



The

APRIL 2022

EQUITY FOR ALL

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OUR MISSION:

Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

Waves

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Our theme, *“Hope, Trust, Possibilities”* has proven to be true. Our branch will have a slate of officers for next year so that we may continue our goals as a branch. Many, many thanks to those who have stepped up to serve. We are so very thankful for your dedication. The nominating committee announced the slate at our March in-person meeting. Those who came were able to personally issue their thanks and desires for the coming year’s goals. Blessings to everyone, *Susan*

“Happiness is not a goal, it’s a by-product.” ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

MARCH BOARD BLURBS

Zoom Board Meeting - March 7, 2022

- April 11-15 Lobby Week.
- Decreasing branch dues to \$18, from \$20 so that our annual dues stay at \$105.
- Fund raising with Sylvester’s Burgers in Oceano. Pam will have \$10 cards available at March general meeting.
- Discussed program for March meeting.
- Tech Trek will do interviews at end of March. We’ve been accepted for 7 students.
- RIF will continue to distribute books that they have on hand. Teachers have expressed thanks and enthusiasm.
- Nominating committee discussion.

PLEASE NOTE:
For Zoom assistance, please contact Pam Zirion.

APRIL BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 4
@ 6:30 PM / Zoom

APRIL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, April 18
6:30 PM / Scholarships Women’s Club, AG

MAY BOARD MEETING
Monday, May 2
@ 6:30 PM / Zoom

MAY GENERAL MEETING
Monday, May 16
6:30 PM / Annual Meeting; Installation. Location TBD

LOOKING AHEAD



MARCH 21 GENERAL MEETING RECAP

BRANCH HISTORY - PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

Susan opened the program with 23 members present! She introduced the moderators of each of the three groups, who then spent 20 minutes discussing their topic with the members at their prospective tables. Some of the topics mentioned are listed below...

Past (Liz Wineman): past membership & activities, dues increase, mentoring, inter-branch activities, community involvement, ads.

Present (Mary Matakovich): Social is a big draw, fun groups, local focus, our mission, increase membership, friends without degrees, support Scholarship/TechTrek/RIF ('Big 3'), fundraising, one-on-one.

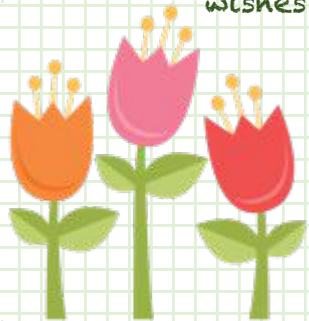
Future (Jean B Slater): Branch will not fold (we currently have 33 members), National & CA interests, realignment with goals and other organizations (League of Women Voters), viability, visibility, attract younger members, diversity, welcoming, who do we want to be & what can we offer, how do we get there? We can't do everything.

Susan asked the group what is viable for this Branch to do and the importance of remaining positive. Should there be a phone survey and/or phone tree to connect with members? Linda Lidberg discussed three options for disbanding, blending, or merging.

General Meeting: Passed Branch dues reduction of \$2 (\$105 total). Presentation of officers: Jean B Slater (President), Erica Hinojosa (Treasurer), and Pam Zirion (Secretary). Sylvester's Burgers fundraising. Primary elections support. Scholarship (30 applicants). TechTrek (6 girls selected). April meeting - meet Scholarship & TechTrek winners.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



Patti Melsheimer..... 6th

Margaret Quandt..... 18th

APRIL GENERAL MEETING PREVIEW



April 18, 2022 · In-Person @ 6:30 PM!

SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

At last, we meet again in-person to celebrate our youth!

Don't miss Scholarship Night on Monday, April 18, at 6:30 pm at the Arroyo Grande Women's Club. We will meet face-to-face our scholarship awardees and 2022 Tech Trek Campers, who will head for camp in person this summer, after two years without a physical camp. Don't miss this inspiring meeting!

We will also have branch elections. See you there!

FUNDRAISING

IT'S FUN-RAISING TIME! (Finally)

I'll bet you thought this would never come. But we are partnering with Sylvester's Burgers for our newest fundraiser.

Sylvester's printed tickets for us and we can sell them for \$10. Each ticket is good for a 1/3 pound burger of your choice, beef, turkey, vegan (Impossible burger), hippie and black bean. So there's a burger for everyone!!

For every ticket we sell, AAUW 5 Cities-Pismo Beach receives \$5!

I will be calling you to sell tickets for our worthy causes: RIF, Tech Trek and Scholarship.

Everyone loves to eat and this fundraiser lasts only until June 18th, so sell, sell, sell!!!

~ Pam Zirion

TECH TREK

On Sunday, March 20, 2022, our nominated Tech Trek candidates were greeted by Mary Matakovich as they entered the room with their parent. After a quick photo shoot, they were then escorted to the interview room where Susan Brazil, Susan Opava, and Erica Hinojosa questioned the girls on their interest in STEM and plans for their future. While they were being interviewed, Linda Lidberg met with the parents to go over Tech Trek camp details. After their interview was complete, the girls met with Laurie King who did a post-interview wrap-up. Once all girls had been interviewed, the team met for deliberations and selected six excellent candidates for camp at UCSB in July. The great news was that all of the candidates were so wonderful and we had space for all six nominees! The girls were notified of their selection Sunday evening to much joy and thankfulness. We will introduce the girls to our members at the April 18th meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Directors are pleased to announce the receipt of 30 applications for our scholarships from students within the Lucia Mar Unified School District. Applications arrived from young women at Arroyo Grande High, New Tech High, Nipomo High. Nineteen applications were from students within the AVID program. Applications were screened and candidates for interviews were selected at the March 16 Directors' meeting. Teams of Directors will interview the candidates and bring forth their choices to the Directors at the April 6 meeting, at which time scholarship awardees will be determined.

Branch members at the April 18 AAUW general Branch meeting will have the opportunity to learn about the scholarship recipients, their backgrounds and plans for their education, while honoring these young women. The Scholarship Cooperation Board of Directors continue to recognize that scholarship awards would never be possible without the support of the Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch members. Thank you sincerely.

~ Jean Burns Slater



WOMEN'S RALLY RECAP

Women's March Rally - Saturday, March 5, 2022 in Mitchell Park

The mission of SLO's annual Women's March is to provide activities dedicated to creating a women-friendly world, where women are truly equal. More than 600 people gathered Saturday, March 5th in Mitchell Park in downtown San Luis Obispo to participate in Women's March SLO's "Engage for Equity" rally.

The rally added calling for solidarity with Ukraine to the social justice causes it addressed, along with reproductive rights, racial justice and LGBTQ+ protection. It also celebrated the five-year anniversary of the first march in 2017, which drew thousands to rally through the city after Donald Trump won the presidency in the 2016 election. SLO County social justice and women's organizations had booths at the event along the "Call to Action Alley," a pathway that led to the gazebo in the park.

The AAUW booth sponsored by the by San Luis Obispo Branch of AAUW and supported with assistance from Five Cities Pismo Beach and Atascadero Branch members, drew positive response from the attendees with over 30 people signing up for more information about AAUW. Details on possible contacts will be shared with the local branches.



Kathy Cohon, Mary Matakovich and Jean Burns Slater represented Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch involvement. Pam Zirion offered wonderful companion support to the chilly, blustery afternoon.

VOTING RIGHTS



It's been over 100 years since the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was adopted, guaranteeing women the right to vote. The Amendment did not break down voting barriers for **all women**. And today, there is more work to be done. Women are leading the fight. All voters must have their voices heard through projects of nonprofits focusing on voter rights and accessibility.

Democracy Truth Project of the League of Women Voters counters mis- and disinformation to build more trust in our elections. VOTE411 project is a one-stop-shop for nonpartisan election information including voter guides, general and state-specific ballot measures, election dates, and registration deadlines. Get informed and spread the word.

What You Can Do to Increase Voter Information and Engagement

At the February AAUW Five Cities' General Meeting Dawn Addis and Andrea Chmelik spoke about the Women's March SLO (WMSLO) and the March Rally with Equity as a theme, including a Call-to-Action Alley, in which AAUW Branches participated.

When asked what members of Five Cities' Pismo Beach AAUW can actively do to be engaged in helping our democracy heal, the speakers offered the following suggestions:

- Call and support current school board members, members of city councils, County Board of Supervisors and any elected officer who may need a positive, appreciative voice.
- Participate in a phone or text bank to support candidates that you feel will best represent your community.
- Door knock for candidates that you support
- Let friends know the candidates you are supporting and engage in conversations regarding the qualities of your candidate.
- Know that you are not alone in your concerns. Talk with others, stir the conversation with your comments and ideas, join organizations that are actively standing for democracy. Gain support and start the momentum.
- Post signage that expresses your values and lets people know that they are welcome to your home or work place.
- Donate, **donate**, donate to support the candidates that fit your values and actions.
- Vote and tell people who you are voting for and why.

The Waves

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

Vol. 43, No.8 – April 2022

President:
Susan Brazil

Treasurer: *Linda Lidberg*

Secretary: *Pat Mulethaler*

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.

CHILDCARE: AN OVERDUE AND CRITICAL INVESTMENT

By Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield

AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

“It’s past time that we treat childcare as what it is – an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy... and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades,” says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childcaring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- 56% of married families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work
- The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it’s 83% for single fathers who maintain custody
- The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare
- Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding
- 50% of Americans live in childcare “deserts” or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening
- In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent
- 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! *The Build Back Better Act*, now awaiting action by the Senate would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation’s future.

AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

To find out more or to contact your senators:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/crisis-recovery-budget/>



SPOTLIGHT ON SUZANNE LA CABE

How many times do we hear a life story that tugs at our hearts? Our individual AAUW Branch Members hold these stories and once in while we learn about the depth of the lives of our members.

Suzanne La Cabe was born in Spokane, Washington, and basically raised herself. Her father left, her mother distanced herself from her daughter, so Suzanne made her own way with the help of her grandparents and a friend, "Aunt Evelyn", who owned a dance studio and taught the hula. Suzanne's mom was in and out of her life, taking Suzanne to Kansas, Texas, and Georgia with an army husband. Suzanne distinctly remembers how shocked she was in 1942 when she was riding a bus with whites only in the front of the bus and black riders crammed into the back of the bus.

Suzanne's life settled when her mother decided to move to Capitola, California, where Suzanne finally stayed long enough to make friends, go to the movies and have a bit of a regular life. Her mom took a job as a dental assistant at the army base. Suzanne's step-dad came home from the army, and the "family" moved to the Bay area. Suzanne was on her own, taking herself to school and finding her own way. She began her college work at San Jose State, living in a home with too much noise, and her grades dropped. She moved home, took several aptitude tests that said "science" - not really what Suzanne had in mind. Art became her college major, supported by her grandfather.

Suzanne met and married before graduation and moved to Bakersfield with a young son. Her husband had a rich family heritage; Suzanne married for the family he offered. The extended family was "straight out of a novel with real characters at gatherings." Suzanne felt that she never really belonged to the Bakersfield culture.... no one to talk with or be friends with.



Once moving to Fresno, Suzanne was able to finish her degree at Fresno State. Her husband with dairy experience had plans to be an Industrial Arts teacher, but this did not happen. A visit to friends in Santa Barbara resulted in a move to run a dairy in the Santa Barbara area. During these difficult times, Suzanne had three more sons, but she was able to buy marmalade, a delicacy not to be found in the Central Valley - a small touch of sophistication.

Tragedy struck with the death of one of her sons at the age of 20 from a head injury in a swimming accident. Her oldest son died of kidney failure in his 40s. Suzanne persevered, and after 20 years of marriage, she divorced and entered the interior design business with her art background for eight years. Observations about the interior design business were: you have to make people happy; you end up carrying books and books of wall paper samples, people want you to come into their

homes with samples and make trips to Los Angeles. She learned to set time limits and keep Sundays as her personal time. However, that was not all of her professional life. Suzanne operated a cooking school with trips to France and Julia Child's cook book in hand.

Enough was enough, and at the age of 78 she quit the interior design business and moved up to be near her son, Bryan, in Arroyo Grande and his two children, now ages 15 and 18. Her son Keith, lives in San Francisco with a wife and one child. He is a media tech specialist and travels extensively, leaving little time to visit. Suzanne believes in education and plans to support her grandchildren in their college interests, as her grandfather did for her.

Arroyo Grande has the distinct reputation for Suzanne as the "best place she has ever lived." She could not fit into the long-held wealth and distinct tastes of Santa Barbara. Arroyo Grande offers kindness, a relaxed tempo and pace, and grocery clerks that are actually nice. She came not knowing a soul after 30 years in Santa Barbara. She learned to always say "yes" when someone invites you to an activity or function and then doors opened. She has taken chances, but her willing spirit has prevailed. She loves to people-watch, sitting quietly and detailing the environment in her mind. She is taking watercolor classes, understands French and would love to learn Spanish. She enjoys computer work. She has spent time in London and New Year's in a French home. Suzanne regularly joins the AAUW Daytime Page Turners and adds wit and knowledge to the discussions, as she watches all of us, quietly detailing our responses and actions.

Thank you, Suzanne, for belonging to our AAUW Branch and sharing your story and sharing your good spirit.
~ Jean Burns Slater

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

INTEREST GROUPS



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Great Decisions

THE RENEWED CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA

Our local Great Deciders made a quick change of topics to discuss Putin's Russia on March 28 due to global current events. Additional information on Russia was sent to all Great Decision participants to enhance the discussion with historical background. Climate change will be discussed on April 25 as noted below.

COVID's drastic effect on the economic growth of nation states made the air cleaner but created more unemployment. The pandemic served as a bell weather for the global challenge of mitigating human made greenhouse gas emissions. Learn more about this topic through our reading, DVD and discussion.

Location: Back in-person at Patti Melsheimer's home

Date & Time: April 25 @ 7 PM

Leader: Gaye Peltzman




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AAUW NIGHT READERS..... Tuesday, April 12 @ 6:30

@ Rose Ann Steiner's

FINESSING FEMMES BRIDGE Weds, 4/20 @ 12:30

@ Rose Ann Steiner's

Official AAUW Interest Group Contacts:

Great DecisionsPriscilla Alquist / Jean Burns Slater
Lunch BunchJoan Knowlton
Night Readers Book Group Alternates
Theatre GoersJudy Zaretska

Independent AAUW Interest Group Contacts:

Cooking GroupAnna Zucker
Daytime Page Turners Book Group Jean B. Slater
Finessing FemmesRose Ann Steiner
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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OUR BRANCH LIVES ON!

We have candidates for our leadership roles, so with a sigh of relief and many thanks, we can now look ahead to renew our annual dues.

A check for **\$105.00** can be made out to **AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach**. Mail to:

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