for publication. You will see a series of action alerts - starting today - calling on our members to contact the White House and 118th Congress.***

***This week's ask is for President Biden is to do everything in his power to get the ERA published. This is an intentionally nuanced ask (versus only calling on him to instruct the archivist to publish).***

***The situation right now is complicated. There is a lack of consensus among allies and varying assessments of the political landscape. In addition, it is almost certain that the Amendment will be challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court after publication and there are differing legal opinions regarding potential outcomes (in part because there are several potential legal questions that could be reviewed).***

***While we are at a critical junction, regardless of happens between now and January 20th, we will continue to fight!"***

**Meghan**

**Meghan Kissell, MSW (she/her/hers)  
Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005  
(O) 202-728-3300 | (C) 571-643-3526**

**There is much discussion about Title IX, the Department of Education and more. As we move through the first quarter and learn about any changes we will decide the best courses of action. National will be offering training on [BillTrack50](#). We will also be tracking relevant bills in Nevada's next biennial legislator starting in February 2025.**

**Email me with public policy or program questions, comments or suggestions at [evelyn.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:evelyn.aauw@gmail.com).**

**Again, have a wonderful holiday season with lots of love, light and peace!**

**Dr. Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert**

**Let The Music Lift You**

**Claudia Merrill**, our AAUW member, is the Artistic Director and Founder of **Grace City Opera Theatre**. She has invited us to her performance of *A Christmas Concert*, on **Saturday, December 7, at 6 PM**, at **Henderson United Presbyterian Church**. Admission is free. Call Claudia at **725-333-2158** for more information.

The Grace City Opera Theatre  
Presents

**A CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
OF ARIAS, SPIRITUALS AND ART SONGS

December 7th 2024, 6pm  
**HENDERSON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
601 N Major Ave, Henderson, NV 89015

**Free Admission**  
For more information please visit  
[www.gracecityoperatheatre.org](http://www.gracecityoperatheatre.org) or call  
(725) 333-2158

The Grace City Opera Theatre is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization  
All Donations are 100% Tax deductible



## **INTEREST GROUPS**

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

*You're Invited!  
Join Us!*

### **OUT TO LUNCH**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024**

**1:00 PM**

**OHLALA FRENCH BISTRO**

**2120 N RAMPART BLVD #150**

**LAS VEGAS, NV 89128**

**(CORNER OF W LAKE MEAD AND RAMPART)**

**CONTACT JANIS SCHOEN**

**BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024**

**516-376-9856 (CALL OR TEXT)**

**AAUWSCH@GMAIL.COM (EMAIL)**



**Sunshine**

**ROWENA TRIM IS AT PAM HEALTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF CENTENNIAL HILLS.**

**ANNE GREEN IS AT HOME RECUPERATING FROM SURGERY.**

**WE WISH THEM BOTH A SPEEDY RECOVERY!**





## Special Announcements



### Birthdays

Mary Clyburn	12/5
Emilie Rubalcava	12/5
Anne Green	12/24
Marian Stanton	12/29
Michille Liang	1/18
Shelly Berkley	1/20
Carol Stark	1/23
Afi Bruce	1/24
Karen Meng	1/26

### AAUW Meetings

December 15	Shirley Hills
January 18	The Summit

## Officers & Committee Chairs 2024 - 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**

**Sunshine: Marian Stanton**

## Mission

**Gender Equity  
Economic Security**

## Values

**Intersectional  
Inclusive  
Intergenerational  
Empowering**

## Focus

**Economic Security  
Education  
Advocacy**

