

President's Message

The many days of using our umbrellas and windshield wipers on our autos have been notable and now appreciated. Our drought season is over, our lakes are full, and the wild flowers are unbelievably beautiful. Spring has sprung in all its glory!

We had a terrific turnout at our March general meeting to hear speakers Peggy Coon and Janna Nichols talk to us about the efforts of the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition to house the homeless in South County. They gave a very impressive presentation. Even though our traditional March meeting program was altered, our Women in History portrayals were present in full costume and shared their schedules for presentations to students in our Lucia Mar Elementary Schools. Thanks to Kathy Cohon, Pam Zircon, and Sandra Pitt.

The meeting in April is always one of my favorites. It is the opportunity for us to realize that our hard work at fund raising pays off. When I witness the scholarships granted to the Tech Trek girls in seventh grade and the college scholarships granted to deserving young senior high school women and hear about their many accomplishments, I am awed and spell bound.

Hope to see all of you at the April meeting and in the meantime, do enjoy the magnificent wild flowers!

Marilyn Corey



April Branch Events

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st: Board Meeting | 9th: Night Readers |
| 3rd: Finessing Fems Bridge | 15th: General Meeting |
| 4th: Lunch Bunch | 22nd: Great Decisions |
| 4th: Scholarship Directors' Meeting | |
| 5th: Daytime Page Turners | |

April Birthdays

- | |
|-----------------------|
| 4th: Stacy Meko |
| 6th: Patti Melsheimer |
| 17th: Barbara Cotton |
| 18th: Margaret Quandt |



tech trek

April 15, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Arroyo Grande Woman's Club

211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande



Come celebrate this year's Tech Trek campership recipients as well as our high school scholarship winners. This traditional April meeting is the embodiment of our mission: advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Come at 6:00 to help set up; 6:30 for Social Time; and 7:00 to meet our incredible young ladies.

MEMBERSHIP

Hello everyone. It's time to think about paying your dues. The renewal letter is enclosed in this newsletter (see page 10). It has been revised to include a section on emergency contact information if you wish to include it. The information will be kept private and kept only by the President and Membership Coordinator.

Dues are to be paid by June and remain at \$100. Check is to be made out to 5 Cities Pismo Beach AAUW. Many thanks for the early birds who join early. Call if you have any questions. Susan Brazil, 805-474-5682.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee (Susan Opava, Wendy Robinson, Susan Brazil) were successful in presenting a full slate of officers for the 2019-2020 year. The slate of candidates was presented at our March 18th meeting. Elections will be held at our April meeting, with installation at our May 20th event at the Avila Beach Yacht Club.

Co-Presidents: Marilyn Corey, Pat Muhlethaler, Rose Ann Steiner
Secretary: Gayle Turner
Treasurer: Linda Lidberg

When called on to help serve on one of the various committees that keeps our Branch a viable entity, please say **"Absolutely, yes!"**



Branch Board Meeting Highlights from March 4, 2019



- Members will soon see a revised Membership renewal form. This year members will see an option to indicate a person to contact in the event of an emergency at an AAUW event. **LISA WALKER moved to approve the membership renewal form as presented. MARY MATAKOVICH seconded. Motion carried.**
- **JEAN SLATER BURNS moved to use the Yacht Club and organize a caterer for the Installation dinner. SUSAN OPAVA seconded. Motion carried.**
- **SUSAN OPAVA moved the Board approve the use of Branch reserve funds to pay for the cost of the venue of the installation dinner at the Yacht Club on May, 20, 2019. SUSAN BRAZIL seconded. Motion carried.**
- Parliamentarian, Jean Burns Slater, distributed copies of the revised Branch By-laws and reviewed same. **LINDA LIDBERG moved to accept the By-Laws as amended. LISA WALKER seconded. Motion carried.**
- Scholarship CEO, Jean Burns Slater reported the Scholarship Corp. will fund the AVID scholarships the same as all others. With the Endowment Fund now yielding enough income to fund one or two scholarships, the Corp. suggested the Branch Funding of Scholarship Corp., presently 25%, be reduced to 22% of all fundraising events.
- President, Marilyn Corey, gave each board member a set of the revised job descriptions for all Branch board members. These job descriptions are in accordance with the new governance adopted by the Branch last year.
- Due to lack of leadership, there will be no Spring Bingo fundraiser.

Submitted by Pat Muhlethaler, Secretary

Finessing Fems Bridge Group

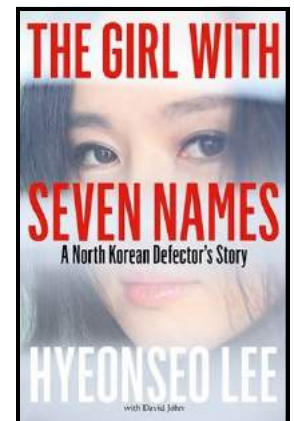
The Finessing Fems will meet on Wednesday, April 3rd at Sharon Lowell's home to play bridge. This group is always looking for substitute players so if you would like to play please call Marilyn Corey.

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



Night Readers

The next meeting of the evening Book Club, Night Readers, will be held April 9 at the home of Sandra Ku, for a discussion of the non-fiction book **The Girl with Seven Names**. This memoir by Hyeonseo Lee describes the young girl of the title, at the age of 17, escaping North Korea in the late 1990s. Her details of growing up in the ruthless, secretive society, trapped by a brutal regime, offer the reader a rare insight to that country. Since her long, grueling escape, the author has been a speaker on the international stage fostering human rights and awareness of the plight of North Koreans. Looking ahead, the selected book for May is **The President is Missing**, by Bill Clinton and James Patterson.



Sandra Ku, chairperson

Lunch Bunch

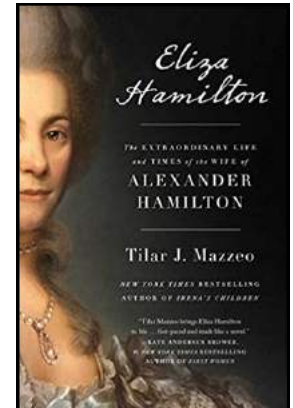


Down by the sea, the beautiful sea... That's where Lunch Bunch will be on April 4th — at Mersea's. This new addition to the Avila Port San Luis pier features seafood, sandwiches, salads, and an incredible ocean view. Please RSVP to Linda Lidberg so she can set up our reservation. There are limited parking spaces on the pier, or the public lot is available near the pier's entrance.

Our Lunch Bunch group will meet at 11:30 am for good food, good conversation, and undoubtedly a few laughs!

Daytime Page Turners

Daytime Page Turners continue to turn those pages with diligence; this time reading **Eliza Hamilton: The Extraordinary Life and Times of the Wife of Alexander Hamilton** by Tilar J. Mazzeo. Mrs. Hamilton offers a strong personality in the musical "Hamilton" and this book provides the background necessary to fully understand the times and tribulations of the beginnings of the United States of America. We will be meeting on **April 5 at 11:30 am** at the home of Mo Briggs. Directions to Mo's home will be sent to readers. Message Jean Burns Slater 805 627-1845 or



jbslater2006@gmail.com for more details. Our May book selection is a classic: **Kim** by Rudyard Kipling. This is the story of an orphaned boy of a British soldier in India during the Raj. It is a coming of age story that is sure to capture your attention.

GREAT DECISIONS



The Great Decisions discussion group is moving along into our next topic, "European Populism and Immigration." We will be meeting April 22, 2019, the 4th Monday of the month at 7 pm at Priscilla Alquist's home.

Apprehension over immigration and the fraying of national identity are spreading throughout the western world with right wing populism rising in the wake of asylum seekers and migrants. How does a government handle an influx of peoples desperate for a better way of life? Come to Great Decisions and participate in a lively discussion based on a video and reading which will enhance our knowledge.



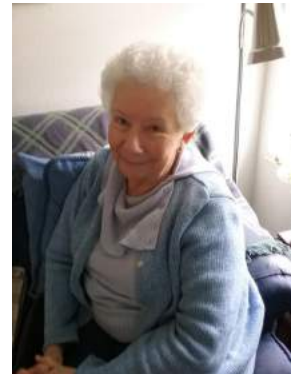
Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Board of Directors completed their work on the Scholarship Corporation Investment Policy revision. See page 9 for this policy. The solid and consistent work of all Branch members has brought our endowment balance to \$109,286.22 as of January 31, 2019. Our local bank balance is \$7,406.43.

Interviews of potential scholarship winners will take place on March 28 with determination of scholarship recipients at the Directors' meeting on April 4 and presented to the Branch on April 15.

Spotlight on Branch member Susan Brazil

Being raised in the New Hampshire woods, Susan spoke French as her first language. Wandering in these woods with her dad encouraged her independence and a love of science and nature. She was encouraged by her parents to finish high school at age of 16 and was guided toward a four year nursing degree in education. Her first job was teaching in a Licensed Vocational Nursing Program in Massachusetts.



In 1962 Susan, with a girlfriend, came out to the West Coast for the Seattle World's Fair and Susan decided this was where she belonged. After contacting the National Nursing Association, she was offered a job in Oakland pediatrics. When she arrived in student nursing housing dorms with her packed bags, her first acquaintance ended up as her sister in law, as Susan married her colleague's brother.

Susan spent nine years nursing, fifteen years teaching health programs for Adult Education and Regional Occupation Programs and served as a consultant for the California State Department of Education for eleven years. She earned her Master in Vocational Education at Cal State Sacramento and developed an occupational Health Program curriculum for 11th and 12 grade students.

Susan, her husband and three children moved to Lodi. After retirement Susan's parents from New Hampshire joined the family to help with the children. After a marriage separation Susan joined a singles' choir and her passion for music and travel flourished, with singing in Australia, Paris, Rome, NY Carnegie Hall, all over Europe. Her travel love developed more fully after trips to China, Thailand and Myanmar with friend who was a former Peace Corp volunteer.

Single parenting and learning to be alone added challenges, as she developed her philosophy of life. Her belief is that we are all one, part of the divine, individuals as part of the cosmos, focusing on compassion, forgiveness and love. Susan's reading includes spiritual as well as recreational subjects. Just recently she enhanced her love of music by joining a singing group called Kindred Spirits. Susan's curiosity and imagination is a gift that Susan shares with our AAUW branch members. She found our AAUW branch through the National AAUW website. Thank goodness!!!

PUBLIC POLICY

Imagine an America Without a Pay Gap

It is common knowledge that a woman in the United States makes 80 cents per dollar made by a man of similar qualifications. The pay gap is worse for women of color. In an era when women make up nearly 50% of the workforce, this pay gap burdens individual family finances and the economy. A recent study estimated the impact on society if the pay gap was corrected.



How would closing the pay gap be expected to impact families?

60% of working women and 66% single working mothers would see an increase in their pay

Poverty rates for working women would drop by half from 8% to 3.8%

Poverty rates for single working mothers would drop from 28.9% to 14.5%

How would the US economy benefit?

Closing the pay gap would increase gross domestic product an estimated \$500 million, roughly 2.6% of the GDP of our entire nation

The increase in women's earnings would be roughly 16 times what federal and state governments spent in 2015 for temporary assistance to needy families

The pay gap adversely impacts American families. Closing it would raise many out of poverty and reduce the need for public assistance. The question to ask our elected officials is not whether we as a society can afford to pay men and women the same income for the same work. The question is, how can we afford not to?

Archana Maniar

Source: The Impact of Equal Pay on Poverty and the Economy 2017, Institute of Women's Policy Research





On Sunday, March 10th, the Tech Trek interview committee met at the Lucia Mar Unified School District Superintendent's office to interview this years nominated candidates for Tech Trek 2019. Six very qualified young ladies from the Lucia Mar middle schools were selected for this summer's camp at UCSB. Two additional alternates were selected should one of the campers from our branch, or another branch, is unable to attend.

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

Linda Lidberg

Branch Tech Trek Coordinator




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RENEE A. DAVID
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

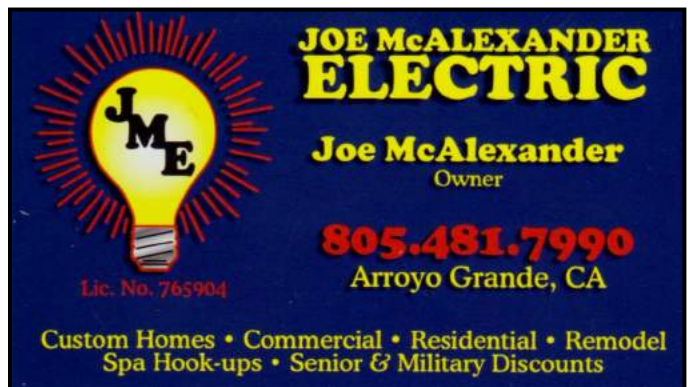
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SAVE OUR BRANCH

A survey asking branch members to actively commit to assist in recruiting and retaining members was distributed at the March 18 general meeting. If you missed the meeting, look for a survey in the mail and please return it in the enclosed envelop. A flyer and a set of talking points will be distributed at the April meeting to each member.

Each Branch member is requested to do two or more of the following:

- Pass out or post flyers describing our branch activities at meetings, community events, bulletin boards at coffee shops, community rooms, gathering places.
- Pass out business cards or book marks to people you believe are interested in our branch mission and activities
- Speak about our branch to friends and acquaintances and bring a friend to our AAUW meetings, activities and events
- Call a branch member that you know and offer a ride to branch activities, meetings
- Recruit one new member for the 2019-2020 year
- Lead an interest group _____ specify interest
- Participate in the Scholarship Committee
- Participate in Reading is Fundamental book distribution
- Participate in Tech Trek



Other _____

- I prefer daytime meetings _____
day of week _____ time _____
- I prefer evening meetings _____
day of week _____ time _____

Our Branch Leadership needs you. Help us solve our leadership challenge.

I am reluctant to take a leadership role in our branch because

- time commitment
- lack of skills
- lack of experience
- family commitments
- contact me for a leadership role
- other _____

Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Corporation Investment Policy

GOAL: It is the goal of the Scholarship Corporation (hereafter known as the "Corporation") to maintain an Endowment Fund (hereafter known as the "Fund") of sufficient amount the yield of which will support scholarships in the amount of \$1000 or more for three or more scholarships each year.

CORPORATION DIRECTORS: The Corporation consists of at least five Directors each of which is a member of Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch of AAUW.

III. FUND INVESTMENTS:

- A. The Directors of the Corporation will invest the Endowment funds with a goal of:
 - 1. Fixed income investments for protection against economic fluctuation (45%).
 - 2. Common stock funds for dividend earnings (45%).
 - 3. Cash (0-10%)
- B. The Corporation anticipates the annual net yield of the "Fund" to finance the stated goal.
- C. The "Fund" is tax exempt, therefore tax liability of the financial product need not be considered.
- D. Corporation Directors will not over react to short term investment developments and will consider a complete market cycle and economic forecasts when allocating assets.
- E. A Financial advisor, agreed upon by Corporation Directors, may assist in the allocation of assets based on Corporation goals

IV. RESTRICTIONS:

A. EQUITY:

- 1. No private placement, venture capital, or other securities not publicly traded.
- 2. No ownership of options or future contracts without prior approval of Corporation Directors.

B. FIXED INCOME:

Average quality of bond portfolio no less than S&P "BBB" rating (dollar weighted).

V. ALLOTMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS: The number and amount to be determined by the total annual income from the following:

- A. The yield of the Endowment Fund at a withdrawal rate of 1-4% with a goal of maintaining an Endowment Balance of a minimum of \$100,000.
- B. Individual donations to the Scholarship Corporation.
- C. Income from Branch fundraising.

Scholarship Board adopted 2-28-2019

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AAUW Five Cities-Pismo Beach 2019-2020 Membership Renewal

Our mission and focus:

“Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.”

Welcome and thank you for rejoining the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch of AAUW.

Dues are **\$100** through June **2020**. Dual branch members pay only \$25 for Five Cities Branch dues.

_____ Dual member (Branch name) _____ (State) _____

_____ Check here to order a new name tag or replacement name tag. Include additional **\$10**.

Make checks payable to AAUW Five Cities-Pismo Beach.

Between March 16 - **July 1** please return this form with your annual dues and any supplemental payments to:

Susan Brazil
397 Mesa View Dr
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

\$100 **Dues**
_____ **Name Tag**
_____ **Total Enclosed**

Optional: In case of emergency, contact: Name _____

Relationship:: _____ **Phone:** _____

Update any new info. If your directory information is the same as last year, simply fill in your name only.

NAME: _____ **Address:** _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Activity Interests: Circle interest sections that you might like to participate in or wish to learn about.

Hospitality at meetings "HerStory"(Women in History) Adopt-a-Poll

Great Decisions Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Diversity

Bridge Lunch Bunch Tech Trek Scholarship Cooking Together

Book Section, Daytime Book Section, Evening Theatre/Concert Group