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OUR MISSION:

Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

Waves

Marilyn Corey

Goodbye and Farewell



Members of AAUW want to send best wishes and happy thoughts to our friend, Marilyn Corey, who is moving to Alabama to be near family.

Marilyn devoted many active years to AAUW, serving as president twice. She was most visible in many fundraisers, such as the Bingo Silent Auctions and chairing two huge estate sales. She served as president of the Scholarship Corporation several years. We will miss her friendship, energy and eagerness to promote opportunity and education for women and girls. (see page 2)

The Scholarship Board has voted to award a 2021 scholarship in honor of Marilyn, who recently made a generous donation. Please consider giving to scholarships to honor her achievements. The donation form is on the AAUW website. Your donation is tax deductible, and you may designate your gift for 2021 scholarships or for the endowment.

~ Rose Ann Steiner, Scholarship Corporation Director

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, Everyone!

We are starting anew with hopes that 2021 will be a year that brings health, happiness, and wisdom.

Our branch is active in whatever way we can while observing safety guidelines. Please join our monthly zoom meetings to keep in touch with other members.

Many thanks to Marilyn Corey for all of her years of dedication to our branch. We wish her well in her new “gigs”.

Marilyn’s new address was blasted out to the members on Dec. 8th. We encourage you to send her good-wishes cards.

In closing, here is a message from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

*Adopt the pace of Nature.
Her secret is PATIENCE.*

~ Susan Brazil

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Contact Pam Zirion for any required Zoom assistance.

January 4
Monday @ 6:30
BOARD Meeting

NO January GENERAL Meeting!
SEE PAGE 2... for information on two ZOOM events on Diversity in San Luis Obispo County.

February 1
Monday @ 6:30
BOARD Meeting

1

February 15
Monday @ 6:30
GENERAL Meeting

Dr. Fawcett, Superintendent of LMUSD, will discuss how Covid-19 has impacted local schools.

March 1
Monday @ 6:30
BOARD Meeting

March 15
Monday @ 6:30
GENERAL Meeting

TBD

AAUW Five Cities-Pismo Beach January Program

Diversity in San Luis Obispo County

Celebrating Martin Luther King with the SLO County Diversity Coalition and NAACP SLO County!

We are invited to participate with these organizations as they recognize MLK for his leadership. The Diversity Council will be offering a bibliography, featured videos and an historical perspective of Dr. King; these resources will be posted on their website in early January.

The NAACP SLO County will be hosting a MLK celebration via ZOOM on **Sunday, January 17, 2021**. They will host a video premiere called **“At the Table with Dr. King.”**

On **Monday, January 18, 2021**, they will be broadcasting **one of MLK’s speeches**. Both events will be at **3:00 PM**. They are still working out the details of the latter. Please **“Save the Date.”**

We will post updated information via an eblast as soon as it is available, probably by the second week in January. Please join in the celebration of Martin Luther King’s life and example.

The AAUW Five Cities-Pismo Beach Branch is delighted to wish a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to members:

Jean B Slater	4
Judy Zaretska	4
Marjorie Ott.....	8
Mary Matakovich.....	14
Joan Knowlton	15
Judy Leonard.....	22
Liz Wineman	23



FROM THE HEART

Marilyn Corey is moving to Alabama during holiday season to be near her son. Please send her good wishes at her new address so she’ll know she’s loved and missed. Please see the AAUW Blast email of December 8th for her new address.



The Branch would like to keep the following members in our thoughts and prayers:

Kathy Cohon & her husband, Harvey

PRECINCT PROFITS

A great big **THANK YOU** to all who worked at our shared precinct staffing during the four days of the November election.

We have received our share of the income for that endeavor: **\$3,531.50!** This is almost three times what we normally get for working two precincts for one day.

This fundraising income will be distributed between Scholarship, Tech Trek, RIF, AAUW Funds, and operating reserves.

Again, thanks to all who worked and supported this effort.

~ Linda Lidberg

AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY TEAM

announces its first VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY!

On **March 24, 2021**, AAUW California, in conjunction with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities.

We are asking branch PP chairs (or presidents, if your branch doesn't have a PP chair) to help us recruit participants. Please have interested branch members **register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56JT7XF> by January 8, 2021.**

Finally, all participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on **March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**

Click https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-MBPqA7MRfmoToHJ87ZqMQ to register for "How to Talk to Your Legislators."

Important Dates:

- January 8, 2021 – Last day to register to participate in Lobby Day
- March 22, 2021 – Lobby Day training webinar
- March 24, 2021 – Lobby Day

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T'was the end of December and all through the town,
People wore masks that covered their frowns.

Those frowns had begun way back in the spring,
When a global pandemic changed everything.

They called it Corona, but unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times, it didn't bring cheer.

Airplanes were grounded, travel was banned.
Borders were closed across air, sea, and land.

As the world entered lockdown to flatten the curve,
The economy halted and folks lost their nerve.

From March to July, we rode the first wave,
People stayed home, and they tried to behave.

When summer emerged, the lockdown was lifted,
But away went the caution and many folks drifted.

Now it's January and cases are spiking,
Wave two has arrived, much to our disliking.

It's true that last year had sadness a-plenty,
And we'll never forget the year 2020.

And now has begun another New Year,
But why be happy? What reason to cheer?

The house seems now naked, the tree taken down.
Only I saw it, no one else was around.

But outside my window, the sun brightly shines,
And I think to myself, there'll be much better times!

As I gather my courage, try to forget all my woes,
A New Year has dawned, and my happiness grows.

Life is not canceled and neither is hope.
If we lean on each other, I know we can cope...

(revised from unknown author)

AAUW CALIFORNIA SUPPORTED BILLS



Bills PASSED in 2020

BILL NO.	DESCRIPTION
AB 732	Regulations for “dignified healthcare” for incarcerated pregnant women before & after birth
AB 1185	Authorizes counties to establish oversight boards for law enforcement agencies
AB 1196	Prohibits law enforcement agencies from using carotid artery or chokeholds
AB 1506	Creates a DOJ Review Board to investigate police killings upon request from law enforcement agency
AB 1927	Sexual assault victims can’t be prosecuted for drug/or alcohol offense from assault trial testimony
AB 2416	Homeless students can get financial aid even if they can’t meet “satisfactory progress” requirement
AB 2762	Prohibits sale of adulterated cosmetics
AB 3070	Creates assumption of prejudice when non-white jurors are excluded
AB 3121	Creates a Task Force to study and make recommendations on reparations to Blacks for the lingering negative effects of slavery
SB 973	Requires companies with 100+ employees to report pay data on employees by sex and race
SB 1383	Provides all employees right to take unpaid leave in excess of vacation time to enroll child in school and attend school activities or address school emergencies



Bills NOT PASSED in 2020

BILL NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
AB 31	Sales and use taxes: exemption for menstrual hygiene products.	D
AB 166	Prohibits use of tear gas and/or rubber bullets to disperse protesters	D
AB 1835	Prevents charter schools from using \$ intended for low-income students for other purposes	V
AB 1906	Requires “light duty” assignment for pregnant correctional officers	V
AB 2019	Increases access to community college courses for students in juvenile court schools	D
AB 2405	Establishes a right to housing for children and families	V
AB 3216	Requires employers to grant leave up to 12 weeks for family care and medical reasons Emergency leave to care for child	V
AB 1257	Provides “safe working environment” for domestic workers	V
SB 1399	Eliminates “piece-work” pay for garment workers	D
Provides all employees right to take unpaid leave in excess of vacation time to enroll child in school and attend school activities or address school emergencies		Status: D = Dead / V = Vetoes

SPOTLIGHT'S WORDS OF WISDOM

With the 2021 New Year, it may be best to start with some words of wisdom from our Spotlight Feature Member, **Gaye Peltzman**.

Get together and talk. Be diplomatic. Women are more and more in leadership positions, taking leadership roles. Hold faith in the youth, as they finish college and open up the world. No longer are governing systems relying on old men. Youth of today see more people of diversity in the world.

Use education as a tool and ticket for advancement. Realize that a rebellion may occur against the status quo. Never stop learning, never take life for granted. Tell youth that this is their time and not to let it slip by. Enjoy every day, making each day worthwhile. Act while you are at the top of your game. Tell your story to encourage others.

Be comfortable in the aging process, recognizing difficult situations and try your best to be supportive and understanding with friends and family as they age. Aging offers no time for negativity. AAUW women and men have the responsibility to share their story and encourage the young women of today to move forward and move on. So where do these gems of wisdom come from? **Gaye Peltzman!**

Imagine going from Durango, Colorado, to San Diego California in 1940 as a toddler with a dad helping the war effort, using a draft deferment to work in aerospace at Ryan Aeronautics. Your family has three children, live in a trailer until you eventually move to Pacific Beach in San Diego area.

You knew that education was important and you went into a teaching career at San Diego State University, even though you were really interested in the Forest Service. You married young, moved to Los Angeles, and realized that the marriage was a mistake. You then met Ed in Los Angeles. While teaching in Burbank at the elementary level, Ron Howard was a student. You moved to Santa Clarita, while raising your family of two adopted, at infancy, children.

After teaching 11 additional years and experiencing a very difficult year, you left teaching. But you did not leave advocating for children as you started a story time in the local library with as many as 40 people gathering for the events focusing on preschoolers. Your diagnosis of cancer in 2001 curtailed your library work and allowed you to observe yourself objectively as you learned about the disease and treatment.

You decided that a move was due and began to look for a home on the Central Coast, moving into your current home in Arroyo Grande. Ed was ready to retire and packed up for this new destination. Cancer provided time to refocus and drop everything. You took up quilting. Caring for aging parents allowed you to recognize the need to accept the aging process as part of the cycle of life.

After taking an Interior design class, you proceeded to remodel your home before you moved in, and this sparked an interest that continued into your philanthropy work with the SLO Botanical Gardens. You were the construction coordinator of the Botanical Gardens building and redesigned the



kitchen to commercial standards, working with all of the trades people, coordinating colors and cabinets, tile, lighting, plumbing and wood details.

After joining AAUW in 2004-05, you assumed a variety of responsibilities from Lunch Bunch, Program Vice President and Branch Co-President.

In addition to your community work, you and Ed travelled extensively internationally. International travel is curtailed due to COVID and health concerns, but state wide travel is of interest. You love gardening (currently focusing on grow pots for herbs, swiss chard, onions, etc., on your porch), quilting, and reading. Your advanced cooking skills are shared with good friends.

Your son lives in Corona, California, college educated and developed his own company. Your daughter lives in Idaho and has one son, aged 17.

As your life matures into the future, you live by your words of wisdom, and all of our AAUW Branch members are thankful!! Gaye Peltzman, may we all learn from you!

~ Jean Burns Slater

TECH TREK 2021

The State AAUW Tech Trek organization has decided to hold **Virtual Tech Trek** "camps" in 2021. The format for this virtual camp was piloted late last summer by the San Diego branch after the in-person camps were cancelled. Working with Qualcom, a tech company in San Diego, a robotics program where the camp attendees worked from home, was undertaken. While the feedback from the campers on the camp was positive, at the time the 7th grade campers had not had a year of virtual schooling. Technology issues that arose were handled by the local tech company.

After attending a 90-minute Zoom meeting about the 2021 Virtual Tech Trek Camp, **Linda Lidberg** reported out to the Board the information she learned about the virtual camp. The five-day program would have 48 girls in attendance, working from home on their own computers approximately 7 hours a day, broken into two three-hour sections and a one-hour section. There would be at least three five-day camps, with a potential for a fourth. After a morning group session, the girls would be divided into "rooms" of 6 with a robotics build coach and a social coach. These coaches would be AAUW volunteers who would also be online.

The cost to the branch would be \$400 per girl. Fund-raising was encouraged to fund this year's camp but tapping into last year's camp money on reserve with the Special Projects Fund could be used if fund-raising was insufficient.

After the information was presented several issues were discussed at the board meeting:

1. Reports from local teachers report that students are burned out on virtual learning.
2. Board members were concerned that this did not provide the same bonding, in-person experience of being on a college campus that Tech Trek usually provides.
3. Asking previous Tech Trek donors to donate again when last year's money had not been used, especially during this economic downturn, was problematic.
4. The entire focus of the camp would be on robotics and not the usual variety of classes and projects and the local Lucia Mar school district has a strong robotics program.
5. Technology issues could be a concern. The time online, the band width needed, and the ability to have an available working space in which to do the robotics project could be an issue. Chromebook computers, used by the students for virtual schooling, do not support the platform this Tech Trek program uses.

Following the discussion, **the Board voted NOT to participate in the 2021 Virtual Tech Trek camp** and to use the money on reserve with Special Projects for the 2022 Tech Trek camp that will hopefully be a real in-person camp.

~ Linda Lidberg

The Waves

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

Vol. 42, No.5 – January 2021

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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.

**GREAT DECISIONS -
PREPARE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD**

Great Decisions 2021 will continue with Zoom discussions, based on the reading materials ordered and the DVD shared with participants on a home rotating basis. Zoom invitations are sent out to each participant and there is active and meaningful involvement. Great Deciders are asked to view the segment on topic and read the chapter for discussion prior to the meeting. Great Decisions Zoom meetings are limited to 40 minutes, so preparation prior to the meeting is requested.

Consider joining in the world discussions of Great Decisions and recognizing the importance of community conversations of global events and topics. Contact Priscilla Alquist to sign up now!

Next meetings and topics will be decided in January. A typical meeting date is the **fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 pm**. Zoom style! Discussion leaders are designated volunteers from the group. Hope you can join us.

Preliminary Topics for 2021 are:

- Topic 1: The role of international organizations in a Global Pandemic
- Topic 2: Global supply chains and national security
- Topic 3: China and Africa
- Topic 4: Korean Peninsula
- Topic 5: Persian Gulf Security
- Topic 6: Brexit and the European Union
- Topic 7: The fight over the melting Arctic
- Topic 8: The End of Globalization?



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 Zoom, or by other social distancing options.

**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*
 - Quilters *Linda Lidberg*
- (These groups have become independent of AAUW in order to be inclusive of readers who are no longer members)

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