



MAY 2020

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The EQUITY FOR ALL Waves



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIVE CITIES PISMO BEACH, CA, BRANCH

PRESIDING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to two dedicated and energetic members of AAUW, we now have a slate of nominees for our 2020-21 officers.

The team of Susan Brazil and Laurie King as Co-Presidents; Linda Lidberg as Treasurer; and Pat Muhlethaler as Secretary will serve us with distinction! When they call the rest of you to serve on the Board or play another role, please step up to the challenge.

The last few weeks have been interesting and concerning. But while we stayed in our homes or wore our masks when we ventured out, we were able to electronically approve the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures with a unanimous vote of 100% of the Board. Our next electronic vote will be the election of officers.

Personally, while I missed the comradery of our AAUW members, I did have two opportunities to bask in the beauty of our Central Coast. I so loved the magnificent wild flowers experienced at Shell Beach Road and on Figueroa Mountain in Santa Barbara County. At least for a period of time, all was right with the world!

At this time, we anticipate no meetings in May. But please do stay safe!

~ Marilyn



Marilyn Corey



NOTE ON FUTURE AAUW MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE: Our branch meetings will not be held in a physical location until further notice. This will be the final branch newsletter until September, when we anticipate starting up again. However, as you are aware, we are not able to commit to anything at this time. Stay tuned!

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

~ Marie Curie

MAY BIRTHDAYS

The AAUW 5 Cities-Pismo Beach Branch wishes a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Lauren Manning..... 6
Carol McBirnie18
Linda Keetch29



KEEPING IT LIGHT 1

Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.

I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

I'm so excited---it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?

Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.

Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under.
~ Carol Dempsey

MEMBERSHIP

While self-isolated, there is something you can do to benefit everyone, especially AAUW. Sit down with pen and checkbook and write out a check for \$100 made out to **AAUW 5 Cities Pismo Beach. Mail to Susan Brazil, 397 Mesa View Dr., AG 93420 (Please return your check with the form at the end of this newsletter).** That would take only a few minutes out of your "very busy" schedule and would help continue to serve our community... Sorry I haven't any exciting things to report about my three-month isolation. I am finally able to read after two months (couldn't hold book without pain), watching Hallmark movies, cleaning drawers and cupboards one a day, driving in country to keep battery working, doing Word Scape games on iPad, and trying to be introspective about life! Sending everyone love and peace.
~ Susan

Yes, we still need your dues. As a newer member I questioned the timing given these unusual circumstances. But things will get back to normal and our support of Tech Trek, Scholarship, and RIF are critical. We will get back to having meetings and need to pay the Women's Club for a site to meet as well as insurance and business expenses. Meanwhile, we're looking at ways to meet online so we keep our branch viable. We want to stay the course in these weird times. Thank you.
~ Laurie King

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all members of Five Cities-Pismo Beach AAUW... I hope you are all doing well during the quarantine.

This message brings good news for the Branch! The nominating committee, under the leadership of Jean Slater, has received acceptances of nomination for the offices of President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The members accepting the nominations are as follows:

Co-President: Susan Brazil and Laurie King
Treasurer: Linda Lidberg
Secretary: Pat Muhlethaler

Current Co-President Marilyn Corey will conduct an electronic vote in approximately two weeks. Please be sure to participate in that vote; a "quorum" is very necessary.

Best wishes to all...

~ Pat Muhlethaler, Co-President

Five Cities Pismo Beach The Waves

...is a monthly newsletter of the
Five Cities Pismo Beach, CA,
Branch of AAUW

Vol. 41, No.9 – May 2020

Co-presidents:

*Marilyn Corey, Pat Muhlethaler,
Rose Ann Steiner*

Treasurer:

Linda Lidberg

Secretary / Newsletter Editor:

Gayle Turner

Parliamentarian:

Jean Burns Slater

AAUW Funds / Public Policy:

Mary Matakovich

Membership:

Laurie King and Susan Brazil

Fund Raising:

Priscilla Alquist and Pat Zirion

Program Committee:

Mary Matakovich and Liz Wineman

Communication / Publicity:

*Susan Opava, Chair / Ads
Sandra Ku, Email Blast
Linda Lidberg, Website
Priscilla Alquist, Outreach*

IBC Representative:

Linda Lidberg

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of the
month. Photos are welcome.

AAUW 5 Cities Website:

[https://fivecitiespismo-beach-
ca.aauw.net](https://fivecitiespismo-beach-ca.aauw.net)

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

2020



In the last newsletter I reported that the Tech Trek interview team would be interviewing nine 7th grade girls from the local middle schools on Sunday, March 22nd in the school superintendent's office. Unfortunately, due to the shelter in place orders and the school district closing all school facilities that did not occur.

We were unsure how to proceed and were not sure if there would even be Tech Trek camps in July. Not hearing anything from either the Tech Trek camp or the State AAUW office, it was decided to go ahead with interviews using the online conferencing platform Zoom.

On Sunday, April 5th, Susan Opava, Judy Leonard, and I held virtual interviews online. Our nine candidates were delightful, enthusiastic, and much more relaxed in their home environments than they would have been in person. It was obvious that we were going to have a very difficult time selecting only six of the nine nominees.

Approximately 30 minutes after our last interview, I received an email from the State AAUW leadership notifying Tech Trek Coordinators that all Tech Trek camps for 2020 were cancelled. I am not ashamed to say I sat down and cried. Evidently the colleges and universities hosting the camps followed Stanford's earlier decision to cancel summer events.

I made nine very sad phone calls Monday morning to our potential campers. Needless to say, they were disappointed, but were thankful for the opportunity to be considered for the program. I stressed that being the only girl in their nominating teacher's class to be recommended for Tech Trek was an honor to be remembered.

Tech Trek has traditionally been for 7th grade girls only. We do not know if the protocols for Tech Trek will be temporarily revised to include this year's nominees along with 7th graders in 2021.

We can only hope that this year's girls will be given a chance to attend Tech Trek camps. The campership funds that were paid for this year's campers will be carried over to next year.

I want to thank Susan Opava and Judy Leonard who expanded their technology repertoire by learning and using virtual conferencing and giving up their entire Sunday to help with the interviews.

~Linda Lidberg, Tech Trek Coordinator



BINGO & SILENT AUCTION

We hope that you and your families are well.

It's a bit hard to think about what AAUW has planned for October and November 2020... and we do think about it.

We'll have a new slate of officers and our yearly projects that will need funding.

- **Bingo and Silent Auction** will happen on **Saturday, October 17, 2020**
- **The Presidential Election** will happen on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

Our two biggest fundraisers are scheduled to occur. Please put them onto your calendar.

Now -- wash your hands; wear masks; enjoy reading; do jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, Sudoku; yes, even clean that closet; stay home; stay safe; Zoom and Skype.

Take care of yourselves and each other. We will see each other again.

Cheers!

~Kathy Cohon & Pam Zirion

MEMBERS SHARE

Members were asked if they have found a unique way to pass the time during our stay-at-home time... a poem or story they have written, or a photo of the craft & sewing projects they completed, or a garden they have planted, etc. We can uplift and encourage one another by sharing!

I have kept very busy - the reality is that it is very difficult to do nothing if one has been way too busy since retirement!

I have been basically doing two things. One is gardening. We went to Miner's and bought about 20 pony packs of veggies. Then I transplanted them into pots I had, because we are plagued with bunnies that love young shoots. I arranged the pots in our 3-tier fountain that we don't use much, since we aren't entertaining. Looks nice and I call it my Victory Garden!

The other activity is sewing. I finished a quilt, am working to finish another, and have made 34 cloth face masks YTD. (see photos, lower left)

Other than that, I read informative emails on how to live smarter with COVID-19 in the morning and then read jokes from friends and send them on to others. Unfortunately, I also have been cooking a lot more (not my favorite thing!) but necessary as we frugally make the best of the food on hand!

We have lots of food in store, and we order the Talley Farms produce box once a week - thus the cooking!! They have evocative recipes that intrigue me. For me, it is all about balance and good nutrition.

~ Priscilla Alquist

Keeping to a loose routine helps me cope. Mornings and evenings are for gardening projects. I've put in a planter box and a walkway down the south side of my house using 16" cement pavers (beats going to the gym!), and plan to plant some veggies there once I prepare the soil...After lunch, I'm on the computer sending emails, watching the silly golfers go by, streaming Netflix, sewing, crocheting or going to close-by fruit/veggie stands for fresh produce (like Peacock Winery)...I've signed up for InstaCart while we are sequestered. It's worked well for me. I've been cooking more, too, though I try to order take-out or pick-up at least once a week to support local restaurants...If I haven't left the house for a few days, I try to take a drive to someplace I haven't been...Texting, emailing, Facetime and Zoom keep me connected with family & friends...So thankful for our envious weather!

~ Gayle Turner

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Left:
Priscilla's beautiful
and unique art quilt

Lower left:
Priscilla's new
fountain vegetable
garden



Above: Gayle's new
flower garden

Left: Dress for 4-yr-old
granddaughter, Karina



SPOTLIGHT ON... MARJORIE OTT

Marjorie Ott was born into a dairy farming family in Wisconsin. Once her father developed health problems, the family moved to Columbia Heights near Minneapolis, changing from farming to factory work.

Tragedy struck Marjorie's family when her father was killed in a factory explosion leaving her mother with 6 small children with one on the way. Marjorie was the 4th child, and her Mom raised the family by herself with her Midwest spirit. She gained job training for grocery store work and eventually became manager of the bakery department.

Marjorie's mom, as a woman, was not given the pay raise that men gained and this touched off a long interest in pay fairness. Eventually the Equal Pay Act was implemented in 1963. Marjorie's mom had wanted to attend teaching college, but there were no resources to fulfill this dream. As a result, Marjorie knew that education was important, and encouraged by her high school counselor, away she went to the University of Minnesota. She earned a scholarship from the Teachers Federation. She held a part time job during high school, fueling a solid work ethic.

After graduation, Marjorie began teaching at a Minneapolis inner city school in 1970. With Federal money support, she team taught 1st and 2nd graders, became part of a math team, then on to a resource teacher in curriculum, leading to a staff development math position teaching teachers.

She began advocating for women to enter school administration. Using Title 9 program funds, Minneapolis schools created a Women's Studies

program. Marjorie wrote and taught curriculum on educational sexual stereotyping; she analyzed textbooks on how women were portrayed; and helped develop a curriculum on the 19th century women's suffragette movement for elementary graders. She went back to the classroom and then experienced a "wicked winter."

Marjorie's elder sister was in the San Francisco Bay area and off Marjorie went for sunshine and warmth. She took a leave of absence from the job with the Minneapolis schools and never went back.

She was hired by the California School Employees Association (CSEA) as a labor representative. In this position she survived a classified employee strike in Antioch and a difficult San Jose USD bankruptcy. She was promoted to Field Director and then to Director of Field Operations. She initiated interest-based negotiations and worked with the State of California Education Department. She trained teams in interest-based negotiations and worked through many heated problems between classified employees and school districts.

In 2001 Marjorie bought the Olallieberry Inn in Cambria, a bed and breakfast, with her sister and brother-in-law as managers. Socialization with guests was an added advantage, along with Marjorie's splendid baking skills and breakfast preparation. Soon she was giving cooking classes while her sister provided services as a top-notch massage therapist for guests. She served a leadership role in the Cambria Chamber of Commerce and the County Tourism Board and Business Improvement District.



Marjorie moved to Arroyo Grande after she and her sister sold the Olallieberry Inn, realizing it was time to move on and be closer to medical facilities. Marjorie's brother-in-law passed away and the two sisters set up housekeeping in this area.

Marjorie joined the Methodist Church, where her sister found love and support with a new husband, moving to Phoenix. Marjorie settled into Arroyo Grande, making friends and working with the County of San Luis Obispo Office of Education as a facilitator for interest-based negotiations with the classified staff.

She enjoys her family connections and feels lucky in life. Marjorie enjoys baking, reading, the outdoors, book clubs, neighbors, friends and church members. She describes herself as a political junkie and continues to be involved in politics. She lives by the motto, "Be kind in this day and age."

Welcome, Marjorie, to our local AAUW Branch. It is a pleasure to know you! ~ Jean Burns Slater

BYLAWS AND POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Current Bylaws and Policies and Procedures for the Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch were recently revised and Board approved. The Bylaws and Policies and Procedures revision committee consisted of: Kathi Pettersen, Judy Leonard, Patti Melsheimer, headed by Jean Burns Slater, Parliamentarian.

The Committee worked diligently in January and brought drafts of the documents to the Board for discussion in February and March with a request for final approval in April. Copies of these amended versions were sent to all Board members within 30 days of approval. The Bylaws were sent to the appropriate National AAUW office for review, prior to requesting a Branch vote for approval.

Copies of these documents will be sent electronically by Jean Burns Slater, Parliamentarian, to any Branch member upon request. (jbslater2006@gmail.com)

Thank you all for your help in completing these edits and providing a clear pathway for running our Branch within the legal and local interest of our organization.

2020 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch 2020 Nominations Committee is pleased to announce our current slate of officers for consideration for the 2020-2021 year for our Branch.

Co-Presidents: Susan Brazil and Laurie King
Secretary: Pat Muhlethaler
Treasurer: Linda Lidberg

We are exceptionally pleased with this slate of officers and are assured that the success of our Branch will continue based on the skills, enthusiasm, and leadership of these officers, if approved. We also recognize the need for our Branch members to continue to support our elected officers through the assumption of supporting and appointed roles in various leadership positions.

The Nomination Committee thanks our current officers for their leadership and organization for this past year, especially during these changing times and lack of ability to have face-to-face meetings and conversations.

~ Jean Burns Slater and Laurie King, Nominating Committee 6

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDEES

The Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Corporation Board of Directors made their selection of awardees for the 2019-2020 year on April 9 through an electronic email, respond to all meeting. This was a unique experience for the Directors and active participation made this technique actually work.

The main criteria for a scholarship included:

- 1) Maintenance of a minimum of a 3.5 grade point average
- 2) Application to accredited four-year colleges or universities as a full-time student for the Fall of 2020
- 3) Two (2) signed letters of recommendations from school faculty, administrators or counselors, completed scholarship application, including an essay
- 4) Participation in an oral interview if selected as a finalist

The Board of Directors were so very impressed with the candidates this year that it was decided to award 6 scholarships of \$1,500 each.

The awardees are:

- Veronica Fegley and Taylor MacCuish from Arroyo Grande High
- Saige Gardner and Claire Wellenkamp from Nipomo High
- Gesenia Echeverria (AVID AG) and Samantha Lynch (AVID AG) for AVID

The awards total \$9,000 this year and would not have been possible without the commitment of our Branch fund raising and donations efforts. Thank you Branch members. The young women are willing to join us at a general AAUW Branch meeting when possible.

The next Scholarship Directors meeting to discuss suggestions for next year will be held on April 30 via email or Zoom. If any Branch members are interested in offering suggestions or serving on the Board please notify Jean Burns Slater, jbslater2006@gmail.com.



HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY

With the coronavirus starting to show itself in California (but before the Governor's shelter-in-place orders), the AAUW-CA Public Policy team decided to exercise caution and improvised our annual legislative meeting with our Advocate in Sacramento. Co-Chairs Kathi Harper and Sue Miller, along with AAUW-CA president Jane Neimeier, did meet with Advocate Magaly Zaval at her office on March 13th, however we communicated with all other committee members via e-mails throughout the day.

Although challenging, the meeting was productive. We reviewed 44 bills with the following resolutions:

- Co-Sponsor 1 bill (SB973)
- Support 26 Bills in the following categories:
 - Product Regulation – 3
 - Family Planning – 5
 - Education – 6
 - Labor/Wages – 2
 - Gender Equity/Discrimination – 4
 - Family Protection – 3
 - Sexual Assault and Sex Education – 2
- 8 Bills will be “watched” for further developments
- 10 Bills were dropped

For more information on these bills, click here:

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=19&id=920d3c91-39f9-4e59-a017-b2d993254aef>

We have also learned that the Legislature will not reconvene until May 4th. We are not sure what impact that will have on this legislative session, we are advised that their focus is going to be on coronavirus bills, housing and wildfires. The state budget must be approved by June 15, so this too will be an area of focus. We will keep members updated as we learn more.

Finally, we have learned that our long-time Advocate Shannon Smith-Crowley is still healing from the concussion she sustained in an accident last year, please keep her in your thoughts for a successful recovery.

~ Kathi Harper, Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

Every few days try on your jeans just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone.

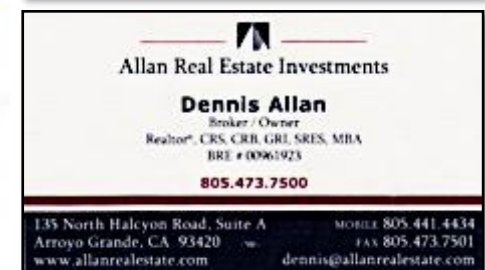
Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting, and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.

Day 6 of Home schooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year." ...I'm offended.

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house and told my dog. We laughed a lot.

~ Carol Dempsey



AAUW NATIONAL AND CALIFORNIA ON COVID-19

Physical Distancing and In-Person Meetings during the COVID 19 Pandemic

To: AAUW California Members
From: Cathy Foxhoven and Jane Niemeier, Co-Presidents, AAUW California
Date: April 18, 2020

We are writing to advise you of the official position of AAUW California on the question of when in-person meetings may be reintroduced. Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW National has issued this statement:

"You MUST follow your Governor's & Mayor's guidance. We at National have strongly advised absolutely NO meetings in person for the foreseeable future for all affiliates (branches/states), and in compliance with local/state guidance/orders. Our state/local laws supersede in this exceedingly difficult time. Better for all AAUW members to absolutely shelter in place and meet virtually via Skype, FaceTime, Zoom, or conference calls."

We fully endorse this. Branches must not have any in-person meetings until Governor Newsome lifts the "Stay-at-Home" order. That includes interest group meetings. No branch should sanction any meetings of any group within the branch.

If you need any information on setting up virtual meetings, you can find help at aauw-ca.org. If you need suggestions for creative alternatives to branch functions, see the following.

Stay safe. Be well.

Here are a few ideas from California branches on how they are keeping things going as we shelter in place:

- Hold your meetings online using some form of online conferencing like Zoom or Google Hangouts.
- Set up a member-helping-member network to touch base and to identify your at-risk folks who might need grocery or prescription pick-up. Dust off the old-fashioned phone tree. Ask your board members to each call a list of names just to say "Hello!"
- Interest Groups:
 - Book groups: members read the assigned book and then discuss online in a virtual meeting.
 - Drama or play reading groups: find a YouTube video of a production of the play and send the link to your members to view. Then discuss in a virtual meeting.
 - Hiking groups: challenge members to get out anyway. Set up a shared spreadsheet on Google Sheets for everyone to record their miles and trails to hit a goal. Hikers can also share videos/photos of their solo hikes. A fun idea is to have an identification contest for the wildflowers seen along the trails.
 - Craft groups: host a virtual Show and Tell.
 - Lunch and dinner groups: gather virtually to share a meal. Show off your sandwiches, but don't talk with your mouth full. We can see you.
 - Public Policy groups have PLENTY of time now to write letters to legislators. Encourage them with ideas and templates. How about a GOTV postcard challenge?
 - Garden Group members can post video tours of their blooming gardens. Maybe a name-that-plant contest?
- Stay on top of the AAUW mission: ask members to recommend related TED talks for all to view, then discuss in an online meeting.
- Lighten things up: host a virtual meeting for members to share a joke or a funny story.
- Get busy on your branch's Facebook page: consider setting up a separate private "social group" page just for keeping in touch.
- Mobilize members with a task to help the community, such as pairing up with a quilting club to sew masks.
- Send your members an AAUW-related scavenger hunt, crossword puzzle or BINGO game (easy to create with free online tools). Did someone say "contest?"

INTEREST GROUPS

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the stay-at-home order, all meetings and interest groups that meet in face-to-face are **CANCELLED** until further notice. We encourage your groups to try online options to stay connected, such as Group Facetime and Zoom, or by email or group phone calls. It is important that we support each other as we travel down this road together...

GREAT DECISIONS: PREPARE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD

Great Decisions Discussion Group will not be meeting until **June 29** at the earliest. We suspended the group discussion for **March** on *Red Sea Security* and the **April** discussion on *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*. We do not have a discussion planned for May.

The next Great Decisions meeting is planned for **Monday, June 29, if this is possible**, with the topic of *U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle*. The northern triangle is the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This discussion will consider migration, widespread violence and criminality, economic inequality and rural poverty. These topics greatly influence the U.S. border crossing, Mexico and immigration laborers in the U.S.

The video begins at 7:00 pm at Priscilla Alquist's home in Arroyo Grande, with a lively discussion to follow. The June discussion will be led by Judy Zaretzka, refreshments will be hosted by Connie Rodgers. Great Decisions activities are centered on "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education", Franklin D. Roosevelt. We share in the global education of the American citizenry.

As this date draws closer, we will know if and when we might hold this discussion. Thank you for your patience. Please do read the articles in your discussion book for background information.

AAUW BRANCH SPONSORS

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We are pleased to support the
Five Cities-Pismo Beach
Branch of AAUW
in their efforts to advance equity
for women and girls!
~ Patti and Dick Melsheimer

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We are delighted
to support the
Five Cities-Pismo Beach Branch
of AAUW
Andi, Jeff, and Allison Portney

Blank page is the back side of the membership form. Please PRINT the next page and follow the instructions.



AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach 2020 – 2021 Membership Renewal

Our mission and focus:

“ Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.”
Welcome and thank you for joining the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch of AAUW for another year to advance the AAUW mission, while making new acquaintances and renewing long term friendships! This year you may consider joining an additional section to meet new friends and explore new interests.

- Dues are \$100 for the 2020 – 2021 year. (Dual members pay \$21 for the local Branch dues only.)
- ___ Check here to order a name tag or replacement name tag and include an additional \$11.
- ___ Check here to request the newsletter mailed to your home.
- Make checks payable to: **AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach**

Please return this form with your annual dues and any supplemental payments **by July 1, 2020** to:

Susan Brazil
AAUW Membership
397 Mesa View Dr.
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

___ Dues \$100
___ Dual Member \$21
___ Name Tag \$11
\$ ___ Total

IF YOUR DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, FILL IN YOUR NAME ONLY.

Name: _____

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