



Redding Inc. (CA)

January 2026

**Join us at the January Branch Meeting on  
Saturday, January 17, 2026, 11:30-1:30  
All Saints' Episcopal Church  
2150 Benton Drive, Memorial Hall  
*Shaping the Future of AAUW Redding -  
We need your voice!***

How do we keep AAUW Redding a place that feels welcoming, relevant, and connected – both for the members we have and for women who might join us in the future?

At our January meeting, we'll be trying something a little different. Building on what we learned from the recent member survey, we're planning a short, guided conversation that gives everyone a chance to share ideas, experiences, and perspectives about welcoming new women into our branch.

This conversation is being guided by Jenn Snider, an AAUW Redding member who helped design and analyze the recent member survey and is working with members to turn what we heard into practical ideas for engaging current and future members.

We are excited to connect and hear from you!

RSVP to Marta Hopkins.

**This will be a potluck brunch. Please bring a food item to share.**

### **Patricia Bunnell**

passed away this past summer. For many years she was an active and contributing member of AAUW Redding including Past President.

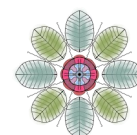
Her Memorial Gathering will be on January 23, 2026, 2 pm, at the Northern California Veteran's Cemetery in Igo. A reception will follow from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Caldwell Park Teen Center in Redding.

### **Board Meetings**

Board Meetings meet at 5:30 pm

**Monday, January 26, 2026**

All members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. The agenda will be emailed one week prior to each meeting. If you wish to speak to an agenda item at the meeting, please contact Frances.





## Letter from the President: Frances Cole-Boyd

**Happy New Year to all!**

I hope everyone had wonderful holidays. I am amazed, and grateful, for all that our branch has done in 2025. Thank you to all of you.

Now I look forward to how we will shine in 2026. January is a time for renewal. If you've been thinking about how you might deepen your involvement, now is the perfect moment to step forward. I invite you to come to our branch meeting on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have fun exploring ideas about what we want our AAUW branch to accomplish. Fresh ideas and new voices keep our organization vibrant and impactful.

There are also exciting opportunities for you to hold an office or chair an event. Yes, it may seem daunting. It was for me. However, I guarantee that you will have lots of support from not only within our branch but also from AAUW of California.

**WANTED to begin as soon as possible, for an easier transition - a STEM Chair.** We don't want to let those girls down!

Please see the full list of officers positions below, continued on page 3. It can also be found on our website, in the members' area.

Together, we will continue to uphold AAUW's mission and work toward a more equitable future. I look forward to all we will accomplish in the months ahead.

### ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Frances Cole-Boyd
President-Elect	Nancy Overton
Program VP	Karen Ramstrom
Membership VP	Gail Paulsen
AAUW Fund VP	Suzannah Gerlach
AAUW Fundraising VP	OPEN
Recording Secretary	Debbie Spiess
Treasurer	Cindy Anderson

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

Communications Chair	Carol Skill
Education Chair	Donna Holscher
Tech Trek Coordinator (non-voting)	Pris Brutlag
Public Policy	Sharon Clairemont
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair	Penny Harris
Parliamentarian (non-voting)	Susan Morris Wilson
Social Committee Chair	Marta Hopkins
STEM Chair	OPEN

*List is continued on Page 3*



*Photos from our  
Holiday Brunch  
courtesy of  
Frances Cole-  
Boyd, Gail  
Paulson, Nancy  
Williams*



## BRANCH OPERATIONS

Communications Chair	Carol Skill
Website Manager	Carol Skill
Facebook and Instagram Manager	Frances Cole-Boyd, Linda Wright, Suzannah Gerlach, Lana Hill
Directory Editor	Carol Skill
Newsletter Editor	Andi Winters
Newsletter Mailing	Andi Winters
Newsletter ads	Jean King
Email Manager	Maureen Chenoweth
Tech Consultant	Lana Hill
Corresponding Secretary	Shirley Ramstrom
Governance	Nancy Overton
Historian	Mari Ennis-Applegate
Membership Treasurer	Joann Roskoski
Nominating Chair	Sharon Clairemont
Women of Achievement Chair	Maureen Chenoweth
IBC Representative	Nancy Overton

## INTEREST GROUPS

Book Section	Dale Ammerman
Drama Divas	Tammy Douse
Film Group	Pam Crowe
Women's Issues	Marta Hopkins
Round Robin Book Group	Annette Spitsen
Travel	Judy Bush
Past Presidents	Tara Swanson
Past Presidents	Linda Wright
Scrabble	Patty Mullett

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Walking/Hiking Group	Sharon Clairemont
Wine and Brews	Nancy Randall
Ethnic Food Group	Marta Hopkins

## FUNDRAISERS

Starry Nights	Nancy Williams
Garden Tour	Mari Ennis-Applegate
	Penny Harris

# Giving Tuesday: The results are in!

Many thanks to all who participated, especially the Executive Board of our AAUW Redding Branch, each of whom made a donation. This year, we raised \$1370. The funds raised will be split between our Local Scholarships Program and the Tech Trek Program. Based on last year's amount, we budgeted \$800 to be raised, so this was a very welcome increase. All of the donors paid the processing fees, so we will retain all of the \$1,370. A total of 29 donors participated, including three non-members.

How much goes to each program? Individual donors could designate that their donation be given to either Tech Trek or Local Scholarships, or the General Fund. \$400 was designated for Tech Trek, and \$175 was designated for Local Scholarships, with the remaining \$795 designated for the General Fund (to be split between the two programs). Therefore, \$797.50 will go to the Tech Trek program, and \$572.50 will go to Local Scholarships.

You may make a donation anytime to each of these amazing programs. Please contact one of your board members to make an inquiry.

Coming up this spring, we will have another theater buyout and the Garden Tour. We are well on our way to reaching all of our fundraising goals, all the while engaging in some very fun activities. Again, many thanks!

# Public Policy and You Important to know!

## *Happenings:*

Our Branch is working with **Heather Hadwick**, the assembly member representing our district in the California legislature, to find a date for her to speak with us in Redding. We discussed this with her staff when we visited her office at AAUW CA Lobby Days last April. We would like to host this meeting jointly with our local League of Women Voters and perhaps some other organizations. We're looking at the possibility of a Friday in March. Stay tuned for a date, time, and place and think about topics you would like her to discuss.

California Public Policy is planning **Lobby Days 2026** and has surveyed branches about preferences and logistics. Survey results were shared with Branch Public Policy and DEI Chairs in December. There is a great deal of interest of holding Lobby Days in Districts and on Zoom rather than at the Capitol. More to come.

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee invites you to join a half-day virtual Symposium - "**AAUW School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy**" - on Saturday, January 31, 2026, 9 am to 12:30 pm PDT.

Participants will hear a keynote address on the impact of new federal laws and policies on California's protective laws; a panel discussion on how AAUW members can support students, parents, and school board members in the face of challenges and misinformation; and participate in workshops on effectively recruiting school board members and forming collaborations for greater impact.

Register for the event [HERE](#).

\* Are you interested in attending school board meetings in Redding? Please let me know if you would like to attend, observe, report.

## **News About Voting - some things to keep in mind:**

**The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act (H.R. 22)** is currently pending in the Senate after passing the House of Representatives in April 2025. The bill would require voters to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections. While a similar bill passed the House in 2024, it did not pass the Senate.

### *What the bill would do:*

**Require documentary proof of citizenship:** The bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act to require that voters provide documentary proof of citizenship to register for federal elections.

**Limit registration methods:** It would prevent voters from registering online or by mail in many cases.

**Potential impact:** Critics argue the bill could disenfranchise millions of eligible voters who may not have the required documents, such as passports, birth certificates, or tribal IDs.

### *Next steps:*

**Senate vote:** For the bill to become law, it would need to pass the Senate, which is considered a difficult hurdle under current rules.

**Advocacy:** Opponents are urging people to contact their Senators to vote against the bill.

### **And ...**

**California Prop. 50** passed in the Nov. 4 election, approved by 64% of voters. The California GOP and the U.S. Justice Department have joined in a lawsuit to block its implementation before the June 2026 election. Judicial hearings began Dec. 15.

Sharon Clairemont, Public Policy Chair.



## **Garden Tour 2026 Committee Meeting** **January 14, 2026, 1:00 pm** **Home of Mari Ennis-Applegate**

Our second Garden Tour is coming May 9 – we have six gardens committed to the tour! The Garden Tour 2026 committee will meet January 14, 1:00 pm at the home Mari Ennis-Applegate. Many who worked on the committee last year have agreed to help again this year. There are many ways to help. If you are interested, please contact one of us for more information!

Several businesses have agreed to advertise in the brochure, but more are needed. Debbie Stokes has been busy contacting businesses she frequents and those who advertised last year. She has prepared a packet you could leave off with a business you frequent. The deadline for sending in payment for the ad is January 31 to give us plenty of time to make up the brochures and posters. Advertising businesses will have an ad in the brochure and an acknowledgment on the posters.

As with other fundraising events, we plan to mail you two ticket brochures. If you would rather not have the ticket brochures mailed to you, please let us know and we will remove your name from the mailing list. Also, cookie contributions will be greatly appreciated so watch for a future announcement about details.

Thanks for all of your support of this enjoyable event that raises funds for local scholarships and supports our mission at the national level: equity for women and girls!

Penny Harris and Mari Ennis-Applegate, 2026 Garden Tour Co-Chairs

## **Nominating Committee for Branch 2026 Election**

Your Nominating Committee is charged with nominating and presenting a slate of candidates for the April 2026 election of officers. Elected officers are President, President-Elect, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President, AAUW Funds Vice President, Fundraising Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. As most board positions are held for two years, this year we will be seeking a President-Elect, Membership Vice President, AAUW Funds Vice President and Fundraising Vice President.

According to our Branch Bylaws, the Nominating Committee consists of five members. Two shall be the most immediately available past presidents, with the most immediately available past president presiding as chair. The chair of the 2026/27 Nominating Committee is Sharon Clairemont and the other past president is Maureen Chenoweth. Other members of the Committee are Joann Roskoski, Linda Wright, and Debbie Stokes.

We will start meeting this month (January). If you have suggestions for the open positions or if you are interested in serving in one of the positions, please contact me or one of the committee members. If you would like to know more about the responsibilities of any of the positions, you will find them in the Branch Policies and Procedures posted on our website, and you are most welcome to talk to a current officeholder about the job.

Let's elect another outstanding Board to support our incoming President-Elect, Nancy Overton!  
Thank you.

Sharon Clairemont, Chair, Nominating Committee

# Scholarships

Thank you to Maureen Chenoweth who spearheaded Giving Tuesday and brought in more funds for the scholarship fund. The Education Committee will meet in January and start the recruitment process for scholarship recipients.

I have heard from several of the scholarship recipients, and they are finishing exams and grateful to be getting a break. Monica Sheldon sent a letter of appreciation which is below.

Thank you for all your hard work raising money for these young women who are working hard to get an education and make the world a better place.

Donna Holscher, Education Chair

*Dear Scholarship Committee,*

*I am writing this letter to express my deepest gratitude for selecting me as one of the recipients of the AAUW scholarship. I feel extremely blessed to be awarded this scholarship, and I am deeply appreciative of your support.*

*My educational journey has been unique and challenging. As a single parent and a first-generation college student, earning this degree represents a milestone not just for me, but for my entire family, and future generations. Balancing the responsibilities of raising a child while navigating higher education has been difficult but incredibly rewarding. Financial stress is a constant reality for my family, and this scholarship is not just a financial help—it is a massive weight lifted off my shoulders. It allows me to focus more energy on my studies and less on how I am going to make ends meet this semester. In addition, it allowed me to attend a Christian University which was a huge blessing as God plays a major role in my life, and I love starting class with a devotional and prayer. Your generosity has brought me one step closer to achieving my goal of earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I am committed to working hard and making the most of this opportunity to build a better life for my child and to set an example for my family.*

*Thank you again for your investment in students like me. I hope that one day I will be able to help others achieve their goals just as you have helped me.*

*Sincerely,  
Monica Sheldon*



# Membership

Our branch is seeking new members to join our team to promote equity and education for women and young ladies. There is an opportunity for new and prospective members to learn about AAUW. The plans are being made to host women that are new to our organization and for members to invite friends, family members and co-workers to learn about our mission of supporting women. Be on the lookout for more detailed information to follow. The meeting is potentially being planned for Monday, January 19, 2026. AAUW leaders, Interest Group leaders, interested members and new and potential members are invited to meet in a casual setting. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Mark your calendars for January 19, 2026. Watch for detailed information about this gathering. Contact me for any questions you may have.

Gail Paulsen, Membership VP

# AAUW Redding Upcoming Interest Groups Meetings

## Past Presidents

Since the first Thursday in January is January 1, Past Presidents won't meet again until February 5.

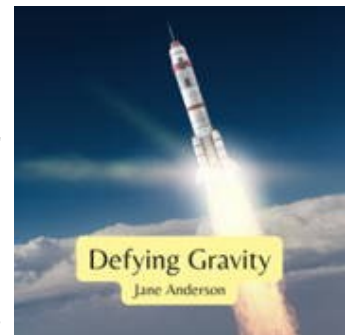
**Wine and Brews  
will return in February.**

## Drama Divas

**Wednesday, January 7, 1-4 pm at Tammy Douse's home**

Join us as we read *Defying Gravity* by Jane Anderson. The play explores the Challenger disaster of 1986 through the lens of a teacher and her daughter. The play is structured as a free-structured look, allowing for a flexible and engaging atmosphere. The play has been praised for its clever and uplifting fantasy, as well as its musings about art, religion and the outer limits of human possibility. It has been performed Off-Broadway and in various theaters across the country.

This drama study group is open to all AAUW members and new members are invited to join us at any time! We have 10 copies of the play and each person reads a different role. Lively discussions follow and the hostess always serves a variety of savory or sweet treats.



Tammy Douse, Chair

## Women's Issues

**Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30 pm**

Our discussion topic is education for women.

Marta Hopkins, Chair

## Ethnic Food Group

**Wednesday, January 21, 5 pm.**

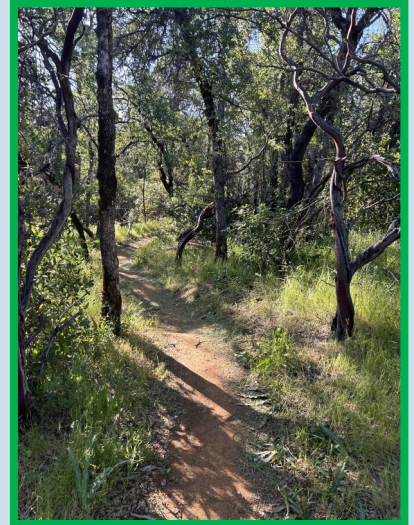
**Anthony's Mediterranean Bar and Grill**

Anthony's is located at 1701 California Street, Redding. Please contact Marta Hopkins if you are interested in attending.

Marta Hopkins, Chair

# January 2026 Walking/Hiking Group Schedule

The walking group welcomes all walkers/hikers, new or veteran. We have a variety of walks and walking paces. Join us for camaraderie and conversation. Some of our walks and hikes are on asphalt, some on dirt, some on a combination of surfaces. Contact Sharon Clairemont for more detailed information about length, location and terrain, and please let her know if you plan to join a walk. **Walks start at 8:15 a.m.**



## Tuesday Walks:

- 1/6 Blue Gravel Mine Trail (meet at Holiday parking lot at Placer and Buenaventura)
- 1/13 Lema Ranch (Shasta View/Hemingway parking lot)
- 1/20 Sundial Bridge/ Turtle Bay
- 1/27 Churn Creek Trail (trailhead at Tidmore Ln., off College View)

## Saturday Walks:

- 1/3 Chemise Peak (trailhead at the end of Flanagan Rd, off Lake Blvd.)
- 1/10 Anderson River Park
- 1/17 No walk - Branch Meeting
- 1/24 Clover Creek (parking lot off Shasta View and Venus)
- 1/31 River Trail (meet at the Redding Senior Center parking lot)

## The Movie Group (Movie Monday)

**Monday, January 19 at 4:30 pm**

**Market Street Blade & Barrel, 1777 Market St.**

Last month was fun! Good reviews and lively discussions. Here again are the movies selected for our January 19 get-together:

*One Battle after Another* - theater - Warren

*Wake Up Dead Man* - Netflix - Joann

*Song Sung Blue* - theater Christmas Eve - Bev/General Discussion

New members or longstanding, all are welcome, including spouses. Sign up (space is limited) by emailing Pam Crowe by January 15.

Those who signed up at the previous month's Movie Monday are already on the list.

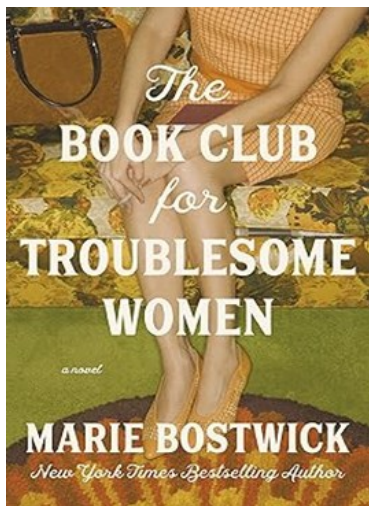
And very important, mark your calendars to *arrive at Blade and Barrel 4:30 to 4:45*. That will make it easier on staff to serve us during Happy Hour.

Pam Crowe, Chair

## Book Group

January 20, 2:00 pm

Hostess and leader: Debbie Spiess



By 1960s standards, Margaret Ryan is living the American woman's dream. She has a husband, three children, a station wagon, and a home in Concordia--one of Northern Virginia's most exclusive and picturesque suburbs. She has a standing invitation to the neighborhood coffee klatch, and now, thanks to her husband, a new subscription to *A Woman's Place*--a magazine that tells housewives like Margaret exactly who to be and what to buy. On paper, she has it all. So why doesn't that feel enough?

Margaret is thrown for a loop when she first meets Charlotte Gustafson, Concordia's newest and most intriguing resident. As an excuse to be in the mysterious Charlotte's orbit, Margaret concocts a book club get-together and invites two other neighborhood women--Bitsy and Viv--to the inaugural meeting. As the women share secrets, cocktails, and their honest reactions to the controversial bestseller *The Feminine Mystique*,

they begin to discover that the American dream they'd been sold isn't all roses and sunshine--and that their secret longing for more is something they share. Nicknaming themselves the Bettys, after Betty Friedan, these four friends have no idea their impromptu club and the books they read together will become the glue that helps them hold fast through tears, triumphs, angst, and arguments--and what will prove to be the most consequential and freeing year of their lives.

Dale Ammerman, Book Section Chair

## Travel Interest Group

Wednesday, January 28, 5:30 pm

Karline's Restaurant

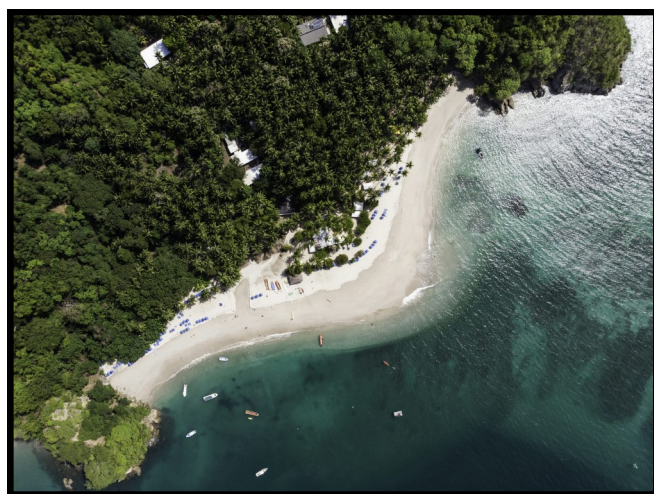
Reservations needed

Travel Interest Group returns in January with a program on Costa Rica. Jay and Terry Thesken will present their trips to Costa Rica. Jay and Terry are considered experts in their fields of wildlife and botany and the evening will definitely be entertaining and educational.

If you like to travel, nationally or internationally, come join us. Please contact me if you have a trip you would like to share. New presenters are welcome.

Travel group is open to all members plus spouses/friends are welcome. Reservations are needed for all presentations due to the size of the room. I look forward to seeing you in January.

For reservations, please contact me.



# Local Businesses that Support AAUW Redding Branch, Inc.

Please patronize these businesses and tell them where you saw their name.



*Linking together for our mission.*

## Estate Planning, Probate, and Conservatorships

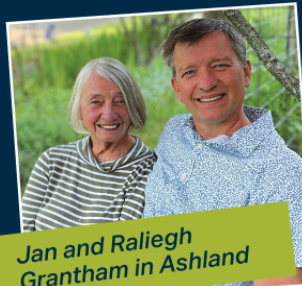
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**AAUW**

Advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

To find out how we do this, see our website

**[www.aauwredding.org](http://www.aauwredding.org)**