



1 APRIL 2026



AAUW National Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW California Mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education, and resources.



President's Message:
by Kathi Farber

Happy Easter and Happy Passover!

Important Dates for April:

- April 14: Board Meeting at 4:00 PM at RAP
 - April 18: Annual Luncheon at 11:30 AM at Palm Valley Country Club
- (Please note the date change due to Spring Break.)

In March, we celebrated Women's History Month—a time to reflect on the remarkable legacy of women who have shaped our nation and to recognize the leaders, scholars, and advocates shaping its future. At AAUW, this month holds special meaning. Our mission is grounded in the belief that when women have access to education, opportunity, and leadership, entire communities are transformed.

For more than a century, AAUW has stood alongside women working to break barriers and expand opportunities. From raising funds to support Marie Curie's groundbreaking research to advocating for equal pay alongside Lilly Ledbetter, AAUW has a proud legacy of empowering women trailblazers. Together, we continue to build on that legacy every day.


As my tenure as President comes to a close and I pass the reins to our very capable incoming President, Andee Steinman, I want to reflect on all we have accomplished over the past four years. We have sent a record number of young women to Tech Trek Camp, achieved 501(c)(3) status, updated our name to better represent the entire Coachella Valley, hosted successful fundraisers, and secured numerous grants. Most importantly, we have built strong recognition in our community—when people hear AAUW Coachella Valley, they know who we are. And we continue to grow, welcoming new members each month.

Looking ahead, join us on May 15 for a fun end-of-year mixer at a local restaurant—featuring drinks, appetizers, and great company! Location details will be announced soon.

We look forward to seeing you on April 18 as we vote on our new slate of officers and the proposed 2026–2027 budget.

Kathi Farber

Month of: April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Book Club 2pm 	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Board Mtg 4-5 PM @ RAP ✓ Foundation Room 101	15 Lunch Bunch 12 PM @ Grapefruit Basil	16	17	18 Luncheon @ Palm Valley Country Club 11:30 AM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE REST OF OUR YEAR!

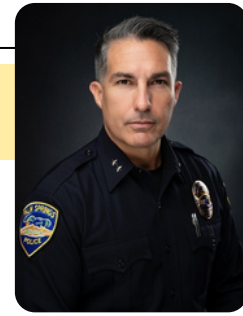
LUNCH BUNCH- 3 rd Wednesday of the month at 12:00pm
 BOOK CLUB- 1 st Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm
 HAPPY HOUR- 4 th Thursday of the month at 4:00pm

End of year Mixer meeting May 15, 4:30 at the
 Grapefruit Basil!



Annual Luncheon - RSVP Here!

Deputy Chief Kyle Stjerne of the Palm Springs Police Department who will speak on the role of women in law enforcement, as well as the use of technology in policing.



Kyle Stjerne is a 23-year veteran of the Palm Springs Police Department and currently serves as Deputy Chief of Police, where he oversees department-wide operations, strategic initiatives, and leadership development. Throughout his career, he has held numerous key leadership roles, including SWAT Tactical Team Leader, President of the Palm Springs Police Officers' Association, Homicide Unit Supervisor, and Internal Affairs investigator, bringing extensive professional experience in operations, administration, and complex investigations.

Deputy Chief Stjerne holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with an emphasis on Social Problems from San Diego State University and recently earned the Public Leadership Credential from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Kyle is deeply committed to building a culture of professional excellence, accountability, and continuous growth at PSPD. He is especially passionate about mentoring and developing the next generation of law enforcement leaders, with a focused commitment to supporting and advancing women in public safety.

Through intentional leadership development, advocacy, and mentorship, he strives to create pathways for women to thrive and lead at the highest levels of the profession.

The Menu includes:

Patty Melt with a side salad.

Drinks include: Ice Tea, Lemonade, Coffee, Decaf, Water Station.

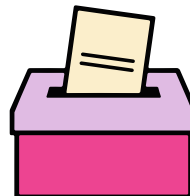
Dessert will be Chocolate Cake.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Members will vote at our April 18, 2026 General Meeting for our Branch's 2026/27 Elected Board Members and proposed Budget.

Below is our slate of elected officers to be voted on at our General Meeting on April 18, 2026. These officers will serve for the 2026/27 membership year which begins July 1:

- President: Andee Steinman**
- President Elect: Vacant**
- VP Fundraising: Vacant**
- VP Membership: Kathi Farber**
- VP Program: Vacant**
- Secretary: Jan McCleery**
- Financial Officer: Beth Ditmarson**

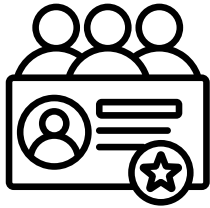


Please review the candidates so you can be prepared to vote at our April 18, 2026 General Meeting. If you have an interest in one of the vacant positions, please email AAUWcoachellavalley@gmail.com.

Membership Updates:

Name Badges!

If anyone is interested in purchasing their own name badge, please contact Lisa Rossi! You can email her at: lisalopezrossi2021@gmail.com
They are \$15!



Membership Process Update:

Make sure you have renewed your membership for the new term! Dues are **\$149** because National and State raised their dues.

Ways you can renew:

1. Send a check to AAUW CV at PO BOX 11423, Palm Desert, CA 92255
2. Zelle: aauwcoachellavalley@gmail.com
3. Online at aauwcoachellavalley.com BUT you would need to add \$4 to your \$149, so \$153 because we pay fees when it's a credit card.



Message From State:

Dear Branch Public Policy Chairs, Branch Presidents, and DEI Chairs, AAUW National has shared a new AAUW briefing on the SAVE Act, now in its second week of debate in the U.S. Senate. The briefing provides in-depth messaging and research. It also tackles some common myths about the bill's requirements and potential impact so that you can address misinformation.

Please feel free to share the briefing with your branch members to help inform their advocacy:

AAUW Opposes the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act:
www.aauw.org/SAVEAct

National is also working on another alert to the Action Network this week with the continued ask to write and call your senators to vote NO. The action page is here: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko
Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Lunch Bunch



Hi Ladies,

Our next Lunch Bunch will be April 15 at 12pm at Grapefruit Basil at the Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort in Indian Wells.

Please RSVP to Sheila Warren 818-422-9560 or sheilawarren25@yahoo.com no later than Monday April 13.

Book Club



Man's dual nature and capacity for good and evil, the long reach of childhood trauma, Victorian Gothic horror stories, and the redemptive power of love were all subjects we explored at our March 3 Book Club discussion of Valerie Martin's novel *Mary Reilly*. Thanks to Elaine Levey for once again graciously hosting the Book Club at her home.

Our Book Club this month will be April 7 at 2 p.m. at the home of Beth Bangert. We will be discussing *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. Set in Washington, D.C. in 1950 at an all-female boarding house, the novel highlights unlikely friendships, uncovers secrets, and reveals evolving roles for women after the war.

At our April meeting, we will also begin selecting titles for Fall 2026 through 2027.

Upcoming Book Club Selections

May 5 *The Ghost Writer* by Julie Clark

April 7 Location: Beth Bangert, 55385 Laurel Valley at PGA West

To RSVP: Contact Beth at 408-505-6884, beth@bangertfamily.com

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Pam Jennings at 310-944-0076 or psjennin@gmail.com.

Hope to see you on April 7!!



End of Year Mixer!



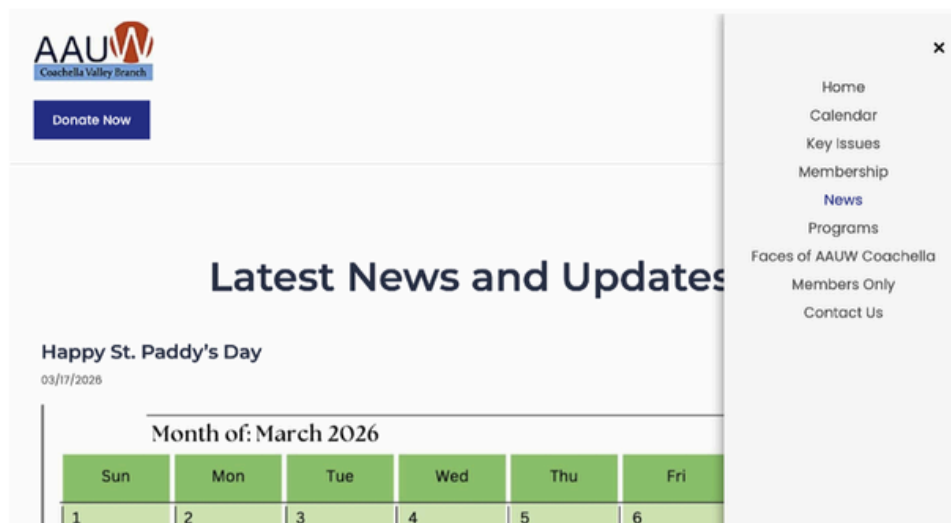
Our End of Year Mixer will also be held at Grapefruit Basil! Join us for some fun where great people meet great food! Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, delicious bites, and the chance to connect with members from our organization. It's the perfect opportunity to mingle, build new connections, and have a good time—we'd love to see you there!

Report from your Webmaster: By Jan McCleery



More ways to stay informed: www.aauwcoachellavalley.com

If you're on-the-go and want to quickly check where the Lunch Bunch or other current event is happening, from your iPhone it's easy to go to our website and find the most recent monthly calendar. Just click "News" from the top right menu. You'll also see the latest photos and flyers of upcoming events there.



For the year's AAUW events (upcoming Board Meetings, etc.) check out the "Calendar." And if you're looking for a member's phone number you just met at the last luncheon or Lunch Bunch, the latest copy of our Roster can be found under "Members Only." (It's password protected so your personal information is only available to our members.)

Email me janmccleery@yahoo.com if you don't remember the password. Browse around – if there's other info you'd like to see on our website, let me know.

Also, "Follow" our Facebook page and tell your friends about it too. Help get our message out. Spread the word.

Women in the Workplace - Equal Pay, Pay Equity, and Women Who Made a Difference

By Claire Noonan, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

March brings us the opportunity to celebrate women who break barriers in politics, science, arts, and civil rights via special days, like International Women's Day, and ongoing events throughout Women's History Month.

March also features women in the workforce and highlights an issue that has long plagued women—pay equity (an issue that never equals out). First observed by the National Committee on Pay Equity in 1996, Equal Pay Day 2025 was observed March 25. Equal Pay Day 2026 is March 26.

This March, we're also taking the opportunity to stop and acknowledge some of the women who have raised issues around equal pay and pay equity, and who have carried us forward, even as we are still fighting today.

Who first alerted Congressmen to the 'pay' problem?

Have you heard of Winifred Claire Stanley (1909 – 1996)? Ms. Stanley, highly respected prosecuting attorney from Buffalo, New York, was known for vigorous advocacy for women's rights during World War II. Stanley served only one term in the House of Representatives before her constituency was redistricted. In that brief time, she introduced the first equal pay for equal work bill in June 1944. It amended the National Labor Relations Act, making it unlawful "to discriminate against any employee, in the rate of compensation paid, on account of sex." HR 5056 didn't pass, of course, in the 78th Congressional session.

Since then, who has driven lobbying efforts for equal pay?

Twenty years later Esther Peterson (1906-1997) labored for equal pay in the workplace. She taught, became a paid organizer for the American Federation of Teachers, and in 1944, the first lobbyist for the National Labor Relations Board.

During JFK's presidency, Peterson became the highest ranking woman in his administration as Assistant Secretary of Labor and Director of the United States Women's Bureau. She was the driving force behind the **Equal Pay Act of 1963**, often lobbying for it personally. It successfully amended the Fair Labor Standards Act to "prohibit discrimination on account of sex in the payment of wages by employers." In 1993 Esther Peterson was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Women in the Workplace - Equal Pay, Pay Equity, and Women Who Made a Difference, con.

Note that in 2005, the "[Paycheck Fairness Act](#)," still not passed, would amend loopholes in the Equal Pay Act. However, as AAUW members know, in 2009, the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#) provided that each gender-unequal paycheck is a new violation of the law. So, some progress.

It is at this point that the issue of pay equity surfaces—the types of jobs men and women tend to hold. Within occupations, [full-time working men earned more than women across all 15 work categories tracked in 2024](#). AAUW notes a complex set of reasons for this difference: occupational segregation, career interruptions, unconscious biases, and negotiation practices.

Which prize-winning economist identified reasons for the gender pay gap?

Look forward fifty years since the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Compiling research on 200 years of women's labor market data and the gender gap, [Claudia Goldin](#) (1946) is one of the preeminent economists advocating for gender pay equity.

In October 2023, Claudia Goldin won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for having "advanced our understanding of women's labor market outcomes." She was the third woman to win the award and first woman to win the award alone.

Called "[Greedy Jobs](#)," Goldin's research shows that high-paying jobs penalize workers with family care responsibilities, disproportionately affecting women. Beyond education, achieving parity requires reforming workplace flexibility and expanding childcare support. Further, her work proves that economic growth alone does not automatically lead to wage equality.

Goldin's other influential papers treat the impact of the contraceptive pill on a women's career and how women's last names after marriage act as a social indicator.

Continuing to challenge issues of equal pay and pay equity

Today, general equal pay numbers [are calculated](#) using Census data to find the median salary for all women vs. all men without accounting for job title, experience, or education. The [2025 divide](#) for all women was 83 cents for every dollar a man made. AAUW offers more detailed analyses of pay equity and pay gap data, assessed based on factors like race, ethnicity, sexuality, and location—see the detailed AAUW 2026 report on [The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap](#).

Although sometimes disheartening, we continue to fight. Challenging the gap and highlighting pay equity's root causes can lead to fairer outcomes for diverse groups. And, it appears that Congresspeople and corporate leaders still need to be educated.



Our Donation Letter:

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Coachella Valley is excited to kick-off our 2025-2026 fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$50,000 to send Coachella young women and girls to STEM Camp as well as provide supplemental STEM-related educational and mentoring opportunities throughout the school year. In addition, these funds will provide young women and girls the opportunity to participate in National Conference for College Women in Student Leadership (NCCWSL) to pursue careers in public service and elected office, as well as scholarships at the college level.

AAUW Programs are focused on creating inspiration, excitement, and confidence for young women interested in science, technology, engineering, and math. Fostering a love of learning for young women through these key areas is necessary to cultivate a more diverse, inclusive, and robust workforce with the potential to create impact and change for years to come. We work to pair program participants with a variety of online and in-person learning opportunities as well as find mentors who will support and challenge them through formative educational years in junior high and high school. Our Tech Trek program provides these young women with additional resources and tools for continuing education in college and on into a professional environment.

AAUW Coachella Valley (AAUW CV - Tax Id # 33-2078532) is a 501c3 which makes YOUR DONATION tax deductible! You can review all our programs at aauwcoachellavalley.com

We are asking for YOUR SUPPORT to help make a difference in the lives of our Coachella Valley young women and girls. Throughout the year, AAUW is writing grants and holding fundraising events—our 76th Anniversary, a Purse Auction, and smaller networking silent auctions — to generate funds for our Tech Trek STEM, Tech Trek Alumnae, Gov Trek, NCWSSL (college) programs and the AAUW National Fund. We appreciate donations of gift cards, merchandise, experiences and more. If you are interested in providing cash support for our programs, please contact our vice president of fundraising, Amy Dailey (betterthanbutter@mac.com) or Kathi Farber (farberkathi@gmail.com) for more information.

We thank you for your consideration and appreciate your support in helping us achieve our fundraising goals so we can elevate the next generation of Coachella Valley young women and girls looking to lead the way in STEM, leadership, and government careers.

Sincerely,

Amy Dailey
Vice President of Fundraising – AAUW Coachella Valley

Kathi Farber
President AAUW Coachella Valley

Advocating for women & girls since 1881 and into the future!

AAUW - CV Branch Board Roster

ELECTED OFFICERS: (Voting Members)

President: KATHI FARBER, 209 404-7659, farberkathi@gmail.com

President-Elect: ANDEE STEINMAN, 310 850-4120, andee.steinman@gmail.com

Vice President-Fundraising: AMY DAILEY, 760 554-0685,
betterthanbutter@mac.com

Vice President- Membership: VACANT

Vice President-Program: AURORA WILSON, 760 333-9707, wilsonpl@verizon.net

Secretary: JAN McCLEERY, 925 978-6563, janmccleery@yahoo.com

Financial Officer: BETH DITMARSON, 503 701-7948, dndbkp@yahoo.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS: (Voting Members)

Grant Writer: CAROL MARCUSE, 707 337-5905, cmarcuse@aol.com

Branch Coordinator Tech Trek: BOBBI KELLEHER, (760) 421-3799,
roberta.kelleher52@gmail.com

TT Tea Chair:

TT Orientation Chair: Lynn Merritt 408 205-9065, lynnmerritt@yahoo.com

Public Policy/Gov Trek Coordinator: FRANCESCA MCELHATTEN, 310 570-7271,
freepiritphotos@yahoo.com

Communications Coordinator / Newsletter: LESLIE MARTINEZ, 760 222-7917,
leslie.j.m29@gmail.com

APPOINTED CHAIRS / OFFICERS: (Non-Voting Members)

STEM (TT) Treasurer: PHYLLIS DUNN, 760 851-5678(c) 760 200-2821(h),
pndunn@verizon.net

TTAG Co-Chair: AURORA WILSON, 760 333-9707, wilsonpl@verizon.net and Jill
Hartley (425) 301-0038, jill_hartley@yahoo.com

Mtg Coordinator Chair: VACANT

College /University Co-Chairs: SHELLEY MITCHELL, 707 496-8689
shelleydmitchell@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: BETH DITMARSON, 503 701-7948, dndbkp@yahoo.com

Interest Groups Coordinator: VACANT



Thank you for reading!

WEBSITE:
https://aauwcoachellavalley.com/
SOCIALS:
Facebook: AAUW Coachella Valley Branch Instagram: @aauw.cv