



President Frances Cole-Boyd

Editor Andi Winters



Redding Inc. (CA)

May 2026

Join us for our AAUW Branch Meeting Thursday, May 14

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

Location: 2322 California Street, Native Daughters of the Golden West Home (*directions)

Please join us to hear from **Jessica Knight**, Director of the Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) Program at Shasta College, where she established the program and has led its growth into a sustainably embedded institutional initiative. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Azusa Pacific University, where her graduate research examined the impact of rural locationS on educational outcomes in higher education, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from California State University, San Marcos. Her academic background directly informs her equity-focused leadership work across multiple Shasta College campuses and distance education sites. Earlier in her career, Jessica served as a full-time faculty member and Math Department Chair at San Joaquin Valley College. A recipient of Shasta College's Bright Light Award and multiple student-nominated Apple Awards, she is a dedicated advocate for transfer pathways, STEM access, and student success in rural and underserved communities.



Photo of Shasta College MESA students at the Silicon Valley Women in Engineering Conference at San Jose State University. Photo Courtesy: Shasta College Communications & Public Relations. 2025.

Jessica will EXPLAIN how supports such as AAUW and other supporters contribute to the success of aspiring students.

***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.

Dinner for the May 14 branch meeting will be catered by Thai House. The cost will be \$25 per person, payable by cash, check, or through PayPal (option #5 or #6). Please let Marta Hopkins know if you will be attending.

Letter from the President: *Frances Cole-Boyd*



All the work we have planted and tended is going to really blossom this month.

We literally get to see beautiful flowers on our Garden Tour. We will also meet the “seeds” we have “planted” as they emerge in our scholarship recipients and Women of Achievement winners at our branch meeting. In addition, it is our branch’s turn to host an Interbranch Council meeting on Wednesday, May 6 at 5:00 pm.

To keep our branch healthy and growing we will need to continue to “fertilize” it. A president-elect and STEM chair are still needed, as will be appointed positions. Please reach out to me or this year’s president-elect Nancy Overton if you are interested.

For other fun “blossoms” to see, please continue reading your newsletter.

Ever faithful,
Frances

Tech Trek

Interviews are completed and five deserving, amazing 7th grade girls and one alternate from Tree of Life International have been selected to attend the UC Davis Tech Trek Camp in July. Their families are now in the process of completing the required Tech Trek camp documents necessary for attendance. Once we are assured of their completion, we will publish their names. We appreciate all the support from so many of you for our fundraising efforts such as the theatre buyouts. Our commitment makes this outstanding, life-changing program possible.

Pris Brutlag, Tech Trek Coordinator
Maureen Chenowith, Donna Holscher, Committee

AAUW Education \$25,500 in Scholarships are awarded!

Thank you to all who have worked on fundraising for the scholarship fund and those who are working on the Garden Tour! Because of your hard work the Education Committee was able to give out a total of \$25,500 in scholarship awards to four deserving women.

After extra visits to Shasta College and reaching out to professors who have been supportive, we received applications from four diverse women for the AAUW scholarships. Sharon Clairmont, Pris Brutlag, Karen Ramstrum, Denise Truscott, Maureen Chenoweth and I were inspired by the candidates we interviewed April 8. We were able to give sizeable scholarships to each winner which will help them as they all head off to four-year universities.

The scholarship winners will be at the May 14 general AAUW meeting. The June newsletter will feature their pictures, fields of study and where they will be attending. Come welcome our scholarship winners on May 14!

Donna Holscher, Chair

Marianne Seifert

Community Woman of Achievement 2026



In 1999, Marianne founded **Marianne's Senior Placement Services**, dedicating her career to helping older adults and their families navigate complex care decisions. In 2019, she expanded her impact by publishing *The Senior Source – A Guide to Redding's Senior Resources*, a comprehensive directory designed to connect seniors and caregivers with vital community services.

Marianne previously served as co-president of the Older Adult Policy Council (OAPC), where she helped lead fundraising efforts for "Power to Seniors," a program that assists older adults with utility payments. She currently serves as: Advisory Council

Member; PSA 2 Area Agency on Aging; Board Member, Dignity Health Connected Living and Board Member, Walk to End Alzheimer's. She has also been an advocate with the Purple City Alliance Campaign, raising awareness to prevent elder abuse.

Marianne holds a degree in social work and continually seeks new experiences, connections, and knowledge to better understand available resources both locally and beyond. By staying informed and engaged, she is able to educate the community as a whole, with the most accurate and helpful guidance possible.

Most significantly, Marianne is working to bring the Medi-Cal Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) program to Shasta County. Currently, neither Medi-Cal nor Medicare covers the cost of assisted living. While Medicare provides limited skilled nursing coverage and Medi-Cal covers long-term skilled nursing care, many individuals do not require skilled nursing – they simply need assistance with daily living. Only 15 counties in California currently offer the ALW program, with Sacramento County being the closest to Shasta County. Marianne's advocacy in this area has the potential to create meaningful, lasting change for older adults in the region. She has also recently established a networking group for senior housing providers and community stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and improve service coordination. We are honored to bestow Marianne the 2026 Community Woman of Achievement Award.

AAUW GARDEN TOUR 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026, 9 am - 2 pm

A garden can be magical place, a sensory experience, an inspiration. Well, the AAUW 2026 Garden Tour will meet your expectations – flowers, ambience, pathways, unexpected objects, lulling background sounds. You might even catch an artist painting. Don't miss this tour on Saturday, May 9! Tickets are still available at Holiday Markets and Dandelion, online at our website, or text/phone Mari.



We can't forget cookies – everyone loves the luscious ones you bake! Please contact M. C. Masulis (see Contact page) about cookie delivery on May 8. They will be served at Plantable Nursery & Cafe during the tour, where you can also listen to music provided by Liz Zanze from 11:00-1:00.

See you in the gardens!

Mari Ennis-Applegate

2026 Branch Woman of Achievement

Mari has been an active member of the Redding Branch since 2012. During this time, she has served as a member of the board in several positions and has led many committees and initiatives. Mari's leadership and organizational skills have shone as Membership VP in 2019-2020, Program VP in 2020-2021, President-elect and President in 2021-2023. She currently serves as Branch Historian and has created and instituted an archival system for preserving Branch records and history.

As Program VP during challenging COVID-19 years, Mari instituted Branch meetings online via Zoom that members found educational and interesting. As President-elect Mari led a significant review, reorganization and revision of Branch governing documents, a large and necessary task few are willing to take on. As President Mari directed a new and complex fundraising initiative that replaced the Branch's long-time Home Tour as a popular highly successful "Three Days in the Park" event. The auction and Starry Night event continue to be among the Branch's most successful fundraisers.



Mari has served on several Home Tour and STEM Conference committees. She even offered her home as one of the 50th Anniversary Home Tour houses. She has organized the highly popular Interactive Science Stations at the Branch's Women in STEM Conferences in 2023 and 2025.

Mari holds teaching credentials as well as degrees in education and Spanish. She served in the Peace Corps in both Colombia and the Solomon Islands. She augments her learning and world knowledge through extensive travel in all parts of the planet. Her involvement with our AAUW Branch, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, the California Retired Teachers Association, the Shasta Land Trust, League of Women Voters, Shasta Citizens Advocating Respect, United Way's Building Bridges project, and local Master Gardeners has made our community and the world a better place. We are honored to bestow Mari the 2026 Branch Woman of Achievement award.





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 Fund), 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 9 is our big fundraiser for the year. The proceeds raised from the event will benefit both local scholarships and the GNF.

And, because our branch 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 as 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.

Suzannah Gerlach Greatest Needs Fund Chair

Public Policy and You Important to know!

President Frances Cole-Boyd and I participated in California AAUW Lobby Days. We were members of a group who presented information about AAUW CA-supported bills to our Assemblyperson Heather Hadwick on April 10. We joined members from North and South Lake Tahoe and Nevada County Branches and presented three bills. Assembly Bills AB 1766 and AB 1845 address human trafficking education and prevention.

AB 1766 requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider inclusion of curriculum providing for annual, developmentally appropriate lessons for grades K-12 about how to prevent human trafficking, how to prevent exploitation for labor and services, and how to stay safe from sexually exploitative materials and deepfakes online. Currently, this education is required only for grades 7-12, but we know children under 12 are often vulnerable targets for human trafficking and the average age for exploitation is getting even younger, especially through social media.

AB 1845 requires postsecondary educational institutions, as part of their sexual harassment training for employees, to also include certain information related to human trafficking, and requires those institutions to ensure that each employee annually completes this training. A study conducted among college students on 12 Southern California campuses found that nearly one in five experience force/coercion into selling sex and 34% had considered selling sex to support loved ones and/or pay for school.

Heather said barring any unanticipated or, in her words, “sticky” language, she would likely support these two bills.

We also presented and discussed AB 1876 or the “Fair Care for All Act.” This bill would explicitly prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or benefits from limiting healthcare services to a person based on their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Sex, here, includes sex assigned at birth and sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy and gender identity. Passage of this bill will strengthen protections against discrimination in healthcare services in California in the face of federal shifts away from equity, inclusion and nondiscrimination. Heather said she would not likely vote for passage of this bill. Thanks to the intrepid Frances, we also called in at Sen. Megan Dahle’s office, sans an appointment. Other AAUW members presented the above bills to her on April 9th, but since we were in the neighborhood we stopped by her office and were welcomed by her chief of staff, Erik Brahm, who was very generous with his time. We discussed issues of concern to Redding and other parts of the north state including shortages of housing, healthcare and jobs as well as homelessness and the high cost/unavailability of homeowners’ insurance.

Here is a very easy way to keep up with Sen. Dahle and Assemblyperson Hadwick (or any other California representative you choose). CalMatters, a nonprofit, non-partisan news organization committed to explaining California politics and policy, has a very handy portal/database called Digital Democracy that will deliver every Monday a “My Legislator” email that updates your legislator’s votes, donors, noteworthy legislation, bio, and more. Sign up here: <https://calmatters.org/digital-democracy/2026/01/my-legislator-newsletter-faq/>

And remember you can find all California AAUW Public Policy information here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2026/04/public-policy-news-april-2026.pdf/>

And here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/>

Sharon Clairemont, Chair, Public Policy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Membership News

Please welcome this new member to our branch:

Danielle Brewster

The New & Prospective Member Gathering was held on April 7. We were able to meet and greet four new members and host two women who are interested in our branch. Seven of our members were present and gave a wonderful overview of the National and the local Redding Branch activities and priorities.

Many of our members have renewal dates in June 2026. If you haven't renewed since last year watch for the renewal notices from AAUW National. You should get a reminder one month before renewal, the month of your renewal, and the month after. You can renew on the national site (aauw.org.) Please renew on-line if you can.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Gail Paulsen, Membership VP

Board Meetings

Board Meetings meet at 5:30 pm
Monday, May 25
June 22

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.

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

AAUW Redding Upcoming Interest Groups Meetings



Scrabble

May 29 will be the next Scrabble day,
location is to be determined.

Drama Divas—Join Us May 6th Potluck & Play Reading 12 Noon, Annette Spitsen's home

RSVP and bring a dish to share and after our tasty lunch we will read a Comedy: **Laughter on the 23rd Floor** by Neil Simon. (We did read this in our 2019-2020 season so it will be fun to read it in today's political climate.)

JOIN US FOR OUR FINAL PLAY READING OF THE SEASON!



The plot: Laughter on the 23rd Floor is a 1993 play by Neil Simon and focuses on the star and writers of a TV comedy-variety show in the 1950s, inspired by Simon's own early career experience as a junior writer (along with his brother Danny) for "Your Show of Shows" and "Caesar's Hour." The play focuses on Max Prince, star of a weekly comedy-variety show circa 1953, and his staff, including Simon's alter-ego Lucas Brickman, who maintains a running commentary on the writing, fighting and wacky antics which take place in the writers' room. Max has an ongoing battle with NBC executives who fear his humor is too sophisticated for Middle America. The play is notable not only for its insider's look at the personalities and processes of television comedy writing, but also for its reflection of the political and social undercurrents of its time, in particular the rise of Joseph McCarthy, relationships between various European and American ethnicities and attitudes toward women.

This group is open to all AAUW members and you can join at any time! We will return in October to read the next season's plays. We receive 10 copies of a new play each month and we all take turns reading the play aloud and then discussing its merits. A great way to spend a few hours in a small group setting. No acting required.

Add some laughter and drama to your life: join us for a fun afternoon!

Tammy Douse, Chair, Drama Divas

May Past Presidents

Date: Thursday, May 7

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Sweetie's Café

3105 S. Market St., Redding

RSVP: Tara Swanson by May 1

Last month 9 of us enjoyed delicious comfort food at Country Kitchen. Please let Tara know by May 1 that you will be joining us May 7.



Women's Issues

Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 pm

Our topic for May will be the effect of climate change on women and girls. Please let Marta Hopkins know if you are able to attend, and bring a snack to share.

Wine and Brews

Cinco de Mayo celebration

Wednesday, May 13, 5 pm (note change of time)

at the home of Alice Wilkinson and Tom O'Meara

Please bring an appetizer and beverage of choice to share.
Please RSVP to Nancy Randall by Tuesday, May 12th.



Ethnic Food Group
Thursday, May 14, 5 pm.
RAW, 2167 Hilltop, Redding

Please let Marta Hopkins know if you are able to attend.

Marta Hopkins, Chair

The Movie Group (Movie Monday)

Monday, May 18 at 4:30 pm

Market Street Blade & Barrel, 1777 Market St.

Our May movies are:

- *Remarkable Bright Creatures* (Netflix)
- *Jay Kelly* (Netflix)
- *The Devil Wears Prada 2* (Theater soon)

We welcome new people, so see the movies and call Pam Crowe by Thursday, May 14 to say you'd like to join us for dinner and discussion.



Pam Crowe, Chair

Book Group

Help Choose Books for Next Year

Tuesday, May 19, 5:00 pm
at The Bluffs Clubhouse, North Bechelli

We are planning a potluck with an appetizer, salad, and dessert bar. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the April meeting. If you have not yet signed up, please call or e-mail Dale Ammerman to let her know what you would like to bring. Come ready to enjoy a meal and great conversation with our book section participants. We will nominate books proposed by members and then vote on our final selections. If you have a book you would like to suggest, it is recommended that you have read it prior to nominating it. It is also preferred that books be out in paperback. This is a wonderful opportunity for new members or members who are interested in joining our group next year to get to know us. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dale Ammerman by Friday, May 15.



Dale Ammerman, Book Section Chair

May 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:

- 5/5 Lema Ranch (Shasta View/Hemingway parking lot)
- 5/12 Clover Creek (parking lot off Shasta View and Venus)
- 5/19 Sundial Bridge/ Turtle Bay
- 5/26 Churn Creek Trail (trailhead at Tidmore Ln., off College View)

Saturday Walks:

- 5/2 Blue Gravel Mine trail (meet in Holiday Market parking lot, near Burrito Bandito; Placer and Buenaventura)
- 5/9 No walk. Garden Tour
- 5/16 Chemise Peak (trailhead parking at the end of Flanagan Rd., Shasta Lake City)
- 5/23 River Trail (meet at the Redding Senior Center parking lot)
- 5/30 Anderson River Park

Local Businesses that Support AAUW Redding Branch, Inc.

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

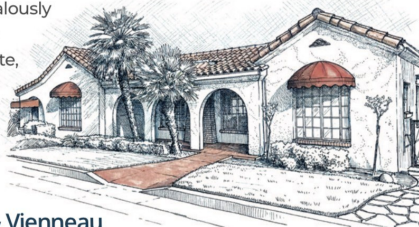


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Advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

To find out how we do this, see our website

www.aauwredding.org