



American Association of University Women

# Capital News!

AAUW Capital (NV) Branch

January 2020

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.

## Read all about it!

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## President's Message

by Caroline PUNCHES, Co-President



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our holiday gathering on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> was a great success! A special thanks to **Barbara and Dick Kuehner** for providing such a wonderful setting for our members and guests to socialize while feasting on the savory and sweet delicacies shared by our members. What a festive way to celebrate!

Kudos to all our members who fulfilled wishes of children identified by Angel Tree! And a very special thanks to **Marty McGarry** for making it so easy for AAUW members to participate and help wishes come true! Thanks also to those who provided items to Toys for Tots and to **Judy Welch** for sharing the information.

Now, it's time to look forward to 2020! As you make your New Years' Resolutions, please think about how you can contribute to the success of the AAUW Capital (NV) Branch! Numerous opportunities are available! A nominating committee will be meeting soon to identify members who are willing to serve as a co-officer of the branch! Your help is needed in helping to identify possible nominees or you can volunteer to be considered for a position! or, are you interested in helping the STEM committee select a project for our branch involvement? What are YOU willing to do to help make our 2020 Feast of Chocolate a success? And, of course, there is also our Scholarship Selection Committee. And, there are many more ways **you** can contribute to our success as a branch! See you all at our **January 7<sup>th</sup> membership meeting!** Location remains the →

## January 7 Branch Meeting

Carson City Sheriff's Office

911 E Musser

5-7:30 pm

With speaker

**Mary Liveratti**

Americans depend on their prescriptions-- but from cancer treatments to Epi-pens, skyrocketing prices are pushing life-saving treatment out of reach for those who need them. We pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world so drug companies can make billions. No one should have to choose between buying medicine or buying food for our families. Come hear about AARP's campaign to lower drug prices: Stop RX Greed. Get the facts, learn about commonsense solutions and action you can take to address this problem.

Mary Liveratti has spent almost 45 years advocating for older people and people with disabilities, both professionally and personally. She worked for the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for 24 years and was the Deputy Director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services for 9 years, where she oversaw the Senior and Disability Rx Program. Since retiring, she continues to serve as a volunteer. She was the President of Nevada AARP for 6 years and is currently serving on the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada Board.

Sheriff's Office. **Doors open at 5:00PM** for checking in and some socializing. The meeting will start at 5:30PM with AAUW Updates and Requests. And our speaker will provide some interesting facts about Prescription Drug Costs!

See you January 7th!



## Membership Matters

By Iris Blasdell, Membership Chair

Our branch is growing! There are two new members to introduce. Linda Bourgois, a longtime resident of northern Nevada, has joined our branch because she appreciates our interesting speakers and is interested in furthering our goals of improving gender equity for women and girls. She was an elementary teacher in grades 1-3 for many years at Gardnerville Elementary school. Her husband taught at UNR. Now retired, she intends to pursue her outdoor hobbies of camping, kayaking, and hiking. She particularly likes to go to Yosemite and Yellowstone. She is also open to help our branch in any way she can. A graduate herself of Cal State Northridge, she has two children and two grandchildren who also live in northern Nevada.

Jill Davis is another new member who comes to us via the recommendation of member Carly Page. She is attracted by our mission to empower women, and also is interested in meeting new and vibrant people. She is particularly interested in the book and gourmet interest groups as she likes to read and eat! She went to NYU for her undergraduate degree with a major in liberal arts and minor in accounting. She worked part time for a law firm and became interested in the intellectual challenges of law. Attracted by the good weather, Jill applied to the USC law school and was accepted. However, after a few years of Los Angeles traffic she gravitated to the Las Vegas area. Jill works for the Nevada Public Utilities agency as an Assistant General Counsel, which is where she met Carly. Since it is hard to move up the agency ladder without being in Carson City, she moved here when the opportunity arose to advance her career. She enjoys the arts and attends the events at the Pioneer Center in Reno. She also is a fan of tennis, baseball, and USC football. She is looking forward to meeting everyone and to engaging in lively discussion.

NOTE: Remember to update any phone numbers or addresses so we can keep the branch records up to date.

Have you changed your address, email address, or phone? Please let [Iris Blasdell](#), Membership Chair, know so she can update the national roster. AND, let [Dorthiann Taylor](#) know so she can update the local roster. Thanks!!



## Feast of Chocolate News Flash!

by Chris Perdomo, Co-Chair

It's almost time to ring in the New Year...2020! Weren't we just fretting about the millennium? Boy, time flies by, and with that in mind, here's a New Year's To Do List Just For You:

1. Ask a friend or two to go in on a themed basket for the Feast of Chocolate.
2. Catch the after Christmas sales to purchase the perfect items for your basket.
3. Assemble the basket and deliver it to Jan Sullivan's house by January 20th.
4. Ask your previous donors for raffle prizes. Remember to give them the Tax ID #47-5132225 for charitable contributions.
5. Start hitting up friends and family to purchase tickets from you. **Jane will be distributing the tickets at our January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Remember you do not have to pay for the tickets in advance so you can take as many as you think you can sell. Jane will collect the money at the event or at our next meeting. Don't forget to pitch that advance tickets are \$20.00 and the cost will go up to \$25.00 the day of the event.
6. Continue your dietary training regime by eating the rest of your desserts and chocolate from Christmas in preparation for our main event:

**Feast of Chocolate**

**February 8**

**1 - 3 PM**

**Plaza Hotel and Events Center**

7. Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> - DIETS BEGIN

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS & OFFICER CANDIDATES WANTED

It's that time of year again! With elections of officers and other branch business occurring in April, it is time for a nominating committee to meet and recruit volunteers to serve in a number of positions. Our branch has adopted a "co" format which allows for two members to share a position. This means that a new officer is elected for a first year and the other officer continues to serve a second year. The "open" elected officer positions to be filled this year are: co-President, co-Membership Chair, co-Program Chair, co-Recording Secretary and co-Treasurer.

ANY branch member who has been a member for 2 years is eligible to serve on this committee. So, if you would like to serve on the nominating committee, or if you are interested in serving as an elected officer, please contact Jennifer Verive, co-President at [jmverive@gmail.com](mailto:jmverive@gmail.com) or 315-315-4748 and let her know. Thanks!

## STEM Committee Update

By Barbara Kuehner

At the request of Co-President Caroline Panches, several members are looking at how our branch might be involved in STEM activities. Committee members are assessing local programs, looking at existing AAUW materials, reviewing national initiatives, and trying to decide where our branch interests, efforts and talents might make the best contribution.

STEM is often called STEAM with the A added to represent the arts. There are existing programs at all educational levels. K-college, and programs can be found in many organizations: schools, libraries, Girl Scouts, non-profits, and businesses. There has been an explosion of STEM opportunities. AAUW has been involved for at least 20 years in researching the need and providing interventions. We are left with questions such as:

- \* How do some of the educational opportunities now being provided differ from past efforts to improve science and math education in the US?
- \* Should programs target girls with proven ability or all students in a state where according to the 2017-18 "District Accountability Report" not even half the students meet or exceed standards in math? (Science was not assessed in the information we found.)

One of the most concerning issues is the number of women who obtain degrees in engineering, math, and computer science and then find that there are numerous obstacles to entering and continuing their careers. (Maybe there are some women in our group who might serve as mentors!) AAUW recently developed a publication called the "Play Book" which addresses this concern. The American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS, is actively working on the issue and has a full time employee looking at women in academia.

Our committee is developing a list of local opportunities and resources and would welcome input from other Capital Branch members. Committee members are: Gina Cowell, Lynne Ballatore, Shirley Williams, Betsy Strohl, Barbara Kuehner, Jane Johnson and Stephanie Facchini.

McClintock. Call her at 775-884-3565 or email at [edzeemcc@gmail.com](mailto:edzeemcc@gmail.com). We welcome all skill levels and hope you'll join us as we plan individual projects for the coming year.

**Informal Lunch** Please come and enjoy good food and conversation on Thursday Jan. 16. This month our luncheon will be at Sassafras, 1500 Old Hot Springs Rd, Carson City at 11:30 AM. All are welcome and hope you will come and get better acquainted with your AAUW fellow members. RSVP to Cathy Haber [cathy8699@aol.com](mailto:cathy8699@aol.com) or 775-400-7668 by Jan 10th.

## Pecans

By Kathy Steinle

Happy 2020, Ladies! May your New Year be filled with great things!

Speaking of great things, a **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to **all of you** for helping to make this year's Pecan Fundraiser a success! We had so many of you that worked extra hard to sell many bags – I'm very proud to be part of this incredible group of amazing women!

What's another great thing? Pecans, of course! We still have one-plus cases of halves and one-plus cases of chocolate covered to sell. Think about buying a few extra packages for yourself, check with your neighbors and friends to see if they need more, and remember that these pecans make great gifts. They are also a perfect addition to salads, main dishes, cold and hot cereal (see photo).

Don't forget the halves are guaranteed fresh up to two years if frozen.

Thanks again for all your hard work for our educational projects and the young ladies that will benefit from your efforts. Call/text/email me your orders – I deliver! Kathy Steinle – (775) 291-9305 – [steinle3@hotmail.com](mailto:steinle3@hotmail.com) – [aauwcapitalpecans@gmail.com](mailto:aauwcapitalpecans@gmail.com)



## Interest Groups

By Cathy Haber

**Gourmet Group** AAUW Gourmet Group thoroughly enjoyed the 2nd Friday dinner at Sue Knight's lovely Genoa home with her delicious Seafood Lasagna as the main course. Guests all brought specially prepared offerings to complete the Xmas feast. The January dinner will be on the THIRD Friday at Iris and Jim Blaisdell's in Gardnerville. In February the Group will be meeting at a restaurant TBA. Merry Christmas and Happy 2020 to all.

**Evening Book Club** On Thursday, January 16 we will meet at the home of Zee McClintock at 6:30. The book for discussion will be *Educated* by Tara Westover. Please let Zee know whether or not you will be attending at 775-884-3565 or [edzeemcc@gmail.com](mailto:edzeemcc@gmail.com). For questions about the Book Group please contact Jane Johnson at [jane3491@charter.net](mailto:jane3491@charter.net) or by phone 775-267-3427.

**Daytime Book Group** The next meeting of the Daytime Book Group will be Friday, January 17 at Khristophers, 1599 Esmeralda Ave, Minden. Jill Hetherton will lead the discussion on *The Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown. Please let Jill know if you will be attending at [sydneyjill5@icloud.com](mailto:sydneyjill5@icloud.com) or 775-790-0747. For more information on the Book Group contact Cindy White at [cindy.white@nevadawordsmith.com](mailto:cindy.white@nevadawordsmith.com).

**Great Decisions Group** The next meeting of the Great Decisions Group will depend on the availability of the books. JoAnn Carpenter will be sending an update as soon as possible. JoAnn can be reached at [jac78@gmail.com](mailto:jac78@gmail.com).

**Knitting Group** The Knitting Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 1:00 to 3:00. In Jan. we'll meet on the 14th and the 28th at the home of Zee



# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>Happy New Year!</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7 Branch Meeting 5 PM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Knitting 1-3 PM	15 Board Mtg 1 PM Partnership Carson City offices, 1925 N. Carson St	16 Informal Lunch 11:30 Book Group 6:30	17 Gourmet Group Book Group	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Knitting 1-3 PM	29	30	31	

## Your 2019-2020 Board

**Co-Presidents** — Caroline PUNCHES, 775-246-1850 and Jennifer Verive, 775-315-4748

**Co-Membership VP** — Iris Blaisdell 775-392-1772 and Diane Koditek, 661-304-8743

**Program Co-Vice Presidents** — JoAnn Carpenter 775-297-3889 and Lynne Ballatore, 775-246-3870

**Public Policy Co-Chairs** — Judy Welch, 775-721-1731 and Janice Noble 951-973-8350

**Secretaries, Co-Recording** — Marty McGarry 775-690-3913 and Barbara Kuehner, 808-937-2360

**Secretary, Corresponding** — Shirley Williams, 775-386-8787

**Co-Treasurers** — Barbara LeBlanc, 775-781-6604, and Dorthiann Taylor, 775-771-1212)

## The AAUW Capital Branch Membership Directory

is ready to print. These directories list members names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and college/university attended. For most members, there is also a color photo. To avoid printing more that we can sell, we would like to print only what is ordered. Please send an email to Lin at [linary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linary@sbcglobal.net) to order one for yourself. The cost is not yet known but they are usually about \$4.00. Call now so that we can have them at the January meeting.