

REDDING REFLECTIONS **KEDDING SELFECTIONS**

President Sharon Clairemont AAUW REDDING BRANCH, Inc. (www.aauwredding.org)
April 2025

Editor Andi Winters

April Branch Meeting Thursday, April 10, 2025 Community Room, Redding Library at 5:30 pm Kalie Brisbon, United Way-Building Bridges



Many would agree that our society has become increasingly polarized and confrontational on both the local and national levels. This month our speaker, Kalie Brisbon, the new CEO of United Way, will speak to us about its program called Building Bridges, designed to open up constructive dialogue when there are differences of opinion. This program encourages conversations about controversial issues that have torn small towns apart as well as damaged personal relationships by focusing, instead, on what unites us and what we have in common.

Kalie assumed her position of CEO of United Way in March 2025 after six years as COO under Larry Olmstead. She has an impressive work history as a health and reproductive specialist for Planned Parenthood, a program specialist for Girl Scouts, and youth activities director for Disney Cruise Line. In her free time, she skates with the Shasta Roller Derby and enjoys exploring the outdoors.

On the menu will be bowls from Fresh Fire Grill, as well as wine, lemonade, coffee, tea, and water. The cost will be \$20, payable by cash, check, or PayPal (options #3 and #4). Please send checks made out to AAUW to Marta Hopkins.



A Message from the President



We've been so busy it's easy to get wrapped up in branch activities and forget the bigger picture of belonging to a national organization. Our Inter-Branch Council meeting March 1 was a good reminder that we and other nearby branches have projects, goals and ideals in common, and our very successful Women in STEM Conference on March 29 found many of us working together to excite, inspire and guide girls about their futures. Our local projects support national goals of equity, education and advocacy for women and girls.

AAUW National helps us remember we are part of a large and influential organization supported by intelligent, goal-driven women across the country.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article by Suzannah Gerlach, our branch Vice President for AAUW Funds, in which she explains how the funds we raise support AAUW programs on a national level. Please support raising money for National's Greatest Needs Fund by contributing when you renew your AAUW membership in the coming months and by supporting our upcoming Garden Tour.

The national office informed us in March that our national dues will increase modestly this year and next. As of this month, the national portion of our dues will increase \$2 annually to \$74. In April 2026, they will increase to \$76. Our national directors want us to know that while costs for member support have increased annually, member dues have not kept pace. Membership dues support public policy and advocacy programs defending higher education and rights for college women, provide member training programs, and support member-led activities such as Lobby Corps and the "2-minute Activist" effort. All of National's programs are described in detail on the website at aauw.org.

We need to support the organization responsible for our existence.

Coming up

Our April branch meeting program will feature our community's Building Bridges effort. Kaylie Brisbon, CEO of United Way of Northern California, and new member of our Branch, will share with us the latest updates of this project. Like AAUW, United Way advocates for equity and inclusion for all and is endeavoring in a special project to unite parts of our community to "create a culture of respect, belonging and civility." You can learn more about the Building Bridges program here https://www.norcalunitedway.org/building-bridges.

Lobby Days are April 8-9 in Sacramento. Penny Harris, Maureen Chenoweth and I will be there to meet with legislators to advocate for you and for the rights, needs, and economic and educational goals of all women.

Seek out Debbie Stokes or other members of the Garden Tour committee and ask how you can help. Of course, the most important way you can contribute to this project that supports AAUW Funds, scholarships and Tech Trek, is to buy tickets for yourself and sell them to your friends.

Thanks for staying engaged and active!

Happy Spring!

Sharon, President Redding Branch AAUW

Upcoming Branch Meetings

April 10, 2025 – 5:30 p.m., Community Room, Shasta County Public Library, North State "Building Bridges" initiative, United Way.

May 15, 2025 – 5:30 p.m., Community Room, Shasta County Public Library, "Women of Achievement" branch and community awards, introduction of college scholarship recipients and Tech Trek campership awardees.

AAUW Redding Branch, Inc. AAUW Funds Named Gift Honoree, 2025 Judy Bush

Judy Bush has been an active member of AAUW for 13 years, filling many roles with a smile and enthusiasm. She currently chairs the Travel Group, promoting travel in the U.S. especially to National Parks, participating in-depth learning programs, and she encourages members to share their travel experiences. Judy is Volunteer Coordinator for the Garden Tour, and was Head Hostess for 11 years for the Home Tour, as well as having on the Home Tour the Geodesic Dome home she and her husband built. Judy is a faithful volunteer supporter of the Women in STEM Conference and has served on conference registration, a challenging position. She has also been a member of the 80th Anniversary Committee and Education Committee. In the 2023-2024 program year, she chaired the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee tasked with coming up with a fundraising plan that incorporated goals for each area, to make sure the events were scheduled without conflicts, and try to make fundraising less burdensome for the membership. She did an outstanding job tracking all of the ideas and making sure that all members of the committee were able to provide



input. Judy is a strong supportive member of the Social Committee, was a co-chair; now she finds the best wines to serve at dinner meetings, and you can always find her helping clean up afterwards. She promotes membership in AAUW and generously supports Branch activities and events. Judy works to support educational activities in the arts, science and openness to cultural differences.

Judy's community leadership activities include being Co-President of Shasta Community Concert Association for five years and serving on the board for 10 years. She helped create a system to provide morning concerts for local school students to attend performances at Cascade Theatre at no charge. Judy became a docent for Camden House in Whiskeytown National Park, playing the role of Mrs. Camden. She did extensive historical research, traveling to Chico and Weaverville to find details, in order to provide the most accurate representation to visitors. Judy transcribed documents; letters and recipes, creating the Camden Recipe booklet that includes the recipe for Mrs. Camden's wedding cake. Judy and her husband were strong supporters of fundraising for Shasta Land Trust by coordinating the silent auction at the annual fundraising event. For over 12 years she helped host a couple of Wildways events each year, providing scrumptious meals for guests and promoting the Land Trust.

Judy attended Chapman College and ended up marrying her brother's friend, Dave Bush. They raised two children, and Judy ran a small preschool in her home when they were young. When they moved to Redding they built their own Geodesic Dome home, and Judy could be found on the very steep roof with her trusty hammer in hand. After finishing building the house, she received her Teaching Certificate and taught elementary school for over 25 years. Judy volunteered to help run the Gateway School District Christmas shop where children would come to buy gifts for their parents. Each summer, before her four grandchildren became college students, she hosted a week long summer camp where the grands learned to build, cook, sew and create.

Personally, Judy works tirelessly on each project she is involved in, using grace and intelligence. She is strongly family oriented, empathetic, has courage, generosity, openness and is a good and dear friend. The community is a better place because she is involved.

Scholarship/Education

So far, we have received two incomplete applications and one other student has expressed interest in the AAUW scholarship. We will distribute flyers advertising the scholarship opportunity again next week at Shasta College. Please promote this scholarship to women you know who are transitioning from Shasta College to a 4-year university or to a certificate program. The application is on our website. Scholarships are due March 31. You can support the scholarship fund by coming to the Garden Tour and by selling tickets for the tour. Thank you for all your help and donations.

Donna Holscher, Education Chair

Greatest Needs Fund What is it? Why does our branch contribute to it?

As an AAUW member, you believe in advocacy for women and girls. You believe in pay equity, in education, in economic security, and in fairness.

Most of the funds we raise as a branch go to our local Scholarship Program that supports women graduating from Shasta College who wish to complete four-year degrees or obtain professional certificates, or for local middle school girls to attend the Tech Trek summer camps at UC Davis.

But, we are more than a local organization. We are part of a large National Organization of 170,000 members that seeks to improve the lives of all women and girls in the U.S. by addressing, at the national level, issues like pay equity, educational opportunity, and women's health. However, the dues we pay to AAUW National do not support the full cost of activities at the national level because only 5% of its net assets are unrestricted.

The Greatest Needs Fund was established to allow AAUW to respond rapidly, in its communication and advocacy, to critical issues affecting women as they emerge - like a new threat to Title IX. Growing Greatest Needs support ensures effective operations, execution of mission-critical work and the long-term sustainability of AAUW.

The Greatest Needs Fund Supports:

- •Groundbreaking research and effective advocacy work to pass fair-pay laws and other key equity legislation
- •Updates to and dissemination of AAUW's widely-cited signature research reports and advocacy for AAUW values (the research and policy budgets are supported almost entirely by the Greatest Needs Funds)
- •Staff time and other direct expenses for the Salary Negotiation, Financial Literacy, and Leadership Programs and the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL),
- •Activities to keep AAUW at the forefront of a National dialogue about Womens' Equity, by growing its media exposure and maintaining a prominent seat at the table.

Each AAUW Branch donates to the Greatest Needs Fund (GNF) to support these activities. The Garden Tour on May 10 is our big fundraiser for the year. The proceeds raised from the event will benefit both local scholarships and the GNF.

And, because our brand contributes to the Greatest Needs Fund, we have the ability to have a Named Gift Honoree. Every year the AAUW California Fund Committee honors AAUW California members who have done outstanding work in supporting the programs and goals of the AAUW Fund and/or AAUW California. For branches, in particular, a Named Gift is a special way to pay tribute to an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to AAUW.

Not only can you support the Greatest Needs Fund by going on the Garden Tour, but you can also show your support with a contribution when you pay your dues. Beginning in April, many of us will receive notifications for our membership renewal in an email from AAUW National. This is ANOTHER chance for you to give to the Greatest Needs Fund.

While we can't all be on the front lines, you can provide financial support by giving today.



AAUW REDDING GARDEN TOUR 9 AM - 2 PM, SATURDAY, MAY 10 TICKETS: \$30

The first AAUW Redding Garden Tour is set for Saturday, May 10, the day before Mother's Day. We hope to make this an annual event. In years past our home tour always had the support of the community; we want to revive that support for AAUW Redding and our mission to offer scholarships for local women while also supporting AAUW National's mission of achieving equity for women and girls.

The tour includes the Matson-Mowder-Howe Celebration Garden, the Behrens-Eaton Victorian Garden and four private gardens. The private gardens range from a whimsical, figurine-filled one to formally laid out ones to a garden partially established with plants and memorabilia salvaged from the devastating Carr Fire. Detailed descriptions and directions are included in the ticket brochure. Light refreshments of coffee, tea and other drinks plus cookies and simple savories will be available at the Behrens-Eaton House Museum.

Members will receive two ticket brochures in the mail with instructions on how to pay. Please support this worthy cause by purchasing or selling the tickets. In addition to this member outreach, tickets for the public will be available beginning April 1 at the Holiday Markets on Hartnell and Buenaventura and in Palo Cedro, and at Dandelion Clothing Store. The public will also be directed to our website through the QR code on our posters. The tour is being widely advertised. Look for our 15-second ad on KIXE TV.

In addition to purchasing the tickets, please let Judy Bush know you are interested in volunteering at a garden. Marta Hopkins also needs volunteers to work with the refreshments and to make or buy cookies. Signups for cookies will be available at the next Branch meeting on April 10 or contact Marta. Please deliver cookies to Marta's house the night before, May 9, between noon and 9 pm.

We hope to have artists engaged in plein-air painting in some of the gardens. In addition, the North Valley Art League will exhibit flower-themed art that day. It should be a lovely day to be outside enjoying flowers. Come out and enjoy a special Mother's Day weekend treat while supporting our Branch.

Debbie Stokes, Chair



Upcoming Board Meetings *April 28 May 19*

5:00 p.m.

Foundation Room, Shasta County Public Library All members are invited to attend board meetings. The agenda will be emailed a week prior to the meeting. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please contact President Sharon Clairemont.

Come Play With Us!

Redding Duplicate Bridge Club

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS 11:30



REDDING SENIOR CENTER 2290 BENTON DRIVE NOVICE PLAYERS WELCOME COST: \$7.00 A SESSION



CALL VICKIE PUGH, RDBC PRESIDENT (530)524-6713 FOR INFORMATION

Calling ALL Members

We want to grow our membership and here is your opportunity to help. A new member and prospective member gathering is being planned. Contact your friends, family, neighbors, any one you come into contact with and invite them to this gathering. The local AAUW President, President Elect, and other board members, Interest Groups, and other interested members are invited to come and share what our organization is all about. Our Redding Branch supports women and their journey through education with scholarships, also reaching out to young women through the STEM Conference, and Tech Trek Camp.

Here are the details:

Monday, June 2, 2025 5:15 pm -6:00 pm The Bluffs, Bechelli Lane Light refreshments served

Please forward any names with phone numbers and/or email to me. Let's do this, Ladies!

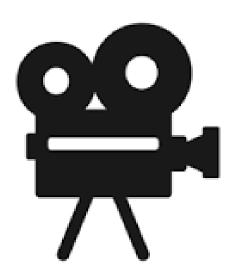
Another Important Announcement about Membership

Beginning in April, the majority of us will receive notifications for our membership due's renewal. You will receive an email from AAUW National. Please check all your email folders, including your spam folder. You will not receive a bill in the mail or an email from the branch. When you renew, please DO NOT MAKE A NEW ACCOUNT. If you are logging in for the first time, or can't remember your password, go below the large, blue "Log In" button and click on "Forgot your password?"

If you need assistance with the renewal process, please contact Joanne Roskoski Membership Treasurer or Gail Paulsen, Membership VP.

Gail Paulsen, AAUW Membership VP

This month please welcome our new member Mary Carol (M.C.) Masulis



Movie Group

Have you ever wanted to get a better understanding of *Pan's Labyrinth* or argue over how *The Whale* ended or find out what your friends thought of the *Hunger Games*? Movie Group has been meeting monthly to have these discussions for over 25 years. We commit to watching two or three movies (some in the theater and some streaming) and meet at a restaurant to eat dinner and listen to a volunteer explain the movie before we all talk about its pros and cons.

This Interest Group is currently looking for new members. If you (and husbands are invited) are passionate about movies and enjoy talking about them, please contact Pam Crowe or Alison Krupit.

Keep in mind that this is an active group; regular attendance is important, and you will be expected to research and present a movie several times a year. If you know you are on the Movie

Group list but rarely come – please contact Pam Crow or Alison Krupit as soon as possible.

Nominations Committee Update and Slate of Officers for April Elections! Your help is needed!

Each year in April, we elect our incoming Board officers for the coming year. I have included biographies for just the newly nominated officers. If you would like a copy of the biographies that appeared in last year's newsletter for officers willing to continue in their positions, please contact me. The names of all candidates appear below. Please note that there are two open positions that need to be filled.

President: Frances Cole-Boyd

President-Elect: Nancy Overton President-Elect: Nancy Overton currently serves on the AAUW Redding Board as Chair of the 2025 STEM Conference, grew up on a dairy farm in Orland CA, and attended the University of the Pacific with a BA Economics. She worked as an international banker for Austrian Landerbank in New York City and Vienna, Austria, and as a registered representative at UBS, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and Wells Fargo in Chico and Redding. She retired from work in 2022. She has been a Board Member of the North State Symphony since 2001 and Chair of the Mt. Shasta Chapter of the 99s, the International Association of Women Pilots since 2015. She is also a member of the Redding Duplicate Bridge and plays piano, flute, accordion, guitar and pipe organ. Fun Fact #1: Married Eric Marshall at sunset on the tarmac at Benton Airfield in 2014. Together they have 4 children and 7 grandchildren and 5 grand dogs. Fun Fact #2: Shook President Kennedy's hand at the Whiskeytown Dam dedication in September 1963.

AAUW Funds: Suzannah Gerlach will continue her two-year term.

Membership Vice President: Gail Paulsen will continue her two-year term.

Program Chair: Karen Ramstrom is a Preventative Medicine/Public Health and Family Medicine physician trained with the University of Colorado and the Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation. Dr. Ramstrom has worked in the field of public health for 25 years, including 12 years with the California Department of Public Health. From 2018 – 2022, she was the Health Officer for Shasta County and she previously worked in local public health in Colorado. Prior to her public health career, Karen was a General Medical Officer with the U.S. Army and provided women's health care and primary care for about 10 years. Karen and her mother, Shirley, have been active members in our brancoh fr the last several years. Karen will draw on her many networking experiences to bring a richness to our Program Planning in the coming years.

Treasurer: Andi Winters: Andi has a background in entrepreneurship. Starting her own printing company in 1971, then buying the family weekly newspaper, she was instrumental in expanding both businesses by converting to computers and adding a weekly shopping guide. After a move to the Oregon Coast in the early 1990s, she bought and published a restaurant guide that was distributed from Florence to Crescent City. Changing course after her marriage to Greg and a move to San Francisco, she was involved in magazine publishing and later, in Redding, as a reporter and editor for the local newspapers. Still enjoying the art of publishing, she has been and is still involved in compositing newsletters using her background in graphics.

The following positions are vacant. Please see Maureen Chenoweth if you are interested in learning more about serving.

Fundraising Vice President: What does the Fundraising VP do? This position is not in charge of all our fundraising activities. Each event has a chair and a committee to do that work. The Fundraising VP supports and coordinates the fundraising events. The fundraising plan developed each year is implemented in all Branch fundraising events. Most activities are already well-planned, and Maureen Chenoweth will provide all of the materials needed, along with mentoring.

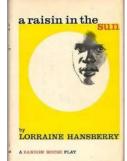
Secretary: It is critical that this position be filled. Our bylaws require this position be filled in order for the Branch to function legally. You do not need to have any prior knowledge of the branch to serve in this position. What is important is a willingness to take notes to the best of your ability. Please see Sharon Clairemont or Maureen Chenoweth if you are interested in serving. If you want a more detailed description of duties, please contact Linda Wright.

Maureen Chenoweth, Nominations Chair

Drama Divas Wednesday, April 2, 1-4 pm Hostess: Annette Spitsen

RSVP to Annette and Tammy

We will be reading *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. The play was first published and produced inn 1959 and explores the struggles of a working-class Black family, the Youngers, living on the south side of Chicago during the 1940s, and examines the effects of racial prejudice on their dreams and aspirations. The title is derived from Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem," which questions what happens to a dream deferred. The play is significant for its portrayal of African-American life and its exploration of themes such as identity, family, and social justice.



Please RSVP to Annette and Tammy so we know how many to plan for in April.

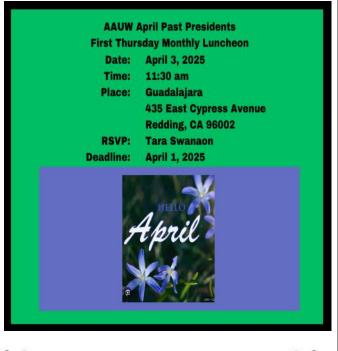
This group is open to all AAUW members and we have two new members who are interested in this fun group of play reading and discussion. We enjoyed reading Rose's Dilemma, one of Neil Simon's last plays, in the home of Diane Madgic on the bluff above the Sacramento River, as well as enjoying her tasty snacks.

Save the date: May 7 at Mari Ennis-Applegate's home.

Women's Issues Interest Group April 8, 5:30 pm at Marta Hopkin's

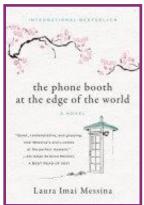
We will be discussing "Part V: Public Life" (chapters 12 – 14) of the book *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men.* This enlightening book is the June book selection for the Book Section interest group. You do not have to have attended previous meetings to attend Women's Issues. Please let Marta know by April 5 if you will be attending. Please bring a snack to share.





April Book Section April 15, 2:00 pm

The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World By Laura Imai Messina



Laura Imai Messina's international bestselling novel is a story about grief, mourning, and the joy of survival, inspired by a real phone booth in Japan with its disconnected "wind" phone, a place of pilgrimage and solace since the 2011 tsunami.

When Yui loses both her mother and her daughter in the tsunami, she begins to mark the passage of time from that date onward: Everything is relative to March 11, 2011, the day the tsunami tore Japan apart and when grief took hold of her life. Yui struggles to continue on, alone with her pain.

Then one day she hears about a man who has an old disused telephone booth in his garden. There, those who have lost loved ones find the strength to speak to them and begin to come to terms with their grief. As news of the phone booth spreads, people travel to it from miles around.

Soon Yui makes her own pilgrimage to the phone booth. But once there she cannot bring herself to speak into the receiver. Instead she finds Takeshi, a bereaved husband whose own daughter has stopped talking in the wake of her mother's death.

Host: Dale Ammerman

Leader: Self-lead...bring a reflection, a favorite quote, or a question to facilitate the discussion.

****I will have a sign up sheet for our May potluck at which we nominate new books. We will continue the tradition of signing up for appetizers, salads, and desserts.

Debbie Spiess, Chair

April 2025 Walking Group Schedule

The weather is warming up and trails are bursting with green grasses and colorful blooms. Anyone interested in enjoying the beauty, engaging in fun conversation, and sometimes a snack afterward, contact Frances Cole-Boyd. Walks begin at 8:15am

Tuesday Walks:

- 4/1 Coleman Fish Hatchery (meet at Frances's to carpool)
- 4/8 Senior Center (2290 Benton Drive)
- 4/15 Blue Gravel Mine Trail This trail does include an uphill climb on the way back. (Meet at the Holiday Parking lot near Burrito Bandito at Placer & Buenaventura)
- 4/22 Churn Creek Trail (trailhead at Tidmore, off of College View)
- 4/29 Sundial Bridge

Saturday Walks:

- 4/5 Lema Ranch (Shasta View/Hemingway parking lot)
- 4/12 Sundial Bridge
- 4/19 Senior Center (2290 Benton Drive)
- 4/26 Clover Creek Preserve (parking Shasta View & Venus Way)



Our Walking Group

Travel Group

Travel for the 2024-2025 season has come to a close. We will start back up in October. I would like to thank all the presenters for this year.

We started off in October with a fabulous presentation from Shannon Carnegie, Tammy Douse's daughter. Shannon and her husband Scott shared their small group tour of Kenya and the safaris they went on. Her pictures were extraordinary.

In January, Allison Krupit's enthusiastic presentation of the Galapagos was delightful. Listening to her joyful experiences was fun for all of us.

Greg and Andi led out in February to a fully packed restaurant. Our room at Karline's was so packed, I even had to turn some late folks wanting reservations away. How wonderful to see such interest! Greg and Andi shared their love of the water and the places they have cruised to, making a point that the cruise and the land tour are equally important. They like to travel with Holland America. Good to know for the rest of us.

As of the writing of this article, Travel Group has yet to experience the final travel presentation from Mari and Terry Applegate, Debbie and John Stokes. I will write about their tour next month.

Thank you to all of the presenters. I so appreciate you.

Judy Bush - Travel Leader

PUBLIC POLICY and DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Is Your Daily News Making You Anxious?

How can we keep up with the news without becoming overwhelmed? Our California Public Policy leaders have consulted with experts and they recommend the following:

- •Don't stop caring. Don't avoid the news, but check in strategically.
- •Take breaks. Set boundaries, like no news after dinner. Have a news routine.
- •Decide on your top issues and then skim only headlines for the rest.
- •Scale back on social media. Skip reading others' reactions.
- •Take care of yourself. Journal. Meditate. Exercise.
- •Change worry to action. Focus on community level tangible actions that can make a difference.

Lobby Days are Coming and Redding Branch will Be There

Your Lobby Days Team, President Sharon Clairemont, Maureen Chenoweth and I, will be in Sacramento April 8th along with 74 other CA AAUW members asking our legislators to support the bills that matter to California's women and girls and guys, too. Hopefully we will meet our District 1 representative, Heather Hadwick.



April is Sexual Assault Violence Prevention Month In 2009 President Obama officially declared April to be Sexual Assault Violence Prevention Month...

Here's to an April filled with Focused Action and Hope in support of women, girls and all of us.

Penny Harris, DEI and PP Chair

Representative Hadwick recently honored Jade Tyner during March's Women's History Month at the capitol. Jade Tyner is a Yurok tribal member and education leader in our area. She is a 14+ year school psychologist and a strong supporter of rural education for Native communities. She is 2nd from the right in the photo and Heather Hadwick is 2nd from the left.

Local Businesses that Support AAUW Redding Branch, Inc.

Please patronize these businesses and tell them where you saw their name. For information about renting a monthly 3" by 3.5" square, Contact Jean King.











AAUW Redding Garden Tour Saturday, May 10, 2025

