



President Frances Cole-Boyd

Editor Andi Winters



Redding Inc. (CA)

April 2026

**Join us for our AAUW Branch Meeting on  
Thursday, April 16, 2026, 5-7 pm  
with Rob Keenan, President and CEO of  
KIXE PBS**

**Social Time 5:00 pm, Dinner 5:30 pm**

**Location: 2322 California Street, Club House for the Native  
Daughters of the Golden West (\*directions)**

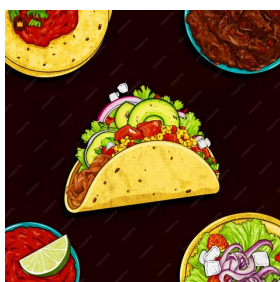
Please join us to hear from Rob Keenan, President and CEO of KIXE PBS. Rob will speak with us about KIXE's history, what their future looks like and their outreach and educational programming on broadcast and in the community. Don't miss it!



Rob assumed his current role in December 2023 after more than 35 years of dedicated service to the station. Over the course of his career at Channel 9, Rob has held five different positions including station operations, fundraising, and the directing and production of locally relevant content. Rob holds a B.A. in Communications from California State University, Chico, and brings extensive experience in both commercial and educational media. A lifelong North State resident, he is a committed community advocate who has served on local public access and environmental boards. He lives with his family on a goat dairy farm in western Shasta County.

\* Directions: **2322 California Street**, Club House for the Native Daughters of the Golden West: Go South on California Street from Riverfront Playhouse and Plantable Nursery for .3 miles. When you cross Sonoma Street, the Club House is the third building (white) on the right.

Parking: Please pull all the way forward into the driveway and park (parallel) along the curb on the left. There are also two parking places in the front and 3-4 in the back. Please reserve spaces near the front for those with limited mobility. Street parking is also readily available.



The menu will be traditional Mexican food from Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant. The cost of the meal will be \$25, payable by cash, check (send to Marta Hopkins), or through PayPal (choose option #5 or #6). Please let Marta Hopkins know no later than April 14 if you plan to attend.

## Letter from the President: *Frances Cole-Boyd*

Spring has arrived, and with it our branch continues to bloom into a varied and beautiful bouquet. This season reminds me how much our strength comes from the many individuals who share their time, talents, and generous spirits.

There are many thank-yous to share. First, to Lois Agatha Arnold for the generous gift she bequeathed to our scholarship fund. Although I never had the opportunity to meet her, her generosity will support young women and we are deeply grateful.

And in no special order...

To Sharon Clairemont and her very hardworking Nominating Committee – and for Sharon’s continued dedication as our Public Policy Chair and to Penny Harris as our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair.

To Pris Brutlag for facilitating a successful theater buyout, and to her committee for their thoughtful work selecting this year’s Tech Trek girls. I hope many of you were able to see Riverfront Playhouse’s *Good People*, a thought-provoking play about the challenges people – especially women – often face. It was beautifully directed and acted.

To Donna Holscher and the Education Committee for their work in getting scholarship applications out into the community. They will soon be interviewing and choosing candidates.

To Nancy Overton, President-Elect, and Cindy Anderson, Treasurer, for being my travel companions to Yuba City for the Interbranch Council annual luncheon – and for the dedication they bring to their offices. It’s always inspiring to connect with neighboring AAUW branches and hear about their work. (The food and speaker were excellent as well!)

To Penny Harris and Mari Ennis-Applegate and their busy Garden Tour Committee – I’m very much looking forward to this lovely event.

To Judy Bush for coordinating our garden volunteers. **If she hasn’t spoken with you yet, please feel free to reach out. It’s a fun way to participate and get to know fellow members.**

To Andi Winters for the beautiful Garden Tour brochures and posters – and for our wonderful newsletters.

To Karen Ramstrom, Program VP, for her persistence in securing speakers and her grace when plans change and she must pivot.

To Shirley Ramstrom, Corresponding Secretary, who thoughtfully sends cards to members and to the families of former members.

To Debbie Spiess, Secretary, for faithfully recording our minutes.

To Marta Hopkins, Social Chair, who makes our gatherings warmer and more welcoming with the delightful food.

To Gail Paulsen, Membership VP, who manages our membership and will soon host our new membership event. **Please think about someone you might invite.** With discounted dues, it will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome new members.



*President's Letter*  
*Continued on page 3*

## *President's Letter*

*Continued from page 2*

To Suzannah Gerlach, AAUW Fund VP, who oversees our branch's support of AAUW's broader mission.

To Carol Skill, Communications Chair and helper Maureen Chenoweth, who keep our website up to date and send out information to our membership.

To our Interest Group leaders, who oversee the groups which bring fun, camaraderie, and thoughtful conversations. Who would have imagined last spring that the book group would read such a timely selection as *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali?

And finally, **to all of you – for supporting our branch in so many ways:** by showing up, contributing financially, bringing food, being flexible when plans change, stepping in when our sisters are ill, and trying new things, even when it means stepping outside our comfort zones. Most of all, thank you for the warmth, friendship, and joy you bring to our branch.

Together, we truly are blooming.

With heartfelt thanks,  
Ever faithful,  
Frances

## Membership News

Please welcome these new members to our branch:

Laura Labossiere Christensen

Lisa Porter

Marrienne Williams

Lynn Hill

Danielle Brewster

**Members: Please make sure that you check your email from our AAUW National Organization for renewal of your dues.** They should be sending out reminder notices 30 days before renewal is due, on the date of your renewal, and 30 days after. We have quite a few members that are in the grace period right now. You can pay through the National website using your name and password. If that is too complicated you can send a renewal check of \$134.00 to our Branch Post Office Box: AAUW Redding Branch, P.O. Box 994593, Redding, CA 96099-4593. (Please note that national dues will go up by \$2.00 in April. Renewal will then be \$136.00.)

### **NEW Members & Prospective Members - this is for you:**

Our branch is seeking new members to join our team to promote equality, 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. New members will receive a personal invitation. If you know of someone that is interested, please pass their information on to me.

The meeting is being planned for Tuesday, April 7, 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.

When: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Time: 5:30 - 6:30+ pm

Where: The Bluffs Club House , Bechelli Lane, (Look for the AAUW Sign)

Please - RSVP to me Gail Paulsen (see Contact Page)

# AAUW Education

The Education Committee got an unexpected boost when Becky Eusted came to the AAUW board meeting and presented us with a \$5,000 check from the trust of Lois Agatha Arnold. Lois was a long-time member of Tehama County AAUW and a past president. She was a champion of women's education and worked as a microbiologist. We enjoyed getting to know Becky and more about Lois. Becky worked at Caltrans where she got to know Lois and her husband who encouraged Becky to go on to get engineering certificates helping Becky advance in her workplace. Becky also presented Lois' AAUW pins which will be used by our branch and will carry on her memory. A letter from Becky appears below.

March is a busy time for the Education Committee. We have visited Shasta College twice, the downtown campus and Tehama County Shasta College campus to spread the word about our scholarships. All of last year's applicants learned about the scholarship through flyers, the transitions office and their professors so we are focusing our efforts on these three avenues. I will revisit the main campus in late March as most applicants apply the last two weeks of March. Interviews for the scholarships will be April 7 and 8 at the library.

Thank you for your support for scholarships !

Donna Holscher, Chair

## Lois Agatha Arnold July 15 1931-June 24, 2025

*Lois' estate recently donated \$5,000 to our scholarship fund. The following is a letter to our Branch from her good friend:*

Lois was born in Kansas City, MO. She told me that she learned to read by sitting on her dad's lap and reading the newspaper. By the time she went to kindergarten, she could already read. She skipped two grades, so she graduated High School at 16. She attended the University of Arkansas and studied Animal Science and Ag. She wanted to be a vet but at that time women were not allowed to pursue that career. She learned at an early age females were treated very differently with career choices. After graduation she became a microbiologist for the State of Arkansas Health Department. She worked on a research project in college that had something to do with green peppers curing a disease. The college would not allow her research to be public as they stated they owned the rights as the research was done in their lab. She was never given credit for her research.

She would quit that job and move to California to marry Bill Arnold. They had met in Kansas City and he had gotten hired by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Interstate 5 was in the planning stages and he was a Civil Engineer. He sent Lois a train ticket so she could join him and they got married at the courthouse in Monterey. Lois was a homemaker and did volunteering after getting married. She always advocated for women and girls in career fields that had been denied to her. On her diploma from UAK she hand-wrote Animal Sciences as a category she studied as only males could list that as their studies.

Lois joined AAUW after moving to Red Bluff in 1971. I don't have much info on her years in the club, but a friend told me it was over 40 years and she held officer positions more than once. It was a club she was passionate about because of what they offered females.

When she set up her trust she allocated \$5,000 for AAUW in hopes of helping a female obtain any career they chose. I know the award can't be designated for a female, but you know where her heart is.

I called Lois a National Treasure, which embarrassed her! She was the most positive person I have ever known. She told me that at an early age she decided she could wake up each day with a negative or positive attitude and she chose the latter. She lived it daily.

I just want to extend my appreciation for your choice of Lois's award. I know it will be used exactly as she wanted by helping a young person pursue a career.

I would appreciate it if you let me know your choice for the award and any other details of the career choice of the awardee.

Sincerely, Becky Eusted

# Public Policy and You

## Important to know!

Public Policy is a wide field and offers dozens of topics for consideration and action. This month we'll focus on the pressing topic of proposed changes in voter identification laws in California and in Shasta County.

In California, there is a proposed Voter ID Constitutional Amendment awaiting qualification for the November 2026 ballot. The proposed initiative would require voters to show government issued ID *every time they vote*. Opponents say California elections are already secure, and the proposed restrictions would disenfranchise millions of voters to solve a problem that does not exist. The Initiative would especially disadvantage women or anyone navigating a name change, people experiencing housing instability, people without a driver's license, tribal identification, passport or other government ID.

For more information, see the League of Women Voters webpage here <https://lwvc.org/voting-rights-groups-launch-campaign-defeat-voter-id-ballot-initiative/> or a fact sheet here <https://www.aclunorcal.org/app/uploads/2026/02/Voter-ID-Fast-Facts.pdf><https://www.aclunorcal.org/app/uploads/2026/02/Voter-ID-Fast-Facts.pdf>

In Shasta County, Measure B or the **Shasta County Voter ID, Hand-Counted Ballots, and Absentee Voting Limits Initiative** calls for changes to Shasta's charter law to implement local election rules that, if implemented, would contradict current state and federal laws.

According to Ballotpedia [https://ballotpedia.org/Shasta\\_County,\\_California,\\_Voter\\_ID,\\_Hand-Counted\\_Ballots,\\_and\\_Absentee\\_Voting\\_Limits\\_Initiative\\_\(June\\_2026\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Shasta_County,_California,_Voter_ID,_Hand-Counted_Ballots,_and_Absentee_Voting_Limits_Initiative_(June_2026))

A "yes" vote supports this ballot initiative to add several election and voting policies to the Shasta County Charter, including:

- require that elections be held in-person on a single day, except for absentee voters;
- require voters to present a photo ID when voting in person;
- limit who can cast an absentee ballot to "the infirm, military, and US citizens living overseas;"
- require that all ballots be hand-counted at the precinct level; and
- require the county maintain voter rolls on a computer not connected to the state or any third party, among other changes.

A "no" vote opposes this ballot initiative to add several election and voting policies to the Shasta County Charter.

### The measure still faces legal challenges.

#### Updates:

CA Lobby Days will be held in some district offices this year rather than having all meetings held at the Capitol. Nevertheless, in-person meetings for Heather Hadwick and Megan Dahle will be held at their Sacramento offices on April 9 (Dahle) and April 10 (Hadwick).

All CA Public Policy information and newsletters can be found at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/>



## We are sad to learn of Noella Pearson's recent passing

Noella was an active member of our branch. She was a past president, Home Tour chair, active in interest groups and could often be seen taking photographs at AAUW functions to post on the branch social media and in the newsletter.

### **Garden Tour Self-Guided Tour of 6 Local Gardens in Full Bloom Saturday, May 9, 2026 9 am - 2 pm**



Some of us on the committee are getting sneak previews of the lovely gardens you will get to tour on May 9 – and you will be amazed!

You already know that we have a great Garden Tour planned – four very different private gardens, one public garden, and the nonprofit Plantable Nursery & Cafe, with live music there from 11:00-1:00 and possibly artist painting *plein aire* in some of the gardens. Garden Tour tickets not picked up at Branch events will reach you in the mail around April 1. If you do not receive them, call/text/email us right away! You will love the beautiful brochure Andi Winters designed!

Light refreshments will be available all day outdoors on the grounds of Plantable! Please consider donating some of your delicious cookies. They can be dropped at M.C. Masulis' house from 4:00 - 6:00 pm on Friday, May 8 (or we can arrange to pick them up).

See you at the gardens!!

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



Thank you everyone who supported our March 11 Buyout of the Riverfront Playhouse production of "Good People." We had an outstanding response selling 122 tickets!!! The net proceeds of over \$3000 will go toward sending five middle school girls from Tree of Life International School to the UC Davis Tech Trek camp next summer.

Special thanks go to Frances Cole-Boyd, Barbara Enochian, and Mary Burns who each sold 10 or more tickets. There were many others of you who purchased multiple tickets inviting friends to attend. Several of you generously purchased tickets knowing you couldn't attend but wanting to support the buyout.

Kudos to Marta Hopkins, Dale Ammerman, and many members for providing a lovely social. We had many sweet and savory delights thanks to the contributions. We must also thank Susan Wilson, the Riverfront host and AAUW member. Finally, thanks to my friend, Julie Hatcher and her friend, Janet Martin, who greeted attendees at the door.

What a wonderful way to fundraise while at the same time enjoying a stimulating, entertaining evening! Stay tuned for our next Riverfront Buyout of "Great Mistakes," September 9, 2026.

# NEEDED! It's time to give back.

Your AAUW Branch has provided you with information, education, entertainment, status and recognition in the community, and the opportunity to support causes important to you and to women and girls in your city. The Branch has done these things thanks to women who have stepped up to be leaders. Now it is your turn.

You are needed to step up from being a helper to being a leader. We need a **President-elect** and a **Program Vice President**.

You have skills, you've had a career, you have a university education. You can do this.

The Branch must have a **President-Elect**. She will be President in 2027-2028, but will spend 2026-27 getting to know Branch members, attending interest group meetings and observing the President as she carries out her tasks. The President-Elect is also our representative to the Inter-Branch Council, and she will orchestrate updating our governing documents, if necessary. In July 2027 she will assume the role of President.

Leading our Branch comes with the support of all the elected and appointed Board members, all working to make our Branch activities successful, interesting and fun. Additionally, a President-elect may choose a mentor from among past presidents. A mentor can advise and guide with agenda planning, leading meetings, calendaring, or other leadership tasks.

The **Program Vice President** serves as chair of the Program Development Committee. She can choose her committee and share responsibilities such as meeting room logistics, newsletter articles, and speaker recruitment. The Program VP receives direction from the results of the program planning meeting held in May/June of preceding year. The program planning meeting outlines the interests and goals of the branch (this year made evident in the January Branch meeting/workshop) and gives direction as to what kind of speakers would best fulfill those goals.

Please consider reprising your leadership skills or learning some new ones and talk with a member of the Nominating Committee about being our President-Elect or our Program Vice President.

We look forward to hearing from and working with you. We would like to hear from you soon as these officer nominations are elected at our April Branch meeting.

Sharon Clairemont, Chair  
Linda Wright  
Maureen Chenoweth  
Joann Roskoski  
Debbie Stokes

## 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, RDRC PRESIDENT  
(530)524-6713 FOR INFORMATION

## Board Meetings

Board Meetings meet at 5:30 pm

**Monday, April 27**

**Monday, May 25**

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.

# AAUW Redding Upcoming Interest Groups Meetings

## April Past Presidents

**Date: Thursday, April 2**

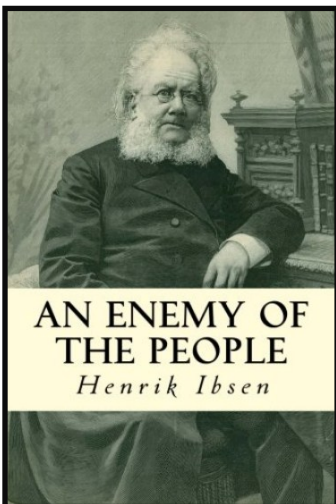
**Time: 11:30 am**

**Place: Country Kitchen, 1099 Hilltop Drive in Redding**

RSVP: Tara Swanson by March 27



Last month 8 of us enjoyed the exotic food at Lalibela Ethiopian Cuisine. Please let Tara know that you will be joining us at Country Kitchen, April 2.



## Drama Divas—Join Us

**An Afternoon of play reading and discussion.**

**Wednesday, April 8th, 1-4 pm**

**Hostess: Kirsten Plate, please RSVP.**

**New members and guests are welcome!**

We will be reading *An Enemy of the People*, written in 1882 by **Henrik Ibsen** about Dr. Thomas Stockmann who discovers the water supply for his town's new popular baths is contaminated, but his efforts to expose the truth are thwarted by local officials and townspeople who prioritize economic interests over public health, leading to his ostracization as an "enemy of the people".

Tasty treats and beverages and some great discussion on the agenda. We have read over 200 plays in the last 25 years, come see how much fun this is!

Wondering how Drama Divas works? Contact Tammy Douse!

# March 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:

- 4/7 Lema Ranch (Shasta View/Hemingway parking lot)
- 4/14 Clover Creek (parking lot off Shasta View and Venus)
- 4/21 Sundial Bridge/ Turtle Bay
- 4/28 Churn Creek Trail (trailhead at Tidmore Ln., off College View)

## Saturday Walks:

- 4/4 Blue Gravel Mine trail (meet in Holiday Market parking lot, near Burrito Bandito; Placer and Buenaventura)
- 4/11 Anderson River Park
- 4/18 Piety Hill Loop
- 4/25 River Trail (meet at the Redding Senior Center parking lot)

## Ethnic Food Group

The April Ethnic Food Group meeting will be held at Amazing Alheri, 1440 Placer street, Redding. Amazing Alheri is a Nigerian restaurant which is now only open once a month on a Saturday. I have requested April 11, and am waiting for a confirmation on the date and time. Please let Marta Hopkins know if you are interested in attending.

Marta Hopkins, Chair



## Wine and Brews

**Wednesday, April 8  
at Old 44 Cellars,  
4:30 pm**

Please bring an appetizer to share. You can RSVP to Nancy Randall by Monday, April 6th.

## The Movie Group (Movie Monday)

**Monday, April 20 at 4:30 pm**  
**Market Street Blade & Barrel, 1777 Market St.**

Mark your calendars now for this event. We will be discussing three movies:

*Project Hail Mary* at the theater

*Stand by Me* on Netflix in honor of Rob Reiner

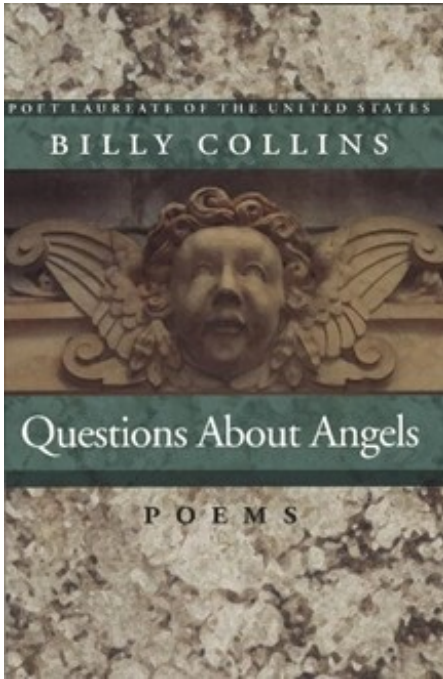
*Made in Dargenham* on Prime

Call Pam Crowe by Thursday, 4/16, to let me know you'd like to join us.

## Book Group

April 21, 2:00 pm

Hostess: Sharon Salpas, RSVP April 14



Billy Collins has emerged as the most beloved American poet since Robert Frost, garnering critical acclaim and broad popular appeal. Annie Proulx admits, "I have never before felt possessive about a poet, but I am fiercely glad that Billy Collins is ours."

This special, limited edition celebrates Billy Collins's years as U.S. Poet Laureate. *Questions About Angels* – one of the books that helped establish and secure his reputation and popularity during the 1990s – is remarkable for its wry, inquisitive voice and its sheer imaginative range. Edward Hirsch selected this classic book for the National Poetry Series, and each of Collins's poems – from his meditation on forgetfulness to his musings on the behavior of angels – is an exploration of imaginative possibilities. Whether reading him for the first time or the fiftieth, this collector's edition is a must-have for anyone interested in the poet the New York Times calls simply "the real thing."

Host: Sharon Salpas, call or text for address and directions and to RSVP.

## Women's Issues

Our next Women's Issues meeting will be on Tuesday, April 14 at 5:30 pm. The topic will be Women and Poverty. Please let Marta Hopkins know if you plan to attend.

## Travel Interest Group

Travel Group is now going on vacation until October. We will return with four presentations for October 2026, January, February, and March 2027.



Thank you to all the presenters this year. As a group we went to so many places.

Debbie and John Stokes took us to Morocco, Terry and Jay Theskin's presented trips to Costa Rica, Gail and Phil Paulsen sailed us around Hawaii, and Mari and Terry Applegate and Penny and Daryl shared their land tour of Cuba. Travel shorts presented by Dave Bush took us to the Amazon, and an Alaska Motor adventure, plus a cruise to Svalbard and around the Artic. Wayne Chenoweth took us to South Africa. To all the presenters, thank you so much. Your travel inspires all of us to get out when possible and go places.

Have a wonderful few months and happy travels. See you in October.

Judy Bush, Chair

# Local Businesses that Support AAUW Redding Branch, Inc.

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

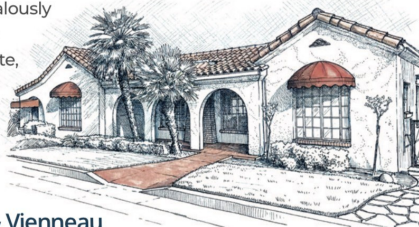


*Linking together for our mission.*

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**P. O. BOX 994593**

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*Linking together for our mission.*

**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)**