

President's Message

March: As the saying goes – “In like a lion and out like a lamb!” The month of March was named after Mars, the Roman God of War. It lives up to its title since almost all of recent major US-NATO military operations have begun in March.



Lots of activity will soon be underway this month in our branch. Along with celebrating St. Patrick's Day, the first day of spring, and March Madness, the nominating committee, composed of Chair Susan Opava, Susan Brazil, and Wendy Robinson, is busy recruiting the three elected officers for next year. We are also looking for members to chair the Fund Raising Coordinator and Spring Bingo Chair positions! If you receive a call to accept one of these positions, please give a positive response.

As you know, besides St. Patrick's Day, the month of March is known as Women in History month. To review many of the famous women achievers in our history, take a look back at the March 2014 and 2015 editions of our newsletter. Listed are quite an array of names back to Joan of Arc 1412-1431)! Our program of the month, while still focusing on Herstory, is a change. Featured at our March general meeting will be two speakers on the topic of local homeless people and programs to help them.

Our Scholarship directors and Tech Trek committee are busy accepting applications which will soon be evaluated in preparation for the interviews and presentations in April.

Besides Women in History month and St. Patrick's Day, March is also known for National Nutrition Month, Red Cross Month, National Peanut Month, Social Worker Month, Employee Appreciation week, and others. The flowers of the month are the daffodil and the shamrock.

Thanks to all of you for your active participation, contributions, and friendship. You make the difference!

Marilyn Corey, President

March Branch Events

1st: Daytime Page Turners	12th: Night Readers
4th: Board Meeting	25th: Great Decision
6th: Finessing Fems Bridge	28th: Scholarship Board
7th: Lunch Bunch	of Directors

March Birthdays

1st: Pat Muhlethaler
12th: Susan Gray
14th: Susan Opava
16th: Nancy Shannon
23rd: Maureen Kelly

March 18, 2018 at 6:30 pm
Arroyo Grande Woman's Club
211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande



Usually, our March general meeting celebrates Women in History with our members portraying women who impacted history but didn't receive the recognition they deserved. However, since our Women in History volunteers are repeating previous Women in History portrayals, our AAUW March meeting will have a different topic. Staff members from the Five Cities Homeless Coalition will tell us about their goals, procedures, and needs. Peggy Coon will share a short Power Point presentation and, along with Director, Janna Nichols, answer questions about the Coalition.

Please send your questions about the Coalition to Kathy Cohon and she will forward them on to Janna.

Come at 6:00 to help set up; 6:30 for Social Time; and 7:00 for information about the Homeless Coalition.

MEMBERSHIP

Keep your eyes out for our membership renewal form in the April newsletter. And don't forget, anyone joining AAUW right now and paying their dues will be a member until June 2020.

Don't forget a college graduate, either. You can give a free year's membership to a new college graduate. Check out this website:

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>



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.



Branch Board Meeting Highlights from February 4, 2019

- Tech Trek Chair, Linda Lidberg, reported a donation of \$500 received from Melford Borzall, Inc. to Tech Trek.
- Jean Slater reported the need to “SOB” (SAVE OUR BRANCH) due to declining membership and the need for more members to actively participate in Branch leadership and projects. Ideas to deal with these concerns will be sought from members at the next General Meeting, Feb. 18th.
- Marilyn Corey distributed the revised job descriptions for each office in accordance with the new governance system recently adopted by the Branch.
- Pat Muhlethaler suggested members have an option of listing an emergency contact to be reached if necessary when attending Branch activities. Said list to be held by the President, Secretary, and Membership Chair.

SAVE OUR BRANCH

A participatory discussion was held at the February 18 General Meeting related to declining Branch membership and the need for actively filling Branch leadership roles.

Our membership has declined to 59 members for the 2018-2019 year, a decrease from 71 members in 2017-2018. The Nominating Committee has not found a member willing to serve as President for 2019-2020. Our current Treasurer and Secretary have graciously agreed to serve one more year, but what about the year after?

The active discussion centered on the following questions:

- Why be a member of Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW?
- Why be a member of the local AAUW leadership board?
- What actions should we take to recruit new members?
- What actions should we take to retain members?
- Should we close our branch due to dwindling membership?
- Should our local Branch combine with another Branch for continued stability?



A lively discussion resulted with discussion groups listing the positives and negatives of each question. It was clearly decided that we want to **Save Our Branch**. We do not want to close our branch or combine our branch. **We want our Branch!!**

Ideas flowed in answering the questions about retaining, recruiting, being a member or a leader of our Branch. It was noted that highlighting the role of AAUW on the political, national and international scene may attract women interested in more national and global issues, in addition to our Branch activities.

A committee of Kathi Pettersen, Susan Brazil, Laurie King, Jean Burns Slater, and Mary Matakovich will tackle the task of developing an action plan to **Save Our Branch**. Look for the plan and activities in the May newsletter in which you can help move our branch into the next 5, 10, 20 years!!

Jean Burns Slater

Lunch Bunch

Finger lickin' BBQ ribs, chicken, pulled pork, tri-tip; yummy salads, too. Come join our casual Lunch Bunch group at The Rib Line, 228 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach. Rib Line is the last restaurant on the south side of Grand Ave. before it runs down to the beach. Parking is in the back.



Our Lunch Bunch group will meet at 11:30 am on Thursday, March 7th.

Finessing Fems Bridge Group

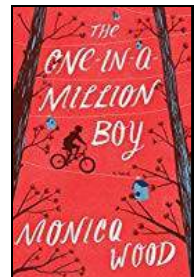
The Finessing Fems will meet on Wednesday, March 6th at Linda Lidberg's home in Nipomo to play bridge. This group is always looking for substitute players so if you would like to play please call Marilyn Corey.

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 March 12th, at the home of Pat Muhlethaler. We will be discussing the novel One in a Million Boy, by Monica Wood. It is the story of a 104-year-old woman and the sweet, strange young boy assigned to help her around the house, and the boy's father who takes over his son's devotion when the boy suddenly dies. Looking ahead, the designated book for April is the memoir The Girl with Seven Names, by Hyeonseo Lee.



Sandra Ku, chairperson



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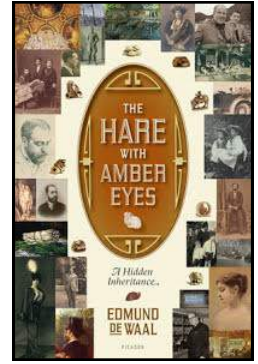
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John@treeoflife805.com
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Daytime Page Turners

Daytime Page Turners strike again with the reading of Edmund de Waal's **The Hare with the Amber Eyes**, a historical account of one family and its collection of Japanese netsuke. This story takes the reader from Europe to Japan and back, through wars and evacuations during the Nazi times, following family stories and true tales. We will be meeting on **March 1 at 11:30 am** at the home of Susan Gray. Directions to Susan's home will be sent to 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 off to a great start with our next meeting March 25, 2019, the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at Priscilla Alquist's lovely home. The March topic will be **Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?** New tensions and conflicts in world politics today threaten to renew strategic nuclear competition between major powers and emerging powers. The estimated number of global nuclear warheads in 2018 is 14,580. We cannot afford to be complacent. Learn more about the nuclear negotiations now!



Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Board of Director's Meeting will be held on February 28, 2019 to review the scoring directions, interview questions and all of the additional details for selecting scholarship winners. A revision of the Investment Policy will be considered as well as the funding of the AVID Scholarship. The 2019 Student Scholarship Applications deadline is March 5. Applications will be reviewed and rated the week of March 13-18. The most recent Treasurer's report will be shared with Branch members thorough the April newsletter. Thank you all for your generous donations and work in fund raising for our Branch.



Member Highlight Claire Phillips Gordon

January 23, 1919 - June 3, 2016 Claire, the daughter of William and Reba Phillips, graduated from Los Angeles High School at age 16, having skipped two years. She attended [UCLA](#), where she was a member of the Alumni Association, and received her degree from UC Berkeley in 1939. While secretary for Duke Ellington in New York City, she met her future husband, Irving Gordon, a songwriter for Ellington, and composer of the song "Unforgettable" for Nat King Cole. After a divorce, she married Kenneth Williams Fertig, known as Ken Williams, actor and radio/TV announcer. Following his death, she married William Joe Peel, who survives her, along with two sons from the first marriage, William P. Gordon, Ph.D., Richard Eliot Gordon, and a grandson, Jonathan Paul Gordon. She is the author of several books, including [Boy Meets Horn](#), [My Unforgettable Jazz Friends](#), [The Color of Music](#), and had just completed a historical novel about the role of Jews in Columbus's voyage to the New World. She died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 97 at her home in Arroyo Grande, California. Published in the Los Angeles Times from June 7 to June 12, 2016



Women in History “Her-story”

Hello to all you Wonder Women of AAUW,

March is Women's History Month and 4 members will be doing portrayals in the Lucia Mar School District classrooms. Barbara Cotton as Julia Morgan, architect; Pam Zirion as Laura Ingalls Wilder, author; Sandy Pitt as Rear Admiral Grace M Hopper, USN, computer pioneer; and Kathy Cohon as Rachel Carson, scientist and environmentalist will tell their stories to fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classes, March 11 – 29. Thanks to our members for sharing these women's stories .

This is our 29th year of presentations and we again should credit long-time, vivacious member Winona Green for setting us off on our quest to inform students of the importance of women in her-story and in history. Over the years, more than 45 members have portrayed more than 60 fabulous women. Now, off we go, again. Remember the woman flexing her muscle and saying “Yes, we can!” ? Let that be us!



Public Policy

A Big Day for Fair Pay

On January 30, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate introduced the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) (PFA) with support from every Democrat in Congress and bipartisan backing in the House. “The PFA is essential to eradicating practices that have perpetuated the pay gap for far too long,” says AAUW CEO Kim Churches.

The team at AAUW was instrumental in prioritizing the bill by sending letters to Congress and engaging grassroots advocates, garnering 260 organizations in support. They also presented on the PFA to new members of Congress and spoke at the press conference introducing the bill.

The PFA would update the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and complement the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which ensures pay discrimination can be challenged regardless of when it began. We were thrilled to bring Ledbetter to Washington, D.C., where she met with more than a dozen members of Congress. The PFA is now designated as H.R. 7, signaling it is a top 10 priority of the House.



	Aaron M. Paulsen First Vice President - Investment Officer CA Insurance Lic # 0B08337 Terri L. Rice Senior Registered Client Associate
Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC.	907 Rancho Parkway Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 Office: 805-473-0481 Fax: 805-473-0749 Toll Free: 800-733-3268 aaron.paulsen@wfadvisors.com terri.rice@wfadvisors.com

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Teacher recommendations have been received from the science and math teachers at the three middle schools in the Lucia Mar Unified School District: Mesa, Judkins, and Paulding. The recommended girls will have until March 1st to get their application and 500 word essay to me. The Tech Trek team will schedule interviews with each applicant on March 10th. At that time we had hoped to find 8 great candidates for Tech Trek and alternates who might fill any vacancies that come up, however, AAUW California Tech Trek has decided to reduce the size of the UCSB camp to a total of 80 girls each week — down from 96. Therefore, we have been told that we will only be able to send 6 girls this year. Our fund-raising and donations have enabled us to pay for 8 girls to attend (and I will still campaign for 8) so the balance will carry over to next year's Tech Trek account.

The girls selected will be presented to our membership at our April meeting.

Linda Lidberg

Branch Tech Trek Coordinator



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