

**Presidents' New Year Message:** Co-Presidents Marilyn Corey and Jean Burns Slater

**Drought Effect in Educating Girls**

As an active AAUW member we are constantly concerned about girls in developing countries and their opportunity to participate in their education. Fortunately we are not the only organization concerned with the education of girls and women. "The failure to educate girls limits economic growth in the developing world by wasting human capital. As a result, the United Nations set itself the target of eliminating gender disparity in education at all levels by 2015, as one of its Millennium Development Goals" (When Education Dries Up, The Economist, November 2, 2013).

Where does this leave us? How can we help with the education of girls in developing countries? One method is to channel more money into the educational opportunities for girls, but these funds must be directed to the specific needs of a community. Recent research suggests that initiatives which simply fund educational opportunities for girls may just not be enough to end inequality in education.

Martina Bjorkman-Nyqvist, in her new research paper titled "Income shocks and gender gaps in education: Evidence from Uganda", compares 24 years of attendance rolls from primary schools in rural Uganda to rainfall records. "She finds that girls' attendance decreases much more than boys during droughts. This pattern became more pronounced after Uganda abolished fees at state schools in 1997. A reduction in rainfall of just 15% causes a drop of five percentage points in attendance by girls in the seventh grade (aged about 12-13), but has no significant impact on boys. This pattern feeds through to test scores. Girls who stayed away from school during droughts did much worse on exams at the end of primary school than boys." (When Education Dries Up, The Economist, November 2, 2013). Once the girls do poorly on end of primary school tests their chances of going on to more advanced learning are limited.

(Continued on Page 2)

## CALENDAR — February 2014

1	Book Sorting	10:00 am
3	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
6	Lunch Bunch	11:30 am
11	Night Readers	7:00 pm
18	Book Sorting	1:00 pm
20	Finessing Fems Bridge	12:30 pm
21	Bahia Orchestra Project	8:00 pm
22	IBC Fellows Luncheon	11:30 am
25	Great Decisions	7:00 pm



**Save the Date: March 2,  
2014 for New Member and  
Prospective Member Tea**

(Continued from Page 1)

Why is this? Uganda is an agricultural based economy and income drops abruptly when a poor harvest results from lack of rainfall. Girls are put to work at home to support the family's income. Boys remain in school since education produces greater reward for them in the job market. Ms. Bjorjman-Nyqvist concludes that agencies should focus on measures to boost household income when times are tough, and not just provide educational opportunities, which some girls cannot utilize due to family responsibility.

As we know, reducing sexual inequality has numerous benefits for the society and the global economy as well. "According to Britain's Department for International Development, an increase of 1% in the number of girls with secondary schooling boosts growth in annual income per head by .03%. Girls' education improves health, too. About half the reduction in child mortality over the past 40 years in Ghana can be attributed to improvements in female education. 'If you teach a boy, you educate an individual, but if you teach a girl you educate a whole nation' African proverb" When Education Dries Up, The Economist, November 2, 2013).

What to do? In your charitable giving, investigate how your donation is to be used and if the funded program is geared toward the specific needs of community. It may not be "good enough" to randomly donate to educational programs for girls without investigating the actual impact. For instance, a water project with children riding a merry-go-round that also serves as a water pump for a local well can help keep girls in school, eliminating the need to walk two miles each way to a community well. For your reference, a method to check on specific charities and their impact is through [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org).

# AAUW Central Coast Fellows Luncheon



Please join the AAUW InterBranch Council  
Saturday, February 22, 2014, 11:30am-2:00pm  
Garden Room, Madonna Inn

100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

## Guest Speakers:



**Lindsey Higgins**, American Fellowship recipient

Cal Poly SLO Agribusiness Department

**Farnaz Daneshpour**, International Fellowship recipient from Iran

Cal Poly SLO Agribusiness Department

**Allyson Toscher**, Career Development Grant recipient for Nursing

CSU Channel Islands

**Sharon Westafer**, AAUW CA Director, AAUW Funds

Menu: Santa Maria style buffet lunch (Tri Tip, BBQ chicken, garlic bread, chili beans, green salad, potato salad) with dessert and beverage included. Vegetarian option available. (Grilled Portabella "Steak" layered with heirloom tomatoes, gorgonzola cheese, seasonal vegetables and a balsamic reduction drizzle)

Cost: \$25 per person

Reservations: **Due Friday, Feb. 7, 2014**

Send a check payable to Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW to Jean Burns Slater, 3132 Meadowbrook Lane, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405. If vegetarian option is desired, indicate on your check. Questions, contact [jbslater2006@gmail.com](mailto:jbslater2006@gmail.com) or

805-627-1845.



### MORE FEEDBACK FROM CAMPERS

During their week at UCSB, Tech Trek girls are given projects to work on as a team, such as the geodesic dome Katrina Snyder mentioned in the last newsletter. Katrina's dome collapsed, but Alison Poorman (Judkins Middle School) tells us her group could fit 10 girls under their dome. Another project is to come up with a use for a decommissioned oil rig, Platform Holly, which the girls visit on their trip on a marine research vessel. Jenna Zoblisien (Paulding Middle School) writes "...My team turned it into a room you can rent, like for weddings, 4<sup>th</sup> of July parties and stuff like that. We will pay the boat like 10-20% of our profits." Erika Egg (Judkins Middle School) says her team "decided to turn it into a prison."

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### Night Readers

The next meeting of the evening Book Club will be held on February 11 at the home of Pat Muhlethaler for a discussion of Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys. This non-fiction work by journalist Jeanne Marie Laskas is a series of stories about people she researched and spent long periods of time with who make our lives run every day, and yet we barely think of them or know what they go through in their jobs. Examples are workers on the Alaskan pipeline, long distance truck drivers, professional football cheerleaders, coal miners, or air traffic controllers. The profiles are not only enlightening and poignant but often humorous as well. Looking ahead, the March book selection is The Silver Star by Jeannette Walls. The Book Club is currently filled to capacity. -- Sandra Ku, chairperson





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## 2014 Book Sale Is Ready to Go!

Thanks to the Book Sale Committee members who contributed their great ideas on Monday, Jan.13, we now have a confirmed location for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Sale: Arroyo Grande K-Mart Parking Lot. We have the date and times: **Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 9am-3pm**. We have set prices similar to previous years. We have the tables arranged through the Orcutt Mineral Society, the pickup by Goodwill at the end, and helpers from the Scouts are being arranged. So mark your calendars and sign up with Linda Lidberg to work one of the three shifts on the big sale date.

We have ten book sortings taking place at Judy Gabriel's garage on various Saturdays from 10am-noon and on various weekdays from 1-3pm, as follows:

Saturday, February 1

Tuesday, February 18

Thursday, March 6

Saturday, March 22

Saturday, April 5

Thursday, April 10

Tuesday, April 22

Saturday, May 3

Tuesday, May 6

Wednesday, May 14



On Friday, May 16 we need lots of cars and trucks to pick up all boxed books from noon-5pm to bring to the sale location the next day. And, of course, on Saturday, May 17 we work the sale.

So, mark your calendars now if you can help with the sortings and pickups. We have the sortings set up with some folks presorting at tables while others place books in low-cut boxes by various genre categories. We could use anyone strong enough to lift and carry, but there are jobs not requiring that.

Publicity will start soon and we will ask members to distribute book marks and flyers advertising our need for good used books. Start collecting bags, boxes, and good used books of all genres, but we do not take encyclopedias, textbooks nor magazines. We can sell movies and music in various formats in good condition, but do not take home-recorded media, please. Bring books, bags, and boxes to Judy Gabriel's garage on Saturday, Feb. 1 or on any other sorting date at the times listed above when we are at Judy's garage sorting. Watch your email for reminders and updates.

This is truly one of the fun working events of our branch. Entire families get involved, and members discover reading interests, and get to know each other in the two hour sortings and during the Big Book Sale on May 17.

Alice Addison and Judy Gabriel, 2014 Book Sale Co-Chairs

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## OUR BRANCH JUST KEEPS ON GROWING

Welcome to new member **KATHLEEN DAUTREMONT** and returning member **MARY MORGAN** both of whom joined AAUW Five Cities at our January branch meeting. Get acquainted with these two new members soon.

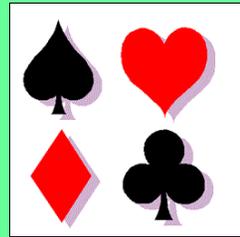
(See page 10 for more information.)



## FINESSING FEMS BRIDGE

This month Finessing Femmes bridge group will meet at the home of Pat Muelthaler on February 20, 2014. Pat will call to make sure you are available for that date.

March bridge will be in the home of Mary Jo Aspinall on March 20, 2014.



## Cooking Together

Cooking Together will not meet in February.

## Hand and Foot Canasta

Our next meeting will be at Linda Lidberg's home on Friday, February 28th, at 9:30 a.m. Bring a lunch; drinks and dessert will be provided. 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 your list of substitute players has gone missing. We donate \$3.00 and give first and second prizes for high scores.





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Thank you notes from our Tech Trek campers give a glimpse of life during their week-long experience. From UCSB last summer, Katrina Snyder (Mesa Middle School) wrote: ***“One of my favorite things at camp was***

***building a geodesic dome from newspaper and tape. Even though ours collapsed, we learned enough in the process so that if we tried again, we could succeed. Another important experience was the chance to go to the nanotechnology lab. My physics core class was able to see scientists working at their real-life jobs.”***

Tech Trek is still seeking committee members. Please contact Liz Wineman (805) 925-0304 or wino90@msn.com.

## Contributing to Future Scholarships

Our Five Cities-Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Committee now has scholarship applications available at both Arroyo Grande High School and Nipomo High School. Branch members continue to be generous in their efforts to fund these annual scholarships. A percentage of fund-raising proceeds from last year and member contributions provide the revenue source for our current local scholarships.

We now need to concentrate our efforts to aggressively contribute to our scholarship endowment fund. When fully funded at \$100K, the endowment fund will begin to generate our scholarships from its annual interest revenue. Then we will no longer be dependent on members' contributions and fund-raising efforts to provide our annual scholarships. We have developed an investment policy for the endowment fund that provides for prudent investment of our contributions.

If you would like to contribute to the endowment fund, please note that on your check made out to the Five Cities-Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Committee. You can mail your check to: P.O. Box 1604, Pismo Beach, CA 93448 in care of the AAUW Scholarship Committee. Of course, you may also choose to designate donations for local scholarships or “use as needed.” All contributions are tax-deductible.

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In March we celebrate **Women in History** month at Lucia Mar schools, and for 23 years it has been a tradition for AAUW Five Cities Branch to celebrate with "Women in Herstory" begun by Winona Green, a life member.



But, we need your help. We need you to volunteer to portray a famous woman.

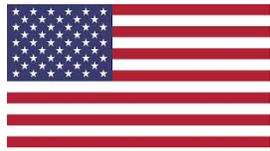


- ★ Discover her past.
- ★ Tell about her accomplishments.
- ★ Show why she is a woman to be remembered.

We have scripts from past presentations and can pull together a costume for you. Don't rely on the "other" AAUW member to do this. We all need to be the one to champion and share remarkable women and their accomplishments.



Please call Pam Zirion or Kathy Cohon and tell us whom you have decided to celebrate.



### GREAT DECISIONS



The Great Decisions group will meet on **Monday, February 25, 2014 at 7:00 PM** at Mary Jo Aspinall's home (330 Leeward, Shell Beach). The topic of discussion will be Israel and the U.S. We will watch a DVD on the subject and then discuss the areas of concern. **We have room for a few more in our group.** Visitors or members with questions may call Chairwoman, Mary Jo Aspinall, at (805) 556-0193.



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### Annual New Member and Prospective Member Tea

Every member is cordially invited to an afternoon tea on  
**Sunday, March 2, at 2:00-4:00,**

in the home of Lisa Walker, 520 Cameo Way, Arroyo  
Grande, a very lovely setting in which to get-acquainted

with new and prospective members

This is an opportunity for the new members to ask questions and meet the  
chairpersons of our various activity and interest sections and philanthropies that  
may interest them.

Tea savories and sweets will be provided by our committee leaders.  
New members will be our guests.

RSVP to Gaye Peltzman 474-8977 or Judy Zaretska 481-7313

### THEATER EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 21, 8:00 pm,**

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### Save these PCPA dates:

**June 19, 2014:** Evening performance of "Forever  
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**July 16, 2014:** Matinee performance of "Oklahoma"



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**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

