



Volume 36, No. 6

Five Cities – Pismo Beach (CA) Newsletter

February 2015

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

President's Message

Winter Cleaning

Over the weekend I decided to straighten out the garage and open up some of the local AAUW boxes that have accumulated on the garage floor. I found scrapbooks, directories and newsletters categorized, filed and sealed in plastic notebook sheets. Our 35 year history is now on several bookshelves in my garage, in chronological order, neat and tidy. In viewing these materials I was astonished to see the faces of my fellow AAUW members from thirty years ago. Some of the very same faces!! Strawberry festival 1988 & 1989 was especially enlightening. There you all are, with hats and strawberries, ready to serve.

The installation of officers photos demonstrated the different leadership roles over the years that each of you have taken. We clearly started out as a young branch and have retained many members. But in looking over our current membership directory we seem to be missing a younger generation of AAUW members. I joined this branch in August 2008, making me a "new" member by longevity standards but I am no spring chicken.

To sustain our membership and continue the excellent work established and started by our renowned AAUW founders we must attract new and younger members. Our leadership cannot be continually recycled and limited to a small select group. We need new ideas, skills, and resources to meet the challenges of this decade and century. In 1979 we were solid, young vibrant women. In 2015 we are strong, experienced and tired women.

There are women in our community that believe in our mission and support our activities. Please help find, encourage and develop leadership skills in these capable women in our Five Cities Pismo Beach area. The position of an AAUW branch officer enhances one's background, knowledge and readiness for the next management level in any profession. Can you think of a better way for a woman to build her resume? We can be the stepping stone for the next governor or senator of California, Goggle or Uber Chief Executive Officer, college president or news and sports commentator, science professor or artistic director for Disney Studios. The social, team work and governance skills developed as a branch officer will only advance a woman's confidence and respect as a leader.

Each current member is requested to ask at least three women to join our cause in supporting the advancement of equity for women and girls and participate as an active branch member. It is a win win situation: we gain future leaders and leaders gain skills.

Thank you.
Jean Burns Slater

CALENDAR — February 2015

2	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
3	Scholarship Meeting	6:30 p.m.
5	Lunch Bunch	11:30 a.m.
7	Fellows Luncheon	11:30 a.m.
10	Book Sorting	1:00 p.m.
10	Night Readers	7:00 p.m.
19	Finessing Fems Bridge	12:30 p.m.
22	Art Event and Membership Celebration	2:00 p.m.
23	Great Decisions	7:00 p.m.
27	Hand and Foot Canasta	9:30 a.m.
28	Inter-Branch Council Luncheon	11:30 a.m.



Gloria Velasquez Dared Us to Speak Out for Social Justice

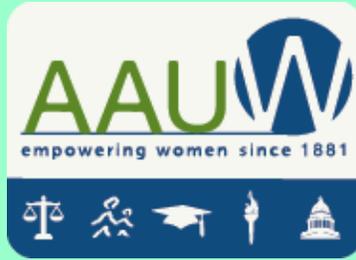
Over 70 people attended the January 19 presentation by Dr. Gloria Velasquez. With songs, stories, memories, and poetry, she challenged us to continue the struggle for what is right. In the poem, Dare to Dream, she chanted:

*Dare to dream as I have done
From the Farm worker Fields of Colorado
To Stanford University...
Dare to shout out loud
I can change the World
I believe
I believe
I believe that I have the power
To be a Voice for the Voiceless
To make Visible those who
Are deemed Invisible
To Speak Out for Social Justice
Gay rights and Human rights, ...*

Thanks to the outreach in local high schools, many students attended. After the presentation, Gloria invited them to meet with her.

As we headed to refreshments, we all joined in singing We Shall Overcome...
We Shall Live in Peace...
Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe, We Shall overcome some day.





Annual Luncheon

San Luis Obispo County AAUW Inter-Branch Council

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

Garden Room, Madonna Inn

100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Our annual Inter-branch Council luncheon offers an excellent opportunity to learn, mix and mingle with AAUW members from all over San Luis Obispo County.

Program: Violence against Women on College Campuses

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. Vegetarian option request available with reservation.

Cost: \$25 per person

Reservations: Due Friday, Feb. 13, 2014

Send a check payable to "Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW" to Jean Burns Slater, 3132 Meadowbrook Lane, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405. If a vegetarian option is desired, indicate on your check.

Questions, contact jbslater2006@gmail.com or 805-627-1845.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE by Alice Addison, Membership Vice President

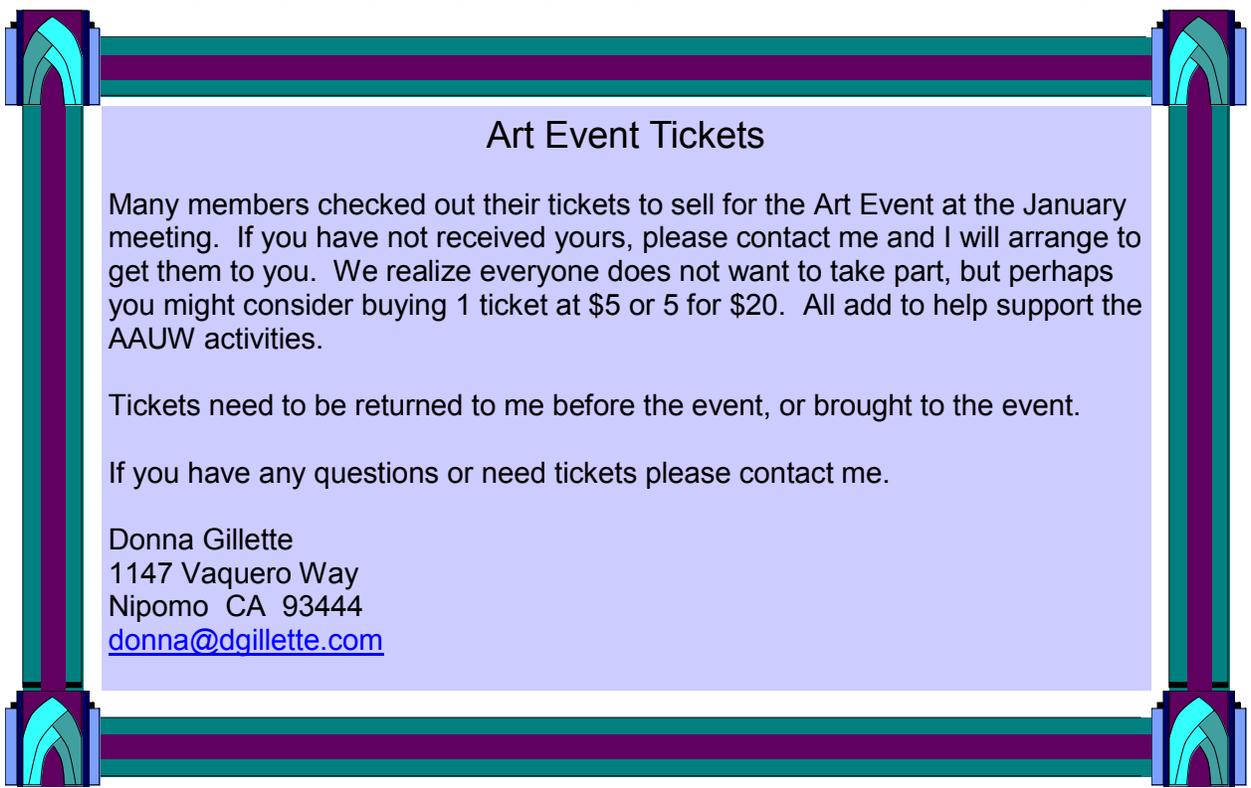
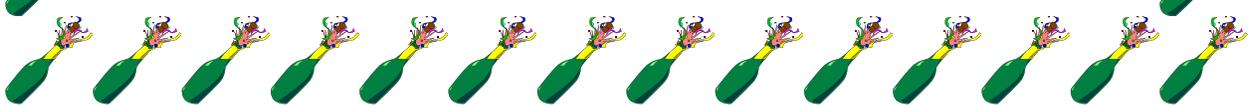
We're now at 82 members, but could have more as more than 25 guests took membership brochures at our January 19 "Dare to Dream" program meeting with Dr. Gloria Valasquez! What a fine program!



Next, we will be **celebrating** all our members at the **Art Reception** on Saturday, February 21 at Seaside Gallery, 580 Cyprus Street, Pismo Beach, from 2-4 pm. New members since our May Installation last year are being awarded a gift art raffle ticket. (See the Art Event article.)

All members will enjoy the social celebration with wine and cheese and other refreshments. Come meander, check out the beautiful and unique art, meet and mingle, take a break with your fellow AAUW members and guests. Seasoned and new members might consider pairing up for an office in our branch for next year.

See you at the Seaside Gallery on Saturday, February 21 from 2-4 pm. Guests and potential members are welcome. Your ticket may bring you the art piece you want; in the past it has been won by both members and guests!



Art Event Tickets

Many members checked out their tickets to sell for the Art Event at the January meeting. If you have not received yours, please contact me and I will arrange to get them to you. We realize everyone does not want to take part, but perhaps you might consider buying 1 ticket at \$5 or 5 for \$20. All add to help support the AAUW activities.

Tickets need to be returned to me before the event, or brought to the event.

If you have any questions or need tickets please contact me.

Donna Gillette
1147 Vaquero Way
Nipomo CA 93444
donna@dgillette.com

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.



The Book Sale is Coming! The Book Sale is Coming!

Our first book sorting date is Tuesday, February 10th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Linda Lidberg's home. Linda's garage is already filling up with boxes and boxes and more boxes of donated books. So, come one, come all. Sorting books is a great way to meet AAUW members and don't forget, if you sort, you get first crack at buying the book you have been looking for.

Linda will be gathering tables to help make sorting easier on our legs and backs. If you have a portable table that we can use from February to May, please let Linda know.

Linda Lidberg, Kathi Pettersen, Co-Chairs

P.S. Book marks are now available from Linda or Kathi so pick some up and spread the word about our sale.



AAUW SCHOLARSHIP

This month's article continues the letter from Mia McKinstry telling us about her scholastic life since receiving the AAUW scholarship. She continues:

"Now, as a senior, I am continuing research in Professor Snow's lab and am actually doing a senior thesis research project with him. I'm still highly involved in the Charles Drew Premedical Society and am now volunteering at St. Luke's Hospital in the Ambulatory Surgery Unit. In the unit, I serve as the liaison between the post-anesthesia recovery room and the waiting room where families and friends wait to hear about their loved one in surgery. I keep the families informed on the progress of the patient and bring the family in to visit when the patient is ready. I'm really enjoying the volunteer work and find it a great way to give back to the community while also learning more about a possible career in medicine.

At this point, I am very drawn to both the career path of being a researcher and the path of being a doctor. Whichever way I go though, I know that I want to go on to medical school. To help me decide which career I want to focus on, after I graduate I plan to work in another research lab for two years. I'm hoping that this work will illuminate which path I'm more drawn to. If I decide I want to focus more on research, I will apply to combined M.D.-Ph.D. programs, but if I decide I want to be more of a practicing clinician, I will apply only to M.D. programs. For now though, I'm going to keep working hard and keep enjoying my senior year!

Thank you all again so much for your scholarship award and for asking to hear how I am doing. I will always be grateful to AAUW for helping me get off to such a great start at Barnard College in New York City. I've been having a fantastic experience here and oftentimes find myself thinking that coming to Barnard is the best decision I've made in my life so far."

Included with Mia's report was a copy of a letter informing her that she has been elected to membership in the Barnard Section of the Columbia University Chapter, New York Delta of Phi Beta Kappa. She was initiated on December 9th. She does us all proud with her accomplishments.

Debbie Audet

Co-chair, Five Cities Pismo Beach Scholarship Committee



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, FEBRUARY 3RD, 6:30; Priscilla Alquist's home.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ADVERTISER!

AAUW Member Ann Marie Kurrasch is a composer, songwriter, educator, performer, and entrepreneur. Through her business, My Heartsong Music, Ann Marie writes original songs for all occasions that give wings to the great celebrations of life — community events or individual milestones — to make a special day last a lifetime.



My Heartsong Music
Ann Marie Kurrasch
Composer & Songwriter
Arroyo Grande
805.904.6406
ann.kurrasch@gmail.com
www.MyHeartsongMusic.com

techtrek!
science & math camp for girls

Information packets have gone out to local middle school science and math teachers and the Tech Trek team is now awaiting the young ladies nominated by their teachers. We will be reading the applications and scheduling interviews for March. Thanks to the Melfred Borzall company, the Zwarg family, Amelia Boyd, Jean Burns Slater, the Peltzmans, Margaret Bennet, the Five Cities Men's Club, and the Arroyo Grande Optimist Club we have received \$2,650 in donations!

If you would like to help interview the nominated students, please let either Linda Lidberg or Stacy Meko know. Interviews are set for Sunday, March 22nd.

AAUW Purchases Tribute Brick

At the January Board meeting, it was decided to purchase a \$200 Tribute Brick for the Woman's Club of Arroyo Grande. This is the last fundraiser to remodel the Woman's Club Community Center kitchen, patio and lighting, and to purchase badly needed audio visual equipment. Approximately \$48,000 has already been raised and they hope to improve on that to around \$60,000. At a future AAUW meeting, it is planned to pass the hat so that individual members can help defray this expense from our General Fund.

All members are also encouraged to purchase individual bricks towards the same purpose. Bricks can be purchased for \$100, \$200 and \$400 each. They will be placed in the patio area and be an integral part of the patio design. Replica tiles are also available for a keepsake. In addition to bearing your name and message, you can add clip art or logos from an assortment of graphics to make your brick a little more special. The Lions Club, which is sponsoring this fundraiser for the Woman's Club has already submitted their paperwork for a tax exemption for donations and should know soon if it has been approved.

Below please note the website where you can download the form which will give you the details on the Tribute Block donation and the form to complete for your individual donation, with details on how to complete your check and where it is to be mailed.



<http://womansclubofarroyogrande.org>

Hand and Foot Canasta

What's easy to learn and fun to play? Hand and foot canasta. 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.



Our next game will be February 27th at Mo Brigg'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 on February 23rd at 7:00 pm at the home of Mary Jo Aspinall, 330 Leeward, Shell Beach. The topic will be **Privacy in the Digital Age**. We will study several approaches to manage the extensive growth of data and privacy protections. Visitors are welcome.

For more information call the chairperson at 556-0193.

Mary Jo Aspinall, Chair

February Birthdays

Karen Thomas 6
Madelyn Koontz 6
Mary Lou Hart 9
Sandra Ku 12
Marilyn Corey 18



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, February 5, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

Robert's

303 Branch St.

Arroyo Grande, CA

Robert's features a fresh approach to classic American cuisine featuring tacos, sandwiches, salads, and burgers.

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 February at 5:30 p.m.

February 28th

Wendy Robinson's

cwendywalk@aol.com

781-0903



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

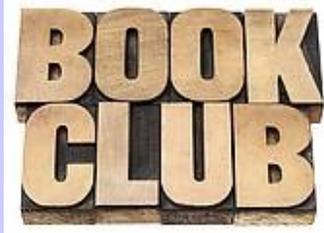
★ Please bring a bottle of your favorite beverage (alcoholic or not) to share with the group. Cost per person is \$10 paid to the hosts.

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

Your Committee Chair, Lisa Walker.



Night Readers: The next meeting of the evening Book Club will be held at the home of Joan Florence on February 10. The book for discussion is The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin, a New York writer who decided to dedicate a year of her life focusing on "things that really matter" and bring her a greater sense of happiness. The chronicles of her process should make for some interesting discussion. Looking ahead, the book choice for March is Russian Winter, by Daphne Kalotay.



Sandra Ku, chairperson

FINESSING FEMMES BRIDGE

The Finessing Femmes bridge group will be shuffling and dealing cards at the home of Jane Pittenger on FEBRUARY 19, 2015 at 12:30 pm.

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

ELVERA HORNUNG, 595-9314



AAUW Play Group

Several fun concert/theater events are on the books. "Come play" with us!



FEBRUARY 27, Friday, 7:00, SLO Little Theater

SINGING IN THE RAIN 60th anniversary. You've seen it on the big screen. Now see it on the small stage. **\$35.00 payable to AAUW Five Cities** mailed or given to Judy Zaretska by **February 16th**. There is a discount if we have 10 or more reservations.

MARCH 21, Saturday, 7:30, Cuesta College Performing Arts Center: Multi-media CONCERT "Great Works of Art"

APRIL 23, Thursday, 7:30, PCPA: MY FAIR LADY, 50th anniversary

JUNE- I have something in mind to work up.

JULY 11, Saturday, 1:30 matinee, PCPA: MAN OF LA MANCHA

Judy Zaretska, 529 Starlight Lane, Arroyo Grande, 93420, 481-7313

judyoung@hotmail.com

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