



American Association of University Women

# Capital News!

AAUW Capital (NV) Branch

December 2018

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

## AAUW Mission:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



## President's Message

by Caroline PUNCHES, President

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!** As I sit down before Thanksgiving to write this message, I am reminded of how thankful I am! THANKS to all of you for your support of AAUW! THANK YOU for attending our membership meetings and other branch activities. THANK YOU for supporting our fundraising ventures. AND a special THANK YOU to those members who serve in leadership positions!

Our Holiday Social will be held on **Tuesday, December 11 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM** at the home of Mary & Joe Wilson, 1315 Enterprize Way in Carson City. Please bring a savory or sweet appetizer to share. Spouses and guests are welcome. Please RSVP (Yes or No) to Susan Schmid by December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget your **Angel Tree\*** gifts. If you did not receive a child's name at the November meeting, you can still participate...just bring an unwrapped gift for **Toys for Tots**. Items are especially needed for teens.

Make your plans now to start 2019 off right! We hope you will join us for a tour of the Nevada Supreme Court on Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2PM. Program information can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter and more details in our January newsletter! Additionally, our branch will be meeting on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM to finalize planning for our **February 9<sup>th</sup> Feast of Chocolate!**

## January Meeting

by Judy Welch

There is no program for December. We hope you can attend the **Christmas Social on December 11**.

Because the first Tuesday of January falls on New Years day, we have changed our January meeting days. Joanne Carpenter has scheduled a field trip and tour of the Nevada Supreme Court January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The tour is scheduled for 2:00 pm and your RSVP must be received by December 17.

On January 15, at 5:00pm, we will have a short business meeting at the Sheriff's office. This meeting will update progress on Feast of Chocolate and provide a demonstration on making baskets for FOC. The February program will focus on 2019 Nevada legislative projections and policy focus.

## Read all about it!

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## \*Angel Tree Gifts

Please wrap the gifts and attach the Angel tag with the child's name and family code to the outside. If you bought more than one item for the child, please bag or tie them together! Call me if you have any questions! Marty 775.690.3913

## Membership Meeting RSVPs

RSVPs are needed for the Holiday Social as well. Please RSVP to Susan Schmid via email at [susan@tetoneditorial.com](mailto:susan@tetoneditorial.com) by the Thursday before the meeting (December 6) - She will send out an email with the names of all who RSVP'd - if your name is not there, it's another chance to RSVP! Then she sends a final list of attendees to Caroline PUNCHES, President and Iris Blaisdell, Membership Chair. You can also call her at 775-790-6272, but she does prefer email.

Enjoy your holidays!

**Caroline PUNCHES,**  
President



## Feast of Chocolate

By Flo Bedrosian

What is the Feast of Chocolate? Imagine a banquet room with beautifully decorated tables for 200 guests. Lovely gift baskets are on display for targeted raffles. A harpist's music fills the air. Then you see the chocolate! At one end of the room there are long tables dressed with white cloths, full of a variety of luscious chocolate baked goods and rich handmade candy. There are trays of classic fudge brownies and chocolate dipped strawberries, chocolate butter creams, cookies, cakes and decadent Italian cannolies.

An abundant selection of chocolate is created by student chefs from the Carson High Culinary Arts who are on hand to serve and describe the delicacies laid out for your sampling pleasure. Additionally, Raley's Carson City will be donating delectable and beautiful specialty chocolate cakes from their bakery and sending staff to serve the desserts. Other repeat donors of chocolate treats include Chef John Hurzel, Red's Old 395, and Fandango Casino.

Money is raised by selling tickets (see related article) to the event to enjoy this amazing collection of sublime chocolate. Advance tickets are \$15 donation and will be \$20 at the door. The event sells out, so advance tickets are strongly recommended.

This is our 20th annual Feast of Chocolate. It will be held at the Plaza Hotel and Event Center in Carson City, on Saturday, February 9 from 1 to 3 PM. We welcome the visibility this fun event gives AAUW and are proud the proceeds support local scholarships and AAUW fellowships and programs like Smart Start.

## Tickets for the Feast of Chocolate

By Flo Bedrosian

We are trying something different this year. Tickets to the Feast of Chocolate will be distributed to members to sell beginning in December rather than January. The 2019 tickets will be available at the AAUW Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 11 at Mary Wilson's home. Past Branch President, Jane Johnson will be there to "check out" to all interested members numbered tickets to sell to the event. Please treat the tickets with care as unsold tickets need to be returned to Jane and are tracked by numbers to be redistributed to others to sell.

Tickets are only available from AAUW members. The success of the event depends on members selling 200 advance tickets so that those 200 people are in the room happily eating chocolate and buying raffle tickets for impressive themed gift baskets and prizes. We can potentially raise another \$1,000 from raffle ticket sales based on a \$5 average per person donation. If you plan on attending as a guest and sitting and enjoying chocolate with your friends and family then you need to purchase a ticket as well. Members have asked if they can cover the ticket costs themselves rather than actually selling the tickets. That would be a donation (always welcomed) not ticket sales and should be identified as a donation when submitted. If you do not sell the tickets turn them back early so others can sell them. It is important for planning purposes that ticket sales reflect the amount of people that will be attending the event. The proceeds from the Feast of Chocolate fund local scholarships and support AAUW fellowships and programs such as Work Smart. For ticket information call Jane Johnson at 775-267-3427.

## Feast of Chocolate Raffle

By Nancy Stiles

Some of our Feast of Chocolate profits for giving educational opportunities come from our raffle. We are once again asking for volunteers to donate to our raffle by putting together a basket, acquiring a gift certificate, offering a valued raffle prize that cannot be placed in a basket, or sponsoring a basket put together by another. Many have already offered to put together a basket in a survey sent out in August. Please verify your intent with Nancy Stiles in an email or at the December AAUW gathering. Those names are: Phyllis Tirado, Shirley Williams, Mary Wilson, Cindy White, Carolyn Kellogg, Diane Koditek, Nancy Stiles, Maureen Smith, JoAnn Carpenter, Janyce Stern, Holly Van Valkenburgh, Nancy Bailey, Barbara LeBlanc, Beth Mancl, Iris Blaisdell, Jane Johnson, Mary Piper, Linda Sekiguchi, Cathy Haber, and added Cheryl Anderson. We are most appreciative of your offer. A demonstration on putting together a basket will take place at our January branch meeting, and suggested themes will be offered. Reserve your theme idea as soon as you decide.

Other volunteers will be needed to help with the raffle and to help set up the raffle and the decorations for our Feast of Chocolate. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at both the holiday gathering in December and at our January branch meeting. You may, however, let me know by email if you are interested in volunteering to help in one of these three capacities: 1) Setting up decorations and raffle tables Friday evening, the night before 2) Selling raffle tickets during the event 3) Distributing the baskets to the winners as they are called.

## Membership Matters

By Iris Blasdell, Membership Chair

Two new members for AAUW Capital branch this year are Cheryl Anderson and Carly Page.

**Cheryl Anderson** is a native Nevadan, born and raised in Reno. She graduated from UNR with a BA in Elementary Education in 1978, and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction/Reading in 1993 and started her teaching career in 1978 with the Douglas County School District, teaching grades 3-6. After 38 years, she retired in 2016. Since she loves to stay busy she has taken on several organizations since retirement. She has been a volunteer for the Pioneer Center in Reno for the past two years and is an active member of a key women educator's society, Delta Kappa Gamma, serving as her chapter's president and scholarship chair, State 1st Vice-President, and Educational Excellence Chair.



Cheryl joined AAUW because it is an organization which allows her to stay involved with current educational issues and trends, and critical issues involving women. She appreciates that AAUW hosts local annual events and participates in fundraising projects to be able to fund financial scholarships for local high school girls planning to continue their education after graduation, and for grants and fellowships through AAUW Educational Foundation. There's something for everyone in AAUW Capital Branch she states, with organized interest groups, which meet outside of the regular monthly meetings, and informal monthly luncheons for food and conversation. "I love the fellowship and the fun!"

**Carly Page** comes from the other end of the U.S.,



namely, Philadelphia, PA. She met and married Jeremy in Washington, D.C., at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. While in D.C., she worked at the Oak Ridge National Labs as a science and policy fellow posted to the Department of Energy. She moved sight-unseen to our state capital in 2017 with her husband and their dog Penny. Carly is excited to be able to commute by bicycle, and enjoys the mountain views.

Carly received her master's in international relations and economics from Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies at the Bologna, Italy and Washington, D.C. campuses and her undergraduate degree from the American University in DC. After graduation (Cont'd next column) she briefly worked for a trade association for natural gas

producers and taught ESL. Presently she is an economist on staff at the Nevada Public Utilities Commission where she focuses on natural gas and power policy. She also has an interest in the water and telecommunications industries.

Carly's hobbies include reading history and science, language learning, and travel. Along the way to Carson she has touched down in Brussels, Prague, Istanbul, and Bologna during which time she studied everything from Turkish to French.

Carly is not totally new to AAUW as she was a member in Washington, DC for a time. She is now a new member of our Book Club.

Happy Holidays to all!

*Iris Blasdell*



## *In Memoriam*

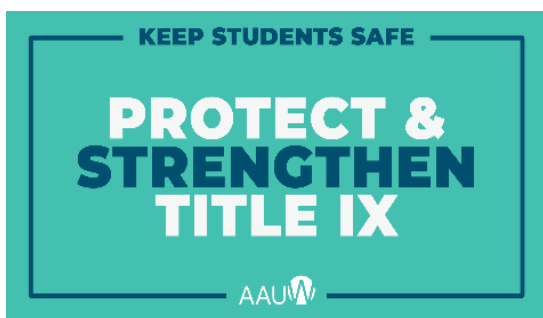
One of our most passionate members, Donna Curtis passed away on November 1, 2018 with her family in attendance. Donna loved AAUW and attended as many meetings as she could. She attended both book discussion groups when possible and loved the discussions in Great Decisions. She was devoted to many other community organizations in Carson City and served a number of years on the Parks Commission. She was a founding member of the highly successful Sierra Nevada Forum where she led talks on wildlife issues that were extremely popular. She was passionate about progressive causes and politics. She was always ready to volunteer and pitch in for so many causes. Then there was her love of dogs. A lot of her civic work locally was to create dog parks. She wanted a place for dogs to play safely and be with other dogs.

Please note, a celebration of life and memorial bench dedication will be held in the spring, in the dog park at Fuji Park, which she had a part in getting built. We will keep you informed of the date and time. Judy Welch is putting together a "remembrance" book for Donna's family. If you have a story you would like to share, please send it to Judy Welch at [71Iwelch@gmail.com](mailto:71Iwelch@gmail.com).



## Public Policy

by AAUW State Program Chair, Nancy Stiles



Midterms are over, and visions of 2020 dance in our heads. But first, let's think about our state's legislative session that begins Feb. 4, and the other gains we need to protect. Yes, Betsy DeVos is at it again! In September, 2017, two documents were rescinded that gave much-needed clarification about what Title IX requires schools to do to prevent and address sex discrimination in educational programs. Specifically, these documents gave critical guidance to schools about their legal obligations under Title IX to respond promptly and fairly to allegations of sexual assault, and set forth guidelines for how to handle these allegations. Now in November, 2018, the Department of Education wants to further erode protections, particularly for student survivors of sexual assault by narrowing the definition of sexual harassment to potentially exclude much of the abuse students experience and altering when schools will respond to reports of sexual harassment and violence. Title IX protects *all* students from discrimination — students of all genders, from kindergarten through college — and these expansive changes would put those protections at risk. It's crucial that advocates speak up against any attacks on Title IX that attempt to diminish students' protections. Add your name to AAUW's petition at: <http://bit.ly/2yKmf1c>, or go to [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org) and click on a link given.

The time when you need to do something is when no one else is willing to do it, when people are saying it can't be done.

*Mary Frances Berry, American Historian*

## Take Action as a Two Minute Activist

Take action on issues impacting women and girls by joining AAUW's Action Network. As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive urgent email notices when your advocacy is needed most. We'll provide all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, write letters to the editor for your local newspapers, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more.

### Become a Two-Minute Activist

Receive urgent e-mail notices to contact your members of Congress right in your inbox. Join the AAUW Action Network today! [Sign up here.](#)



## Tour of Nevada's Supreme Court

The first Tuesday in January falls on New Year's Day. This means we will not be able to use our normal meeting place. In reviewing possible programs for the month, we contacted the Nevada Supreme Court to see if we could tour the facilities. The tour has been scheduled for Thursday, January 3, at 2 PM. Tours are set up to accommodate 25. If our group is larger than 25 people, they will provide 2 guides, so we need to determine how many members are interested. Please RSVP Susan Schmid via email at [susan@tetoneditorial.com](mailto:susan@tetoneditorial.com) by Monday, December 17, so we can provide an accurate count for the tour. She will send out an email with the names of all who RSVP'd. If your name is not there, you will have an additional chance to RSVP.





## Interest Groups

by Diane Koditek



### Gourmet Group:

At the November Gourmet gathering, co-hostesses Sue Knight and Diane Koditek prepared both seafood lasagna and meat lasagna as the main course. Guests each brought dishes made from assigned special recipes for a wonderful menu of appetizers, salad, bread, and dessert. It was a delicious meal worthy of the gourmet title, and a very enjoyable social evening. Gourmet Group meets on Friday, December 14th at the home of Dorthiann Taylor. Members will each prepare special recipes from a delicious menu. For additional information about the group, please contact Nancy Bailey, [nmbailey95@gmail.com](mailto:nmbailey95@gmail.com) or call 775-461-3311.

### Evening Book Group:

On December 20 the group will meet at the home of Carolyn Kellogg at 6:30 PM. Discussion will be of both *Tiger Drive* by Teri Case and *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. Please RSVP to a Carolyn at [cnflakes@ymail.com](mailto:cnflakes@ymail.com) or call 461-3320. For more information about the group, contact Chair Jane Johnson, [jane3491@charter.net](mailto:jane3491@charter.net) or call 775-267-3427.

### Daytime Book Group:

The group will meet from 2 to 4 PM on Friday, December 21, at the home of Dorthiann Taylor. They will discuss *Started Early, Took My Dog* by Kate Atkinson. The discussion leader was scheduled to be Donna Curtis. Members will instead take turns discussing the book. For additional information, please contact Cindy, [cindy-white@nevadawordsmith.com](mailto:cindy-white@nevadawordsmith.com) or call 775-267-3685.

### Great Decisions:

No December meeting scheduled. Members can expect to hear from JoAnn Carpenter in January when the new resource manuals have arrived and a meeting is scheduled. Questions? Please contact JoAnn, [jac78x@gmail.com](mailto:jac78x@gmail.com) or call 775-297-3889.

### Knitting:

The group meets monthly on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons. All skill levels are welcome! For more information, please contact Chair Zee McClintock, [edzeemcc@gmail.com](mailto:edzeemcc@gmail.com) or call 775-884-3565. Note: the 4th Tuesday this month will fall on Christmas, likely causing these dedicated knitters to make alternate plans.

### Informal Luncheon:

Add to your holiday fun! Come join other members for good food and conversation on December 19 at 11:30 AM. The group will dine at Flavors of India, 1105 S. Street in Carson City. Newer members are especially encouraged to come and get better acquainted. Please RSVP to Diane Koditek, [dgk@mchsi.com](mailto:dgk@mchsi.com) or call 661-304-8743 by December 8th.

## 2019 Membership Directories

By Lin Nary

The 2019 AAUW Membership Directories are now ready and will be available for purchase at the December 11 Christmas Social and subsequent meetings. In it are member photos and contact information, Capital Branch Officers and Board members, AAUW Nevada State Officers, and Interest Groups information, stuff you will want and need!



## Pecans, Pecans, Pecans!

By Carolyn Kellogg, Pecan Sales Chair

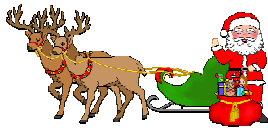
Congratulations AAUW members! Sales are going well. We just finished great sales at the Carson High School Craft Fair. Huge kudos to our volunteers: Diane Koditek, Cathy Haber, Mary Jean Lang, Kathy Steinle, Nancy Bailey, Eleanor Phillips, JoAnn Carpenter, Mary Piper, Louise Siedel, Dorthiann Taylor, Cindi Supko, Cheryl Anderson, Shirley Williams, and Jane Johnson. Some special thanks go to Barbara LeBlanc. She worked the entire fair and dealt with all credit purchases. It was a successful addition to our sales.

Now is the time to give that extra push to sell our remaining pecans. Let's have them gone before Christmas! Buy a few extra packages for yourself. Check with your neighbors and friends. Remember, pecans make great gifts. They are perfect additions to salads, main dishes and cereal. The halves can be frozen for up to two years (we only want folks to freeze them for 11 months so they will buy more next year). Let's make this another banner year. Call or email your orders. You don't have to pay until you sell your pecans.

Thank you for all your hard work,



Carolyn Kellogg (775) 461-3320  
[aauwcapitalpecans@gmail.com](mailto:aauwcapitalpecans@gmail.com)



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Christmas Social Knitting 1-3pm	12	13	14 Gourmet Group	15
16	17	18	19 Informal Lunch 11:30 am	20 Book Group 6:30pm	21 Book Group 2-4pm	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Happy New Year</i>					

## Your 2018-2019 Board

President — Caroline PUNCHES, 775-246-1850  
 Membership VP — Iris Blaisdell 775-392-1772  
 Program Co-Vice Presidents — JoAnn Carpenter  
 775-297-3889 and Judy Welch 775-721-1731  
 Secretaries, Co-Recording — Marty McGarry  
 775-690-3913 and Lynne Ballatore 775-246-3870  
 Secretary, Corresponding — Shirley Williams,  
 775-386-8787  
 Treasurer — Barbara LeBlanc, 775-781-4956



### Reminder:

Any AAUW Capital Branch 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, [dkg@mchsi.com](mailto:dkg@mchsi.com). Suggested activities will be posted in the newsletter in the Bulletin Board section.