

The Waves



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Newsletter Editor: jbarnesgabriel@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!

As 2017 draws to a close, I hope that we can all look back on the past year and feel that we have done something to make the world a better place in whatever way we could. Often it is the smallest gesture that has the greatest impact on the recipient. Certainly, through our fund-raising activities, we continue to make a difference in the lives of families in our local community. In addition, our dues help AAUW, at both the State and National levels, to pursue initiatives that are beyond the ability of a single branch to undertake, but from which we all benefit. I know that, in addition to their participation in our Branch, many of our members are active in other ways that have positive impacts on those around them, and I am grateful to be a part of this inspirational group of women.

As you have probably seen in an email message from our Treasurer, Linda Lidberg, our Bingo event was quite successful. We are grateful to all the members who contributed to that success in ways big and small. Special thanks go to Kathy Cohon and Pam Zirion, who led the effort.

This month we will have our first Holiday Social, in lieu of a joint luncheon with the San Luis Obispo Branch. Very few of our members have participated in the latter in recent years and the Board proposed the Holiday Social instead, as another opportunity during the year for our members to come together socially and build the relationships that foster a shared vision and broader involvement in Branch activities. The social will be a potluck and will include an ornament exchange. Please look for more detail in an upcoming email.

I'd also like to offer a sneak peek into our program for the January General Meeting. Judy Mahan, Director of the Small Business Development Center at Cal Poly, has graciously agreed to speak

to us about her work helping small businesses in the community succeed. Of particular interest is the work being done in conjunction with the Cal Poly Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the SLO Hothouse, to help students and recent graduates create successful businesses.

For me personally, the holiday season is a time to step back from our routines and distractions and focus more on our fellow humans, with whom we share this amazing gift of life. Not everyone is joyous during the holidays, yet they are unlikely to show it. Again, the smallest gesture of kindness may make a huge difference to those who need it most.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy holiday season,

Susan Opava
Branch President

Five Cities-Pismo Beach Holiday Mixer

What: Potluck, mixer and ornament exchange

Where: AG Women's Club

When: Monday, December 18 @ 6:30 pm

- Gather to enjoy appetizers, salads and desserts
- Drinks and tableware provided
- Members will have the opportunity to support their favorite AAUW program.
- Bring an ornament to exchange.



Highlights

from the November 13, 2017 Board Meeting

An update was provided on planning for the annual IBC (Inter-Branch Council) fellows luncheon on Feb 24, 2018, a joint effort of the SLO and Santa Barbara IBCs. Donna Mertens, AAUW CA President, will attend and speak, and Sharon Westafer, AAUW CA Director, is planning to bring fellows from the Los Angeles area to share their experiences. A keynote speaker is also being sought by Sharon. Dianne Owens, AAUW CA Director (from the Lompoc Branch), is leading the program planning.

- A simplified Bingo event, without a Silent Auction, is being considered for the month of April.
- The Board approved a draft proposal for possible changes to Branch Leadership Structure. The draft proposal will be sent to members for comments and suggestions.
- Plans for the Holiday Social were finalized. It will be a potluck and include an ornament exchange. The Board discussed designating a charity to which members could voluntarily contribute at the social. It was decided, however, that the Branch needs to raise money to continue our own programs next year. Thus, members will be able to contribute at the Social, if they wish, to any or all of our three main programs: Scholarship, Tech Trek and Reading is Fundamental.

Comments and questions are welcome and may be directed to any Board member.

From your *Branch Board*

LUNCH BUNCH

Our year end annual holiday event on Thurs. Dec. 7th will be held at the Santa Maria Inn at 11:30. Come join us by the fireside for good food and good company.

For the New Year, we are looking for an enthusiastic replacement for coordinating Lunch Bunches, since Carole will be undergoing back surgery. We have lots of suggestions for next year and I am eager to share details with any volunteers.

Wouldn't it be fun if you get to choose where to eat based on member suggestions?

- Carole Dempsey



UCSB Campers: Thank You Notes

Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW,

I am so thankful to all the members of my home AAUW branch for giving me the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of Tech Trek. I understand fully all of the work you put in that makes it possible for so many girls like me to learn about science, math, and technology in eye-opening ways we never knew about before. I have discovered what it will take to get to college and whatever we dream we can achieve. Without you, we'd never be here today.

At Tech Trek I am immersed in an environment with stimulating teachers, relaxing friends that are easy to be around, and activities that make me reflect on many different aspects of my life. For example, we embarked on an exciting boat trip where we explore maps, sea life, how to drive boats, and measuring the amount of oxygen in the water. We experienced how water pressure can affect everyday items such as Styrofoam cups getting smashed. Amazingly, when we were heading to shore for lunch, a pod of 35 dolphins paraded along the side of the boat. They jumped and arced magically. It was a sight I will never forget.

Everyone at Tech Trek was overwhelming with friendliness, and I made three amazing friends on just the first day. My amount of friends only continued to grow as the week progressed. We laughed so much at mealtime and softly in the halls even though I had known them for a few days. It feels like I have been friends with them for months.

In the end, I give all my thanks to the AAUW Pismo Beach Five Cities because you work so hard to send us to camp so we can learn what it takes to get to college, how to pull brittle stars from hold fasts, listen to inspirational speakers, and think outside the box. It's all because of you! THANK YOU!

Sincerely, Iris Jenssen



FINESSING FEMMES BRIDGE

Finessing Femmes now meets on the first Wednesday of the month. We meet at 12:30 at the home of one of the members. If interested in joining our bridge group, call Marilyn Corey at 473-1928.

Bingo Survey

Bingo Night was very busy and had a lot of planning going into it. Some members worked many hours and assisted that night with activities. Please give us your honest feedback about our Bingo Night. Return to Pam Zirion, kpzirion@charter.net

1. Do you think the event was successful? YES NO N/A
Why or why not? _____
2. There were 8 Bingo Games played. What could be improved about the game & proceedings? _____
3. Did you play Bingo? YES NO N/A
4. Did you visit the Silent Auction? YES NO N/A
5. If so, give your opinions of the Silent Auction.
Baskets: _____
Gift Certificates: _____
5. What are your opinions about the raffle baskets? Do you think they were
An integral part of the evening? YES NO N/A
- 6 This year we had door prizes also. Do you think people felt they had more
of a chance to win something? YES NO N/A
7. What can we improve for next time?

8. How can we improve member participation in the organization, planning and
follow through of our Bingo/Silent Auction Night?

Please return this to Pam Zirion at kpzirion@charter.net

Theater Group Plan-Ahead Dates

Come "play" with us! It's fun to attend together!

Dec. 10	Sun. matinee	Cal Poly PAC	THE NUTCRACKER	ballet
Jan. 16	SOLD OUT	Cal Poly PAC	ITZHAK PERLMAN	world-class violinist
Feb. 22	reserve now pay later	SLO REP (formerly SLO Little Theater)	THE PRODUCERS	Reservation deadline Dec. 27
Mar. 7		Cal Poly PAC	The Ten Tenors	vocal concert
April		PCPA	THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME	The Musical
May		SLO REP (formerly SLO Little Theater)	a play by Neil Simon	
June 19		Cal Poly PAC	JERSEY BOYS	
July		PCPA	MAMA MIA !	

DAYTIME PAGE TURNERS - Book Group

Look for the Daytime Page Turners at Debbie Audet's home on December 1, Friday. This date is the very beginning of the month, providing the group time to enjoy the holiday spirit at Debbie's home and discuss *A Man Called Ove* by Frederick Backman at 11:30 am. This book is focused on a recent widower who is a true curmudgeon, having difficulty in fitting into the modern world. This book provides several lessons as to how to behave toward a curmudgeon: kindness, assertiveness, rudeness, callowness. Ove's wife, Sonja, sets a delightful example of coping with a grouch.

On January 5, 2018 Daytime Page Turners will be selecting a reading list for the 2018 year. Readers are asked to submit suggestions for the 2018 reading list to jbslater2006@gmail.com, prior to **January 5**, when our monthly meeting will be held at Ann Sawyer's home, 427 Tanner Lane, Arroyo Grande 93420 phone 489-8209 Suggestions for the reading list may include nonfiction, fiction and a classic. With your suggestions, please include a short description of the book contents. At the January meeting books will be selected for reading in 2018 from those submitted for review. There will be no specific book discussion in January as the reading list will be the focus of the gathering.

Daytime Page Turners welcomes you to join other book lovers who meet in the daylight, but read anytime. We meet the first Friday of each month, hosted by different members. The discussion begins at 11:30 am, followed by member's brown bag lunch and dessert and beverages provided by the hostess. Meetings are the 1st Friday of each month, 11:30 am. Message Jean Burns Slater 805 627-1845 or jbslater2006@gmail.com for more details.

NIGHT READERS

The final meeting of the year will take place on December 12 at the home of Susie Wedell, for a discussion of Louise Erdrich's powerful novel "LaRose." Erdrich weaves together Native American and white culture in a story that deals with love, family, and obligation. At the meeting, the members will also hold their traditional anonymous book exchange.

Looking ahead to the new year, the January selection is "News of the World, by Paulette Jiles. The Book Club is currently filled to capacity.

– Sandra Ku, chairperson

GREAT DECISIONS

The first three topics for the 2018 Great Decisions include the following.

The waning of Pax Americana presents a discussion on the historic shift from the liberal international order that was established in the wake of World War II, in which Pax Americana promised peaceful international relations and an open economy buttressed by U.S. military power. "American First", isolationism, a political mood toward selective U.S. engagement, where foreign commitments are limited to areas of vital U.S. interests is championed by President Trump. Geopolitical allies and challengers are paying close attention. What might be the outcome?

Russia is projecting an autocratic model of government abroad and is working toward destabilizing liberal democracies under President Valimir Putin. What is Putin's conception of national interest and how should the U.S. respond to Putin's attempts to spread right wing authoritarianism?

China has implemented an expansive strategy of economic diplomacy in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. Where the U. S. has taken a step back, China is making inroads through Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and more. What are China's geopolitical objectives? What do its actions mean for the international balance of power and how should the U.S. respond?

These are just the first three topics to be discussed. Other discussion areas include **Media and foreign policy, Turkey: a partner in crisis, U.S. Defense Budget, South Africa, and Global Health.**

As a citizen of the world you are invited to join in these discussions. Great Decisions meets monthly at the home of Mary Jo Aspinall to discuss world events, view a video and follow up a reading from the Great Decisions Foreign Policy Association publication. The meetings are typically the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. New attendees are welcome. Call Mary Jo Aspinall 556-0193 or Connie Rodgers 481-1841 with questions. **Join us on January 22, 7:00 pm, when we will discuss The waning of Pax Americana.**

HAND AND FOOT CANASTA

Hand and Foot Canasta will not meet in December. Happy holidays everyone. Please contact me if you would like to visit our game in January and see if it is something you would be interested in joining.

- Debbie Audet, 550-8910

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 11:30am Daytime Page Turners <i>Book Group</i>	2
3	4	5	6 12:30pm <i>Finessing Femmes Bridge</i>	7 11:30am Lunch Bunch Christmas Santa Maria Inn	8	9
10	11	12 Night Readers 7:00pm <i>Book Group</i>	13	14	15	16
17	18 6:30pm Holiday Mixer & Ornament Exchange 	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2017

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		

December Birthdays:

- 12/10 Nancy Sperling
- 12/12 Abby Adams
- 12/22 Elin McCall



Happy Birthday Ladies!

January 2018

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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