



The

EQUITY FOR ALL

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

FEBRUARY 2021

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OUR MISSION:

Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

Waves

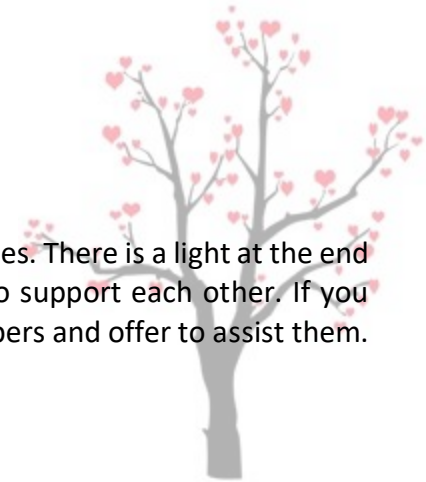
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

“Unity, Community, Communication”

...is our theme this year. And how appropriate Unity is during these challenging times. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and we must just keep our focus on our purpose and remember to support each other. If you receive information on how to access the vaccine, please communicate it to members and offer to assist them. During this month of LOVE remember the message from the Dalaï Lama:

“Love is the absence of judgment”

Sending all of you love. ~ Susan Brazil



NEW DATE! ♥ FEBRUARY 8th @ 6:30 ♥ FEBRUARY PROGRAM

On **FEBRUARY 8th** we will hear from Lucia Mar Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Paul Fawcett, on the latest efforts to deal with 10,000+ students during the COVID19 pandemic. Join us! Same time, **NEW DATE** for

“Lucia Mar, COVID19 and the 10,000”

Dr. Fawcett joined Lucia Mar in 2016 as Director of Special Education. He received his Doctorate of Education from U.C. Davis, and his master’s in Educational Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. During his professional career, he worked with our own Marilyn Corey.

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.

February 1
Monday @ 6:30
BOARD Meeting

NEW! FEBRUARY 8
Monday @ 6:30
GENERAL Meeting

The LMUSD Superintendent will discuss how Covid-19 has impacted local schools.

1

March 1
Monday @ 6:30
BOARD Meeting

March 15
Monday @ 6:30
GENERAL Meeting

TBD

April 5
Monday @ 6:30
BOARD Meeting

April 19
Monday @ 6:30
GENERAL Meeting

TBD

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- Marilyn Corey..... 9
- Sandra Ku.....12
- Erica Hinojosa26



COVID INFORMATION

For the latest information regarding dates, times, sites, eligibility, and how to schedule an appointment, go to this county website:

recoverslo.org

As the county ramps up the vaccination schedule, more volunteer clerks and vaccinators will be needed. If you are interested in helping, please consider joining the county's Medical Reserve Corps.

For more information visit:

www.slocounty.ca.gov/MRC

or contact the Volunteer Coordination Team at:

[sломrc@gmail.com](mailto:slomrc@gmail.com)

**STAY POSITIVE
TEST NEGATIVE**

AAUW CALIFORNIA RESPONSE TO JANUARY 6th

January 17, 2021

Dear AAUW California Members:

On January 11, 2021, AAUW CEO Kim Churches released a statement to all members decrying the events that unfolded in our nation's capital on January 6th.

AAUW California joins with our CEO in condemning the actions of these insurgents, as well as those of our governmental officials who were complicit in encouraging them by continuing to spread the falsehood that the election was fraudulent. Those officials include the president himself, as well as the seven California congressmen who opposed certification of the electoral college votes on the basis of this unproven allegation.

AAUW California supports a strong and viable democracy, which relies at its heart on the premise of the peaceful transfer of power following free and fair elections. This premise is shaken to its core when lies and misinformation are spread by those at our highest levels of government. Over fifty lawsuits have been filed by the president and others claiming the election was fraudulent; all of them, at both the state and national level, have been rejected as totally devoid of evidence.

We encourage members to contact your representatives to demand immediate action be taken to hold the president accountable for his role in inciting this insurrection. And if you are in the district of one of his enablers – Congressmen Ken Calvert (42nd Dist), Mike Garcia (25th Dist), Darrell Issa (50th Dist), Doug La Malfa (1st Dist), House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (23rd Dist), Devin Nunes (22nd Dist) and Jay Obernolte (8th Dist) - please let them know that you condemn their complicity and will not tolerate continued sanctioning of or participation in the spread of misinformation.

Signed,

The AAUW California Board of Directors

SAVE THE DATE



The Undocumented Worker

The Atascadero AAUW Branch will be presenting a program on 'The Undocumented Worker' on **Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 PM**. More information will be shared once details are confirmed. Save the date and time for an Atascadero AAUW zoom presentation on 'The Undocumented Worker.' (See flyer on page 7)

~ Jean Burns Slater





SCHOLARSHIP

Can You Spare a Few Hours?

The Scholarship Corporation is in need of two AAUW members who want to join the committee. The busy time for scholarships requires a few hours in February, March and April.

We begin with reading and evaluating the applications. After the scoring is complete, the students to be interviewed are chosen. Then the interviews are conducted.... hopefully in 2021 we will interview students in person! If not, then by ZOOM. Please contact President Kathi Pettersen, if you wish to join us this year.

Our great news is that we have received almost enough money to fund a special, one-time scholarship to honor member Marilyn Corey. There is still time to help complete this worthy endeavor. Please consider helping out this year. We're a fun and friendly group and would love to have you.

~ Rose Ann Steiner, Scholarship Director

PUBLIC POLICY

Human Trafficking

by Kit Hein, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

January 11, 2021, was 'National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.' AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities: "Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces and communities..."

Human Trafficking is the third largest organized criminal activity in the world. Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and children are manipulated through force, fraud and coercion.

Research shows that people of color, especially the Black community, are more likely to experience some form of sex trafficking. Racial and economic biases drive both social and legal presumptions of "victims" having chosen their situation.

Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are stronger today than in 2017, but still inadequate. Globally, definitions of human trafficking vary from country to country. Even using the term "slavery" is met with opposition in cases of forced marriages and cross border smuggling.

In California, legislation in the past few years includes support for victims, updating school health curriculum, and addressing hospitality industry training. But legislation is not the key, unless the public is educated as to the enormity of the issues, both locally and globally. Local branches of AAUW are asked to continue to provide community awareness events to educate the public. Please access the Santa Cruz County Branch to learn more:

<https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/>

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SPOTLIGHT ON PRISCILLA ALQUIST



Priscilla Alquist, a very active member of our local AAUW Branch, has a true story to tell of women's advancement, determination and ability to seize the moment and move the next generation forward.

Priscilla was born in Hollywood, moved to into a new Burbank housing area where she and her sister lead a quiet, traditional family life with a yard, neighborhood, local church and Sunday family dinners. She was expected to do well in school, join Girl Scouts, participate in family camping vacations, fishing, berry picking, including travel to the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle.

Priscilla's grandmother, by herself and with 2 young daughters, arrived on a train to Pasadena from North Dakota to make a new life her herself and daughters in 1935. Her successful new life sent Priscilla's mom to USC and fired up Priscilla's grit and determination.

Priscilla's father was raised in a very non-traditional home in Cameroon, West Africa, by missionary parents until the age of 10, when his mother left him and his older brother in a missionary home for boys in Ohio. As an adult he was an experimental machinist, making prototypes, eventually moving into the new field of coating computer disks.

Priscilla's mom was a college educated housewife graduating from USC cum Laude in philosophy, a real thinker with systematic home management skills. She went to secretarial school, worked for the Navy in Washington D.C., returned home, and began the work of starting a traditional family.

After high school, Priscilla was ready to leave the safe and close community of Burbank, to head to her college choice of U.C. Berkeley. However, she was not prepared for this dramatic transition and the experience opened her eyes to a racially mixed, diverse world, while aiming toward a dietician degree. She married before her senior year, gained an Administrative Dietetic Internship at the University of Washington in Seattle, finishing as a Registered Dietitian.

Realizing that her marriage was not working, she returned to Burbank and began working at hospitals, as a therapeutic dietitian, hired by a food service management company. She traveled for this company throughout California and then on to New Mexico where she developed a strong interest in the Native American culture, which continues to this day. When offered the chance to be transferred to the Central Coast, Priscilla was ready, as she loved the area as a child on family vacations.

In her new position, she enjoyed living in Morro Bay and working at the old San Luis Obispo County Hospital. Soon after, however, she was transferred to Marian Hospital in Santa Maria, where she earned the milestone of being the first woman hospital Food Service Director for the management company in the Western United States region. When the Food Service Director for the San Luis Coastal Schools position opened, she was excited to try working in a different venue and was hired.

At the same time, she joined her first service organization, Soroptimists International. She continued her work in Food Service for over twenty years, which included a position for the Ventura Unified School District, where she was able to continue in Soroptimists. She found that as economic circumstances changed, her flexibility allowed her to move where the jobs were.

While in Ventura, she met her husband, Jim, whom she married, and they started their family. Social unrest made working in Ventura a bit risky, so Priscilla found a job with Lucia Mar School District and at that time joined our AAUW Branch. Jim continued to work as a computer programmer for an independent contractor with Navy contracts at Point Mugu.

Raising a very active young daughter kept both Jim and Priscilla busy with jobs, commuting and child care. After about 10 more years, in search of a less stressful job, Priscilla changed careers to spend more time with her family, earning an elementary credential, and teaching 2nd grade for Santa Maria Bonita School District.

Priscilla and Jim's daughter, Elizabeth, gained her ability to be progressive, adventurous, and academically accomplished through the support of her parents. Elizabeth and her husband took a year off from work, travelled around the world, hiked the Pacific Crest trail and more. Priscilla and Jim joined the couple in Bali, participating in a scuba diving trip, which is an activity still enjoyed by Priscilla.

Hobbies for Priscilla have included kayaking and scuba diving, camping, gardening, and travel all over the world. She planned to travel to Rwanda to visit the gorillas when COVID-19 broke out. All travel was cancelled. She and Jim have now set their sights on Australia and New Zealand, as well as the Baltics and Scandinavia. Quilting is a passion, shared with friends, enhanced by a room within her home devoted to quilting.

Priscilla's accomplishments are noteworthy as she was exceptionally innovative in the food service area, working in a man's world, establishing nutritious meals, salad bars and earning top ten recognition for her school district in California. She learned to put on that smiley face that many of us recognize, and move forward, regardless.

Be kind, be helpful to others, lead a conscious and moral life are Priscilla's words of wisdom. Support the causes you believe in within your community. Spread your efforts out from local to global. Work on projects. Gain world experiences and understanding of the values of others, see and paint the big picture. These thoughts serve as a guide to Priscilla's life and certainly help guide her activism with our AAUW Branch.

Thank goodness for Priscilla's goodness...

~Jean Burns Slater

PROPOSED NEW INTEREST SECTIONS

At the January 4, 2021 Board meeting, two new interest sections were proposed by Jean Burns Slater, after her attendance at a focus group discussion for AAUW CA. It is well known that interest sections attract members. Shall we see if we can start with a few new ideas?

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

One interest section under consideration is focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Diversity means variety and is all about what makes us unique. Some of the dimensions of diversity can be anything that has been historically used to differentiate groups, such as ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs or socio-economic status. This interest section uses the AAUW Diversity tool kit as well as local topics related to social issues under the AAUW mission. It is proposed that this group meet on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. A topic will be presented with background information, followed by a group discussion.

Physical Activity

Another interest section being proposed is a Physical Activity interest section. This group will focus on walking, hiking, moving about in our local outdoor areas. A location will be selected for each month and interested members will meet at the location and then move, staying 6 feet away, face covered with a mask and gaining camaraderie through the physical exercise of walking, hiking or other forms of movement. This would be similar to Lunch Bunch only the participants will be socially distanced and engaged in physical activity. Day and time to be determined.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch bunch will resume once it is safe to do so.

Anyone with comments, suggestions or interest in these potential interest sections, please contact Jean Burns Slater. Jean's cell number does not have adequate reception at her home so the landline listed is the best contact.

IN TIMES OF COVID

The Miracle of Morning

by AMANDA GORMAN

*I thought I'd awaken to a world in mourning.
Heavy clouds crowding, a society storming.
But there's something different on this golden morning.
Something magical in the sunlight, wide and warming.*

*I see a dad with a stroller taking a jog.
Across the street, a bright-eyed girl chases her dog.
A grandma on a porch fingers her rosaries.
She grins as her young neighbor brings her groceries.*

*While we might feel small, separate, and all alone,
Our people have never been more closely tethered.
The question isn't if we can weather this unknown,
But how we will weather this unknown together.*

*So on this meaningful morn, we mourn and we mend.
Like light, we can't be broken, even when we bend.*

*As one, we will defeat both despair and disease.
We stand with healthcare heroes and all employees;
With families, libraries, waiters, schools, artists;
Businesses, restaurants, and hospitals hit hardest.*

*We ignite not in the light, but in lack thereof,
For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.
In this chaos, we will discover clarity.
In suffering, we must find solidarity.*

*For it's our grief that gives us our gratitude,
Shows us how to find hope, if we ever lose it.
So ensure that this ache wasn't endured in vain:
Do not ignore the pain. Give it purpose. Use it.*

*Read children's books, dance alone to DJ music.
Know that this distance will make our hearts grow fonder.
From these waves of woes our world will emerge stronger.*

*We'll observe how the burdens braved by humankind
Are also the moments that make us humans kind;
Let each morning find us courageous, brought closer;
Heeding the light before the fight is over.*

*When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing
In testing times, we became the best of beings.*



The Waves

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

Vol. 42, No. 6 – February 2021

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*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](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.



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 Zoom, or by other social distancing options.

GREAT DECISIONS - PREPARE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD

Great Decisions will start up via Zoom on **January 25 @ 7 PM**, now that the reading materials are available. The reference book for Great Decisions is available from Priscilla Alquist. Please contact her for pickup. Zoom invitations are sent out to each participant and there is active and meaningful involvement.

Great Deciders are asked to view the DVD segment on topic and read the discussion chapter prior to the meeting. Great Decisions Zoom meetings are limited to 40 minutes, so preparation prior to the meeting is requested.

The Foreign Policy Association has provided early access links to the first three topics of the year on the DVD:

- Global Supply Chains
- Persian Gulf Security
- Brexit and the EU

Access to the DVD for these topics is available for individual members in their homes. Please refer to Priscilla Alquist's email message of January 5, 2021 and January 14, 2021, with the link. If stymied, please contact Priscilla or Jean Burns Slater for help.

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 at the January 25 meeting. 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.

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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Atascadero AAUW invites you to attend

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES AMID THE PANDEMIC

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 | 6:30-8 PM | VIA ZOOM

Please join us for a virtual panel discussion to discuss how local organizations, community leaders and concerned individuals are coming together in collaborative efforts on the Central Coast to support immigrant community members and their families amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Panelists include:

Rita Casaverde, Immigration Advocate
Bessy Hoffman, AUSD Family Advocate, The LINK Family Resource Center
Mariana Gutierrez, Family Resource Center Program Supervisor,
with Community Action Partnership of SLO County (CAPSLO)

Information to connect to Zoom to follow.