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Five Cities – Pismo Beach (CA) Newsletter

January 2015

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<http://fivecitiespismo-beach-ca.aauw.net>

President's Message

Women's Issues in the Year 2015

For the last forty years we have seen tremendous changes in the status of women in society. In the 1970's laws were enacted to provide women with credit, thereby allowing women to buy homes or start a business. Women gained more control over their reproductive rights, greater representation in legislatures and in management positions, both in the private and public sector. As of 2012 women earned 57% of four year college degrees.

However, the idea that progress continues forward is not always the case. Take women's earning for example. In a 2007 lab experiment at Cornell University "evaluators rated mothers as less competent and committed to paid work than non-mothers and consequently discriminated against mothers when hiring and making salary decisions. Fathers, however, were seen as more committed to paid work than childless men and were offered better salaries. All told, childless women were six times as likely to be recommended for hire as mothers with similar resumes and were offered at least \$10,000 more in salary" stated Jessica Grose, in her article "Is there still such a thing as a women's issue", appearing in More Magazine, December 2015/January 2015). Over the course of the average American working woman's life, she is paid \$464,320 less than the average American man, Grose reports. This translates into less money to save for retirement, less Social Security benefits and retirement pensions. Women typically live longer than men, making this more of a problem. This is just one example of the continued need for continual efforts to fulfill the mission of AAUW.

There are opportunities to advance women's issues without being card carrying feminists. By supporting political candidates who you believe support women's interests is one way. As Grose points out, these candidates do not have to be women. If there is a candidate you believe will address the issues of women that match your interests, campaign on the candidate's behalf, get the vote out, and donate to her/his campaign fund. The AAUW mission is clear: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, research and leadership. We have women's issues now, in the year 2015, and we have the power to advance our mission.

Highlights of the Holidays

Wow, the holidays are over and wasn't that a time!! We started the holidays with a festive Bingo, Boutique and Silent Auction, with gross revenue at \$5,999, followed by a Holiday Brunch with San Luis Obispo AAUW Branch, incorporating great food, location, music, camaraderie, and the assembling of toiletries for women in need. The Five Cities Newcomers, at their holiday luncheon on December 17, presented our AAUW Branch with a donation of \$600 for our Scholarship Fund. At this luncheon a private individual wrote a check for \$250 for Tech Trek and another \$74 was collected for our Branch. And then it rained!! Happy New Year! Thank you for being a member of this outstanding organization.

Jean Burns Slater

CALENDAR — January 2015

5	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
7	Book Sale Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Lunch Bunch	11:30 a.m.
8	Quilters' Group	12:30 p.m.
13	Night Readers	7:00 p.m.
14	Finessing Fems Bridge	12:30 p.m.
19	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
23	Hand and Foot Canasta	9:30 a.m.
26	Great Decisions	7:00 p.m.
31	Cooking Together	5:30 p.m.



January Speaker on Human Rights

Dr. Gloria Velásquez, internationally recognized poet, author, and humanitarian, joins us January 19, 2015, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

From growing up in the 50's as a child of farm workers in Colorado to earning a Ph.D. at Stanford, Gloria calls herself, "a miracle come true." Now a professor of Modern Languages and Literature at Cal Poly, Dr. Velásquez will share her story and poetry in a presentation called **Dare to Dream**.

We invite community members including teenagers to our 7:00 pm Monday, January 19 meeting with Dr. Velásquez at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Besides poetry, Gloria is known for writing young adult novels, "The Roosevelt High School Series", for grades 7 and up, feature characters that young people can relate to. The books deal with difficult contemporary subjects and capture the pressures and emotions that teenagers frequently experience. The use of Spanish words adds authenticity, while the glossaries help non-Spanish speaking readers put the words in appropriate cultural contexts. Some of Velásquez books of poetry and Young Adult novels will be available for purchase (price: about \$10 each) and book signing.

Gloria Velásquez writes because "I want this to be a better world. I take a strong stance on social justice due to my involvement in the Chicano civil rights movement in California and Colorado." She inspires students to **dare to dream**. Don't miss this inspirational evening!



Happy New Year!

San Luis Obispo County Interbranch Council Upcoming Event

Our local Interbranch Council, consisting of the AAUW branches in Paso Robles, Atascadero, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo and Five Cities Pismo Beach met on November 24, 2014. Our Interbranch Council is sponsoring the following event and all of our branch members are invited. This is an excellent opportunity to mix and mingle with AAUW members from all over the county.

Annual San Luis Obispo County AAUW Interbranch Council Luncheon

Date and Time: February 28, 2015 Saturday 11:30 am -2:30 pm

Location: Madonna Inn

Menu: Santa Maria Style Buffet Barbeque: Tri-Tip, BBQ Chicken, garlic bread, chili beans, green salad, potato salad, homemade salsa, dessert from the Madonna Inn Bakery, and tea and coffee beverage service.

Cost: \$25 per person

Program: Violence against Women on College Campuses panel of local community members

Please save the date, listen to the announcement at our January 19 meeting and look for the flyer in the February newsletter.

One aspect of AAUW involvement is Women in History in which some of us portray famous women who were pioneers in their chosen fields or leaders to champion the rights of women.

So join us!

Choose a woman you admire, read about her, dress up and become a woman who enhanced our history. Then we will speak to 4-6th grade students & give our speeches to them in the month of March. It's painless and just takes a wee bit of courage.

You can do it!!

Contact Pam Zirion 543-5403 or Kathy Cohon 594-1249 for more information.

Celebrating Women's History Month



AAUW SCHOLARSHIP

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season, and will keep that spirit of giving alive in the new year after you read about the accomplishments of one of our recent recipients.

Mia McKinstry writes " I cannot believe that it has already been almost 4 years since I was a senior at Arroyo Grande High School. I remember very clearly being so excited and thankful when I found out that I had received the American Association of University Women College Scholarship. I got to attend your lovely meeting and describe to everyone my future plans as an incoming freshman at Barnard College of Columbia University. My plans have changed quite a bit since then, but I am still just as excited as ever about what the future stores.

When I met with you all in May of 2011, I described how I hoped to major in anthropology and eventually become a professor of anthropology. I started at Barnard in pursuit of this goal, but instead fell in love with the biological sciences. By the end of sophomore year I had committed to majoring in biology.



With my newfound interest in biology, I began to explore different career options such as research. In the summer of 2013, I was accepted into the Columbia University Amgen Scholars Program where I was placed in a research laboratory of my choice: Professor Jonathon Snow's lab. Professor Snow studies the immune system of honey bees and their cellular response systems to biological stressors. Thus, I spent that summer learning basic molecular biological research techniques and more about honey bees than I thought I would ever know!

In my junior year of college, I continued taking my fascinating biology and chemistry courses. I was a teaching assistant for the intro biology lab course and I continued working in Professor Snow's lab. However, I wanted to explore more career options so I became highly involved in a new club, the Charles Drew Premedical Society. Through the club's weekly events featuring speakers such as deans of various medical schools and doctors from different fields, I learned more and more about the field of medicine, the process of becoming a doctor, and what it might be like to actually be one. Still in love with my research though, I was lucky enough to be able to continue researching with Professor Snow in the summer of 2014 after being accepted into the Barnard Summer Research Institute."

News of Mia's senior year, including a recent honor, will be in our next article.
Debbie Audet, Scholarship Co-chair



Membership

START THE NEW YEAR WITH PARTICIPATION!

Welcome to our newest member **CYNTHIA CONOVER!** Now at 82 members, our Five Cities-Pismo Beach Branch of AAUW is full of great members to meet at any of our upcoming activities. Just check out the Membership Directory and/or your AAUW Newsletter for updates. Remember all members are on the "Membership Committee". So find an activity or standing committee, topic or interest section you want to PARTICIPATE in, and get to know our newest members.

See the AAUW National magazine for more information on our 2015 National Convention, held in San Diego in June, but if you register by January 15 you can get best-value rates. Register at convention.aauw.org. PARTICIPATE here in our State of California with the National AAUW.

Locally, get ready to PARTICIPATE in our first of the new year general program meeting on Monday, January 19 at 7:00pm at St. John's Lutheran Church featuring Cal Poly professor Dr. Gloria Velazquez. (Find more details in this newsletter.) Bring friends and potential new members.

Then, heads up for the February event – CALENDER IT NOW – On Saturday, February 21 (a change from the list in the Membership Directory) the Board has approved combining the Art Event with the Membership Celebration. It will be held at Seaside Gallery in Pismo Beach on Saturday, February 21 from 2-4pm. (More details in the February newsletter.) PARTICIPATE! PARTICIPATE! PARTICIPATE!

Dr. Alice Adams Addison, Membership Vice President

P.S. Our Five Cities—Pismo Beach Branch now has four dual Branch members: Jan Kaiserman and Bette Kulp with San Luis Obispo, Danna Weidner with Morro Bay, and now Anita Shower with Santa Maria. Add this information to your directory.

"If you want a new badge with the new AAUW logo, contact Alice Addison (481-5556 or email addisonauto@yahoo.com). You'll need to make out a check to AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach for \$10, listing "Member Badge" in the memo line. The check must be received by Alice by January 19 in person at the program meeting or received by then in her mailbox at P.O. Box 342, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421. Be sure you spell your name the way you want it on the badge."



Do you have a green thumb? Or just wish you did? One of our new members, Danna Weidner is interested in starting a Garden Group. If you are interested in helping this endeavor grow contact her at d2weidner@earthlink.net or 439-0995.

We received donations for Scholarship in December from the following individuals and groups:

Patti Melsheimer

Priscilla Alquist

Five Cities Newcomers Club

Mauria Kusell

Debbie Audet



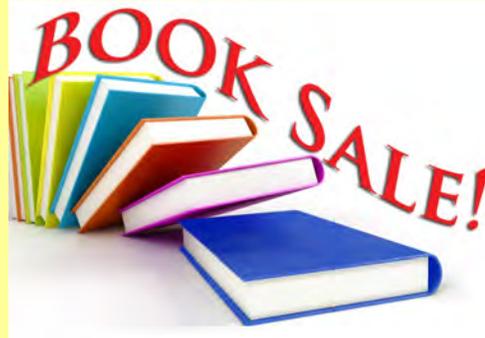
Donations

In addition, donations for Tech Trek were received from:

Amelia Boyd

Jean Burns Slater

It's that time of the year again! Preparations for our annual **BOOK SALE** fundraiser are beginning. The first meeting will be Wednesday, January 7th, at 7:00 p.m. at Kathi Pettersen's home in Cypress Ridge, 2311 Sanderling Court, Arroyo Grande. (Call Kathi to RSVP and to get the security gate code.) *(Note, this is a time change from the original email notice.)* We will review last year's sale, discuss organization of this year's sale, set dates for book sortings, and determine subcommittees. Please join us for this very important meeting.



Linda Lidberg, Kathi Pettersen, Co-Chairs



The Five Cities-Pismo Beach Branch and the San Luis Obispo Branch enjoyed a festive holiday gathering at The Gardens at Sycamore Mineral springs on Saturday, December 6th. After time for greeting fellow AAUW members and networking with others, a yummy buffet brunch was served followed by Christmas music. Our own Sandy Pitt's hubby was one of the musicians! Donated personal care items were then gathered and bagged for distribution as needed in community.

Hand and Foot Canasta is an American version of the original South American card game. It is easy to learn and fun to play. Our group meets the 4th Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. We brown bag our lunch and are usually finished by 1:00.

CANASTA

HAND & FOOT

Our next game will be January 23rd at Debbie Audet's home.

Please arrange for your own substitute if you are unable to come. Contact Debbie Audet at 550-8910 if you would like to join the group or if you would like to be on our list of substitute players.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions Study and Discussion Group will meet at 7:00 pm on January 26, 2015 at Mary Jo Aspinall's home at 330 Leeward, Shell Beach.

We will be looking at the first subject in the 2015 Study Guide, "Syrian refugees".

New members are invited to come join us.

Call Mary Jo with questions or requests for transportation, (805) 556-0193.

Mary Jo Aspinall, Chair



January Birthdays

Judy Zaretska 4

Bette Kulp 5

Joan Knowlton 15

Claire Gordon 23

Jean Burns Slater 4

Mary Matakovich 14

Judy Leonard 22

Liz Wineman 23

Help!

Wanted: 4 foot and 6 foot folding tables

For: Sorting books for the book sale — to help save our backs

When: February through May

Who: If you weren't at the September tea and didn't have a chance to sign up to let us use your a table, please contact Linda Lidberg, 929-6958



AAUW Lunch Bunch

AAUW Lunch Bunch is an informal gathering of members who enjoy sampling local restaurants while engaging in stimulating conversation. Please consider joining the lunch group this year. All branch members are welcome to join us! Attend when it is convenient for you!

Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

Le Ciel Crepe Café

3211 Broad St., #121

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Enjoy the quaint salt and pepper shakers on each table as you enjoy delicious soups, salads, sandwiches, and crepes—both sweet and savory. Check out their menu at www.lecielcrepes.com.

Please call Susan Brazil – 474-5682 if you are attending, or to carpool. If you need to reach me on the day of the luncheon, my cell is 650-678-0148, though I prefer RSVPs to my home number or email (susanbrazil@sbcglobal.net). Looking forward to our get together--



Cooking Together – Next Events

Please join us for our next dinner in January at 5:30 p.m.

January 31st

Anne Sawyer

teachreach@charter.net 489-8209

★ **Please contact the host to RSVP at least one week before each dinner so that she can plan accordingly.**

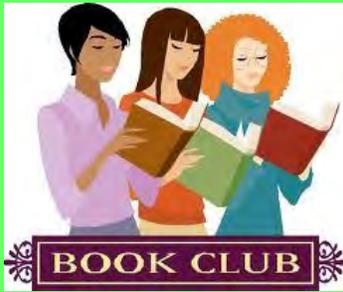
★ Please bring a bottle of your favorite beverage (alcoholic or not) to share with the group. Cost per person is \$10 paid to the hosts.

Hosts will print copies of all recipes for the dishes we prepare for everyone to take home.

Your Committee Chair, Lisa Walker.

Questions? Phone 473-0075 or e-mail LWalker@vtc-sm.org





Night Readers: The first meeting of the year will take place on January 13 at the home of Sharon Lowell. We will be discussing Penelope Lively's fast-paced book How It All Began. The novel considers how seemingly small events can change the course of a person's life and ultimately affect many others in strange ways. It is a tribute to "the genealogy of randomness." The Book Club is currently filled to capacity. -- Sandra Ku, chairperson

FINNESSING FEMMES BRIDGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The January 14, 2015 hostess for Finessing Femmes is MARY JO ASPINAL.

On FEBRUARY 19, 2015 the hostess will be Jane Pittenger.

The hostess will contact you to see if you are able to play.

ELVERA HORNUNG, 595-9314



Bunco Bunco

It's time for **SLO AAUW Bunco!**

Save the date.... **Friday evening, January 23rd.**

In the Chumash Village Recreation Room, located at 3057 South Higuera Street.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments.

Bunco will begin at 7 p.m.

Tasty treats await and White Elephant gifts will be awarded.

\$15 donation at the door for Local High School Scholarships

PLEASE RSVP by January 20th to Donna Perales (dperalesinslo@gmail.com)

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