

# THE WAVES

## In This Issue

Volume 42 – Number 10

- President's Message ..... 1
- Summer Birthdays ..... 1
- In Memoriam..... 2
- Going Places ..... 3
- May Picnic Pix..... 3
- Public Policy ..... 4 & 5
- Membership/Fundraising ..... 5
- Waves Banner..... 5
- Interest Groups / Sponsors.... 6
- AAUW Membership Form ..... 7
- Advertising Letter ..... 8

### OUR MISSION:

Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is our final newsletter of the 2020-2021 year. We celebrated the year at our May meeting held at Dana Adobe in Nipomo. Seeing friends in person. sharing memories, and giving hugs made the day so very special.

We hope that our September meeting will also be in person. Future information will be forth coming. I wish all of you a wonderful summer and may you stay safe and healthy.

Our motto for next year will be: Hope, Trust, Possibilities.

Here is a saying from Helen Keller that I hope will stay with you through the summer months. *"I am only one, but still, I am one. I cannot do everything, but I still can do something. I will not refuse to do something I can do."*

~ Blessings, Susan Brazil



## SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

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

### JUNE

- Joan Florence .....7
- Carole Dempsey.....10
- Yvonne Stephens.....19

### JULY

- Kathi Pettersen ..... 1
- Susan Brazil .....7
- Renee David .....24

### AUGUST

- Priscilla Alquist ..... 2
- Sue La Cabe ..... 7
- Laurie King..... 19

## IN MEMORIAM: SANDRA KU

The recent death of Sandra Ku has saddened the hearts of our Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch members. Who has not read an email blast from Sandra or wanted to join the evening book group that is so popular? Book group leader, Branch E-mail Blaster, exquisite cook extraordinaire - a true gift to the Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch.

Sandra was born on February 12, 1943, in Clatskanie, Oregon. Spending her youth in Pasadena, California, she earned her undergraduate degree in English and journalism at California State College, San Jose. Upon graduation in February, 1965, she began Peace Corps training in Hilo, Hawaii. Following her training, she flew to Thailand, but curtailed her volunteer work due to a severe illness. She returned to the U.S. the summer of 1965.

Sandra, living with her parents in Bellevue, Washington, attended the U. of Washington for a year for education classes and practice teaching. When she obtained her teaching certificate in September, 1966, she began teaching journalism and English at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont, California, teaching for 3 school years, 1966-69. Adventure was in her spirit, so she travelled to Taiwan in the summer of 1969, where she stayed to teach English and humanities for 8 years at Taiwan American School, 1969-1977.

She married Steve Ku in Taiwan in May 1974, and raised two children from her husband's previous marriage. She is survived by two younger brothers and two adult children - a son who lives near Seattle, and a daughter who resides in Los Angeles.

After moving back to the States in 1977, Sandra began teaching English and journalism at Sunset High School in Beaverton, Oregon, for nearly 20 years. After retirement, she left Oregon and arrived in lovely Grover Beach in late 1994. Once in San Luis County, she was never in the classroom again, but began working as a receptionist for the Lucia Mar School District in 1996. It was at this school district where she met many of her lifetime best friends.



Understanding Sandra's culturally rich background can be seen through details of her life. Sandra expressed her creativity and artistic style through pottery and Chinese calligraphy. Her musical talents were exhibited as she learned to play the Chinese harp instrument called "gu zheng." She was an ardent supporter of the arts and went to all local theater productions and to the most famous art museums throughout the world. She was a lifetime member of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She saw most of the plays with her family and friends throughout summer vacations. She single-handedly organized many trips to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, obtaining the tickets and reservations for the theater, hotels, and good restaurants for all her family and friends - especially for her AAUW friends!

Her most passionate love in life was traveling to all corners of the world, visiting almost all of the continents. Her most recent trips included Iceland, New York City, and New Orleans. She had the unparalleled enthusiasm, patience and organization skills to conduct all the travel/destination research, arrangements and the itinerary for groups of friends and family.

Sandra had a warm and generous personality with great intellect and an ability to organize. Several years ago, she hired a limousine to take eight people to Los Angeles for a day filled with a dim sum lunch in Hollywood, a visit to the Cleopatra exhibit at USC, and tickets to a Cirque Soleil performance.

Sandra was a great friend to all, using her kind and diplomatic presence while conducting meetings, accepting each individual opinion. As leader of the Night Readers' book group, she always had something interesting to say about the subject that was inspirational or caused one to consider a different viewpoint or idea. At The Night Readers' holiday gatherings, she had a gift for each member. In 2016, it was a bracelet with charms for each of the books that were read that year. She gave a row boat for "The Boys in the Boat" and an airplane for "The Wright Brothers."

One of Sandra's biggest accomplishments was providing the most meticulous loving care of her elderly mother when she moved to Grover Beach. She spent the last fifteen years tending to her mother's every need - seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Her level of patience, attention to detail and gentleness in caring is rarely seen in society. Her love and devotion to her mother was very moving to all of her family and friends.

Another joy of Sandra's was cooking for people. She mastered culinary skills for many cultural dishes, especially Chinese cuisine. Everyone loved her cooking!

Everything Sandra did, she did well, including being a member of AAUW. She interviewed candidates for scholarships, worked at the book and estate sales, and in the past few years, she sent out the news blasts. Additionally, she was the leader of the Night Readers book club.

We are so honored to have known this inspiring, easy going, thoughtful, interesting, kind hearted, gracious woman with a wicked sense of humor! Sandra was a gem shining bright for our AAUW Branch and community. And this brightness continues in our loving memory of Sandra.

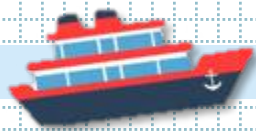
Contributions for this Spotlight were provided by AAUW Branch members and her loving daughter, Nien-chuen Christina Ku.

~Jean Burns Slater

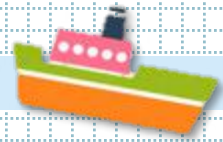
*I truly appreciate the letters from American Association of University Women and the donations made in Sandra Ku's name. I also received individual cards from your members. You are all such high quality, caring women; my mom was amongst her true peers at AAUW. I'll be sending thank you cards to everyone at AAUW.*

*With gratitude,  
Nien-chuen Christina Ku*





## GOING PLACES



At our May meeting there was a lot of excitement and chatter about summer plans, due to the Covid restrictions lifting and everyone's desire to get moving. Lots of adventures planned:

Liz Wineman.....Newport Beach

Susan Opava.....Cabo

Susan Brazil .....Tahoe

Kathi Pettersen.....Palm Springs

Pat Melsheimer.....New Orleans

Ruth Ann Steiner .....Charleston

Pam Ziron.....High Sierras

Kathy Cohon.....New York & Montana

Connie Rodgers.....Working!

Priscilla Alquist, Judy Zaretska, Laurie King, Mary Matakovich.....Staycations

Marjorie Ott .....Arizona

Joan Florence .....San Diego

Linda Kime....50<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion

Jean Slater.....New Mexico

Gayle Turner.....Oregon

## AAUW PICNIC FUN MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>

Our final meeting of the year combined the installation of officers with a picnic at the Dana Adobe. The weather was cool, but our hearts were warmed as we said goodbye for the summer...



L to R: Laurie King, Rose Ann Steiner, and Nancy King.



L to R: Liz Wineman, Kathi Pettersen, Rose Ann Steiner, Linda Kime, Laurie King, Gayle Turner, Judy Zaretska, Susan Opava, and Jean Burns Slater



L to R: Jean Burns Slater, Susan Brazil, and Kathi Pettersen.





## Young Women Are Dropping Out of School and Work. Is Caregiving the Culprit?

New York Times Business April 13, 2022 - by Alisha Haridasani Gupta

While much of the economy is beginning to bounce back, young people particularly young women, are living a different reality.

A year into the pandemic, there are signs that the American economy is stirring back to life, with a falling unemployment rate and a [growing number of people back at work](#). Even mothers who left their jobs in droves in the last year in large part because of increased caregiving duties are [slowly re-entering](#) the work force.

**But young Americans, particularly women 16 to 24, are living an altogether different reality, with higher rates of unemployment than older adults, and many thousands, possibly even millions, postponing their education, which can delay their entry into the work force.**

New research suggests that the number of “disconnected” young people, defined as those who are neither in school nor the work force is growing. For young women, the caregiving crisis may be a major reason they have put on hold their education or careers.

Last year, unemployment among young adults jumped to 27.4 % in April from 7.8 percent in February, almost double the 14 % [overall unemployment rate](#) that month and the highest for that age group in the last two decades, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

At its peak in April, the unemployment rate for young women over all hit 30 % with a 22 % rate for white women in that age group, 30 % for Black women and 31% for Latina women.

Those numbers are starting to improve as many female-dominated industries that shed jobs at the start of the pandemic, like leisure, retail and education, are adding them back.

The unemployment rate for young women is now down to 9 %, lower than the rate for young men, which is at 12 %, but still higher than the overall U.S. unemployment rate of 6 %. But that [doesn't mean young women are necessarily faring much better](#) now than they were earlier in the pandemic.

**Because many young women have stopped looking for work, they're not counted in unemployment numbers. Roughly 18% of the 1.9 million women who have [left the work force completely since last February](#), about 360,000, were ages 16 to 24, according to an analysis of seasonally unadjusted numbers by the National Women's Law Center.**

**At the same time, the number of women who have dropped out of some form of education or plan to is on the rise. During the pandemic, more women than men consistently reported that they had canceled plans to take postsecondary classes or planned to take fewer classes, according to [a series of surveys](#) by the U.S. Census Bureau since last April.**

The number of disconnected youth over all had been steadily declining, to 4.3 million people in 2018 from a peak of 6 million in 2008, according to Measure of America, a project by the Social Science Research Council, a nonprofit that published its [latest report on disconnection](#) last summer.

Researchers at Measure of America predicted that the pandemic could reverse much of that progress and even push up the number of disconnected youth to a record high of nine million people, a quarter of America's youth.

Though it is still early for definitive data, experts suggest that the same care crisis that forced adult women out of the work force may have spilled over to younger women, with many looking after their siblings or relatives, for example, so that their parents can work.

Girls Who Code, a nonprofit that provides STEM classes and workshops for girls, surveyed hundreds of its own students and found that 25% of high school seniors and 20% of college seniors reported that they were responsible for caring for a family member, though the survey didn't explore whether those responsibilities specifically affected their education plans.

Researchers at Measure of America, who kept in touch with their grass roots partners across the country during the pandemic, heard similar stories, young women who were unable to complete a class or an assignment because of family obligations, said Rebecca Gluskin, deputy director and chief statistician at Measure of America.

Young women are also much more likely than young men to be single parents, the Institute for Women's Policy Research study noted, putting them in the stressful position during the pandemic of choosing between bringing in a paycheck or caring for their children. *(Cont. on pg. 6)*



## PUBLIC POLICY *(continued from page 5)*

“We’ve focused in particular on the digital divide and the impact of that on the learning loss for kids,” said Reshma Saujani, founder of the nonprofit Girls Who Code. “But we’re not talking about how the caregiving crisis is impacting the learning loss for kids and how it’s disproportionately impacting girls and girls of color.”

She added, “This is a strategy that we use when we intervene across the world,” pointing to the [Let Girls Learn program](#) under the Obama administration, which she said was based entirely on the recognition “**that girls drop out of school because they have to do household work and care taking.**” “**Now the same exact thing is happening in the United States,**” Ms. Saujani said.

### **All of this can have long-term knock-on effects.**

Even temporary unemployment or an education setback at a young age can drag down someone’s potential for earnings, job stability and even homeownership years down the line, according to a 2018 study by [Measure of America](#) that tracked disconnected youth over the course of 15 years.

For women, a hit early on in their career also translates into a wider gender pay gap for the rest of their lives, stated Jill Filipovic, author of “OK Boomer, Let’s Talk: How My Generation Got Left Behind.”

“We know that the gender pay gap expands as women hit their childbearing years, which is mid-20s to mid- to late 30s,” she said. “So young women in their early 20s have such a short window of time to build up to their highest earning potential.”

“But if you’re already starting off back behind the starting gun, there’s really nothing that I’ve seen that suggests that any of that gets made up for later in life.”

*(Condensed for space limitations)*



## BRANCH MEMBERSHIP and FUNDRAISING

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch has a lot of exciting work to accomplish this coming year. Help us be the best we can be and renew your membership TODAY! Please PRINT out the form at the back of this newsletter and send it with your **\$105 renewal fee** to:

**Laurie King, 200 S Dolliver St. #437, Pismo Beach, CA 93449**

### **FUNDRAISING:**

Do you know of a favorite local business whose sponsorship would help our Branch by advertising in the 2021/2022 Newsletter? Please PRINT out the letter at the back of this newsletter and deliver it to the business(es) of your choice. Simple and easy... Thank you!

## *The Waves*

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

**Vol. 42, No. 10 – June 2021**

**President:**  
*Susan Brazil*

**Treasurer:** *Linda Lidberg*

**Secretary:** *Pat Muhlethaler*

**Parliamentarian:** *Rose Ann Steiner*

**AAUW Funds:** *Mary Matakovich*

**Public Policy:** *Jean Burns Slater*

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*Laurie King*

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*Pam Zirion*

**Program Committee:**  
*Mary Matakovich and Liz Wineman*

**Communication / Publicity:**  
*Linda Lidberg -  
Email Blast & Website  
Priscilla Alquist, Outreach*

**Newsletter Editor:** *Gayle Turner*

**IBC Representative:** *Linda Lidberg*

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
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.

## INTEREST GROUPS

**PLEASE NOTE:** COVID-19 guidelines are loosening this month, allowing meetings & interest groups to meet face-to-face, if desired. Please check with your group to determine how you will proceed.

### GREAT DECISIONS

Our local Great Deciders will reconvene **IN PERSON on June 28 at 7 PM at the home of Priscilla Alquist.** The June topic will be **China and Africa**, surely a hot topic of discussion and interest.

China has an agenda that is becoming more and more clear based on our discussions centering on the Arctic development, the global supply chain, globalization, the Uyghur reeducation camps, and slave labor accusations for cotton production of the far-west region of Zinjiang. China cannot and will not be ignored and our knowledge and discussion is critical in keeping informed and proactive in the response to China's desire to dominate.

Discussions as to what we can do in our corner of the world will also amplify our ability to "do something." Great Deciders are people of thought and action!

Patti Melsheimer will lead the discussion. Please read the article prior to coming. The DVD for this topic will be shown at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, as Priscilla Alquist is the keeper and projectionist of the shared DVD.

Please direct questions to Priscilla or Jean Burns Slater.

#### Official AAUW Interest Group Contacts

Great Decisions.....*Priscilla Alquist*  
..... & *Jean Burns Slater*  
Lunch Bunch.....*Joan Knowlton*  
Night Readers  
Book Group..... *TBD*  
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)

## SPONSORS



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## AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach 2021 – 2022 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 \$105 for the 2021-2022 year. (Dual members pay \$23 for the local Branch dues only.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check here to order a name tag or replacement name tag and include an additional \$12.
- Make checks payable to: **AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach.**

Please return this form with your annual dues and any supplemental payments by July 1, 2021 to:

**Laurie King**  
AAUW Membership  
200 Dolliver St. #437  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues \$105  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dual Member \$23  
\_\_\_\_\_ Name Tag \$12  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

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

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Five Cities-Pismo Beach Branch AAUW  
P.O. Box 1604  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



Dear

Are you interested in an inexpensive advertising opportunity for your business that will also benefit our community? If so, the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) can provide that.

For a contribution of only \$50, your ad will appear in our annual Member Directory and our monthly on-line newsletter. Our members like to spread the word about our advertisers to friends and family as well.

Moreover, your contribution will help us continue our important projects in the local community. Our fundraising activities support three on-going programs that benefit students in the Lucia Mar Unified School District.

1. College Scholarships. These are awarded to girls graduating from our local high schools to help cover the cost of their first year of college. This year we awarded scholarships to six amazing young women who have worked hard to excel in both academic and extra-curricular activities, including volunteer work. The girls will attend a four-year college in the Fall.
2. Tech Trek Scholarships. These awards enable local middle-school girls, nominated by their math or science teachers, to attend a week-long residential science camp devoted to hands-on experiences in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) fields. Such experiences can be critical in encouraging girls to pursue their science and math interest in high school and college and lead them to careers in STEM fields. The girls from our branch attend Tech Trek Camp at the University of California, Santa Barbara campus.
3. Reading is Fundamental. Through this program we donate books several times a year to students in Grades 3 and 4 in our neediest elementary schools. Branch members visit the schools, talk about the joy of reading, and distribute a new book to each child. For some children this is the first book they have owned, and they are surprised to learn that they don't have to return it to school. Approximately 900 books are distributed each year.

If you decide to join us in this worthwhile effort, simply send your ad or business card and a check for \$50, made out to AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach, to P. O. Box 1604, Pismo Beach, CA 93448-1604 by August 15, 2020.

Thank you for considering our request.