

President's Message

While the memories of delightful holiday spirits faded into memory, our new 2019 year started off with a bang. The month of January became an eventful and busy month. During the January Board meeting, Mary Matakovich, Coordinator of AAUW Funds and Public Policy, reported that \$1500 had been submitted to AAUW Funds which allows our Branch to select two "Named Gift Recipients, the announcement of which will be revealed at the Installation Meeting. A decision was made to once again offer a Spring Bingo in anticipation of a member volunteering to chair the event. The Nominating Committee for next year's officers was appointed. Susan Opava, chair, Susan Brazil and Wendy Robinson will soon be calling on members to assume a leadership position.



The Board is also working on updating job descriptions to reflect the revised leadership titles of our new organizational model adopted last year and being implemented this year. Linda Lidberg, Chair of Tech Trek, and Jean Slater, CEO of Scholarship announced that the process of selecting scholarship recipients has begun in preparation for our always special April meeting.

At the January meeting, in keeping with one of AAUW goals to support increased female participation in STEM professions, Program Co-Chair Liz Wineman, welcomed speakers Helene Finger, Director of Women's Engineering at Cal Poly and Samantha Galicinao, President of the Cal Poly Women's Engineers organization known as SWE. We're making progress slowly but surely!

The February meeting includes the popular book exchange along with a pot luck.

The month of February has special days – Valentine's Day, a time to express our love and appreciation of loved ones and birthdays of Presidents Lincoln and Washington who played such important roles in the early days of our country.

Happy Valentine's Day to all! Marilyn Corey, Branch President

February Branch Events

1st: Daytime Page Turners	8th: Night Readers
4th: Board Meeting	25th: Great Decision
6th: Finessing Fems Bridge	28th: Scholarship Board
7th: Lunch Bunch	of Directors

February Birthdays

9th: Marilyn Corey
12th: Sandra Ku
26th: Erica Hinojosa



February Book Exchange, Social, and Business Meeting

February 18, 2018 at 6:30 pm

The Branch book exchange will take place in February this year.

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, according to the following: A-H, please bring dessert; I-Z, please bring a salad or appetizer.

Book exchange: You may bring a reasonable number of books to give or exchange with other members. Books will be placed on the exchange table. At the end of the evening, members must take with them any books they brought which were not taken by other members.



COME EARLY TO HELP SET UP! DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM FOR SET UP.

PLEASE NOTE: For an interesting program with good food, conversation and door prizes, please consider attending the San Luis Obispo County Interbranch Council on February 23. See the newsletter Page 3 and other email blasts from Linda Lidberg for information. Reservations due February 11.

MEMBERSHIP

Hello everyone. I believe most of us are focused lately on staying warm and healthy, but don't forget your friends in AAUW. People love to share with friends and what better way than to attend our February meeting on the 18th, where we will have our book exchange. It's a perfect time to bring friends and introduce them to our mission and projects.



P.S. Please let Membership Coordinator, Susan Brazil, know if your phone number or email address has changed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee is busy looking for members willing to commit to serve in an office for next year. If you would be interested in helping our branch meet its goals, please call any of the following members:

Susan Opava 805-994-7103,
Wendy Robinson 805-781-0903, or
Susan Brazil 805-474-5682.



SLO COUNTY INTERBRANCH COUNCIL LUNCHEON

Saturday, February 23, 2019

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Madonna Inn Garden Room

San Luis Obispo, CA

TICKETS: \$30

Buffet Luncheon

Chicken Piccata, Petite Monterey Salmon, Baby Red Potatoes, Green Beans with tomatoes, Pasta Salad, Tossed Green Salad, Dinner Rolls, and a fabulous Madonna Inn dessert. Beverage included: Coffee, Tea, and Water.

Guest Speaker

Joanne Heywood Miller



Jo Anne is currently President of the Board for Festival Mozaic and is co-founder of SLO Seed Ventures and managing partner at Brown Dog Partners. After successful careers as an engineer and entrepreneur, Jo Anne began working in early stage investing in 2003 for Nokia Innovent and in 2008 she started a West coast branch of Golden Seeds, investing in women-backed businesses. She joined the Founders Circle of the Cal Poly Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in 2010 and has been a member of the Cal Poly Engineering Dean's Advisory Council since 2011 and the University of Colorado Engineering Dean's Council since early 2014. Jo Anne currently serves as chair of the compensation committee of Synergy, Inc. in Chicago. She has a BS in Mathematics from the University of Michigan, an MS in Computer Science from the University of Colorado and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Please RSVP by February 11 to Linda Lidberg, lswl@aol.com.

Make checks payable to AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach

Lunch Bunch



Most people have been to a Subway sandwich shop at least once, where you can get your sandwich any way you like it. Now there is Blaze Pizza, where you can get traditional personal pizzas or make your own in a “subway like process.” Multiple toppings, sauces, cheeses, vegetables to choose from so you can get a pizza any way you like it. They have salads, too

Our Lunch Bunch group will meet at Blaze Pizza in the Walmart shopping center in Arroyo Grande at 11:30 am on Thursday, February 7th. Come support a local new business and enjoy great conversation and fellowship.

Women in History “Her-story”

This is a mission-driven project: “To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, **education**, and advocacy.”

Through our Women in History portrayals, we educate boys, girls, and teachers about contributions to history made by women, often ignored in the “his-story” books.

Now it’s time to volunteer to do a portrayal, to make this contribution to the elementary students in Lucia Mar School District. We raise money for High School scholarships, for Junior High Tech Trek scholarships, for elementary school Reading is Fundamental books (RIF).

Women in History does not involve fund raising, but we do need members to become a Woman in History. We have costumes, scripts, and props, do the scheduling, and help with presentations.

And it’s fun!

Contact Kathy Cohon (805)594-1249 and say “yes”

Cheers.



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Daytime Page Turners

Daytime Page Turners have selected the book readings for 2019. Our book discussion for February will be *Vanished Smile* by R.A. Scotti on **February 1 at 11:30 am** at the home of Nancy Sperling. This book suggests that some people felt that the stealing of the Mona Lisa painting from the Louvre in August 1911 and the return 2 years later actually hurt no one and helped others. The painting was returned in excellent condition, a tour of the painting through Italy after the painting was found allowed Italians to enjoy the Italian painter, Leonardo da Vinci's, masterpiece, and the theft pointed out the lack of security and poor investigative procedures of the French. This story is so intriguing you will not be able to put down the book for fear of losing your place in the mystery of the masterpiece and history of the story.



Directions to Nancy's home will be sent to readers. We welcome new readers. Daytime Page Turners meet the first Friday of each month, hosted by different members. Discussion begins at 11:30 am, followed by members' brown bag lunch with dessert and beverages provided by the hostess. Message Jean Burns Slater 805 627-1845 or jbslater2006@gmail.com for more details.

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions discussion group is ready for the year with books ordered, delivered and topics assigned. Our next meeting will be on February 25, 2019, the 4th Monday of the month at 7 pm at Priscilla Alquist's lovely home. The February topic will be **The Middle East: Regional Disorder**.

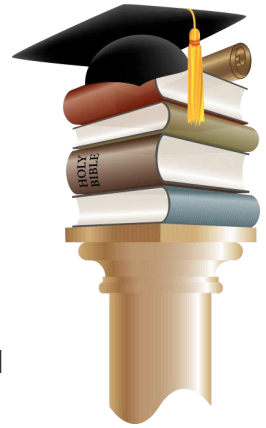


The Middle East remains in turmoil, as some countries have never achieved coherence or legitimacy, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, initiated by the administration of George W. Bush, have not ended and political stability remains precarious. Come learn from experts about the history and future prospects of the Middle East.

Our world needs informed citizens and by participating in Great Decisions you are informed in current events. If you would like to join our group please message Jean at jbslater2006@gmail.com or Priscilla at palquist@gmail.com. We welcome new deciders. The format for each evening is: viewing of the current DVD related to the topic followed by discussion of the DVD and the reading from the Foreign Policy Association's publication. Each evening is guaranteed to be stimulating.



Scholarship Update



The 2019 Scholarship Applications has been distributed to Arroyo Grande High by Carol Rowe and to Nipomo and New Tech High by Maureen Kelly. Four scholarships will be awarded for 2019 year in the amount of \$1,500 each, one to each high school and one Avid Scholarship. The deadline for Scholarship applications from students is March 5th. The next Board of Director's Meeting will be held on February 28, 2019. The Investment Policy revision, Treasurer's report, scholarship application scoring directions and interview and reader assignments are on the agenda for this meeting. An updated Treasurer's report will be provided at this meeting and will be shared with Branch members thorough this newsletter. Thank you all for your generous donations and work in fund raising for our Branch.

Member Highlight



Mary Jo (Carter) Aspinall was born March 14, 1924, in Reedley, California to C. C. and Edna May (Gouge) Carter, who came west from Missouri. She exemplified her family's commitment to education and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with a degree in nursing, after finishing high school in Fresno. Stanford was just starting research on heart surgery at that time and Mary Jo was in the forefront of this research.

Mary Jo obtained a Master's degree in nursing from the University of California, Los Angeles and worked in hospitals and as a private duty nurse. She became a clinical specialist at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Long Beach and taught research methods courses at Cal State Dominguez Hills and Phoenix University. Mrs. Aspinall authored three books: Decision Making for Patient Care: Applying the Nursing Care, along with Christine A. Tanner, Aortic Arch Surgery (continuing education in cardiovascular nursing) Jun 01, 1980, and Nursing the Open-heart Surgery Patient, plus more than 20 articles published in nursing journals.

After retiring from the VA Hospital Mary Jo was asked to work with acute psychiatric patients part time at St. Joseph's Hospital. She found this job very rewarding, until retiring again at age of 78. Mary Jo married her home town sweetheart Robert Maynard Aspinall, raising two daughters who moved around California following Mary Jo and Bob's career paths. Along with Mary Jo's birth daughters she and her husband welcomed students from other countries into their home. Mary Jo relished her family time and shared many holidays, reunions and travels with her husband and other family members. Mary Jo never stopped learning and sharing with her participation in Road's Scholar tours and hosting our AAUW Branch Great Decisions discussion group. Mary Jo danced, played bridge, attended fitness classes, volunteered as a Church Elder, served meals to the homeless and participated in fund raisers for our AAUW Branch. She passed away October 1, 2018 and is survived by her daughters: Judith (Dennis) Fryback of Huntington Beach and Robin Alpenglow of Santa Maria. Our Branch greatly misses Mary Jo and may her memory and participation in our AAUW Branch remind us of the good in others.

Finessing Fems Bridge Group

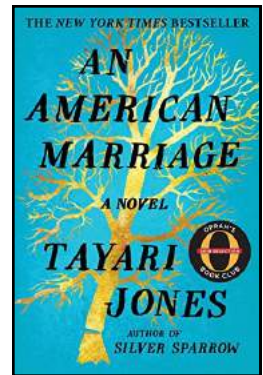
The Finessing Fems will meet on Wednesday, February 6th at Marilyn Corey's home to play bridge. This group is always looking for substitute players so if you would like to play please call Marilyn Corey.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at member's homes.



Night Readers

The next meeting of the evening book club will be held at the home of Maurina Kusell, for a discussion of the best-selling novel An American Marriage, by Tayari Jones. The story follows the fate of a newlywed Black couple in the South, torn apart when the husband is convicted for a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Large portions of the book are letters they send to each other, trying to figure out their changing emotions. The novel was an Oprah Book Club selection.



Looking ahead, the book selection for March is One in a Million Boy, by Monica Wood.

Sandra Ku, chairperson



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AAUW

TECH TREK

Teacher recommendation packets have been distributed to the science and math teachers at the three middle schools in the Lucia Mar Unified School District: Mesa, Judkins, and Paulding.

Teachers have until February 22nd to recommend one girl for this summer's Tech Trek camp at UCSB. The recommended girls will then complete an application and write a 500 word essay about how they would use science or math to make the world a better place. Once the applications are received by the March 1st deadline, the Tech Trek team will schedule interviews with each applicant on March 10th. At that time we hope to find 8 great candidates for Tech Trek and alternates who might fill any vacancies that come up.

The girls selected will be presented to our membership at our April meeting. On Sunday, June 2nd, at the Ice Cream Social, the girls and their parents will have the opportunity to meet girls from the other four AAUW Branches in San Luis Obispo County that will be going to UCSB, as well as past campers and their parents.

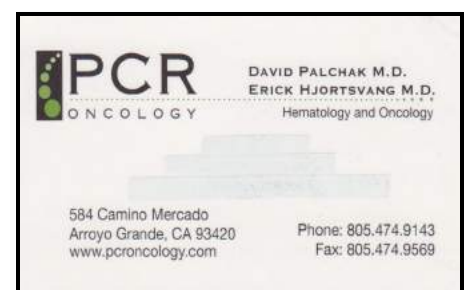
So why do we support Tech Trek with our fund-raising and donations? Here are just a few facts discovered by a survey of Tech Trek alumni.

- 73% of the 2012 Tech Trek alumni were in 4 year colleges, compared to a national average of 42% for men and women combined
- 96% of alumni believed Tech Trek increased their interest in science
- 69% of alumni believed Tech Trek increased their interest in math
- 77% of alumni believed Tech Trek increased their interest in technology
- 94% reported that Tech Trek boosted their self-confidence in their ability to succeed in science classes, 91% feel that Tech Trek gave them greater confidence to do well overall
- 86% reported that Tech Trek introduced them to many different STEM careers and 73% learned about college majors of which they were not previously aware

The Tech Trek campership of \$1,000 per girl is supported by our Branch fund-raising, donations from civic organizations and businesses, AND MEMBERS LIKE YOU. Tech Trek is a 501c (3), non-profit organization. Donations can be made, in any amount, with checks payable to:

SPF CA AAUW

Please put Tech Trek on the memo line and mail to our PO Box 1604, Pismo Beach, CA 93448



Five Cities AAUW theater "PLAY DATES"

Everyone (members, family, neighbors, friends) is welcome to buy tickets with us.

Below is a schedule for a variety of entertainment styles.

(New in red)

Pick and choose your event(s) and email judyoung@hotmail.com to reserve.

Just let me know the number of tickets and the price choice for your preferred seating location. Come "play" with us.



SATURDAY, February 9: 7:30 THE EVERLY BROTHERS EXPERIENCE \$45/\$39
at THE CLARK CENTER, Arroyo Grande

SUNDAY, February 10: 7:00 "SLEEPING BEAUTY" BALLET at CALPOLY Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo; the RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET THEATER \$66/\$36

WEDNESDAY, February 27: 7:30 WE SHALL OVERCOME at CALPOLY Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo; \$48/\$38; "A Living Lineage of African American Music" w/ Spoken Words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

THURSDAY, March 7: 7:00 "THE WOLVES" at Hancock College PCPA, Santa Maria \$36
(Story: a girls' indoor soccer team performed by 9 young women for voices of teen girls about real issues)

