



The



In This Issue

Volume 43 – Number 4

- President’s Message 1
- Looking Ahead..... 1
- Nov. General Meeting Recap2
- December Holiday Social2
- Birthdays.....2
- Tech Trek Updates2
- Waves Banner3
- Scholarship Corporation3
- Public Policy4, 5
- Fundraising5
- Spotlight.....6
- Interest Groups.....7
- Sponsors7

OUR MISSION:

Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

Waves



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Blessings, everyone, during this holiday season!

As some of you know, I’m recovering from a mastectomy and healing very well. Doctor had told me it was a three-week recovery period. I will see what she says...

Please keep watching for emails regarding our December get-together. I’m so hoping it will happen so that we can personally share our wishes for each other.

Starting in January, the main issues addressed at the board meetings will be included in our newsletter. This will allow members to be more involved with our activities.

~Susan Brazil

During the holiday season, please remember:

“It’s the simple things in life that are the most extraordinary.” ~Paulo Coelho

Check out the new 5-Cities Pismo Beach Facebook page. Stay tuned for updates!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072143045075>



PLEASE NOTE:
For computer assistance on Zoom meetings, please contact Pam Zirion

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING
Monday, Dec. 6
@ 6:30 PM / Zoom

DECEMBER HOLIDAY GATHERING
Monday, Dec. 20
@ 6:30 PM
AG Women’s Club
(Book Sale)

JANUARY BOARD MEETING
Monday, Jan. 3
@ 6:30 PM / Zoom

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING
Monday, Jan. 17
@ 6:30 PM / Zoom

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING
Monday, Feb. 7
@ 6:30 PM / Zoom

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING
Monday, Feb. 21
@ 6:30 PM / Zoom

LOOKING AHEAD

NOVEMBER GENERAL ZOOM MEETING RECAP

Speaker: DIANE OWENS, AAUW CA Board of Directors President thru 6/22

140th anniversary of National AAUW in November, 2021
100th anniversary of California AAUW in September 2021

Focus: Marketing & Membership (M&M)

- Working age recruitment
- Retirement age recruitment
- University collaboration

Topics for 2021/2022:

- Speech Trek - A California bill has been proposed requiring study of Liberty & Justice for All in high schools. A speech contest is underway now.
- TechTrek Virtual Camps, 2021 - 100+ of 119 branches participated, with 624 campers over 3 weeks. 229 volunteers. Twelve 90-minute workshops. 4% of campers attended all workshops.
- TechTrek 2022 - Hopes this to be in-person on 7 campuses over 9 weeks.

Public Policy: Lobby Day in April

- Goal 1: Support M&M vision of increasing younger members
- Goal 2: Support CA's 5-Star endeavor (rewarding affiliates for aligning their work with AAUW strategic plan to foster advancement of gender equality)

Diane also spoke on Communications, Branch Activity, Annual Event (Adventures in AAUW Land), and AAUW funds. More info on the AAUW CA website.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Are you looking for a last-minute gift to give during the Holidays? Your problems are Solved!

At the **December 20, 2021 AAUW Holiday Social** there will be ample opportunities to pick up the perfect gift... A surprise Book Package!

Through the generous donation of Mary Jo Aspinall's daughters, our AAUW Branch received some of Mary Jo's library to use for our branch fundraising.

We can honor Mary Jo's family's donation and have a lot of fun-raising for our Branch through the Secret Surprise Book Sale on December 20, 6:30 pm, during our annual social event at the Arroyo Grande's Women's Club.

Three ways to buy:

1. Special titles\$2-5 each
2. Surprise title, wrapped and ready to give\$2
3. Surprise bag of books (8 different titles)\$10 per bag

Bring your wallet, cash and checks are accepted, and be ready to be surprised with books galore. Once you make your purchase, of course, you are free to trade titles and enjoy the gift of reading and giving books.

Because of COVID restrictions, the Women's Club requires masks, and we will not have food or beverage. However, we are looking forward to an in-person gathering. The board will make final plans at the December board meeting. Look for more information after December 6.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Nancy Sperling 10th



5-CITIES TECH TREK UPDATES

Fingers crossed -- Tech Trek may be in-person camps for the summer of 2022. The State AAUW Tech Trek Director and her staff are currently negotiating with universities that have hosted the resident camps in the past. Providing that covid protocols allow, we are hoping to get information out to the Lucia Mar middle school science and math teachers for their student nominations after the first of the year. Once potential candidates have submitted their applications and required essays, we will hold interviews and select up to seven girls for camp.



Over the years our branch has sent well over 100 girls to Tech Trek camps. Studies have shown that participation in the camps not only offers a once-in-a-lifetime college-like experience but has long-term impact on the girls' futures. We recently heard about one of our previous campers, Naomi Warren (Tech Trek 2008), who now has a Master's degree in science and teaches in San Diego and her mom credits Tech Trek for this.

~ Linda Lidberg



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

The Board of Directors for our AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Scholarship Corporation is making decisions on the amount and number of scholarships to award for the 2021-2022 year. Several factors are key to these decisions:

1. More money was distributed to scholarship winners than was donated and earned during 2020-2021 year.
2. Donations and interest income from the Endowment for the 2020-2021 totaled \$6,999. Scholarships awarded totaled \$9,000.
3. The Scholarship Corporation is entitled to 10% of any branch fund raising, which has been limited in the last two years, resulting in \$63 for the 2021-2022 year.
4. The Morgan Stanley investment package for the Endowment fluctuates greatly. For example, the endowment balance for August 31, 2021 was \$153,647 and the balance for September 30, 2021 was \$148,277. Income on the Endowment for 2020 was 2.7%.
5. Donations are key to the continued ability of the Scholarship Corporation to award meaningful scholarship amounts. Often memorial donations are a result of a death of a close associate of AAUW. We cannot rely on providing scholarship awards based on donations honoring the death of members.
6. The Directors realize that they must now draw down the Endowment to provide scholarships.

LATE NEWS: The Scholarship Corporation voted to give up to 5 scholarships valued at \$2,000 each for the 2021-2022 year, knowing the Endowment funds may be required to fulfill this commitment.

Please consider a donation to Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Corporation as fund raising is limited and the stock market is uncertain. Thank you for all of the fundraising you have participated in and your generosity in supporting young women to earn a college education.

Our young women more than ever need help in advancing their education!

Sincerely,
Jean Burns Slater

Executive Director of Scholarship Corporation



The Waves

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

Vol. 43, No.4 – December 2021

President:
Susan Brazil

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Parliamentarian: *Rose Ann Steiner*

AAUW Funds: *Mary Matakovich*

Public Policy & Scholarship:
Jean Burns Slater

Membership:
Laurie King

Fundraising:
Pam Zirion & Kathy Cohon

Program Committee:
Mary Matakovich and Liz Wineman

Communication / Publicity:
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.





PUBLIC POLICY

This is the first half of the AAUW CA Bill Tracking report. The remaining bills will be published in the January newsletter.

AAUW CA Bill Tracking Report (10/8/21, part 1 of 2)						
Measure	Author	Topic	Status	Location	Position	Priority
AB 22	McCarty D	Transitional kindergarten: enrollment: funding: planning workgroups.	8/27/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(12). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/23/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	8/27/2021-S. 2 YEAR	Support	Level B
AB 92	Reyes D	Preschool and childcare and development services: family fees.	8/27/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(12). (Last location was APPR. on 7/7/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	8/27/2021-S. 2 YEAR	Co-Sponsor	Level A
AB 123	Gonzalez, Lorena D	Paid family leave: weekly benefit amount.	9/28/2021-Vetoed by Governor. Veto Message: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/AB-123-PDF.pdf	9/28/2021-A. VETOED	Support	Level C
AB 316	Cooper D	State employees: pay equity: under-represented groups.	9/10/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/8/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	9/10/2021-S. 2 YEAR	Support	Level C
AB 367	Garcia, Cristina D	Menstrual products.	10/8/2021-Approved by the Governor	10/8/2021-SIGNED	Support	Level B
AB 509	Nguyen R	Child tax credit.	5/7/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on 2/9/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2021)	5/7/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Watch	
AB 568	Rivas, Robert D.	Early learning and care.	5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/19/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Watch	
AB 609	Kamlager D	College Athlete Race and Gender Equity Act.	4/30/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was A.,E.,S.,T., & I.M. on 2/25/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	4/30/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Watch	
AB 628	Garcia, Eduardo D	Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative.	9/27/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 323, Statutes of 2021.	9/27/2021-SIGNED	Support	Level C
AB 637	Lackey R	Enabling Youth to Access Workforce Training Grant Program	5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/21/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Support	Level C



PUBLIC POLICY (cont')

AB 737	Santiago D	Public postsecondary education: California State University: tuition.	4/30/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was HIGHER ED. on 2/25/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	4/30/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Support	Level B
AB 746	Cervantes D	Adoption: stepparent adoption.	9/22/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 199, Statutes of 2021.	9/22/2021-SIGNED	Watch	
AB 979	Wicks D	Health care coverage: treatment for infertility.	4/30/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was HEALTH on 2/16/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	4/30/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Support	Level C
AB 887	Levine D	Domestic violence: restraining orders.	10/8/2021-Signed by Governor	10/8/21 - SIGNED	Support	Level C
AB 935	Maienschein D	Telehealth: mental health.	5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. on 4/27/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Support	Level C
AB966	Burke D	Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program: appropriation.	5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/12/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Support	Level B
AB 1007	Carrillo D	Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program.	8/27/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(12). (Last location was APPR. on 7/14/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	8/27/2021-S. 2 YEAR	Support	Level C
AB 1073	Berman D	Community colleges: students enrolled in early childhood education or child development courses: fee waivers.	5/25/2021-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/21/2021)(May be acted upon Jan 2022)	5/25/2021-A. 2 YEAR	Support	Level C
AB 1074	Gonzalez, Lorena D	Employment: displaced workers.	9/28/2021-Vetoed by Governor. Veto Message: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/AB-1074-PDF.pdf	9/28/2021-A. VETOED	Support	Level C

FUNDRAISING

Recently you should have received a Fundraising Questionnaire which was sent to all members via email. Please rank your choices for potential Fundraising activities for the coming year and send it back to me ASAP, as I would like to compile all the responses and see on what activities we wish to focus our energies. Thank you. ~Pam Zirion



SPOTLIGHT ON JOAN KNOWLTON

THREE GENERATIONS OF MATH AND SCIENCE AFICIONADOS

Father, Daughter,
Granddaughter all
chose science and
math as a profession.
What a gift to our society!



Joan Knowlton's science background began with her father. The World War II war effort found Joan's father, a Carnegie Tech graduate, working 24/7 as an engineer for the Edgar Thompson Steel Mill. The family lived in Pennsylvania, then moved to Pittsburgh to be closer to his job. By 1945 Joan's father's health began to fail and he relocated to Santa Monica to stay with his sister and her husband. Joan, her sister with their mom, soon joined him. Joan remembers the great fun of having the beach only 4 blocks away with the new experiences of sun bathing and body surfing.

Her father recuperated and went to work for the Water and Power Department for LA City. His focus was power and he was instrumental in developing future forms of energy, including solar. Joan's mom stayed home with the girls, working in retail once they were in high school. She enjoyed being with people, fitting into jobs with May Co and other similar stores. As it was assumed that the girls would attend college, Joan attended Los Angeles High School and then UCLA. Always good at math and

science, Joan began her studies in the engineering department before changing to business, finishing with a degree in economics and accounting.

Joan was hired by IBM, teaching customers the punch card equipment. As time progressed, computers with tape drives were the focus and Joan found working with customers to teach and install their new systems was very interesting. Disk drives were developed and a new era began. The first disks were about 2 feet wide and very slow. Mattel Toys was the first IBM disk customer in LA, placing Joan at the beginning of the computer age. She enjoyed her work for 7 years, only leaving to begin her family, a daughter and son. Joan's husband, whom she met at UCLA during her college years, worked in the aircraft industry and had an MBA. Joan joined AAUW in Los Angeles, encouraged by friends, when she had her young children and AAUW had child care play dates and adult conversations and topics.

When Joan's husband became ill with cancer, it was a long 5-year battle and he required constant care during the last year. During this same year Joan's father had a stroke and moved in with Joan. Her mother had died a few years earlier of cancer. Joan realized that she needed some outside connections after her daily care giving responsibilities and began teaching in the evenings at Pierce College, while living in the San Fernando Valley. This time period was Joan's greatest challenge, caring for an ill husband and father. After her husband's death, she set her goal of being sure her children received a college education and went to work for BEHR, an investment company, as a systems analyst and programmer.

Stacy, Joan's daughter, who lives in Grover Beach, encouraged Joan to move up to the Central Coast to help care for her first daughter, allowing Stacy to go back to work. Joan bought her Pismo Beach home in 1998 and provided daily child care for her three granddaughters, as the family grew. Stacy carries on the math and science lineage through her middle school teaching in Santa Maria. Joan's son lives in Los Gatos and has one son and one daughter. Again, looking for adult topics and life balance, Joan was encouraged to rejoin AAUW by a good friend living in Ventura in 1998.

Family trips with her mother, father and sister along Route 66 provide warm memories. Her father's love of back roads, wigwam motels and other road adventures, was incorporated into car trips to Pennsylvania to visit family. As an adult, Joan enjoyed several years of travel and has wonderful memories with friends, often through her UCLA connections, traveling yearly to national and international destinations such as Russia, Kenya, Greece, Turkey, Europe and more.

Joan enjoys visiting and shopping with her granddaughters, walking and reading. Mysteries are her favorite genre. Joan is a private person with a solid understanding of what one must do as a member of a family and community. Soon after joining our AAUW Branch, she was Treasurer for 2 years. She now serves as an AAUW Scholarship Corporation Director, participates, when she can, in Great Decisions. She adds concise and targeted suggestions to any conversation she joins. Getting to know Joan is a gift. Thank you, Joan, for being a valuable member of our AAUW Branch.

~ Jean Burns Slater

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INTEREST GROUPS

GREAT DECISIONS On break until January

AAUW NIGHT READERS **Tuesday, 12/14**
6:30 PM
@ Susie Wedell's
The Giver of Stars
by Jojo Moyes

FINESSING FEMMES BRIDGE **Wednesday, 12/15**
12:30 PM
@ Norma Stewart's

Official AAUW Interest Group Contacts:

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

Independent AAUW Interest Group Contacts:

Cooking Group *Anna Zucker*
Page Turners Book Group *Jean B. Slater*
Finessing Femmes *Rose Ann Steiner*
Quilters *Linda Lidberg*
(These groups have become independent of AAUW in order
to be inclusive of readers who are no longer members.)

