



President's Message

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HANUKKAH !

As we near the end of 2019 our branch has much for which to be proud. The very successful Bingo and Silent Auction fundraiser will fund the three projects of our branch: RIF, Tech Trek, and Scholarships. Thanks so very much to the many members who donated or worked at the November event. It took a combined effort of many people. Aristotle said, "WE ARE WHAT WE REPEATEDLY DO. EXCELLENCE, THEREFORE, IS NOT AN ART, BUT A HABIT."

The Program Committee co-chairs, Liz Wineman and Mary Matakovich, are planning a delightful event for this holiday season. It will be filled with camaraderie and laughter as we gather to enjoy a potluck dinner and Christmas ornament exchange. It is such a pleasure to be a member of a group who is dedicated to the advancement and education of women and girls, locally and throughout the world. Our efforts DO make a difference in our community. The work we do to benefit women locally advertises AAUW. Several new members this year have seen or read of our efforts and have chosen to join the branch. See you December 16 at the holiday party.

Rose Ann Steiner, Co-President

December Birthdays

10 – Nancy Sperling
22 – Elin McCall



December Events

- 2 – 6:30 PM Board Meeting
- 5 – 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch
- 6 – 11:30 AM Daytime Page Turners
- 10 – 7:00 PM Night Readers
- 16 – 6:30 PM Holiday Mixer & Ornament Exchange: *AG Women's Club*
- 20 – 8:00 PM Jan. Newsletter Deadline

Tech Trek 2020 Update



In January, the Tech Trek information and applications will go out to the three middle schools in the Lucia Mar Unified School District. Thanks to our fund-raising last year as well as donations, I had hoped to be able to send 8 girls to the UCSB camp next summer, however, a recent email from the State Tech Trek coordinators have changed our plans.

Unfortunately, one of the colleges in Southern California that has housed a Tech Trek camp in the past, will not be hosting Tech Trekkers during the summer of 2020. As a result, girls from branches that sent girls to that camp will need to be placed in other camps, thus reducing the number of girls each branch impacted by this situation will be able to send.

Our branch will only be able to send five girls in 2020. The State Tech Trek organization is trying to negotiate with two other colleges to increase their capacity to accept campers but it is uncertain if that will happen. The Tech Trek program is exceptional because the camper to teacher and camper to dorm mom ratios allow all who attend to receive the best and most secure experience; over-crowding a camp would not benefit anyone.

Tech Trek is a fabulous program and its impact on the lives of young women each summer is not only huge, but life-long. Hopefully, this problem will impact only 2020 camps and we can once again send eight or more girls to camp. ~Linda Lidberg, Tech Trek Branch Coordinator



AAUW

TECH TREK



Dear Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch,

Hello! My name is Lillith Byllesby and I'm writing to give you a huge thank you. It is very important to inform you about how grateful and thankful that I am to be given this amazing experience. How lucky am I to be recognized for my interests and then attend a camp where I can learn even more about the STEM field? Very lucky!

Some experiences that probably changed my life are: my core class, coding, my project group, talking to women in STEM, and the boar ride. My core class helped me easily understand coding. When I first found out my core class was coding, I thought it was going to be embarrassing. I thought I couldn't code. It's not even the end of the week and I have already coded multiple apps, some very easy and others more complex. My teacher helped me realize that I CAN do code.

My project group helped me work on a team. It helped me to speak up and remember that my opinion matters, too. Seeing all the female teachers, having the night for women in STEM, it makes me walk taller, speak louder, and to have my dreams be both loud and big. The aerospace/physics teacher was a veteran. I think I've only seen one other female veteran. Our teacher was talking about all that she had accomplished and I'm thinking, "WOW!", I could do that too!

The boat ride was very important also. I was talking to a marine biology major and she told me of her challenges and successes. She told me some tips on how to get into a major like that or applying to one.

Thank you so very much! If I wasn't at camp, I'd probably be sitting at home watching television. But I am here, making new friends and gathering information on how to succeed in life. So thank you and I hope to see you soon for any other projects you need help with!

Sincerely, Lillith Byllesby



Membership

Our membership is at **54** with Marjorie Ott being our newest member who joined at our October meeting and Janice Gelb who joined in September. We are so happy to have them with us. Please greet them when you see them at our functions. Keep inviting new people to our activities in hopes that they see how wonderful a branch we are and how our projects benefit the whole community. Blessings during these wonderful times. ~ Susan Brazil

Scholarship: Student Letter



This exemplifies why we support our young women through scholarships. We also received a thank you from Ashlie Andrade. ~ Jean Burns Slater

*Madrid Holland
July 9, 2019*

AAUW Scholarship

To the American Association of University Women, Pismo Beach Five Cities:

I am honored to be one of the recipients for this award. Thanks to your generosity and support some of the costs for college will be reduced and decrease my workload as a whole. While I still plan to work throughout the semester and full time in the summers, having extra financial aid greatly lowers my stress in college and allow me to have a more successful college experience.

I plan to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, where I will be majoring in Neuroscience and minoring in Psychology and Marketing. My end goal is to attend Medical School and later down the line become a Neurosurgeon. This kind of career will bring me a fulfillment most people can only dream of having.

I look forward to a future where I can practice medicine daily and play an intricate healing process of sick patients. I know where I want to be in 10 years, and a degree is going to give me the resources and knowledge I need to get there.

Thank you again for your investment in my future. Every penny counts. Regardless of it, this award will go towards my books, tuition, or room and board, it will be a valuable asset to my future endeavors as a college student. I am truly grateful.

*Best,
Madrid Holland*

Board Meeting

The next board meeting of the 2019-20 year is on **Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 PM**, in the Arroyo Grande Hospital Annex.

If you or your committee have an action item that needs to be placed on the agenda for **December 2nd**, please forward it to Rose Ann Steiner by **Wednesday, November 27th** in order for it to be considered at the meeting.

Thank you!

The **JANUARY**
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
is
DECEMBER 20th
at
8:00 PM

Spotlight: Rose Ann Steiner



Family; a small west Texas town; twelve cousins and two siblings; strong faith in God; a farm/ ranch with cattle, wheat, cotton; high morals and a strong work ethic. What could go wrong? A drought in the 1950's resulted in selling the farm, a change of life for the family. The father owned service stations and farmed; the mother worked for the Chamber of Commerce in Shamrock, Texas.

The dream of attending college seemed doubtful, but Rose Ann received two scholarships from the PTA and a civic organization which helped pay the tuition for two years at Texas Tech University. Rose Ann began as a speech and drama major, but with the suggestion that she earn a teaching credential also. This solid advice lead Rose Ann to becoming a speech pathologist with an English minor. She worked hard for her education in her studies and summer jobs.

Her parents moved to New Mexico, so with the family out of state, increased tuition hit Rose Ann. She worked summer jobs in the post office, the telephone company, did private tutoring and in her father's business to earn money for college.

Rose Ann was the first in her family to graduate from college. Her parents both attended college but did not complete a degree. Her example set her siblings and cousins on the college path. Her family connections continue today with regular reunions.

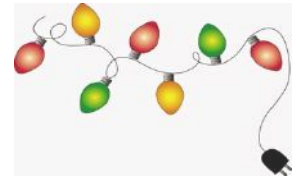
Her first teaching job was in Denver. She lived with several teachers, enjoying the single life. She met her husband, Jim, in Denver and after a transfer, as a financial controller for Ryder Transportation Systems, they married and moved to California. Rose Ann applied for a California teaching credential, which required additional course work at Cal State LA. She worked in Compton, teaching 3rd grade. She then spent 31 years in El Rancho School District as a speech pathologist and in a self-contained classroom with language disordered students.

Her two sons readjusted her life, and she began her involvement with the Whittier AAUW branch, 500 members strong in 1973. She was involved in Reading, Interruption, and Performance as a branch member in addition to other responsibilities. She spent 35 years in public education which she describes as a wonderful career and 46 years as an AAUW member.

After Jim retired, they moved to Arroyo Grande in 1997. Bridge, golf, book groups, church, travel, computer activities to "stay in the loop" and volunteerism round out Rose Ann's life. She and Jim have two sons...one is a certified welder with a local construction company and builds cell towers. Their other son lives in Tucson and is a CPA in hospital administration. They have two grandchildren.

The family-instilled work ethic, determination and AAUW philanthropy guide Rose Ann's retirement. "Be the best you can, help others as much as you can," is solid advice from a genteel, gentle Texas woman who continues to give back through our local AAUW, and our branch leadership with her energy, guidance and resources.

5 Cities AAUW Activity Groups



Lunch Bunch

- **December 5th (Thursday) at 11:30 AM at The Garden Mediterranean restaurant**

Please join your AAUW friends for an early holiday celebration at **The Garden Mediterranean** restaurant. This lovely restaurant is located at **122 Boone St. in Santa Maria** (just south of the Santa Maria Mall, across from the DMV and community park and pool. Come enjoy shwarma, fillafels, kebobs, salads, hummus, or sandwiches.

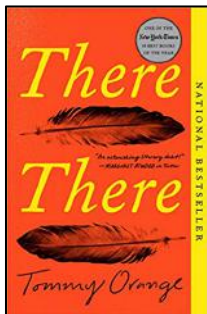
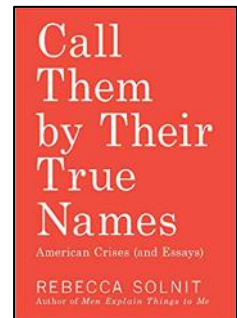
Please **RSVP** to Linda Lidberg, lswl@aol.com or 805-929-6958 **no later than December 3rd**.

Daytime Page Turners

- **Call Them by Their True Names**, by Rebecca Solnit

- Meets **December 6th (Friday) at 11:30 AM**

This nonfiction book discusses politics, police shootings, gentrification and more. We will be discussing this politically charged and relevant book with topics of injustice and violence. Our hostess is Mary Weeks, providing beverages and dessert. Please message Mary at marylee35@aol.com or 775-721-4747 for directions.

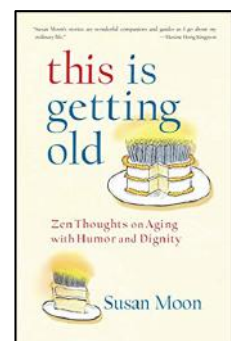


- Our **January 3rd** book selection is Tommy Orange's **There There**. Author Orange writes of the urban Native American, the Native American in the city, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, along with a plague of addiction, abuse and suicide.
- Daytime Page Turners will be **selecting books for 2020 at the January 3rd meeting**. Each reader is asked to bring three suggestions in the fiction, nonfiction categories and one classic for consideration in January. Start planning your suggestions now. ~ Jean Burns Slater



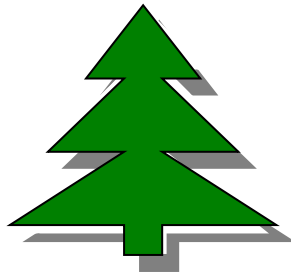
Night Readers

- **This is Getting Old: Zen Thoughts on Aging with Humor and Dignity**, by Susan Moon
- Meets **December 10th (Tuesday) at 7 PM** at the home of **Susie Wedell**. The book has been called by one critic as "sweet, mellow, funny, wise, sad, and deeply affecting." At the meeting, the group will have its traditional book exchange. ~ Sandra Ku, chairperson



Great Decisions

If you are interested in joining Great Decisions for the 2020 year, please contact Priscilla Alquist, palquist@gmail.com, or Jean Burns Slater, jbslater2016@gmail.com. This discussion group actively stays connected with current political policy decisions and shares ideas with fellow Branch members. Each discussion evening opens with a video highlighting the discussion topics, followed by a lively discussion based on the reading guide. The cost of materials is \$32.50. Priscilla is collecting funds and will send the order soon. Join us!



AAUW Save the Date
Monday, December 16, 2019

Five Cities-Pismo Beach Holiday Mixer

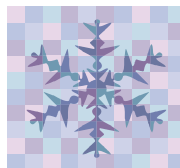
What ~ Potluck, mixer & ornament exchange

*Where ~ Arroyo Grande Women's Club **

When ~ Monday, December 16 @ 6:30 pm

*Gather to enjoy favorite potluck dishes
Drinks & tableware provided*

*Bring your favorite potluck dish
& an ornament to exchange*



** 211 Vernon St, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420*

BINGO Success!

The Bingo Fundraiser on November 23 was a huge success! Coordinated by Kathy Cohon, she wishes to 'give a BIG "thank you" for the time and effort you all expended to make today's event soo-o-o successful... AAUW women make it happen for all the right reasons. You do thing well for all the right projects. You do well and you do good. A special nod to Pam, Andi, Maureen, the SA crew and to all!'


Watch for upcoming information on the final numbers, etc, to come soon!



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