



American Association of University Women

# Capital News!

AAUW Capital Branch

January 2017

Visit our website at <http://capital-nv.aauw.net/> Like us on Facebook Contact us at [aauwcapbr@gmail.com](mailto:aauwcapbr@gmail.com)

**AAUW Mission:**  
Advancing equity  
for women and  
girls through ad-  
vocacy, educa-  
tion, philanthropy,  
and research.

## President's Message

by Caroline Punches



The holiday gathering at the Lake Glen Clubhouse was a festive way to end our 2016 calendar year! Thanks again, Holly Van Valkenburgh for securing the clubhouse and to ALL who brought wonderful "calorie free" goodies which were enjoyed by our members and their spouses. And now, onto 2017! When we think of a New Year, we typically think of making resolutions for renewed activities or forging new actions – making changes!

What New Year resolutions will you make for 2017? As an AAUW member, **YOU** have the opportunity to not only learn more about local, national and international issues, but to participate as you wish. Whether you choose to be involved by attending general membership meetings to hear outstanding speakers, selling tickets for FOC (Feast of Chocolate), advocating for issues being heard by the Nevada legislature, attending book discussions or other interest groups, OR to voice your opinion about our programs –we welcome your participation!

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## Volunteers are

**needed to review options** that are available to AAUW Capital Branch for supporting educational goals for women and girls in Northern Nevada. Our traditional approach has been to fund local scholarships for high school graduates as well as AAUW fellowships. Our branch has also discussed the option of a community project. This committee will consider a number of options, review the potential costs associated with the options and then report their findings to the branch membership at the April business meeting. **So, volunteer today!** Call me at 775-246-1850 or email me at [cpunches206@charter.net](mailto:cpunches206@charter.net). Happy New Year!

## January Meeting

by Marty McGarry

### Refugees Entering the US and Nevada

Our program for Tuesday, January 3 is a presentation by Carina Black, Executive Director of Northern Nevada International Center and International Visitor Exchange Programs at UNR. Carina will explain the process required for international refugees entering the US and Nevada , including Syrian families that recently relocated to our area. The activities of the Center will be addressed with emphasis on concerns for women and children.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 at the Carson City Sheriff's office located at 911 East Musser St, Carson City, NV 89701. We will be in the Ormsby Room located at the right side of the Sheriff's office. Dinner will again be catered by "A Catered Affair" for a charge of \$10.00. We will have a donation jar available to cover the gratuity. We didn't quite cover the tip last meeting and decided to try a tip jar this time rather than raise the price. Please be prepared to help. Thanks for your **RSVP's to Louise Seidel no later than December 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Dinner will be served at 5:30. The cost is \$10.00 and includes:

Mixed Green Salad

2 Dressings

Chicken Parmesan

Pasta Marinara

Dessert

**Thanks for your RSVP's to Louise Seidel at 885-0269 or elseidel@gmail.com**

**no later than December 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## Public Policy

By Nancy Stiles, Public Policy Chair

The 2017 Legislature Session begins February 6, and we want to be ready to take advantage of the opportunity to use our voices to advocate for AAUW issues that are important to us. There are at the time of this writing, 661 Bill Drafts that have been put forward. Only recently, many of those bill drafts have had summaries revealed online. It would be a monumental task to go through all those drafts, but fortunately we have access to groups who will be doing just that. The Nevada Women's Lobby and the Nevada's Coalition for Women's Equity will be identifying bills for us to watch. There is more to advocacy than just watching bills, however. With that in mind, I have contacted everyone who answered the survey with an interest in participating in legislative action to offer a training opportunity, "How to Advocate" with a lobbyist from PLAN on January 30. My first time to get involved in a legislative session was in 2015. Though I learned much, I knew when it was over, I had much more to learn. What better way to learn than to get involved. I invite you to come on this journey with me.



## Questions? Answers!

by Caroline Punches, President

**Question:** When is the AAUW National Convention?

**Answer:** "Leadership for Women, by Women" is scheduled from June 14 – 17, 2017 in Washington, DC. A preliminary agenda can be found at

[www.convention.aauw.org/agenda/](http://www.convention.aauw.org/agenda/)

**Question:** How much is registration? What does it include?

**Answer:** The "best value" rate is \$549 for members.

You can get this rate through January 14, 2017. Early Bird registration will be at \$575 beginning on January 15, 2017. Regular registration rate of \$625 begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration fee includes the opening dinner on Wednesday evening and the Friday lunch. An extra fee is required to attend the Convention Banquet on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Question:** What is the conference hotel?

**Answer:** The Renaissance Hotel, conveniently located in downtown Washington, DC , is the conference hotel. This is where all meetings (except for lobbying on Capital Hill) will be held. A special room rate of \$229 per night (plus tax) is available. This special rate is only available until May 22, 2017.

**Question:** How can I get more information and/or register?

**Answer:** The convention website address is <http://convention.aauw.org>.

## Feast of Chocolate Tickets

By Flo Bedrosian and Susan Klekar, Co-chairs

### Members Asked to Sell Feast of Chocolate Tickets

Tickets will be available at the January meeting for you to take and sell to your friends and neighbors. We welcome the visibility the Feast of Chocolate provides and we want the community to attend and have a good time. The success of the Feast of Chocolate depends on getting the people there and then having a raffle they cannot resist. If you plan to attend as a guest and sit and enjoy chocolate, you need to purchase a ticket, but not if you will be volunteering at the event. We want ticket sales to reflect the number of people expected at the event. So if you cover the cost of the tickets rather than selling them, please indicate that money is a donation, and not from ticket sales. Our goal is to have 200 people at the event.

Thank you for your continued efforts in support of our fundraising projects for local scholarships and the Educational Opportunity Fund.

(See the FOC flyer on page 6 of this newsletter.)

## Feast of Chocolate Raffle

by Nancy Stiles, Raffle Chair

This year's Feast of Chocolate Raffle will feature themed baskets done by individual members rather than a team. All baskets and gift certificates you may acquire from businesses will be raffled. We will not have a silent auction. Those of you who signed up to do a basket for us will need to deliver your basket to Nancy Stiles no later than February 4 for her to organize the bags for the raffle. If at all possible, it would be helpful if you would bring your basket to the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Information sheets for basket donors to fill out will be distributed at the January meeting. With the hopes that your basket can be ready by the January meeting, here are directions that may be helpful to you. A demonstration will be given at the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### Putting Together a Basket

1. Start with a theme
2. Gather contents
3. Choose a container
4. Fill the bottom with filler
5. Add shred to top of filler
6. Arrange contents ( use glue dots to anchor)
7. Cover basket and contents with basket wrap
8. Tie wrap with ribbon, and add decoration – ribbon, etc
9. Type a basket label with title (theme) and contents and tie to basket
10. Deliver to Nancy for purpose of making label cards for raffle sacks and data sheet.



## Interest Groups

by Diane Koditek

### Gourmet Group

Gourmet Group is planning activities for the first quarter of 2017. Look for details TBA soon or contact Carolyn Kellogg at [cnflakes@ymail.com](mailto:cnflakes@ymail.com), 461-3320.

### Evening Book Group

In January, discussion will center on two book selections, *The Ginger Tree* by Oswald Wynd and *Daughters of the Samurai* by Janice P. Nimura. The meeting, hosted by Shirley Williams, will take place on January 19 at 6:30 PM. For additional information, contact Diane Koditek [dgk@mchsi.com](mailto:dgk@mchsi.com) or call 661-304-8743.

### Daytime Book Group

JoAnn Carpenter will host the January meeting, discussing *My Name Is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. Please contact JoAnn for additional information [jac78x@gmail.com](mailto:jac78x@gmail.com) or call 297-3889.

### Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet on Wednesday, January 25 at 2 PM at the home of Linda Hiebert- Sekiguchi. The group will discuss topic number six in the old book *The UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda and Leadership*. New books will be distributed at that time. If you have not already ordered the book, please contact Linda. For those without 2016 study books, please borrow one from a member of last year's group. Call Linda for further information or to let her know whether or not you will attend the meeting: 775-782-1296, [nvlindas@gmail.com](mailto:nvlindas@gmail.com)

### January Informal Luncheon

Come join in for lunch, good conversation and fun at Café Bleu in Carson City on January 11 at 11:30. The restaurant is located at 240 E. Winnie Lane. RSVP to Diane Koditek, [dgk@mchsi.com](mailto:dgk@mchsi.com) or call 661-304 -8743.

### Bulletin Board

Reminder: Any AAUW member may suggest a community event that she believes would be interesting to participate in. Please email suggestions for the coming month to Diane Koditek, [dgk@mchsi.com](mailto:dgk@mchsi.com).

Suggested activities will be posted in the newsletter in the Bulletin Board section.

## Holiday Party Shots courtesy of Lin Nary

Getting the party started, President Caroline Punches →



Iris and Jim Blaisdell



Gail Aldrich



Lynne Ballatore and Dan South



Susan and Steve Klekar,  
Flo Bedrosian, Shirley  
and Randy Williams



Joe and Mary Wilson



Check out the Capital Branch website at <http://capital-nv.aauw.net/>

## Membership

By Mary L. Castro-Wilson, Membership Chair

Happy 2017 to all of our members. May this year bring each of health and happiness! I would like to introduce to you—as I stated in our December Newsletter—our two new members: Iris Blaisdell and Janine Comoletti. Please join me in welcoming these two amazing women.

### Iris Blaisdell:

Iris was born in Huntington, West Virginia. She was raised in New York City. However, when her grandparents passed away, her mother moved Iris and her sister to Laramie, Wyoming. Iris graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1964 Phi Beta Kappa with honors. She went to the University of California at Davis where she met her husband, James. Both were teaching assistants in History. Iris was the first woman accepted at the University in this position. Iris taught in Escanaba, MI, Phoenix, AZ, and San Francisco. After spending two years in Quito, Ecuador with her family, they settled in Palm Desert, California. Iris spent the next twenty years teaching for Desert Sands School District. She completed her Master's Degree in Education at Chapman College, Orange County. She has joined AAUW because she believes in its mission of encouraging women in their education. We welcome you to our AAUW Capital (NV) Branch, Iris.

### Janine Comoletti:

Janine's first membership with AAUW was in 2002. She was also completing her Master's Degree in Counseling and Human Relations at Northern Arizona University. Her entire professional life has involved education. She has taught children in elementary schools, trained adults in pedagogical skills, and has directed a religious education program. She currently teaches children on a part-time basis. Janine also has an extensive volunteer background that covers social justice, the environment, LGBTQ activism, and political activism. She is passionate about human rights and children's issues. We welcome you, Janine, to our AAUW Capital (NV) Branch.



Are you changing your address, email address, or phone?? Please let Mary Wilson, Membership Chair know so she can update the national roster. AND, let Lin Nary know so she can update the local roster and the directory. Thanks!!



## In Memoriam Dorothy Ramsdell

It was with deep sorrow that we learned Dorothy Ramsdell passed away on December 8, 2016. A member of the AAUW Capital (NV) Branch since 2012, Dorothy's spirit and love of mankind will definitely be missed by the members of this branch and her many friends as well as numerous non-profit organizations which benefited from Dorothy's support.

Dorothy's Facebook page noted that she was "self-employed and Loving It!" Any profits received from her business, "Expanded Horizons" were directed to non-profit organizations.

As AAUW members, we have fond memories of the wonderful Membership Brunches that were held on her "ranch" in Washoe Valley. Members remember her enthusiasm as she gave tours of her ranch and the incredible vistas. She was a very gracious hostess—willing to help in any way she could.

Dorothy attended High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There is a family photo circa 1941 posted on her Facebook page showing Dorothy as a toddler with two older siblings. Dorothy graduated from the University of San Francisco in 1991.

According to posts on her Facebook page, several memorial services will be held for her in areas where her philanthropy has been so gratefully felt. The first will be in Minneapolis, January 14<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoon at Riverview Tower on the West bank of the Mississippi next to the University of Minnesota Law School.

Dorothy Ramsdell was one of those wonderful women who made you feel good – just by being with her. With fond memories....Dorothy Ramsdell – a radiant light!

## Pecans Sales

By Shirley Hammon

Pecan sales continue! A case of halves and a case of dark chocolates remain to be sold. Please come by to pick up extras for yourself or to sell or to gift to friends. Also, if you have money or unsold pecans to turn in, please do that soon. If you wish to call to arrange a time to come by, my number is 882-4195. Again, thanks for all your hard work in helping to make this a truly successful pecan event!

What you think, you become.  
—Buddha



# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Branch Mtg 5:30 PM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Informal Luncheon 11:30 AM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Board Mtg 11:30 AM Hub Studio	19 Book Group 6:30 PM	20 Book Group 2 PM	21
22	23	24	25 Great Decisions 2 PM	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Your 2016-2017 Board

President — Caroline Punches 246-1850  
Membership VP — Mary Wilson 246-7215  
or 775-721-5124

Program Co-Vice Presidents:  
— Marty McGarry 775-690-3913  
— Judy Welch 775-721-1731

Secretary, Recording —  
JoAnn Carpenter 775-297-3889

Secretary, Corresponding —  
Barbara LeBlanc 775-781-4956

Treasurer — Phyllis Tirado 775-782-0550  
Lin Nary—Newsletter 775-230-9676

## Looking Ahead...

February 4 FOC baskets to Nancy

February 11 Feast of Chocolate



A volunteer or volunteers are needed to help with general branch meetings — overseeing refreshment arrangements and logistics. May need to help with room set-up/clean up as well. Volunteer by contacting Caroline at [cpunches206@charter.net](mailto:cpunches206@charter.net) or by phone at 775-246-1850.

**18th Annual**

# ***FEAST OF CHOCOLATE***

**Presented by the  
American Association of University Women  
Capital (NV) Branch**

**Saturday, February 11, 2017**

**Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Plaza Hotel & Event Center  
211 E. 9th St., Carson City, NV**



**Enjoy an abundance of chocolate for sampling.**

**Participate in raffles of fabulous prizes.**

**Proceeds benefit local scholarships and AAUW fellowships.**

**Advance tickets \$15**

**Seniors 65+ \$12**

**For tickets or more information, contact 775-267-3427.**