



SEPTEMBER 2020

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

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AAUW MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE: Our Board and General Branch Meetings will be held on Zoom until further notice.

Please contact Pam Zirion for Zoom assistance.

LOOKING AHEAD

ZOOM MEETINGS:

- Board Meeting Sept. 7 @ 6:30
- Gen. Meeting Sept.21 @ 6:30
- Board Meeting Oct. 5 @ 6:30
- Gen. Meeting Oct.19 @ 6:30

Mission - To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.	Vision - Equity for all	Values - Non-partisan Fact based Integrity Inclusion Intersectionality
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The EQUITY FOR ALL Waves



PRESIDING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

Welcome to a very challenging year ahead of us. Your board is working very hard to ensure that you feel engaged and supported during these trying times.

Our theme this year is:

Unity, Community, Communication

Unity - joining together to meet AAUW goals of serving women and girls.

Community - all members working together to support each other and serve our community.

Communication - keeping each other informed during these difficult times in order to assist one another when needed.

As a result of our ongoing coronavirus situation, all meetings will be held on Zoom until further notice. Pam Zirion has offered to sponsor these meetings and will be sending out information regarding how to access Zoom so that you may participate.

If you need assistance utilizing Zoom, please feel free to call or email Pam (See contact info in the directory).

We are planning informative short sessions for you each month. **September** will include **voter information** by Jean Slater and suffragist acknowledgements.

For **October** and **November**, we hope to share education and community information regarding the **coronavirus**.

Please contact Laurie or myself if you have any ideas for future Zoom presentations. Also, if any of you need assistance of any kind during these times, please call us for help.

We will be distributing the directories in September either by mail or drop off.

You are all great women, so please take charge of your life and be safe, strong, and loving to yourself and others.

~Susan Brazil

Honor the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Know the Issues and Celebrate!

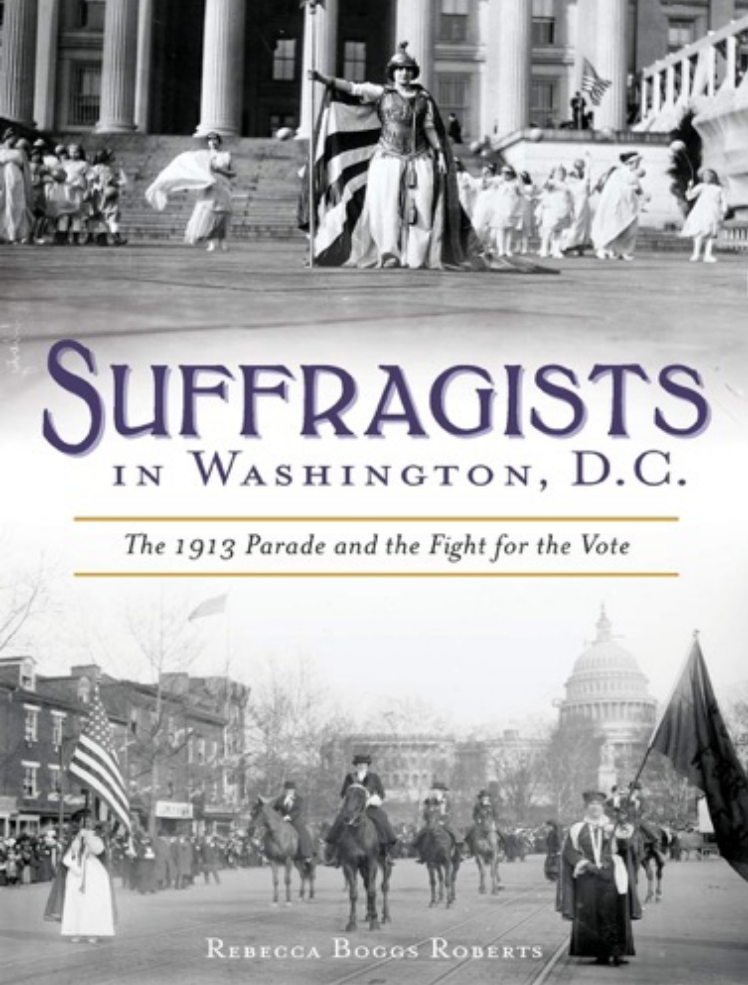
Join our branch general meeting via **Zoom** on **September 21 at 6:30 pm.**

- Jean Burns Slater will cover issues in the AAUW Action Fund Voter Guide, *“It’s My Vote... I Will Be Heard.”*
- Pam Zirion will lead our celebration of Women’s Suffrage. If you have a hat created to celebrate the occasion, please wear it.

You will receive a link to the meeting via email from Pam. Generally, you need only to click on the link to access the meeting. *(See more about the program on page 2)*

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Don your white hat to honor the amendment that said the **“right to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the US or any state on account of sex.”** Please wear your white hat like the suffragists did so long ago. If you don’t have one, you can wear the colors of the movement—purple white, and gold—or a yellow rose to honor Tennessee’s ratification, the final vote needed. It will be more than “talking heads.” We will celebrate this momentous occasion with good cheer and stories.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

It's My Vote... I WILL be Heard!

Voter Issue Guide

AAUW Action Fund

When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation

Our **September General Meeting** will focus on the *AAUW Action Fund Voter Issue Guide* which will be sent electronically to every member via our blast.

The 2020 election is more challenging than any other election in which we have participated. Over the course of 139 years, AAUW has not faced the obstacles we now confront; fighting for a safe and just election during a time of such great crisis. The COVID 19 pandemic is unlike anything we—our society and democracy—itsself have ever faced. Persistent and underlying inequities, ever at the forefront of our mission, are now being compounded by global health and economic crisis. Meanwhile, voting access and election practices are inconsistent as pandemic response policies.

On **September 21**, via zoom, we will discuss a method of evaluating candidates through the lens of six key **gender equity issues**: Voting Access, Pay Equity, Paid Sick and Family Leave, College Affordability, Campus Sexual Harassment and Violence, and Health Care Access and Reproductive Rights.

Look for your *Voter Issue Guide* via email to prepare for this meeting. This guide offers nonpartisan information about policy concerns that are critical to women and families.

If you do not have time to review the guide, no problem, no worries. You can join the activity regardless.

Thank you. ~Jean B Slater

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

The AAUW 5 Cities-Pismo Beach Branch wishes a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY or BELATED BIRTHDAY to the following members:

Joan Florence..... 9
 Carol Dempsey..... 10
 Yvonne Stephens 19

Kathi Pettersen1
 Joyce Fluaitt.....6
 Susan Brazil7
 Ann Sawyer.....22
 Lisa Walker22
 Renee David24
 Elaine Olson.....29

Priscilla Alquist 2
 Sue LaCabe..... 7
 Laurie King 19

Linda Lidberg 11
 Gaye Peltzman 14
 Anna Zucker 17
 Maurina Kusell 18
 Pam Ziron..... 23

Happy Birthday!!!



Tech Trek camps for the summer of 2020 went the way of a lot of the things in our lives today. However, in an effort to offer our Tech Trek campers something, the San Luis Obispo Interbranch Council arranged a couple of Zoom presentations for the campers.

The first presentation was by two women from UCSB who usually attend the Tech Trek camps and talk about "What it takes to get into college and how to pay for it." This presentation is always well received by those attending the camps as it was by those Zooming in.

The second presentation was by Kelso Harper, a 2008 Tech Trekker from San Luis Obispo who went on to get her degree in Chemistry. Kelso combined her chemistry degree with her love of writing and is now a freelance science writer. Kelso shared information about her career path and impressed all who logged in with her knowledge.

Before the Zoom presentation we asked the Tech Trekkers to watch a YouTube video that Kelso produced about the Mars Rover. Kelso will be continuing her education as she heads East to get her Masters in Scientific Writing.

~Linda Lidberg

Five Cities Pismo Beach Scholarship Corp. begins 2020-2021 with four new Directors due to the resignations of Carol Rowe, Jean Slater, Joyce Rowe, and Barbara Cotton.

The newly elected Directors are:
Patti Melsheimer, Rose Ann Steiner, Priscilla Alquist, and Marilyn Corey.

The elected officers for the new term are:
CEO Marilyn Corey
Vice President... Kathi Pettersen
CFO..... Maurina Kusell
Secretary Pat Muhlethaler

Scholarship recipients are beginning to receive their funds as they enroll in their respective colleges.

Vice President Kathi Pettersen is sending letters to each recipient inquiring about the challenges they've met in the process of beginning their freshman year along with the best wishes of the Directors.

~ Pat Muhlethaler



The Waves

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

Vol. 42, No.1 – September 2020

Co-presidents:

Susan Brazil & Laurie King

Treasurer: *Linda Lidberg*

Secretary: *Pat Muhlethaler*

Parliamentarian: *Rose Ann Steiner*

AAUW Funds: *Mary Matakovich*

Public Policy: *Jean Burns Slater*

Membership:

Laurie King and Susan Brazil

Fund Raising:

Pam Zirion

Program Committee:

Mary Matakovich and Liz Wineman

Communication / Publicity:

Sandra Ku, Email Blast

Linda Lidberg, Website

Priscilla Alquist, Outreach

Newsletter Editor: *Gayle Turner*

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>

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.

SPOTLIGHT ON... JOAN FLORENCE



Think about Corcoran California before the State Prison was established. Cotton, grain, agriculture with migrant labor and a population of 7,000. This was the first home of Joan Florence. Joan's dad owned a water well drilling business and her mom was a bookkeeper. Joan completed high school and didn't know what she wanted to do, as a four-year college was not encouraged. She attended nurses' training in Oakland, focusing on hospital nursing. She lived in the dorm at Alameda County Hospital and graduated as an R.N.

After nurses' training, Joan married her high school sweetheart in 1960. While her fiancé was attending San Jose State in teacher training, he was drafted with only year left. He was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, where Joan worked the night shift as a relief nurse at a tiny hospital.

After military service, they returned as a family with a 3-month-old baby girl, in a broken-down car to California. They moved on to Phoenix and then back to San Jose, with Joan's husband working in the personnel office in banking. After their second child, Joan and her husband bought a house in Santa Clara where they added their third child to the family. Joan never went back to nursing as she felt she was "not cut out for it" and became a stay-at-home mom, with a few small jobs, like Avon.

After Santa Clara, they moved to Reno and then to Bakersfield, where her husband had a new banking job offer. The family established themselves in Bakersfield, with a horse and a house and Joan went back to school. She started again as a freshman, majoring in English and loved it. In 1983 they moved to Redding, following husband's career, and Joan finished her Bachelor of Arts at Chico State.

Joan's parents retired in Pismo Beach and her in-laws were in Corcoran when both mothers became ill with cancer and required care and attention. The drive from Redding to see the families was exhausting, so Joan and her husband moved back to Bakersfield where they purchased a Personnel Services business, working together for 12 years.

After selling this business, Joan's husband went back into banking and Joan began to substitute teach for five years. This was her very best job, working with the K-3 graders. Joan's husband developed lung cancer and after it reappeared with pneumonia he passed away, leaving Joan in Bakersfield.

Joan moved into her parents' retirement home in Pismo Beach full time in 2009, after they died. Their home was purchased in the 1970's so it was a perfect spot for Joan on her own. Joan decided that she could not maintain two households so she sold her

Bakersfield home and moved permanently to the Central Coast.

Joan joined AAUW, began traveling and making deep rooted friends. She has traveled to Russia, Japan, England, Chile, the Galapagos Islands, Borneo and more on great tours. Joan is willing to try anything, as her life adventures testify.

After her husband died, Joan, who had never lived alone, had to take care of herself completely. She consulted with her doctor, who outlined some healthy lifestyle habits, which she implemented: walking regularly, yoga classes, selecting her foods carefully. Joan's frugality and health consciousness is paying off in her retirement years.

Joan has 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandsons. Her son lives in Bakersfield and with his family and three children, and Joan's daughter lives in Redding with two children. Joan's third child, a daughter, died recently, with Joan inheriting her dog, which Joan has promised to care for: a little 15 pound, sweet, calm, good traveler of a dog.

The golden rule of, 'Do unto others as you want them to do to you,' and 'Try not to be judgmental,' are guiding philosophies for Joan. Joan stated that her daily plan is to get up every day, get dressed, keep the house up and not get too lonely.

Thank goodness AAUW has Joan, and Joan has AAUW, for friendship and guidance. During this COVID sheltering-in-place, it is difficult for everyone to stay connected. Joan is connected to AAUW and AAUW is connected to Joan. Joan has contributed to Great Decisions, AAUW book group, edited our Branch Newsletter, and contributes in a host of other ways.

Thank you, Joan, for your contributions to our Branch and to our community. ~ Jean Burns Slater

INTEREST GROUPS

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Covid guidelines, most meetings / interest groups that meet face-to-face have been CANCELLED until further notice. We encourage your groups to try online options to stay connected, such as Group Facetime and Zoom, or by other social distancing options.

GREAT DECISIONS: PREPARE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD

Great Decisions Discussion Group has not met since February and we are missing our topics, our lively discussions and our discussion friends. We are working on hosting zoom discussion meetings for the rest of our topics for the year which are:

- *Red Sea Security*
- *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.*
- *U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle.*
- *China's Road into Latin America*
- *The Philippines & the U.S.*
- *Artificial Intelligence & Data*

Our first meeting/discussion will occur in **September** with the date to be announced to the discussion members. We are considering the possibility of two zoom meetings a month to complete our topic discussions. We also discovered that we can individually access the DVD prepared videos prior to our discussion. This looks like a very reasonable procedure to provide the prepared videos, and a follow up discussion with our group. The only things we will miss are Priscilla Alquist's lovely home, her amenable husband, Jim, and the absolutely delicious snacks, provided by discussion members.

As dates draw closer, we will let you know when we will hold our discussions. Thank you for your patience. Please do read the articles in your discussion book for background information.

AAUW BRANCH SPONSORS

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Thank you

to all of our

Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Sponsors!

We all join in wishing

Marilyn Corey

a complete and speedy recovery...



Official AAUW Interest Group Contacts:

Great Decisions	Priscilla Alquist / Jean Burns Slater
Lunch Bunch	Joan Knowlton
Night Readers	
Book Group	Sandra Ku
Theatre Goers	Judy Zaretska

Independent AAUW Interest Group Contacts:

Cooking Group	Lisa Walker
Daytime Page Turners	Jean Burns Slater
Finessing Femmes	Marilyn Corey (Bridge Group – needs one more member)
Quilters	Linda Lidberg

(These groups have become independent of AAUW in order to be inclusive of readers who are no longer members.)

AAUW FIVE CITIES PISMO BEACH PROPOSED BUDGET 2020 - 2021

Proposed Operating Expenses	
Community Center Rent	\$230.00
Membership Directory	\$145.00
Mailing Directory Postage	\$75.00
Program Expenses	\$0.00
Hospitality	\$0.00
Insurance	\$242.00
Interbranch Dues	\$40.00
Post Office Box Rental	\$106.00
President's Expenses	\$0.00
Secretary's Expenses	\$0.00
Treasurer's Expenses	\$11.21
Publicity	\$0.00
Newsletter Expenses	\$10.00
Out-going President's Pin	\$150.00
Raffle/Bingo permit	\$0.00
Unencumbered funds	\$143.79
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENSES	\$1,153.00

Checkbook Balance 7/1/20	\$33,376.24
Reserves (Tech Trek, Op. Exp.)	-\$21,626.91
Remaining Operating Funds	\$11,749.33

Anticipated Operating Income	
43 Memberships @ \$21	\$903.00
Advertising	\$250.00
Anticipated Operating Income	\$1,153.00
Anticipated Fundraising Income	
Fall Bingo and Silent Auction	\$0.00
Adopt-a-Poll	\$0.00
Other Fundraising	
Total Anticipated Fundraising Income	\$0.00

Reserve Carryover	
Scholarship	\$0.00
Tech Trek	\$6,784.02
RIF	\$3,073.27
AAUW Funds	\$921.21
General Funds Reserve	\$10,848.41
Total Reserves on Hand	\$21,626.91