

**January 2025**  
**DESERT BREEZE**



**Las Vegas (NV) Branch**

*American Association of University Women*

.HAPPY.

*New Year*



**January MEETING**  
**Saturday, January 18, 2025**  
**11:30 AM**

**THE SUMMIT**  
**2215 Thomas Ryan Blvd.**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89134**

**Come join us at The Summit. The cost is \$25.00 per person. The price includes the room fee, technical equipment, lunch from the menu, and a drink. Guests are welcome, so bring a friend. No reservations are needed.**

**Guest Speaker**  
**TBA**



Happy  
New Year



## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

**Happy New Year!**

**We had a very nice Holiday gathering in December at the home of Shirley Hills. We enjoyed a lunch catered by Jason's Deli and good company.**

**Members were also very generous in donating coats for the Girl Scout Coat Drive and medical supplies to support Janai McFarland's medical mission.**

**A small number of members also enjoyed our November/December Out to Lunch at Ohlala French Bistro. We invite members to join us for our January Out to Lunch on Thursday, January 23.**

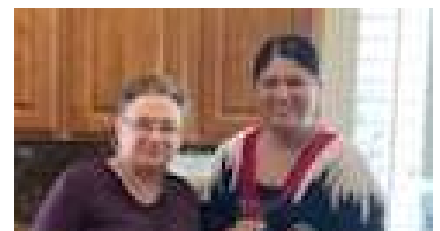
**Our regular January meeting will be on Saturday, January 18, at The Summit. We hope to see many of you there.**

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

**Janis and Marilyn**



**Holiday Party Hosted by Shirley Hills**  
**Thank you, Shirley, for a wonderful get-together.**



**OUT TO LUNCH  
OHLALA FRENCH BISTRO**





# The Gift of Giving



**AAUW Las Vegas Branch partnered with the Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada for their coat drive. We made a positive impact in our community by collecting items at our December 15 meeting at Shirley's. The COATS and JACKETS were donated to Las Vegas Rescue Mission, The Shade Tree, US Vets, and Shannon West Homeless Shelter.**

**We also supported Janai McFarland, an AAUW Las Vegas Branch Scholarship recipient. We donated medical supplies for her recent medical mission. She took the supplies with her when she participated in the Bridges Medical Mission in Baja, Mexico.**

*Thank You for your generous donations!*

## **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.**



**WELCOME NEW MEMBER  
JANNET BENZ**



# **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 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.**



## **Public Policy Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert**



**Happy 2025 Ladies!**

**I hope the holidays allowed time to recharge and reset as the new year gets underway.**

### **Nevada 2025 Legislative Session**

**The AAUW is dedicated to advancing gender equity through education, economic security, and advocacy. Nevada's 83rd Legislative Session is set to begin on February 3, 2025. In preparation, the Nevada Legislature has released a list of Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) for the session. Full details about these BDRs will become available on NELIS, the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System, once the session begins. You can access the tracking site here:**

**<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/83rd2025/Bdrs/List>.**

**As relevant bills emerge, I will share updates to keep us informed. The AAUW Capital Branch often participates in legislative hearings related to our mission. If you attend any sessions or hearings, please feel free to share your insights!**

### **The Status of the ERA**

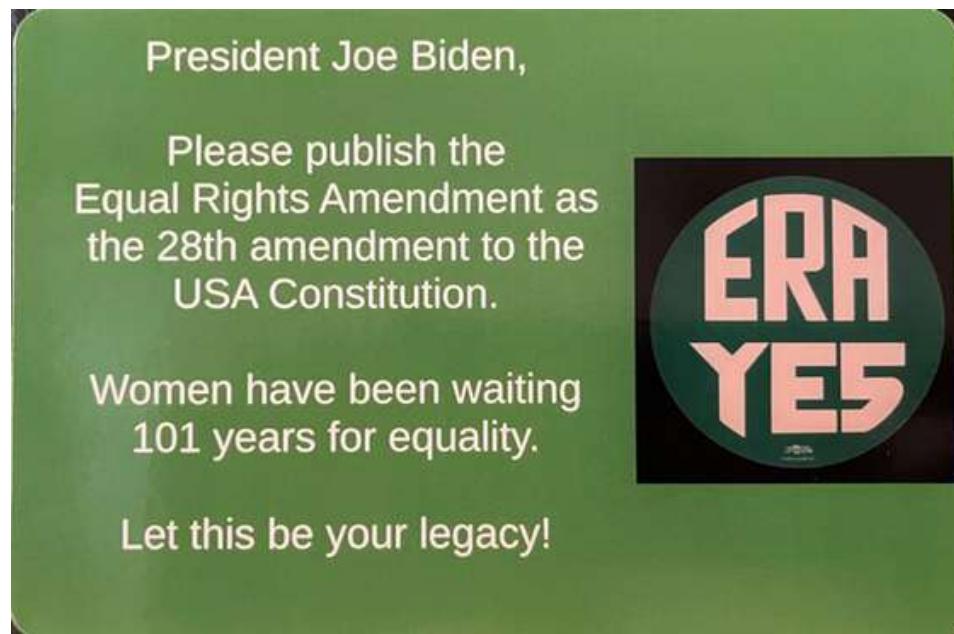
**There has been great concern about the status of the ERA before the next administration takes office on January 20th. National shared the following message:**

- There is no longer a path for the ERA in the 118th Congress, but our work continues in coalition. AAUW joined the League of Women Voters and more than 140 partners in a recent letter calling on President Biden to act for publication of the ERA. (<https://www.lwv.org/equal-rights/lwvus-and-more-140-diverse-nonprofits-call-president-biden-act-publication-equal>)**
- As you may have seen yesterday, the U.S. Archivist and Deputy Archivist issued a statement (<https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2025/nr25-004>) on the ERA ratification process. We're sharing AAUW's response from Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO below, which can be found on the AAUW homepage and social media channels: Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram.**
- We will never give up on the ERA, and encourage folks to continue taking action: <https://aauw.quorum.us/campaign/94965/>.**

**There's still time to make your voice heard! A heartfelt thank you to Carol Temple, AAUW-South Carolina State Legislative Chair, for sharing an inspiring initiative: an ERA postcard urging President Biden to officially publish the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as part of the Constitution.**

**If you'd like to join this effort, contact me to fill out a postcard. Alternatively, you can easily take action online by visiting the League of Women Voters website at <https://www.lwv.org/equal-rights/lwvus-and-more-140-diverse-nonprofits-call-president-bident-act-publication-equal> to submit your support electronically.**

**Let's work together to ensure the ERA is recognized as the 28th Amendment!**



**Just as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) continues to face challenges, it's important to recognize that the Voting Rights Act remains unratified and could be at risk under the new presidential administration. In a significant effort to safeguard minority voting rights, Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford, along with other Attorneys General, has petitioned the Supreme Court to protect these essential rights. You can see the full story here: [https://www.2news.com/video/nevada-attorney-general-joins-others-to-petition-supreme-court-about-voting-rights-act/video\\_d9ab2353-a06f-555a-8133-08c161300050.html](https://www.2news.com/video/nevada-attorney-general-joins-others-to-petition-supreme-court-about-voting-rights-act/video_d9ab2353-a06f-555a-8133-08c161300050.html).**

**While there's still much work ahead, it's vital to prioritize your well-being. Remember to practice self-care: take a rejuvenating bath (candles, music, and aromatherapy are my personal favorites), connect with friends, family, or pets, and give yourself space to recharge. You've got this—just a gentle reminder to care for yourself as you continue to make a difference. Contact me with ideas or questions at [Evelyn.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:Evelyn.aauw@gmail.com).**

**Cheers,  
Dr. Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert  
[evelyn.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:evelyn.aauw@gmail.com)**



## **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!*

*Lunch and a Tour with the  
AAUW Boulder City Branch*

### **OUT TO LUNCH AND A TOUR**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025**

**11:30 AM LUNCH**

**THE SICILIAN PIZZA & RISTORANTE**

**3520 E TROPICANA AVE, LAS VEGAS 89121**

**FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF**

**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTHERN NEVADA**

**4440 E TROPICANA AVE**

**#A**

**LAS VEGAS, NV 89121**

**CONTACT JANIS SCHOEN**

**BY MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 (NO LATER THAN 5 PM)**

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

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

**For information about the restaurant go to:**

**<https://sicilianristorante.com/>**

**For information about Junior Achievement of Southern Nevada go to:**

**<https://southernnevada.ja.org/>**

## Special Announcements



### Birthdays

<b>Michille Liang</b>	<b>1/18</b>
<b>Shelly Berkley</b>	<b>1/20</b>
<b>Carol Stark</b>	<b>1/23</b>
<b>Afi Bruce</b>	<b>1/24</b>
<b>Karen Meng</b>	<b>1/26</b>
<b>Martha Wood</b>	<b>2/2</b>
<b>Amber Burkett</b>	<b>2/18</b>
<b>Elaine Wells</b>	<b>2/18</b>

### AAUW Meetings

<b>January 18</b>	<b>The Summit</b>
<b>February 15</b>	<b>The Summit</b>

## 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**

