



Capital News!

AAUW Capital Branch (NV)

March 2017

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AAUW Mission:
Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

March 7th Branch Meeting

by Judy Welch

Our program for our March 7th meeting will cover Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. We have two experts that will give the National, State and local perspectives on the current status of aid to victims.

Susan Meuschke currently serves as the Executive Director for the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) formerly the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence. She has been involved with the domestic violence movement since 1984, first providing advocacy services as a volunteer and as a domestic violence program staff member. For the last 27 years she has been in her current role as a systems advocate, directing her efforts towards long-term solutions for battered women and their children.

Lisa Lee, director of Advocates to End Domestic Violence in Carson City, will update us regarding local programs. AEDV is a private, not-for-profit organization. They were formed in 1979 by two formerly battered women who saw a need for a domestic violence program in Carson City, Nevada. They have grown from a small two-bedroom apartment, to a full service program that operates a 51 bed shelter and provides a wide variety of services designed to protect and support battered women and their children in the community.

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 \$12.00, increased to cover water and coffee and help with the gratuity, but we'll have a donation jar available as well. Please be prepared to help. Thanks for your RSVP's to [Louise Seidel](mailto:Louise.Seidel) no later than 6:00 PM on Friday March 3rd.

President's Message

by Caroline Punches

Spring is right around the corner...or so the calendar says! I am certainly looking forward to sunny days and spring flowers. What about you??



But before we move on to spring, we must give kudos to those who made the 2017 Feast of Chocolate, the very best FOC ever!! Special "shout-out" to Flo Bedrosian, our event chair extraordinaire, Susan Klekar, her incredible sidekick, Jane Johnson, ticket logistics, Lin Nary and Jane Johnson, ticket & poster designers, and Nancy Stiles, table décor and raffle basket coordinator. Thanks to all who donated baskets, solicited gift certificates, helped at the event or made a donation to the 18th annual event. The Plaza Event Center was packed—standing room only!! Thanks for heeding the call for tickets, tickets, tickets!

And, of course, I would be remiss to NOT mention the outstanding Pecan Sales efforts this year. Every single package was sold. What an incredible fundraising year!

The Nevada Legislature is in full swing and there are numerous opportunities for you to speak out on issues that are important to you. AAUW will have a cadre of volunteers speaking and writing on issues that are part of our public policy platform. Public education funding remains a critical topic as well as issues related to equity for women.

(cont'd on p. 2)

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Branch Meeting

Tuesday, March 7
 5:30– 7:30 PM
 Carson Sheriff's Office
 Ormsby Room
 911 East Musser St
 Dinner (optional) from
 A Catered Affair \$12
 RSVP Louise 885-0269
 or elseidel@gmail.com
 by **March 3** please.

President's Message cont'd

by Caroline Panches

President's message, from p. 1

Special thanks to Mary Piper who is coordinating our Scholarship application process for this year. She was co-chair with Mary Moffitt who resigned due to the critical health needs of her son who is in Southern California. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary Moffitt and family.

Thanks to each and every one of you...for being a part of AAUW and supporting our mission – equity for women and girls! You are awesome!

Membership

By Mary L. Castro-Wilson, Membership Chair

Happy Birthday to all of our March members!! Hopefully, "March will come in like a lion, and leave like a lamb." I am beginning to feel, we all need to build an ark with all the rainy weather we have been experiencing! This "rainy" weather is not dampening our membership. Since October, 2016 to present- we have 14 new members!! I will "spotlight" three of our newest members. Please welcome them.

Aster Girma:

Aster was born in Ethiopia. She graduated from Town Planning College with a BS degree in planning. She started working as a planner at Addis Ababa City Council, the capital. In 1987, she was awarded a scholarship by the Swiss government to pursue her graduate studies. She earned her Master of Science Degree in Sustainable Development. In 2000, Aster continued her graduate studies at Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH. Today, Aster has launched an initiative: Silos to Synergy: Healthy People, Healthy Places- Building Sustainable Communities through an active living initiative. She has joined AAUW because she feels women are "the explainers." She believes as women fight for inequality, we need to encourage women to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.



Tamara Nance:

Tamara is from San Anselmo, California and currently lives in Carson City. She received a BA in Humanities/Social and Cultural Studies from Dominican University in San Rafael, California and an MA in Counseling Psychology from Argosy University, San Francisco. She has joined AAUW in order to support other women in their educational, career, and broader life goals.

(cont'd opposite with **Barbara Wall**)

Feast of Chocolate

By Flo Bedrosian and Susan Klekar, Co-chairs

The 18th Annual Feast of Chocolate is now a memory... and what a memory!

Special thanks to the local businesses which provided the variety of chocolate delights enjoyed by the capacity crowd! Raley's Carson City, Grandma Hattie's, Casino Fandango, Red's Old 395 and the Carson High Culinary Arts Program outdid themselves once again.

Tickets! Tickets! Tickets! was our mantra at the beginning of our FOC campaign. You listened and We succeeded!

The coordinating group met recently and identified some key elements contributing to this year's success. Having a ticket chair tracking tickets, reminding members and taking reservations was a key! Special thanks to Jane Johnson for her very detailed accounting.

Another key element was having a co-chair. Sue and I worked well together with each having specific tasks – and filling in for each other when needed. It was fun!

And, of course, Nancy Stiles did another superb job using her creative skills ensuring the décor was not only inviting but stylish. And her overall coordination of the raffle baskets was well executed as well. (See Nancy's column thanking members for their support of raffle baskets and gifts.)

Bottom line – our net income is almost \$4,000!! Great job everyone. If any of you have any comments or suggestions for making the event even more successful, please contact either Sue (ssklekar@charter.net) or me (Fbedrosian@charter.net)! We appreciate all of you!

Barbara Wall:

Barbara holds a BA degree in Political Science and Behavioral Science. She originally attended Ohio University, 1968 to 1970, at which time the university closed down due to anti-war protests. She matriculated to Wright State and Metro State College in Denver, CO, graduating in 1979. She was employed at Amoco in Denver. Here she was denied a raise similar to a gentleman in the next office, because "he had a family." In her frustration, she took the LSAT exam and received a scholarship to the University of Denver Law School. She received her law degree and was a born-again lawyer. In 1991, Barbara came to Nevada to work for Nevada Legal Services as a staff attorney. It was here she represented injured workers in workers' compensation issues. She has joined AAUW because the mission of encouraging women and girls to seek higher education and professional careers was a worthy cause.

Please join me in welcoming these talented women to our AAUW Capital (NV) Branch.

Feast of Chocolate Raffle

by Nancy Stiles, Raffle Chair



The raffle was such a success this year because of the wonderful baskets that were donated by our individual members. People were excited about the opportunity to win them.

These ladies deserve more than just a thank you, but we ask you to please accept a thank you from our membership. Our basket donors were: Linda Hiebert-Sekuguchi, Lin Nary, Holly Valkenburgh, Kathy Bartosz, Caroline Punches, Diane Koditek, JoAnn Carpenter, Phyllis Tirado, Nancy Bailey, Mary Wilson, Barbara LeBlanc, Anita Habberfield, Jane Johnson, Shirley Williams, Judy Welch, and Nancy Stiles. Ladies, your baskets were outstanding. Thank you.

In addition, these ladies expanded our raffle by securing certificates of value from businesses. They were: Mary Wilson, Phyllis Tirado, Linda Hiebert-Sekiguchi, Iris Blaisdell, and Anita Habberfield. Also, Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi got us a bag of goodies from Trader Joe's and Holy Valkenburgh got us a beautiful bouquet of flowers that we used for our door prize. Thank you so much, one and all.

Pecan Sales Final Report

By Shirley Hammon

All the pecans are sold and the funds have been collected!

Total Receipts	\$13,914.00
Cost of Pecans	<u>9,240.78</u>
Profit	\$4,673.22



Thanks to all for a great job of selling this wonderful product. Keep a list of your buyers' names for this Fall's sales.



Dear AAUW Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for their positive thoughts and good wishes for my son and our family. He is progressing and working hard on his therapy and ultimate healing. We appreciate all your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely, Mary Moffitt

Public Policy

By Nancy Stiles, Public Policy Chair

Many opportunities are presenting themselves to speak on behalf of AAUW issues in our Public Policy in the now active 2017 State Legislature. To be clear, that is speaking on behalf of the issues, not evoking the AAUW name unless you have been given clearance from President Caroline, the State Council, or an approved vote from the membership. There are, and will be, a number of bills on subjects of importance to AAUW. The ERA hearing on Feb. 20 at 3:30 will be one of the first we want to attend and support ERA. On Feb. 21 at 8:00, we will want to be present for the Educational Savings Account Budget (vouchers) hearing, and subsequent others that have not been scheduled yet. We will want to stand up and speak up for a pay equity bill and a bill on paid family leave. We know where AAUW stands on those issues, and we will take that stand.

Some of the difficulties we face are in having a clear understanding of some of the lengthy lawyer speak language that may be deceiving. In order to address that challenge, and the challenge of going through so many bills, we will take advantage of some of the work that has been done for us by organizations who have similar interest, namely Nevada Coalition for Women's Equity, Nevada Women's Lobby, Planned Parenthood, Make It Work, American Alliance for Retired Americans, Nevada Women's Commission, League of Women Voters, and others who have taken on the task of finding out about the bills.

Another challenge is getting organized to get the information out to our members in a way that is effective and yet does not overwhelm. That will be the discussion at a strategic planning meeting with a small number of us on Feb. 25. We will have to give you the results in a way other than the newsletter since the newsletter is being compiled prior to that meeting.

There has been an outstanding response from members who want to participate in this opportune time while the Legislature is in session. We are anxious to get you started, so you can expect to hear more, following the planning meeting.

HELP WANTED

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 or by phone at 775-246-1850.



Questions? Answers!

by Caroline Panches, President

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Question: What local scholarships are awarded by the AAUW Capital (NV) Branch?

Answer: AAUW Capital Branch has typically provided two \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school senior girls who are planning on attending college in Nevada. The branch will make a decision on the number and amount of scholarships at our April 4th business meeting.

Question: How do graduating seniors find out about our scholarships?

Answer: Application packets are distributed to the counselors at local high schools – Carson High, Dayton High, Silver State Charter and Pioneer High. Those packets have been personally distributed by Mary Piper, our Scholarship Chair.

Question: What is the deadline for these applications?

Answer: Completed application packets are to be returned to the counselor at the respective high school by April 6, 2017. Mary Piper will collect the applications at that time and then convene a committee for screening the applications.

Question: Who screens the applications?

Answer: A committee of AAUW Capital Branch members will review the applications and reach consensus on who should receive the AAUW scholarships for the 2017-18 Academic Year.

Question: Who can participate in the screening process?

Answer: Some branch members have already indicated their interest in participating by responding to the AAUW Member Survey as well as at our Fall Brunch.

Question: Can I still indicate my interest in screening applicants?

Answer: You can contact Mary Piper at 775-246-5435 or mpiper36@gmail.com to let her know of your interest. The number of screeners really depends on the number of applications.

Question: When are scholarships awarded?

Answer: AAUW Capital Branch recognizes the scholarship recipients at our May Luncheon meeting. This will be held on Saturday, May 6th at 11:30AM. Additionally, the scholarships are awarded to the students at the respective high school awards ceremonies near the end of the school year.

Question: Do we provide any other scholarships?

Answer: AAUW Capital Branch also has provided funding for two scholarships for WNC students. One is for a returning student of urgent need, out of school at least 2 years; and one is for a single mom of moderate need. Both selections are made by the WNC Foundation staff based on the criteria provided by AAUW.

Interest Groups

by Diane Koditek

Gourmet Group:

Gourmet participants enjoyed a Japanese themed meal at the home of Maureen Smith in February. In March, Nancy Bailey will host a St. Patrick's Day dinner on 3/17. For further information about the group, please contact Carolyn Kellogg 775-461-3320 cnflakes@ymail.com or Maureen Smith 775-888-0075 m2s17s@yahoo.com.

Evening Book Group:

The group meets next on Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 PM at the home of Jo Ann Carpenter to discuss two books. Carolyn Kellogg will facilitate discussion of Ta-Nehisi Coates' book *Between the World and Me*, and Jane Johnson will lead discussion of *Walking with the Wind* by John Lewis. Members may choose to read one or both books. Questions, contact Diane Koditek, dgk@mchsi.com or call 661-304-8743.

Daytime Book Group:

The group is reading *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah for discussion in March. The meeting will be hosted by Barbara Le Blanc on March 17 at 2 PM. For further information please contact JoAnn Carpenter jac78x@gmail.com or call 775-297-3889.

Great Decisions:

Great Decisions Group will meet next on March 22 at Betsy Strohl's home from 1 to 3 PM. Anyone interested in joining the group may contact Jo Ann Carpenter, jac78x@gmail.com or call 775-297-3889.

Informal Luncheon:

The March Luncheon will take place on Thursday, March 23 at 11:30 at Julio's restaurant in Gardnerville. Come join in for good food and conversation. Newer members are especially invited to come and get better acquainted. To RSVP and for further information, please contact Diane Koditek, 661-304-8743 or dgk@mchsi.com

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



March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Board Mtg 11:30 @HUB	2	3 RSVP to Louise 885-0269 or elseidel@gmail.com for Branch Mtg meal	4
5	6	7 Branch Mtg 5:30 PM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Book Group 6:30 PM	17 Book Group 2 PM Gourmet Group	18
19	20	21	22 Great De- cisions 1-3 PM	23	24	25
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


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 issues at <http://www.aauw.org/>

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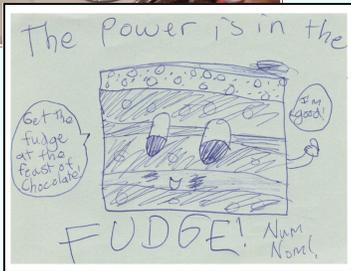
*Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult
 to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never
 been loosened or fertilized by education. They
 grow there, firm as weeds among stones.*

Charlotte Brontë

Feasting on Chocolate at the 18th Annual FOC



How can you not smile when you are surrounded by chocolate?



Original drawing by Josie Verive-Cain

