

February 2025

DESERT BREEZE



Las Vegas (NV) Branch

American Association of University Women

HAPPY
Valentines
DAY



February MEETING

Saturday, February 15, 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

Wendi Schweigart

Project Marilyn

HAPPY
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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Our January meeting was very informative, with Dr. Margo Tello speaking to us about DACA: Dreamers and Education. While many of us may have known something about the unique situation that Dreamers currently have, we all learned more information about Dreamers.

For those who could not join us for our January Out to Lunch, you missed a great tour of Junior Achievement of Southern Nevada. Members from the Boulder City branch joined us for lunch at The Sicilian and following lunch, we toured Junior Achievement. Their new facility offers great experiential learning opportunities for youth to learn financial literacy and other life skills.

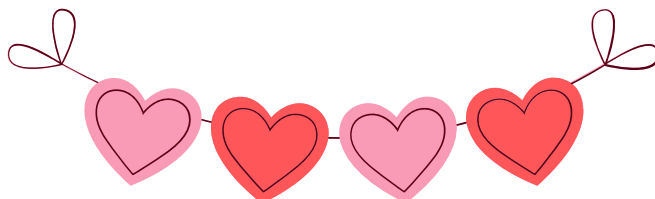
We are looking forward to our February meeting when Wendi Schweigart, from Project Marilyn, will be speaking.

Members all received an email in January regarding a dues proposal, changes in AAUW's bylaws, and Public Policy Priorities. All of this information can be found at aauw.org. January was the open time for comments. Voting will begin April 14 and end on May 13. Members will receive information to vote online prior to April 14.

As we move into 2025 and the new administration, we all must be watchful and be aware of the many changes currently being presented or proposed. Many of these changes impact women and we must be aware and ready to take action when necessary.

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

Janis and Marilyn





GUEST SPEAKER

WENDI SCHWEIGART

PROJECT MARILYN

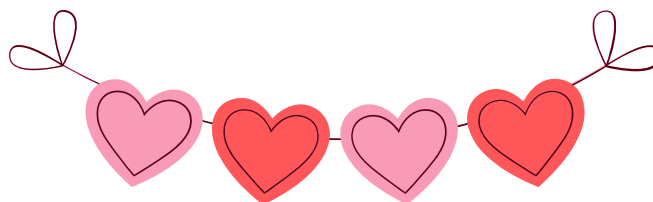


Our mission at Project Marilyn is to end period poverty for people with periods in our community. The subject of someone's period is still very taboo, even in the United States of America. This shouldn't be the case and we fight for a world where period supplies are no longer viewed as a luxury. We advocate for anywhere toilet paper, paper towels and hand soap are offered for free; period supplies should be offered as well. One is not a necessity and the other a luxury.

Project Marilyn's main mission is to assemble a period kit. Each kit is intended to have enough supplies to carry someone through their entire cycle. We are not open to the public, since most of the clients we serve have transportation issues. Due to this, we have found the best place to serve our clients is through other agencies that serve people with periods. We work with over 40 agencies throughout Nevada to ensure everyone has the period supplies they need to have a healthy and dignified period. PERIOD.

Since period poverty is the lack of access to proper period supplies, lack of education surrounding menstruation and lack of access to proper hygiene facilities; Project Marilyn only puts periods supplies in our kits. We don't include any other items like soap, hair ties or ChapStick as those are not part of period poverty.

We also serve through our Finding Marilyn program. These are businesses around town that hold our kits for the public. Anyone can go in during their regular business hours and "ask for the bag Marilyn left for them." We hope this phrasing adds dignity and lessens embarrassment when asking for these items.



Dr. Margo Tello

Dreamers and Education: Navigating DACA's Role in Opportunity



Junior Achievement of Southern Nevada Tour with Boulder City Branch



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.

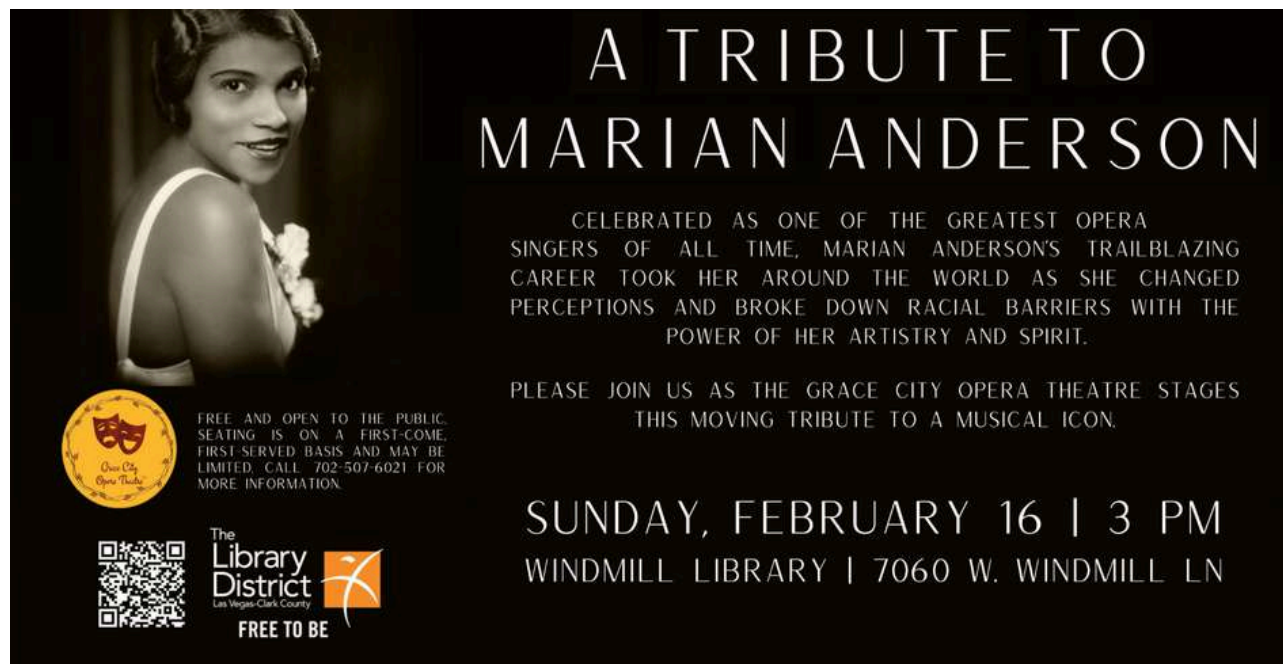
SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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. 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.




A Tribute to
MARIAN ANDERSON


CELEBRATED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST OPERA SINGERS OF ALL TIME, MARIAN ANDERSON'S TRAILBLAZING CAREER TOOK HER AROUND THE WORLD AS SHE CHANGED PERCEPTIONS AND BROKE DOWN RACIAL BARRIERS WITH THE POWER OF HER ARTISTRY AND SPIRIT.

PLEASE JOIN US AS THE GRACE CITY OPERA THEATRE STAGES THIS MOVING TRIBUTE TO A MUSICAL ICON.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 | 3 PM
WINDMILL LIBRARY | 7060 W. WINDMILL LN

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. SEATING IS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS AND MAY BE LIMITED. CALL 702-507-6021 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

 The Library District Las Vegas-Clark County FREE TO BE



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 Tribute to Marian Anderson*, on Sunday, February 16, at 3 PM, at Windmill Library. Admission is free, on a first come first served basis. Call Claudia at 725-333-2158 for more information.



Public Policy
Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert



Leading with Love in Uncertain Times

As you are aware, February brings with it the holiday of love—Valentine’s Day. But in this article, love will not be framed in its romantic sense. Instead, we will focus on unconditional love—the kind taught and aspired to in spiritual and religious traditions, the kind that fuels justice, courage, and unwavering commitment to equity.

When remembered, practiced, and leaned into, love always overcomes fear. Yet, in today’s climate, I’ve spoken to many AAUW members, friends, and community leaders who feel overwhelmed by fear—fear of losing hard-won progress, fear of regression, fear of not knowing what to do next. The desire to act, to push back, to make a difference is strong, but the weight of uncertainty can be paralyzing.

This article serves as a reminder that, no matter how tumultuous these times may feel, there is always a place to engage, to find hope, to find support—and, most importantly, to move forward with love. Love is not just an ideal; it is a gateway to infinite opportunities and solutions we may not have yet imagined. Let’s explore how we can harness it as a driving force for progress, even in the face of resistance.

STATE - Legislative Training Opportunities

The Progressive Leadership Alliance (PLAN) will be holding trainings how to participate in the Nevada Legislative Sessions:

Mobilizing your staff and volunteers to the trainings, toolkit/comms support, food budget support, and facilitation support are other opportunities to get involved. Let us know your ideas and how we can make these trainings as useful as possible for our progressive coalition.

Go to this website for details: <https://www.mobilize.us/planevada/>

- **Nevada Legislative Bootcamp**
Saturday February 1st, 11-3pm, PLAN LV Office
***Leg 101, Testimony Training, Mock Legislative Hearing**
- **Nevada’s Legislative Session 101**
Thursday February 6th, 6-7:30pm, PLAN Office/Virtual option

- **NVLEG: Testimony Training**
Thursday February 13th, 6-7:30pm, PLAN Office
*We're working with Equality Coalition to offer this training in person in Reno as well!
- **NVLEG: Progressive Coalitions & Lobby Days**
Thursday February 20th, 6-7:30pm, PLAN Office/Virtual option
- **NVLEG: Local Hearing & Public Comment**
Thursday February 27th, 5-7pm, Location TBD in Las Vegas

NEVADA WOMEN'S LOBBY (<https://nevadawomenslobby.org/>)



SAVE THE DATE: GRASSROOTS LOBBY DAYS 2025 IS April 6-7

**The landscape has shifted.
The challenges are real.
But our resolve is unwavering.**

Now, more than ever, Grassroots Lobby Days is poised to be a catalyst for change and a source of hope in the face of a challenging year.

Please save the date for Grassroots Lobby Days 2025, which will take place on Sunday, April 6, and Monday, April 7, in Carson City. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

NATIONAL:

In her recent message, AAUW President, Gloria Blackwell said, "Even if we can't see the entire path ahead and progress may take more time, our collective efforts must continue to shape a future where women's economic equity isn't just a dream but a reality."

She outlined AAUW priorities responding to the current Administration's policies: We face significant challenges for equity and attainment in education. As advocates, our resolve will be tested like never before.

Leading with Love to Advance Women's Rights in Education & Pay Equity

Now, more than ever, we must lean on the wisdom of those who came before us. They marched, protested, and fought for the rights we have had the privilege to enjoy, often in the face of overwhelming resistance. Today, as we witness the rollback of policies designed to promote equity and justice, it is natural to feel frustration, anger, or fear. But as we move forward, we must remember this: love, not hate, is the gateway to infinite opportunities and solutions we may not have imagined.

Love is not passive. Love is an active force—one that dismantles fear, inspires courage, and fuels transformation. Love is what allows us to see possibilities where others see roadblocks. It is what drives us to build, innovate, and collaborate rather than retreat into division or despair. Even as federal policies shift, our commitment to equity and inclusion must remain unwavering. We can use love as a strategic foundation to create new pathways for justice, even when traditional systems close their doors.

This means:

- **Expanding opportunities at every level—through state and local policy, corporate accountability, and community-led initiatives.**
- **Encouraging innovation in gender equity solutions—from new workplace policies to mentorship programs that uplift the next generation of women leaders.**
- **Refusing to be defined by resistance, but instead using it as fuel to explore creative, transformative ways to secure pay equity, education access, and leadership opportunities for all.**

Fear tells us that the fight is over when structures shift against us. Love reminds us that transformation is always possible, that solutions are limitless, and that progress is never dependent on a single institution. By leading with love—bold, unapologetic, and visionary—we can build a future that not only restores what has been lost but creates something even greater than we imagined.

This is our moment to shape what comes next. Let's move forward with love, and let's move forward together. Get involved, contact me to expand the AAUW, Las Vegas Branch Public Policy committee!

Dr. Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert
email: 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!*

OUT TO LUNCH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

11:30 AM

PALETTE TEA LOUNGE & DIM SUM

4601 SPRING MOUNTAIN RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89103

CONTACT JANIS SCHOEN

BY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

516-376-9856 (CALL OR TEXT)

AAUWSCH@GMAIL.COM (EMAIL)

**The Sicilian Pizza & Ristorante
with Boulder City Branch**



SUNSHINE

**RUTH JOHNSON
ROWENA TRIM**

Special Announcements



Birthdays

Martha Wood	2/2
Amber Burkett	2/18
Elaine Wells	2/18
Ruth Johnson	3/10
Jenny Lee	3/14
Tammy Vaaler	3/14
Shirley Hills	3/22

AAUW Meetings

February 15	The Summit
March 15	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