



The Waves

Volume 37, No. 4

Five Cities – Pismo Beach (CA) Newsletter

December 2015

Newsletter Editor: jbarnesgabriel@gmail.com

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

Presidents' Message of Collaboration and Camaraderie

As we approach the end of the 2015 year, we are offered a perfect time to reflect on our efforts in fulfilling our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Let's take a look at our recent history and future plans.

- **September** found us deep in the local history of early men and women settlers and their efforts to homestead, educate and farm in our county within the setting of the Dana Adobe.
- **October** found our local AAUW members recognizing girls in Destination Imagination and AVID. Students and teachers spoke to us about increased opportunities to improve student creativity and learning for college ready attitudes. Also local AAUW members meet with Dr. Raylee Daley, Superintendent of Lucia Mar Unified School District, to speak about Title IX, the federal law that ensures that all students, regardless of sex, have an equal educational opportunity, from sports to science, from technology to trigonometry.
- **November** found hundreds of community members supporting our local mission projects of college scholarships, Tech Trek, reading in elementary schools, AAUW Funds, through silent auction donations, bingo play, auction bidding and chance taking on elegant gift baskets.
- **December** finds us joining San Luis Obispo AAUW Branch members for a holiday brunch and an opportunity to enjoy music from local students and community members and assemble toiletries for the Community Action Partnership, providing basic necessities for women in need.
- In **January** we move to the creative side of advancing women and girls, learning about music and its essential spark for imagination and a healthy spirit.
- In **February** you will find opportunities to join a Voters' Task Force, through the Atascadero AAUW Branch, with the goals of registering citizens to vote and getting out the vote for the 2016 elections. February also brings a county wide AAUW luncheon with guest speakers from various AAUW Fellowships, funded by AAUW Funds, speaking about their research projects at the Madonna Inn, February 27, 11:00-2:00. Save the date.
- **March** marches us into Women in History month with our local members portraying women for local elementary schools, who have changed history through their personal efforts of advocacy, education, philanthropy, research and leadership.
- **April** brings a 24th Congressional District candidates' forum, sponsored by Atascadero AAUW, providing an opportunity to learn about candidates for the local election to replace long time representative Lois Capps. Local high school girls and Tech Trek middle school students are also recognized and awarded scholarships at our local meeting.
- **May** provides us an opportunity to honor our women leaders in past officer recognition and future Board member installation into offices.

These are just a few of local and county AAUW activities that foster our mission, putting us in the forefront of advancing women and girls. Is it enough? Probably not, but we certainly are making an important local impact on education, social justice, political advocacy, research, and philanthropy. Thank you.

Co-Presidents:

Kathy Cohon

Jean Burns Slater



Scholarship Committee

Our eleven member scholarship committee is hard at work coordinating duties in order to award scholarships to our deserving senior girls in May, 2016. We can't provide these scholarships without the generosity of our members.

You may want to consider a donation to our Five Cities-Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Fund. We are a 501(C)(3) corporation so your gift is TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!! Mail your tax-deductible check to P.O. Box 1604, Pismo Beach 93448-1604. Also, donation forms are available at: <http://fivocitiespismo-beach-ca.aauw.net/scholarship> or contact our CFO Judy Zaretzka.

Members may also designate Five Cities-Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship as beneficiary on any of your estate plans: trusts, pension funds, bank accounts, insurance policies, or RMD annual distribution.

November Scholarship Donations: Carol Nielson - Avid

SHOP ON  to benefit our local
Five Cities-Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Committee
(.5% of your purchase)

We found a wonderful new program for fundraising that is easy! Since it is only available to 501C3 nonprofits, our Branch gave its blessing for the Scholarship Committee to set it up as a fundraiser for our Scholarship Endowment fund. I would like to encourage members to pass the information on to friends and relatives who shop Amazon. It only takes a few minutes to sign into AmazonSmiles and find our organization. Then all future purchases get credited at 0.5% of the total sales, which will be deposited directly to our Endowment fund!

1. **Go to:** AmazonSmile.com
2. **Sign in:** Use your Amazon user name and password or create one.
3. **After signing in:** Click on word "Supporting..." below Amazon search box. A pop up box will allow you to change the charity that Amazon is recommending on the screen.
4. **Type:** "Pismo Beach"-- then wait for choices.
5. **Scroll down to:** "Scholarship Committee of the American Assoc of Univ Women" Location: Pismo Beach
6. Once you have chosen the Scholarship Committee it will automatically be chosen as your Amazon Smile donation organization each time you shop.
7. NOW YOU ARE READY TO SHOP. Always log into **Amazon Smile** instead of Amazon.com

Questions: email kcpettersen@msn.com

Membership Vice President's Update

Membership stands at 75 with hopes that people attending our bingo may be interested in joining. Remind potential members that if they join after January 1st dues are \$55 for membership until June 30, 1916.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

– Susan Brazil, Membership VP

ATTRACTING DIVERSE MEMBERS

AAUW recommends a variety of strategies to attract a diverse group of branch members. Each active member influences potential new members on a daily basis. Branch programs and fund-raising activities should focus attention on our mission and attract new members.

The following program attributes should be part of our vision for success and diversity, as outlined by AAUW:

- The program was related to the mission.
- The program was well attended.
- Attendees included people with identities currently underrepresented in your branch.
- New people came and left wanting to join AAUW.
- Event attendees were engaged and not bored.
- Attendees got to interact with each other.
- Attendees got to share their unique perspectives and listen to others.
- Attendees learned something new.
- Many branch members worked together to make the event happen.
- The branch successfully collaborated with another community group.
- Presenters represented diverse identities and viewpoints.
- The program was executed smoothly and without major hiccups.

Consider our monthly programs, Bingo night, Awards night, and Book sale. For example the October program highlighting the Destination Imagination and AVID programs at Arroyo Grande High School shared the attributes listed above. Members left that meeting with a better understanding of the special challenges and strength the young people possess.

A variety of members and programs = A diverse and vital Pismo Beach-5 Cities AAUW Branch. Get involved in branch activities – and bring along a friend.

Judy Leonard, Diversity/Community Representative



**PUBIC POLICY
ALERT**

The U.S. Senate is considering the Workplace Advancement Act (S. 2200), a **well-meaning but wholly inadequate equal pay bill** not addressing the longstanding discriminatory practices that contribute to the gender wage gap. The Workplace Advancement Act is a bill that fails to close any of the loopholes in our existing equal pay laws.

Please [Contact your Senators to urge them to oppose the Workplace Advancement Act \(S. 2200\) and vote no on cloture when the bill comes to a vote.](#)

B-I-N-G-O!!!



A great big THANK YOU to all who participated in this year's Bingo Event. We managed to bring in just over \$6,500 gross with this event!

I would especially like to acknowledge Pam Zirion, Kathy Cohon, and Priscilla Alquist for organizing the Silent Auction which brought in almost \$3K; Patti Melsheimer, Ann Marie Karresh and all those who sold and/or bought just over \$2k in tickets; ALL of the members of the Interest Groups for making those stupendous baskets, and Debbie Audet and Judy Zaretska selling \$1k in raffle ticket; Maureen Kelly, Carol Rowe and all the creative donors for coming in at the 11th hour and taking on the Artisans' Table which added another \$400+; and Mary Matakovich for handling the sales of the extra bingo cards to the tune of over \$100 in an hour.

Kudos to kitchen crew Karen Thomas, Wendy Robinson, Elin McCall, Roseann Steiner, and everyone who brought refreshments. This year's array was tremendous.

We could not have done the evening without Linda Lidberg as caller with Karen Thomas and Priscilla Alquist assisting.

Last, but certainly not least, we could not have had the event without all of you came to set up or stayed to clean up. Wow, there were a lot of you, both members and supportive spouses. Liz Wineman and Carol Neilson were there to the bitter end. The representative from the church was most impressed by our thoroughness. This was truly a team effort by nearly the entire branch and we should all be proud of the results.

Susan Gray

December Holiday Brunch	*	December 5, 2015	*	10:30 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church	*	Marsh and Morro	*	San Luis Obispo



The program includes:

10:30 am	Fellowship with Five Cities-Pismo Beach & San Luis Obispo Branch members
11:00 am	Buffet Brunch
11:45 am	Musical performance: Bell Ringers and others to be announced
12:10 pm	Assembling of toiletries for San Luis Obispo Community Action Partnership: Please bring small containers of toiletries (such as hotel samples), wash cloths, tissues, make up, note pads, pens, pencils and small calendars for assembling, separated by product use

Brunch Cost: \$15 **Menu:** Dickey's Barbecue: Assorted bbq meats, coleslaw, beans, rolls, relish, dessert

Harmonious January Program

The program for our January 18 meeting will warm our hearts. Composer Ann Marie Kurrasch will share how **Music Keeps Your Creative Spark Alive**.

As a commissioned and published composer, Ann Marie has written for diverse instruments and vocal ensembles. She was commissioned to write the Centennial song for the city of Arroyo Grande. Some of her other accomplishments include a book of piano solos and six CDs.

We will learn of Ann Marie's composition process, mainly from listening to her music. She believes that music speaks louder than words and will share how she believes music is important at all stages of life as a creative outlet.

Remember that this year our meetings begin at 6:30 at the Women's Club with time for greeting one another, sign-ups, and refreshments. The program will start at 7:00. Ann Marie will have CDs available for purchase.

Abby Adams, Program Co-VP

AAUW Thursday Sewing Group Hostesses

We meet at 12:30 PM (unless announced otherwise)



12/10	Holiday Lunch Salad Bar Karen's house @ 11:30 am
1/14	Gaye Peltzman
1/21	Wendy Robinson
1/28	Elin McCall



Please bring a salad to share. I will be making a pot of Splash Café clam chowder soup and I will have a dessert. Also bring 2 fat quarters....we will be having game time.

RSVP: Karen Thomas "See you on December 10th!"

Daytime Books

Our December meeting will be held at Debbie Audet's home on December 4 at 11:30 a.m. We will be reading **"The Invention of Wings"** by a favorite author, Sue Monk Kidd. This tells the story of two unforgettable American women and their contrasting yet intertwined lives. Bring your brown bag lunch and be ready to discuss all the ramifications about the South in the days of slavery and how it relates to today's circumstances.

We will also be discussing what books to read for 2016. Bring your suggestions and ideas.

For more information contact Patti Melsheimer.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet at the **Santa Maria Inn** on December 3rd at 11:30. This has become a tradition for the group and Christmas decorations puts us in a holiday mood. Hope to see you there but please call in reservations to Susan Brazil by December 1st. 474-5682 or susanbrazil@sbcglobal.net



FINESSING FEMMES BRIDGE

Third Thursday, December 17th, 12:30 pm at Jane Pittenger's home. We have no openings for new members but are always looking for subs. Interested? Call Marilyn Corey

Night Readers

The charming novel "Small Blessings" by Martha Woodrooff will be the topic of discussion at the next Book Club meeting on December 8, to be held at the home of Susie Wedell. The story concerns a lonely college professor who unexpectedly learns he has a son from a past relationship. His life is about to change whether he's ready or not. At this holiday meeting of the club, members are reminded that the traditional "book exchange" will take place. Please notify the host if you are unable to attend.

Great Decisions 2016

There will be no meeting of the Great Decisions group in December. At our January 18 meeting, look for Mary Jo Aspinall, who will have your new 2016 Great Decisions booklet if you ordered one.

We will be meeting next on Monday, January 25 at Mary Jo's house at 7 PM to discuss the first article of our new booklet, Middle East Alliances. Happy Holidays to all!



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.

This month ONLY it will be on Fri. 12/18 at Debbie Audet's home; call her at 550-8910 if you would like to join the group or would like to be on our list of substitute players.



AAUW Theater Events for 2016 **COME *PLAY* WITH US!**



If paying for more than one play, be sure to indicate the number of tickets for each event. All checks should be written to AAUW FIVE CITIES-PISMO BEACH and mailed to me:

Judy Zaretska, 529 Starlight Ln, Arroyo Grande 93420-4157 judyyoung@hotmail.com

Jan. 9 8 PM Mark Twain Tonight CalPoly PAC \$46.00 deadline Jan. 3

or phone PAC box office 805-756-4849 for other ticket prices and reservations

Now Hal Holbrook is at the age where he really "is" Mark Twain!

I have seen Hal Holbrook's Mark Twain at least twice, maybe three times.

This truly should be on every literate American's bucket list.

Jan. 29 7 PM Little Women SLO Little Theater \$22.00 deadline Jan. 10

performed by the youth theater actors

This is another must see for literate women. Plus, let's encourage these expressive young students.

A Thousand Thank Yous!

Our Silent Auction was a **huge** success thanks to the many women who:

- 1) Donated items
- 2) Solicited items from local businesses
- 3) Wrapped items for 5 hours at Karen Thomas' home (some women are very clever at this)
- 4) Set up tables and displayed auction items
- 5) Sorted bid sheets and tallied amounts
- 6) Took money and marked the tally sheets "Paid"
- 7) Took those "Paid" sheets and gave the auction items to the correct purchaser

A special Thank You to Priscilla Alquist for organizing and displaying the Gift Certificates in a beautiful way.

All of it was well done! Thank you so very much for helping us raise \$2915 on the Auction alone!
Pam Zirion, Programs CoVP

A big
SHOUT-OUT
to our Sponsors:

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December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Santa Maria Inn Lunch Bunch 11:30 AM	4  Daytime Books 11:30 AM	5 1st Presbyterian Church, SLO Holiday Brunch 10:30am
6	7	8  Night Readers 7:00 PM	9	10 Sewing Group  Holiday Lunch 11:30am	11	12
13	14	15	16	17  Finessing Femmes Bridge 12:30pm	18  Canasta 9:30am	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 	26
27	27	28	29	30 	31	



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Nancy Kington 2	Abby Adams 12	Elin McCall 22	Dee Carlson 30
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