

# The Waves



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

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Newsletter Editor: [jbarnesgabriel@gmail.com](mailto:jbarnesgabriel@gmail.com)

On **September 18**, we will kick off the year with our Welcome Meeting. Since the meeting at the Dana Adobe last year was well received, we are building on the theme of getting to know our local region a little better, while enjoying an outdoor setting. This year's meeting will be held at the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting this important and unique natural area. We would love to see as many of you as possible turn out for this event and greet both new and continuing members. **A few of our members will be recognized for completing 20 continuous years of membership in the Branch.** Please see details about the event in the article below.

## President's Message

By Susan Opava

Our planning meeting last month was insightful and we will share some of our thoughts and ideas with you at the Welcome Meeting. We all agree, however, that to sustain our Branch in the long-term we will need to increase and diversify our membership. We are not alone in this task. In a recent e-mail to Board members, Donna Mertens, President of AAUW-California, wrote:

"In California, our branches have been losing members slowly over the past many years. We need to look at some of the reasons. The obvious reason that comes to mind is that many of our members are going to the great AAUW beyond. If we stop looking for reasons there, we can just throw up our hands and accept the inevitable.

If we look beyond the obvious, we become aware of all the women's organizations that are available today. We have a lot in common with many of them, but what makes us stand out? How can we draw new members if we are all the same? What does each of our branches do that makes women want to become part of us?

**In California, we lead the nation in the number of members and branches in one state.** We need to revitalize our members. Some branches are struggling just to find members to serve in leadership roles. Over the years, their leadership team may have grown to 30 or 40 members. They may need to downsize their leadership team and go back to "lean and mean", like many businesses of today. We can learn from business. If no one is interested in chairing the annual tea, then maybe we don't need to hold the annual tea anymore. Branches need to look at their priorities and decide what the most important reasons for their existence are.

In my generation, we waited until we retired to look for ways to give back to the community. Today's women are looking for ways to be part of the community and fit that in to their active working lives. Think about how we can become that organization and still support the mission of AAUW, by advancing equity for all women and girls, through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy.

I challenge you to make our California branches more vital and effective in this new year. Look for your unique qualities and "market" them."

We are a great group of women who give generously of our time and talents. Let's find more women who, like us, will recognize the important work that AAUW does at local, state and national levels and join us in supporting that mission!

Hope to see you at the **Dunes Center!**

## September General Meeting

### Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>

Our first meeting for the 2016-2017 year will be our traditional “welcome” meeting. This year we are fortunate to be able to hold the meeting at the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center. The Center’s mission is “*to promote the conservation and restoration of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes ecosystem through education, research, and the support of cooperative stewardship*”. In addition to socializing with friends and catching up after several months away from our AAUW activities, we will have the opportunity to view the Center’s exhibits and learn from a docent about efforts to preserve the dunes and educate the public about this key part of the Central Coast’s natural environment. We’ll also brief members on plans for the upcoming year and offer opportunities to sign up for interest groups and/or volunteer to assist with our many planned activities.

Seating will be outdoors, so dress in layers for the unpredictable weather near the coast and remember sun protection. Light food and refreshments will be served. Keep an eye out for an email asking for volunteers to bring food and drinks and help with set-up and clean-up.

Meeting details are as follows:

#### [Welcome to new and current members](#)

**Date:** Sunday, September 18

**Time:** 3-5 PM

**Place:** Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center  
1065 Guadalupe Street\*  
Guadalupe, CA

\*Guadalupe Street is HWY 1 as it passes through the town. The nearest cross street is 11th.

There is ample parking behind the Guadalupe Cultural Arts and Education Center, next door to the Dunes Center, with direct access to the Dunes Center’s patio area. More information about the Dunes Center can be found at <http://dunescenter.org/>

Carpooling is encouraged. If anyone needs assistance in finding a ride, please contact Mary Matakovich.

Finally please RSVP to Mary Matakovich if you plan to attend. We need to provide an estimate of the number of attendees to Dunes Center staff as soon as possible



## Membership

We are now at 72 members and have 5 new members. The new members are: **Mary Lee Weeks, Carole Dempsey, Nancy Sperling, Kely Blackburn, and Lorna Glenn.**

Our first meeting of the year will be **Sunday, September 18 at Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center on 1065 Guadalupe St., off of Highway 1, from 3-5pm.** If anyone would be interested in providing transportation to one of our new members, please contact me. Also please consider mentoring someone to make them feel welcome and to provide them with information about our association.

Susan Brazil  
474-5682 or [susanbrazil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanbrazil@sbcglobal.net)

### LUNCH BUNCH

We will meet at **Cracked Crab** on **September 1** at 11:30. No reservations are accepted and they open at 11:00. So whoever gets there first please reserve a table for 12 at least. See you then.

Susan Brazil  
474-5682 or [susanbrazil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanbrazil@sbcglobal.net)

## Get Ready for Bingo!!



The Bingo Committee is working hard at getting everything ready for our November 14th date at St. John's Church. But we need help!! We need a person willing to chair the Ticket committee. This person keeps track of the tickets given to each member to sell as well as keeps account of how many we sell.

Last year we had 143 participating Bingo players, and this year we'd like more. So if you think you can do this job, please contact Kathy Cohon or Pam Zirion. We'd love to have you!

We also need strong people (men and youths) to help us set up and clean up. If you know of someone who can help on the 14th, we'd love to have them.

There are other committees as well as Tickets: Publicity; Silent Auction; Set Up; Clean Up (all members are asked to help with this); Kitchen; Raffle Baskets; Game Supplies; Caller; Silent Auction; Raffle; Permits. There will be a sign up for each committee at our Welcome Back event on September 18th. So plan to bring a pen and your "volunteer hat" to help us raise lots of money for our scholarship funds!!

If you wish to join us, Kathy and Pam will be visiting St. John's to map out the layout of Bingo night on September 6th at 9:30 AM.

Soon you will be getting an email blast from Joan Florence with a list of possible Silent Auction items that need to be solicited. EVERYONE needs to ask businesses or get items donated so that it will be a profitable evening. Included in that email will be a revised letter of introduction and request for donations which can be mailed to businesses or hand carried when you ask in person. A receipt will also be attached.

Thank you in advance for your help. We all need to participate in any way we can to make this Bingo Night successful. Last year we raised \$6,469, and this year we know we can make more with everyone's help!

Kathy Cohon 594-1249

Pam Zirion 543-5403



## Working the Polls – November 8, 2016

Hello all you Wonderful Women,  
AGAIN -- Let's meet the AAUW goal of Community Involvement and earn money for our projects, \$1100-\$1200 (2 X \$550 –\$600). Yaa-hoo!

Right now we know:

~~ We will work at 2 precincts in one location for the November 8, Presidential Election.

~~ The 4-hour work hours are set, and you can reserve your work time by emailing me or by signing the pink work sheet at the Sunday, September 18 Welcome Meeting.

~~ At each precinct we must provide 2 full-day workers and 4 other workers per shift.

Please check your calendar, let me know that you will be one of the all-day workers, or what part of the day you want to work, and I'll fill the schedule.

~~ All are invited to a Training session in the week or two before the Election.

We earn \$20 per person, up to \$100 per precinct for each attendee. Yes, even experienced workers can attend. Yes, please, (5 + 5) **10 members should plan to attend the training, even if you've worked before...**and especially because *they are paying us.*

### Times are:

<b>Full-day Inspector</b>	<b>6 AM – 9:30 PM</b>
<b>Half-day Inspector</b>	<i>AM shift 6:00-2:30</i> <i>PM shift 2:00-9:30</i>
<b>4 hour shifts</b>	<b>6:30AM – 10:30AM</b> <b>10:15 AM– 2:15PM</b> <b>2:00PM – 6:00PM</b> <b>5:45PM – 9:30PM</b>

*I know we can take care of 2 precincts because we're good. Does earning money for our causes and doing a patriotic duty make you feel good? It should! Let's do this! Contact me. Thanks.*

Cheers,

Kathy Cohon



## NIGHT READERS

The evening book club will meet at 7pm on Tuesday September 13 at the home of Sue Singer for a discussion of "The Wright Brothers" by David McCullough. The evening book club is currently full to capacity.

Sandra Ku, chairperson

## DAYTIME PAGE TURNERS

**Daytime Page Turners Strike Again** with the September book choice of The Goddess Pose: The Audacious Life of Indra Devi. This nonfiction book traces the life story of Indra Devi, who was instrumental in bringing yoga to the West, while highlighting important historical events of the last century. Who would have thought that the background of yoga would be so interesting?

The Daytime Book Group is composed of readers who meet the first Friday of each month at members' homes. It is a brown bag lunch meeting with dessert and beverages supplied by the current hostess. Books to be read throughout the year are selected at an annual December meeting, based on suggestions of all members. At least one classic is selected and fiction and nonfiction choices are encouraged. Samples of future book choices are: A little life by Hanya Yanagihara, My Life on the Road by Gloria Steinem and A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry.

New members are welcome. Please contact Jean Burns Slater for the location and book selection for the next month.

## HAND AND FOOT CANASTA

Our next meeting will be held at Linda Lidberg's home at **9:30 on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Bring a sack lunch and \$3 and prepare to enjoy. Linda will provide drinks and dessert. If you would like to come and watch to see if you might be interested in joining this group, just let Linda know you are going to be there. The game is easy to learn and highly dependent on the luck of the cards, which leaves time for talking and laughing. Just ask my husband! -- Debbie Audet

## COOKING TOGETHER

There will be **NO** meeting in September.

How it Works:

- **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.

Lisa Walker, Committee Chair  
Questions? Phone 473-0075 or  
e-mail [lwalker@vtc-sm.org](mailto:lwalker@vtc-sm.org)

## GREAT DECISIONS

**Democracy is not inherited but taught and learned anew by every generation.**

Our Great Decisions group meets monthly on the fourth Monday of each month in a private home, beginning at 7 p.m.

**Next Topic:** Climate geopolitics : How the world reacts to climate change, global warming and the politics behind international agreements.

**Where:** Mary Jo Aspinall's home with a breathtaking ocean view

**When:** Fourth Monday of the month: **September 26, at 7 p.m.**

**What:** A video produced by the Foreign Policy Association is followed by a thoughtful discussion of the topic by members, based on the accompanying article on the topic. New members are always welcomed.

**Contact** Mary Jo Aspinall for details and to order the readings for the 2017 year.

## FINESSING FEMMES BRIDGE

Playing at the home of Marilyn Corey at 12:30 on Thursday, September 15. We have an opening for an experienced player and we are always looking for subs. If interested, call Marilyn at 473-1928.



## Letters from our 2016 TECH TREKkers ~ Siona Patel ~

Dear Five Cities-Pismo Beach Branch,

Thank you for this exciting opportunity to attend Tech Trek. I really enjoyed making new friends and learning more about science and math.

One of my favorite things that I have done is going on a mind blowing boat trip. We got to see a humpback whale and numerous dolphins. It was amazing! Another thing that we have done is an activity called The Amazing Race. The Amazing Race is basically a scavenger hunt that has clues that you have to solve and find around the campus. This really allowed us to get to know other Tech Trek girls attending the camp. We also had to go to core class every day where we either learned about engineering, math, marine biology, or coding. I was put in math. Our teacher for math was Mrs. Grace. She is really funny and I enjoyed the way she teaches.

Overall, I want to say thank you for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never forget.

With thanks,

Siona Patel



*Our Scholarship Committee's been up to something lately...*



*Claire Gordon*

# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Lunch Bunch 11:30am <b>Cracked Crab</b> Pismo Beach	<b>2</b>  Daytime Book Group	
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  LABOR DAY	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Sewing Group 12:30pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <i>Flight Lessons</i> 7pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Sewing 12:30pm <b>BRIDGE</b>	<b>16</b>  Hand & Foot <b>Canasta</b> 9:30am	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> WelcomeBack Meeting & Tour of the <b>DUNES CENTER</b> 3-5pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Sewing Group 12:30pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Great Decisions 7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Sewing Group 12:30pm	<b>30</b>	

### August 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Notes:

#### THURSDAY SEWING GROUP HOSTESSES

- 9/8 Susan Gray
- 9/15 Karen Thomas
- 9/22 Priscilla Alquist  
[Nipomo Guild Meeting]
- 9/29 Elin McCall

### October 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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