



## President's Message

Greetings to all Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW members/friends, from the second Co-President of the Branch "Triumvirate" and presiding for the month of October.

Co-President, Rose Ann Steiner, presided at the September 15<sup>th</sup> "Welcome Back" meeting at the Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Park at which four of the six girls the Branch sent to Tech Trek were present to share their experiences at U.C.S.B this summer. The girls each answered questions put to them by Tech Trek Coordinator, Linda Lidberg. Indeed, the quality of the girls' responses re-affirm the value of the Tech Trek program. (See one response on page 2)

"Are you an active member?" ...The projects of the Branch are all "mission-based," i.e., "Education for Women and Girls." Next year, Tech Trek, RIF, and the awarding of high school scholarships (Scholarship now receiving a lesser percentage of fundraisers) will depend upon the success of the Branch Bingo/Silent Auction Fundraiser in November. When co-chairs Kathy Cohon, Pam Zirion, or Joan Knowlton contact you, please say "yes" and give your support by agreeing to sell five tickets and/or soliciting donations of gifts or gift certificates, goods and services, etc., from businesses you patronize.

My personal thank you to the many "active members" who are so generous with their time, talent, and fortune in support of AAUW's mission and the projects of the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch.

Co-President: Pat Muhlethaler

## October Birthdays

2 - Beth Hutton  
7 - Gayle Turner  
10 - Kathy Cohon  
10 - Linda Kime  
14 - Sandra Pitt  
21 - Susie Wedell  
22 - Rose Ann Steiner  
31 - Joyce Rowe



## October Events

3 – 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch: Ada's Fish House  
4 – 11:30 AM Daytime Page Turners  
7 – 6:30 PM Board Meeting  
8 – 6:30 PM Night Readers  
21 – 6:30 PM General Meeting  
*Get to Know RIF*

*\*\* See following pages for more information*



**Evergreen**  
LANDSCAPING

Dave Duran  
Owner

(805) 773-5395 office Contractors License # 786226  
 (805) 235-4791 cell P.O. Box 2056  
 (805) 773-9301 fax Pismo Beach, CA 93448  
 evergreendave@charter.net evergreenlandscapingca.com

**Maggie's Place**  
Exclusive Salon


Maggie Wright  
Beauty Specialist

609 Camino Del Rey  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
wrightmaggie2@gmail.com  
(805) 403-7964

"I just want to make you beautiful!"

## GENERAL MEETING

### - Get to Know RIF -



**When – Monday, October 21**

- Social time **6:30 PM**
- Program **7:00 PM**

**Where – Women's Club of Arroyo Grande**  
[location: 211 Vernon St, AG]

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) has been one of our branch's three main projects for years. Hear from long-time RIF chair Wendy Robinson, committee members Lauren Manning and Margaret Quant, and former teacher Nancy Shannon. The RIF team will share goals of this nation-wide program, samples of the book selections, and observations about the effects of RIF on our elementary students. Don't miss this chance to find out about our AAUW funds at work.



Dear Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch,

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to attend Tech Trek. This camp has been inspiring, uplifting, and refreshing. I have never been to a camp so enjoyable, yet academically challenging. So thank you for allowing me to be one of the special few chosen to be a part of this week.

Three of my favorite activities here at Tech Trek were amazing.

I loved Professional Women's Night. The women were so amazing and in love with their jobs. The stories of how they got to be where they are right now are so fascinating and incredible. They all have a lot of determination.

I have really enjoyed my core class, math, because the teacher, Miss Courtney, has taught it in a more interesting and exciting way using subjects I hadn't learned before, and activities that are entertaining and academic. Lastly, Miss Virginia's "Algebra" lesson was wonderful. A girl I know laughed so hard she cried! The way she went about her jokes and tricks was so casual it was hard not to laugh at anything.

So once again, thank you for your hard work in sending the other girls and I to Tech Trek. It was the experience of a lifetime. It has reminded me of second chances, because at first I was only an alternate. At the interview I wasn't entirely sure of myself or what I was saying. This week, teachers like Mr. Scott have encouraged us to be sure of ourselves and what we know, no matter the pressure put upon us. This has definitely helped my self-confidence. Therefore, thank you for giving me the chance to learn this valuable lesson. I believe it will stick with me for a long time. ~ Sincerely, Hannah Linn



## Membership

Hello everyone. We now have a membership of 51. Sunday, the 15th, was a great meeting to start the new year. The Tech Trek students did a fantastic job of detailing their experiences at summer camp. They are such special young ladies. Please plan on attending our October meeting where we will learn more about our branch project, Reading is Fundamental. Bring a friend to show them how our branch is helping the educational community.

Thank you. ~ Susan Brazil

## What's AAUW Public Policy All About?

Since AAUW's founding in 1881, our advocates have taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day – educational, social, economic, and political. Our positions emanate from our Mission, Vision and Values:

- Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy
- Vision: Equity for all
- Values: Nonpartisan. Fact based. Integrity. Inclusion. Intersectionality.

Our positions are rooted in our member-approved Public Policy Priorities at both the national and state levels. The AAUW California Public Policy Priorities for 2019-2021 were approved by our members this spring, and can be found on the website [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org). The AAUW CA Public Policy Committee meets early in each legislative session to review bills and determine those on which to take action. In Washington, AAUW staff and volunteer advocates communicate with both Congress and the administration. In California, we employ a part-time lobbyist to represent AAUW CA in the California Legislature.

Economic Security is a critical issue for women of all ages, a foundational aspect of everyday life, and is particularly important to women's ability to support themselves and their families. Many continue to struggle with economic insecurity, wage discrimination, and employment benefits. Legislated solutions could benefit many women.

Real change in federal and state policy, however, will only come about when our elected officials hear from voters, like us! It is so important that branch members be up to date on AAUW positions on federal and state legislation consistent with AAUW's mission, and contact elected officials to share our positions. And we must hold those we have elected accountable as they vote on issues affecting women and girls.

Become involved with your branch's Public Policy Committee. If your branch doesn't have one, start one! You can download and print a copy of the Public Policy Priorities from [www.aauw-ca/category/publicpolicy](http://www.aauw-ca/category/publicpolicy). Become an activist, by signing up on the national website [aauw.org/resource/two-minute-activist](http://aauw.org/resource/two-minute-activist). This will connect you with both state and national calls to action.

Start now! It's not too soon to begin educating yourself about the issues in the important 2020 elections!

Nancy Mahr, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Note: If you are interested in serving on our branch's Public Policy Committee, please contact Mary Matakovich ([mmatakovavila@gmail.com](mailto:mmatakovavila@gmail.com)).



## Scholarship Update

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. The Scholarship Board of Directors continue to be appreciative of the hard work and effort demonstrated by the generosity of Claire Gordon and Mr. Steve Sproger through their estate donations and our local Branch members in completing these two separate estate sales.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund has bounced to \$134,254 as of August 28, 2019. The AAUW Scholarship Corporation recognizes that the Scholarship Endowment Fund will have a lasting legacy for generations and this never could happen with the support of our Branch and community. Thank you sincerely.

After the September 2019 Branch Board meeting, it was determined that Scholarship would be allocated 10% of the Branch fund-raising proceeds, resulting in the distribution of \$882.81 from the proceeds of 2018-2019.

Specific donations to Scholarship are always welcome and can be directed toward the Endowment Fund or current 2020 scholarships for senior high girls. An AVID scholarship will continue to be a focus, supported in the same manner as all other scholarships.

Officers for the 2019-2020 year are:

Chief Executive Officer: Jean Burns Slater

Vice President: Kathi Pettersen

Chief Financial Officer: Carol Rowe

Secretary: Pat Muhlethaler

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Maurina Kusell will be joining the Board for the 2019-2020 year.



## It's BINGO and SILENT AUCTION Time!

It's that time of year when we join forces with all members to provide a fun afternoon of playing bingo and bidding for items on the wonderful silent auction for our friends, family and neighbors.

Need Tickets? Each member should sell **five** tickets. Please contact Joan Knowlton (at 805-773-2845 or [jknowl98@gmail.com](mailto:jknowl98@gmail.com)) to get yours. She will contact you as **well**. So **be ready!!**

Remember all proceeds go to our scholarship, Tech Trek, and RIF books for our student community in South County.

We need **all hands** to help assist with the big day. You might receive a phone call from Kathy Cohon about Bingo, Pam Zirion about Silent Auction and/or Wendy Robinson about food.

If you can't help that day, November 23rd, plan to assist in other ways: selling lots of tickets, putting up posters, soliciting businesses for donations, wrapping items on November 19th.



Thank you to those folks who have signed up to assist already, but we need more help. Contact one of the above women to do your part in making this Bingo & Silent Auction the **BEST EVER!!**  
~ Pam Zirion & Kathy Cohon

## Spotlight: Susan Opava



With a father in lithography and two older siblings, how could Susan not read at the age of 3? When Susan was raised in the Bronx, it was more like a suburb of Manhattan, not as concentrated and allowing an eight-year-old to walk safely alone to the Bronx library. Susan was considered a bit exceptional so she was expected to go to college.

Susan's mother died when Susan was thirteen and her father worked diligently to care for the family, assigning home chores to the 4 children. He expected Susan to have enough of an education to be independent, so she was guided toward 16 years of private Catholic education, graduating from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York.

She was a bit of a rebel, publishing suggestions as to how to get around/modify the strict rules of her schools. Susan's interest in science was sparked by two different science mentors, one in high school and one in college. Her college mentor was a Catholic nun with a Ph.D in physiology and soon Susan was hooked. She previously thought she would be a United Nations simultaneous language translator or a pediatrician with a free clinic in Harlem, but in her senior year she settled on a teaching and research career in renal physiology.

Scholarships and fellowships supported her endeavors and she earned her Ph.D. in Physiology at the University of Michigan, followed by postdoctoral work at Dartmouth. She met her husband in graduate school and, after tough job hunting for two professors at one university, they were both hired at the University of Puerto Rico Medical School to enhance a growing physiology department. Susan thrived in Puerto Rico both professionally and personally, but with two teenage sons and almost 20 years at the University of Puerto Rico, she knew it was time to move on. Drug-related murders were increasing in San Juan and she was concerned about the safety of her children. In addition, she had been pulled toward an administrative career and the politics within the country and university were a detriment to her advancement in that area.

Before Susan left the UPR she had obtained an NIH grant to establish a Research Center for Minority Institutions on the campus, bringing in ~1.5 million dollars during the first year alone, and increasing each year. This program, which she ran for the first seven years, is still in place after 32 years, and is one of Susan's proudest accomplishments.

An administrative position as Dean of Research and Graduate Programs at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo ended Susan's job search in 1993. She held this position for more than 19 years, retiring in 2012.

Susan's personal interests include reading, crosswords, tennis, socializing with friends, grand-parenting, and travel to immerse herself in the culture of other countries. Susan knows that when working in education you never feel that your job is worthless and you can have a positive impact by contributing to the community and society. Hence, Susan is here with us at Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW, with a focus on education and community!

### Board Meeting

The next board meeting of the 2019-20 year is on **Monday, October 7 at 6:30 PM**, in the A.G. Hospital Annex.

If you or your committee have an action item that needs to be placed on the agenda for Oct. 7, please forward it to Pat Muhlethaler by **Tuesday, October 1** in order for it to be considered at the meeting.

The **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is **OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM**

## 5 Cities AAUW Activity Groups

### Lunch Bunch

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>** (Thursday) at 11:30 AM at **Ada's Fish House**, 558 Price St., Pismo Beach  
Let's try this relatively new restaurant owned by the same people that own Rosa's. It is located across the street from Rosa's. The menu has items other than fish to enjoy. See you there. Please RSVP Joan Knowlton 805-773-2845 **by October 1.**

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** (Thursday) at 11:30 AM: TBD

\*\*\*\*\*

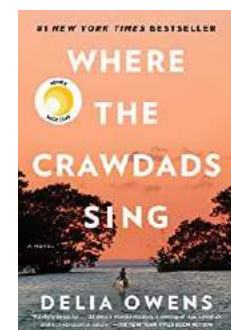
### Daytime Page Turners

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** (Friday) at **11:30 AM**, at Patti Melsheimer's home in Arroyo Grande. Bring a sack lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

**Where the Crawdads Sing**, by Delia Owens

We will discuss **Where the Crawdads Sing**. This extremely popular novel has been on the best seller list for 52 weeks and tells the coming of age story of a girl living in the swamps of North Carolina. It is an unforgettable accounting of murder, class distinction, nature, poverty, deceit and survival. You will not forget the ending.

Directions to Patti's home will be sent to readers. Message Jean Burns Slater 805 627-1845 or [jbslater2006@gmail.com](mailto:jbslater2006@gmail.com) for more details.



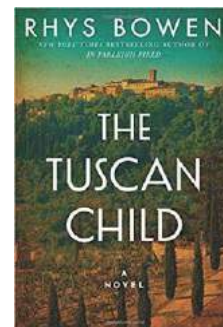
**November 1<sup>st</sup>** book selection is **Cat's Eye**, by Margaret Atwood. This, too, is a story of a young woman surviving the trials of adolescence and adulthood.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Night Readers

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday) at 7:00 PM, at the home of Sandy Pitt.  
**The Tuscan Child**, by Rhys Bowen

We will discuss Rhys Bowen's **The Tuscan Child**. This recent work of fiction involves a British woman who discovers her recently deceased father had a secret life in a small Tuscan village during World War II. She heads to Italy to try to find more details, and the mystery she encounters will keep readers guessing until the end.



The Night Reader's selection for **November** will be James Michener's **Caravans**.  
~ Sandra Ku, chairperson

\*\*\*\*\*

### Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group has concluded the 2019 discussion year with their meeting on September 30, at Priscilla Alquist's home at 7:00 PM. This discussion centered on the State of the State Department and Diplomacy.

Topics discussed over the last year include: American Foreign Policy, Refugees, Middle East, Nuclear negotiations, The Rise of Populism in Europe, U.S. China trade, Cyber Conflicts, and the U.S. and Mexico. Each discussion evening opens with a video highlighting the discussion topics, followed by a lively discussion, based on the reading guide.

If you are interested in joining Great Decisions for the 2020 year, please contact Priscilla Alquist, [palquist@gmail.com](mailto:palquist@gmail.com) or Jean Burns Slater, [jbslater2006@gmail.com](mailto:jbslater2006@gmail.com). This is a great way to stay connected in current political policy decisions and share ideas with fellow Branch members.

## REMINDER: San Luis Branch Fundraiser

THESE PANCAKES STACK UP TO DOLLARS FOR WOMEN'S EDUCATION

The San Luis Branch will be holding their **4th Annual Pancake Breakfast** fundraiser on **Saturday, October 5th from 8 to 11 AM**. Members will again join forces with Bay Osos Kiwanis Club to flip pancakes, scramble eggs and cook sausages at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2201 Lawton Ave in SLO.

Tickets for the breakfast, which also includes juice, coffee and hot tea, are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 10 and are available at the door. Donations are partially tax deductible.

Money raised will go to AAUW Funds, Tech Trek, plus High School and Cuesta scholarships.



## BINGO TICKETS

November is fast approaching and we need all tickets sold! Get your bingo tickets now by contacting Joan Knowlton 805-773-2845. Five tickets in each envelope at \$20.00 per ticket will help us meet our fundraising goal. Tickets will be available at the October meeting, also. ~Joan Knowlton

License #643853



**King's Garage Door Repair**  
Nipomo

**805-779-0578**  
7 days a week, call or text Nancy

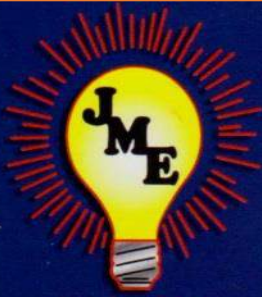
**TREE OF LIFE**  
Lawn and Gardening services

Residential & Commercial, from Slo - Santa Maria

Tel: **John Holquin (805) 825-1017**

John@treeoflife805.com  
Treeoflife805.com





**JOE McALEXANDER ELECTRIC**  
Joe McAlexander  
Owner

**805.481.7990**  
Arroyo Grande, CA

Lic. No. 765904

Custom Homes • Commercial • Residential • Remodel  
Spa Hook-ups • Senior & Military Discounts



**PALO MESA REALTY**

**Pat Okura, Broker**  
GRI, CRS, ABR, SRES, GREEN

950 Cypress Ridge Pkwy.  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

**805.801.0147**  
patokura@palomesarealty.com  
www.palomesarealty.com

License #01336946

## REMINDER: ONE MORE THING...BINGO!

**Saturday, November 23, 2019 at St. John's Church**  
**Set-up at 10 AM... Doors open at 12 Noon... Games start at 1 PM**

Hi, All -

We hope everyone is enjoying this lovely weather, and, if you are traveling, enjoying the experiences along the way.

**One more thing...** Think about what has been FUN and how you can translate that into a gift certificate or service that you can present as a Silent Auction item.

**Another thing...** We have permission from Pastor Greg at St John's to hang a "Bingo" banner on the fence to announce our event, Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

**And another thing...** On the following page, you will find "**Save the Date**" bookmarks for you to **copy and give to your friends**. Doors open at 12 and Games start at 1PM.

**And finally... A TIMELINE!**

- **October & November** - Purchase/ request Silent Auction gift certificates and items from businesses you patronize.
- **Early November** - No elections, therefore, no polls to work!
- **Early & mid-November** - Gather Silent Auction items
- **Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>** - Deliver Silent Auction Items due to Marilyn's home
- **Tuesday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>** - Package Silent Auction items.
- **Saturday, Nov 23** - **SILENT AUCTION & BINGO Set up 10 AM. Doors open at 12.**
- **November 28** - Thanksgiving

ENJOY EACH DAY!

Sincerely,  
Kathy Cohon and Pam Zirion



**BINGO**

**NEW TICKET PRICES!**

Please **DISCARD** bookmarks from  
the **September Newsletter**.

**NOTE: Please print out the next page & cut into bookmarks to give to your friends!**





**Saturday  
Nov. 23  
12:00 pm  
\$ 20 \***

**Five Cities -  
Pismo Beach  
AAUW**

**SILENT  
AUCTION**

**&  
BINGO**

**St. John's  
Lutheran  
Church,  
A G**

**\*Ticket price is  
not tax deductible**



**Saturday  
Nov. 23  
12:00 pm  
\$ 20 \***

**Five Cities -  
Pismo Beach  
AAUW**

**SILENT  
AUCTION**

**&  
BINGO**

**St. John's  
Lutheran  
Church,  
A G**

**\*Ticket price is  
not tax deductible**



**Saturday  
Nov. 23  
12:00 pm  
\$ 20 \***

**Five Cities -  
Pismo Beach  
AAUW**

**SILENT  
AUCTION**

**&  
BINGO**

**St. John's  
Lutheran  
Church,  
A G**

**\*Ticket price is  
not tax deductible**



**Saturday  
Nov. 23  
12:00 pm  
\$ 20 \***

**Five Cities -  
Pismo Beach  
AAUW**

**SILENT  
AUCTION**

**&  
BINGO**

**St. John's  
Lutheran  
Church,  
A G**

**\*Ticket price is  
not tax deductible**