

The Waves



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Newsletter Editor: jbarnesgabriel@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Off to a good Start of 2018

January has been a busy month for the Board and the Branch. In addition to working on our upcoming programs, we have been the lead Branch this year in planning the February IBC luncheon, which is hosted by the San Luis Obispo County branches. For this annual event, we partner with the Santa Barbara County branches, alternating as hosts. Our Branch chairs the SLO-IBC this year as well, so most of the planning has been our responsibility. Linda Lidberg has graciously stepped up to develop the printed program, and the invitations that will be sent out to all our members, as well as branches in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern Counties. It should be an interesting and informative event, with time for socializing, raffle prizes, speakers from AAUW-CA, and a presentation by AAUW Fellow Daisy Benitez. Details about the luncheon appear elsewhere in this newsletter. **Please note the deadline for responding with your meal choice and payment.** We hope to have a good turnout from our Branch!

At the January general meeting we heard an excellent presentation by Judy Mahan, Director of the Cal Poly Small Business Development Center and the business incubator of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. These units serve the entire County and have resulted in many successful outcomes for the emerging enterprises they have assisted. Judy was impressed by our members and their astute questions, as well as by our hospitality. I received the following note from her:

"Susan, I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity to speak to the AAUW group last week and the kind gifts. Please thank your colleague (Liz Wineman) who provided the honey, it is the best honey I have ever tasted!"



Judy also sent a link to an upcoming "Shark Tank" event that she had discussed in her talk:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/central-california-angel-conference-tickets-39928362808>

Thanks as always to the members who assisted in planning, hospitality, set-up, etc. for the meeting.

Because of the IBC luncheon, there will not be a regular general meeting in February, so I look forward to seeing many of you at the luncheon. We'll resume our regular meetings in March, with the Women in History program.

In the meanwhile, be well,

Susan Opava
Branch President

Women in History (WIH) Month

Dear Members,

Here's a wonderful opportunity to give back to our community:

March, Women's History Month is approaching and our members will dress in costume, learn a script, and tell the story of a Women in History to students in the Lucia Mar elementary schools.

It's the 28th anniversary of our program and we have received much positive feedback from student and teachers for this special extracurricular program.

YOU can volunteer to do a Women in History portrayal. Contact us to join in. We can help you with scripts, costumes, and scheduling in the schools.

This is a good thing to do! It's fun! Contact us!

Kathy Cohon & Pam Zirion
kcaauw@gmail.com
kpzirion@charter.net

Highlights from the January 2018 Board Meeting

- Mary Matakovich reported that she has made the annual Branch contribution to AAUW Funds. This year the contribution was \$1500, allowing us to select two named-gift recipients. The selection process for the named-gift recipients was completed and two members were selected. Their names will be kept confidential and announced at the installation of officers in June
- The annual election of officers for next year was discussed. A nominating committee will be appointed at the February Board meeting. This committee consists of an immediate Past President (Jean Slater), the Membership VP (Susan Brazil), and a member of the Branch selected by the Board. The final slate of nominees must be presented to the membership no later than May 7th (14 days prior to the annual election).
- **If you are interested in running for an elected position, please contact any Board member or a member of the nominating committee.**
- Marilyn Corey provided an update on planning for the Spring Bingo on **Saturday, April 21st from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.** A planning committee has been formed and responsibilities assigned. The response of members has been very good.

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

From your *Branch Board*



UCSB Campers: Thank You Notes

. Dear AAUW Branch of Five Cities Pismo Beach,

Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek. The experience has been wonderful. I would especially like to thank you for choosing me and fundraising for me to go to Tech Trek. In fact, I wouldn't even be here writing this letter if it weren't for you.

Here at Tech Trek they have many different core classes such as coding, math, aerospace, and marine biology. The core class that I got into was math which somewhat relates to what I want to be when I grow up (radiologist). Grace, my math teacher, gave me a new perspective in life. For example, we have learned how to decode and encode, recognizing patterns, and doing many hands on learning activities. However, during all the activities we did I was so awed that I didn't recognize we were doing math all along.

Tech Trek was very action packed and fun at the same time. I met many new people, had great food, and went on a fun boat ride. Even though the water was a little rough, we still saw many dolphins, seals, and even a whale. As we rode in the Condor Express the water would splash up and get us wet, getting us cold, but still having a good time. I also found that the food at UCSB is amazing, starting with the tasty lemon cake to the flavorful ice cream. Next, I met many new people like my roommate Katie who has a creative personality. Another person I became very close to, Cali, actually lives in SLO and was very fun and perky. Also my Junior Counselor, Caitlyn, was so tolerant and incredible.

Lastly, I would like to thank the AAUW and UCSB staff along with the branch for fundraising for me to come here.

Sincerely, Avy Newton



Theater Group Plan-Ahead Dates



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

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 !	

Judy Zaretska 481-7313 judyong@hotmail.com



Ann Marie Kurrasch Debut House Concert March 17, 2018

Long-time Branch member Ann Marie Kurrasch will be holding her first ever House Concert at an Arroyo Grande home on March 17, 2:00 PM, St. Patrick's Day, 2018.

Ann Marie made a presentation on Creativity for our A.A.U.W. Branch in January 2016 and is now looking forward to sharing some of her varied works in a concert format with local friends.

Her music runs the gamut from fun and whimsical to meditative and serious and promises that all who attend will have a good time.

While she will be performing some of her works herself, most of the concert will feature her music being performed by local professional musicians, Lauren Hartog, soprano, and Clare Olson, pianist, and a special guest. Please come and help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

LUNCH BUNCH

February Lunch Bunch
Restaurant: Villa Cantina, Arroyo Grande, CA
Date: Thursday Feb 1, 2018
Time: 11:30
RSVP: by January 29, 2019 with Ann Sawyer [489-8209](tel:489-8209)

March Lunch Bunch will be at Beda's Biergarten in San Luis Obispo.

Join us for fun, food and conversation

Contact Ann Sawyer [489-8209](tel:489-8209) for more information.

COOKING TOGETHER

Please join us for our next dinner Saturday, February 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Host: Anna Zucker - azuckertchr@hotmail.com - 459-4663

- **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.

Questions? Phone 473-0075 or e-mail lwalker@vtc-sm.org

DAYTIME PAGE TURNERS - Book Group

At the January meeting, books were selected for the entire year from members' suggested titles. Daytime Page Turners are ready for the 2018 reading year. ***Life Animated*** by Ron Suskin is the selected book for February and will be discussed on Friday, February 2, 11:30 am at the home of **Caroll Rowe**. Caroll will provide directions to her home with a request for a RSVP. ***Life Animated*** describes how the author's son learned to cope with his handicap at a young age by memorizing the dialogue of Disney movies and having his family play the role of the animated characters. Future book titles include: *The Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz for March; *Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire* by Peter Stark for April; *The Gentleman from Moscow* by Amor Towles for May. These are just samples of the varied reading list. For a complete list please message jbslater2006@gmail.com.

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 February 13 meeting of the evening Book Club will be held at the home of Pat Muhlethaler, for a discussion of "Behold the Dreamers." This contemporary work of fiction is by first-time novelist Imbolo Mbue, about a family of immigrants from Cameroon who attempt to make a new life in New York. Their involvement with a wealthy white family, representing the extreme upper class just before the crash of Lehman Brothers, provides a startling contrast of what the American Dream means. Looking ahead, the selected book for March is "The Daughter" by Jane Shemilt. The evening book club is currently filled to capacity.

– Sandra Ku, chairperson

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.

GREAT DECISIONS

PREPARE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD

Great Decisions, a discussion program on world affairs, involves reading the Great Decisions [Briefing Book](#), watching the [DVD](#) and meeting in a [Discussion Group](#) to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Topics for 2018 include:

- The Waning of Pax Americana
- Russia
- China: Economic Power and Geopolitics
- Media and Foreign Policy
- Turkey: A Partner in Crisis
- U.S. Defense Budget
- South Africa
- Global Health

Join the AAUW Great Decisions Interest Group. Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at Mary Jo Aspinall's beautiful home in Shell Beach beginning at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be **February 26, 2018** with the topic of "The Waning of Pax Americana." This topic was initially presented at the January meeting and will be followed up at the February 26 meeting, as this topic will be the basis for discussions within the year.

During the first months of Donald Trump's presidency, The U.S. began a historic shift away from Pax Americana, the liberal international order that was established in the wake of World War II. Since 1945, Pax Americana has promised peaceful international relations and an open economy, buttressed by U.S. military power. In championing "American First" isolationism, President Trump has shifted the political mood toward selective U.S. engagement, where foreign commitment are limited to areas of vital U.S. interest. Geopolitical allies and challengers alike are paying close attention.

Come join the discussion. Contact Mary Jo Aspinall 556-0193 or Connie Rodgers 481-1841 with questions and for more details.

HAND AND FOOT CANASTA

The Hand and Foot Canasta group will meet on Friday, February 23rd at Debbie Audet's home 550-8910. We will begin at 9:30. Bring a lunch. Drinks, dessert, and snacks will be provided.

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:30am Lunch Bunch <u>Villa Cantina</u>	2 11:30am Daytime  Page Turners <i>Book Group</i>	3
4	5	6	7 12:30pm <i>Finessing Femmes Bridge</i>	8	9	10
11	12	13 7:00pm Night Readers <i>Book Group</i>	14 	15	16	17 IBC Luncheon 11:30 5:30 Cooking Together
18	19	20	21	22 The Producers	23 Hand & Foot <i>Canasta</i> 9:30am	24
25	26 7:00pm GREAT DECISIONS	27	28			

January 2018

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

February Birthdays

- 6 Karen Thomas
- 9 Marilyn Corey
- 12 Sandra Ku
- 18 Nancy Cunningham
- 26 Erica Hinojosa



March 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



IBC FUNDS LUNCHEON



Sponsored by San Luis Obispo & Santa Barbara County Interbranch Councils

Saturday, February 24, 2018

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

The Madonna Inn Garden Room

San Luis Obispo, CA

TICKETS: \$25

Opening Remarks

Donna Mertens, AAUW CA President

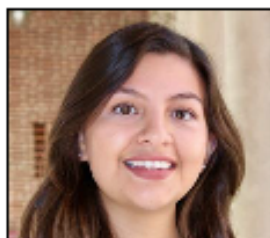
Sharon Westafer, AAUW CA Director, AAUW Funds

Guest Speaker

Daisy Benitez, AAUW Fellow

Please RSVP by February 12 to Linda Lidberg, lswl@aol.com.

Include your menu choice (Thyme & Basil Chicken, Roast Pork, or a Vegetarian option) on your check. Make checks payable to "AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach and mail to 959 Vista Verde Lane, Nipomo, CA 93444.



Daisy Benitez: "Work with your mind, not with your hands." Recent graduate Daisy Benitez grew up hearing these words so often it became her mantra. In fact, her life was shaped by this saying and by the lives of its authors: her parents. As a first-generation college student, Benitez was determined to build a future that her parents once dreamed of. After earning a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering ('17), she will continue her work in sustainability through the Master in Green Technologies program, with her graduate studies funded by the National GEM Consortium Engineering Fellowship, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Fellowship, and the Switzer Environmental Fellowship. As the first member of her family to earn an undergraduate degree, Benitez never even considered attending graduate

school. For one, she didn't know if she could afford it coming from a low-income household, and two, not many of her friends gave graduate school much thought. It wasn't until last year when Benitez was elected as the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers student chapter president that the club started encouraging its members to pursue graduate degrees.

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Andi, Jeff and Allison Portney

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*Patti and Dick
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