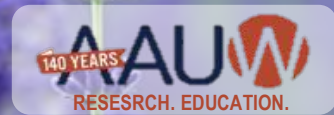


The



MAY 2022

EQUITY FOR ALL

Waves

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Well, this is my last message to you as your president. I wish to thank everyone who has helped make this last year successful.

We succeeded in accomplishing our three main projects: Tech Trek, Scholarships, and Reading is Fundamental. We were also able to provide programs via zoom, two in person meetings and we're represented at the Women's Rally. We also kept up with public policy and started a fundraising project. This, All-in-all, given our health restrictions, I believe we accomplished what we set out to do.

Special thanks to an awesome board who supported me throughout my term. Wishing all of you a peaceful and joyful summer. ~ Susan Brazil

"Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." ~ Mahatma Gandhi
"Forgiveness is just another name for freedom". ~ Byron Katie

APRIL BOARD BLURBS

Zoom Board Meeting - April 4, 2022

- Election of Officers to be held at the April meeting.
- Installation of officers to be held at the May 15th meeting. Site and time to be determined.
- April program to include Tech Trek awardees and Scholarship nominees.
- Lunch Bunch has restarted. The May 5 lunch will be at Old Juan's Cantina in Oceano.
- Tech Trek will have an ice cream social on June 5 at the Daisy Hill Mobile Home Park. Linda Lidberg is looking for volunteers. (see page 2)
- Wendy Robinson has been distributing books through RIF.
- Pam Zirion has begun to distribute Sylvester's gift cards as a fund raiser for our branch.

OUR MISSION:

Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

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

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

MAY GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, May 15
Time & Location TBD
Annual Meeting; Installation of officers.

CIRCLE THE DATE!

Sunday, May 15...will be an in-person get-together, our final meeting of the year!

- Food
- New officers installed
- Named honoree announced
- Lots of social time

Save the date and look for an e-blast and phone call for details in early May.

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY MEETING

ELECTIONS / TECH TREK & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Award winners and their families were so excited to come to the celebration that some arrived before the room was even set up!

After refreshments and social time, president Susan Brazil opened the meeting early with a welcome and branch voting on incoming 2022/2023 officers.

Linda Lidberg presented the 6 Tech Trek campers for 2022, from Judkins, Mesa, and Paulding.

Interview team members Priscilla Alquist, Marjorie Ott, Rose Ann Steiner, and Pat Muhlethaler presented Scholarship awards of \$2,000 each to 10 high school seniors from Arroyo Grande, AVID, Nipomo, and New Tech.

It was a privilege to see what these exceptional young ladies have been able to accomplish so far in their short lives and to hear their amazing plans for the future.



Front row: Daniela Pille, Sofia Reynoso, Lissette Cuevas, Savannah Davison

Back row: Nevaeh Burns, Daniela Ruelas, Damaris Beas, Paloma Nava, Toirease Marie O'Rourke

Alexis Seiler (right) was unable to attend.



The Tech Trek team (Susan Brazil, Susan Opava, Erica Hinojsa, Mary Matakovich, Laurie King, Linda Lidberg) interviewed and selected six young ladies from the Lucia Mar Unified School District's middle schools for this summer's Tech Trek camp at UCSB.

The young ladies selected were Genesis Bermeo Vega (Mesa Middle School), McKenna Rose (Paulding Middle School), Gabrielle Fletcher (Paulding Middle School), Madison Hong-Tram (Judkins Middle School), Ari Magee (Judkins Middle School), and Willow Vogler (Paulding Middle School).

Genesis and Madison will be heading to camp from July 10th to July 16th. McKenna, Gabrielle, and Ari will attend camp from July 17th to July 23rd.

The San Luis Obispo County Interbranch Council (IBC) will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 5th for our six Tech Trekkers, as well as the other 19 girls going to camp from the other four AAUW branches.

The new Tech Trekkers will have an opportunity to meet former campers who will share their camp experiences and answer any questions the girls may have about camp. In addition, parents of previous campers will share their experiences with the parents of the girls heading off to camp.

It is always so rewarding to hear the parents of our past campers share how their daughters gained in self-esteem and confidence after attending Tech Trek.



Left to right: Genesis Bermeo Vega, Madison Hong-Tram, McKenna Rose, Gabrielle Fletcher, Willow Vogler. Not picture Ari Magee.

SCHOLARSHIP



AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Scholarship Corporation Directors are pleased to announce the awarding of 10 scholarships of \$2,000 each to students from Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, New Tech High Schools and the AVID program within the Lucia Mar Unified School District, for a grand total of \$20,000. Anonymous donation gifts, totaling \$6,000, enhanced the ability to award additional AVID scholarships.

The Scholarship Cooperation Board of Directors is dedicated to provide scholarships to deserving young women and the applicants were exceptional this year. The Directors continue to recognize that scholarship awards would never be possible without the support of the Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch members and other donors. Thank you sincerely.

After receiving 30 applications, Directors screened and interviewed candidates. All students, young men and women in the senior AVID classes, were given tips on interviewing by Jean Burns Slater on March 22. Approximately 60 students were in attendance for the two presentations. At the April 6 Directors meeting scholarship awardees were selected.

Branch members at the April 18 AAUW general Branch meeting had the opportunity to learn about the scholarship recipients, their backgrounds and plans for their education, during the honoring of these young women. 2022 Scholarship recipients' names and photos can be found on page 2.
~ Jean Burns Slater

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising efforts are doing well! Many of you are selling \$10 tickets for Sylvester's Burgers of which our branch gets \$5! So far, I have given Sylvester's \$1,360 of which we will get 50%. Hooray!

At the meeting on the 18th, we sold many more tickets to families of our award recipients. They realized the money we raise goes to help other young women achieve their educational goals. So it's a win-win for all!

Thank you to those of you who have taken tickets; if you don't have any, but would like some, contact me. ~ Pam Zirion

MAY BIRTHDAYS

The AAUW 5 Cities - Pismo Beach Branch wishes a very

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to:

Lauren Manning 6th

Carol McBirnie 18th



PUBLIC POLICY

The International Day of Families - May 15

The International Day of Families, annually held on May 15th, celebrates the importance of families and the work started during the *International Year of Families*.

The year 1994 was proclaimed as the *International Year of Families* by the United Nations. This was a response to changing social and economic structures, which have affected and still affect the structure and stability of family units in many regions of the globe. The *International Day of Families*, on May 15th, is an occasion to reflect on the work started during 1994 and to celebrate the importance of families, people, societies and cultures around the world. It has been held every year since 1995.



PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW CA SPONSORS CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

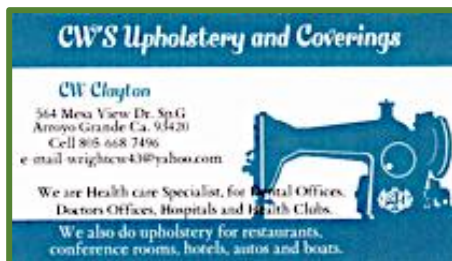
Guided by our member-approved Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023, the AAUW California Public Policy Committee has selected the bills that we will be supporting as they move through the 2022 Session of the California Legislature. Here are the six highest priority bills:

- **AB 92**—creates an equitable sliding scale for family fees to alleviate the burden on working families struggling to pay for **childcare and early childhood education** services. Co-sponsor
- **AB 1666**—enables persons to come from outside California for **abortions** and not be impacted by laws of other states. Co-sponsor
- **AB 1968**—mandates the creation of websites at CSU/UC campuses to **assist sexual assault survivors**.
- **AB 2881**—**Student parents** get priority enrollment, registration, and access to basic needs centers, enabling them to remain in California colleges.
- **SB 523**—Expands **contraceptive coverage** by requiring health plans to provide point-of-sale coverage without cost-sharing.
- **SB 1375**—updates statutes relating to **abortion care** to allow nurse practitioners to practice under standard protocols to provide first-trimester abortion care.

Within our Public Policy Priorities, six bills are related to Economic Security for All Women, seven are related to Equal Access to Public Education, and 18 are related to Social and Racial Justice for all Members of Society.

AAUW California is experiencing greater visibility among elected legislators by sponsoring/co-sponsoring bills.

The Public Policy Committee members spent many hours in March researching bills, and in discussions over two days, to select bills to support. AAUW members are working to improve the lives of women and children in California!



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The Waves

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

Vol. 43, No.9 – May 2022

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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*

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.



SPOTLIGHT ON JEAN BURNS SLATER



while the 70s experiment of dads staying home with the children was in full swing. It wasn't the expected success, so Jean took a job with San Luis Coastal USD, moving to Morro Bay to teach Home Economics and English to middle school students.

With Cal Poly close by, Jean earned a Master's degree in Home Economics. After a divorce, with summers free, she earned a Masters of Economic Education from the University of Delaware through a multiyear summer program. She then had the qualifications to teach economics at Morro Bay High. An Administrative Services Credential was the next step. Her reasoning was, "you either work for an administrator or be one," so she prepared herself to be one. She was hired as an Assistant Principal at Laguna Middle School in San Luis Obispo and over the course of nine years served as Principal, as well.

During that time, the District Superintendent offered administrators the opportunity to earn a doctorate in Education Administration through a University of Southern California satellite program. All she had to do was work hard, take classes on Saturdays, spend summers at USC, and pay half of the tuition - while promising to stay with SLCUSD for two years after she earned her Ed.D. This was an opportunity she could not pass up, even though she was working full time as a middle school principal. Her daughter had graduated from high school and college, so parenting responsibilities were at a minimum. Two of Jean's siblings had already earned their doctorates, so sibling competition was alive and encouraging.

Once she earned her doctorate Jean realized that she would need to move out of the area to advance in the ranks of education administration. An Associate Superintendent of Secondary Programs with San Rafael City Schools in the Bay area was the next step. She met her husband while she was in San Luis Obispo. They married after both secured jobs in Marin County. Working long hours in an intense situation taught Jean that weekend

jaunts were a necessity. She and her husband, Michael, took advantage of every opportunity they could find in the Bay area. Michael retired from his Chief Financial Officer job with Larkspur School District and Jean knew she needed to find a new job and home beyond the 640 square foot, third floor apartment in San Rafael. Her next job was Superintendent of San Benito High School District in Hollister, CA. This required a move to Hollister, where she purchased a home. This was her final career move and, after making a decision to retire, she and Michael moved back to the Central Coast, into Michael's home in Arroyo Grande that had been rented.

Jean first joined AAUW in 1975-76 when she was teaching at Morro Bay High. She continued to search out AAUW Branches with each move, and joined the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch once she settled in Arroyo Grande in 2008. She served as Co-Program director with Patti Melsheimer and has since held various positions within the Branch.

Travel has been a passion in Jean's life. She believes in sharing and appreciating other cultures, sharing wealth by staying in local hotels, using local transportation, modeling the authentic US citizen in contrast to preconceptions. Rustic and purpose-lead adventure travel are the basic elements of her travel style. She is also a U.S. National Parks nut, with car camping always a highlight.

Jean is well connected with her five siblings and their families, thoroughly enjoys the company of her daughter and her husband and three grandchildren, and feels fortunate to be part of a greater picture of world, national, state and local affairs through AAUW and other interests.

This is the last spotlight article with over 30 spotlights during the last 4 years. Thank you all for participating and learning about your fellow AAUW Branch members. We hold a wealth of experience, knowledge and have stories to tell.

Jean Burns Slater was a middle child of six children born in San Diego, California, to parents living out in the country with few neighbors. Her dad served as a test pilot for the Ryan Aeronautical Company and later moved into management in the airplane manufacturing plant. Her mom was a homemaker and with six children - this was a double job!

Jean learned to go about her business, not drawing attention to herself, going along her merry way without undue attention. "Keep your mouth shut and your eyes and ears open," became her motto. She slipped through grade school, high school and college at a solid pace, anxious to get out on her own. She attended Grossmont Community College, as was expected in her family, and then graduated with a teaching credential from San Diego State University.

Teaching jobs were difficult to get in the early 70's. A job in Perris, CA was offered, so she moved to Hemet, CA, from San Diego with her husband and young daughter, becoming the wage earner

MARCH GENERAL MEETING & MORE...



The March 21 General Meeting in the AG Women's Center. Jean Burns Slater led a panel on the Future of our Branch. Past and Present panels were also held and a discussion on all of the ideas followed.

SYLVESTER'S

Pam Zirion enthusiastically hosted the fundraising table, where she distributed Sylvester's Burgers gift cards for Branch members to sell for \$10 each. Sylvester's will give the Branch half of whatever is sold. What a scrumptious way to earn back funds for our Branch projects!



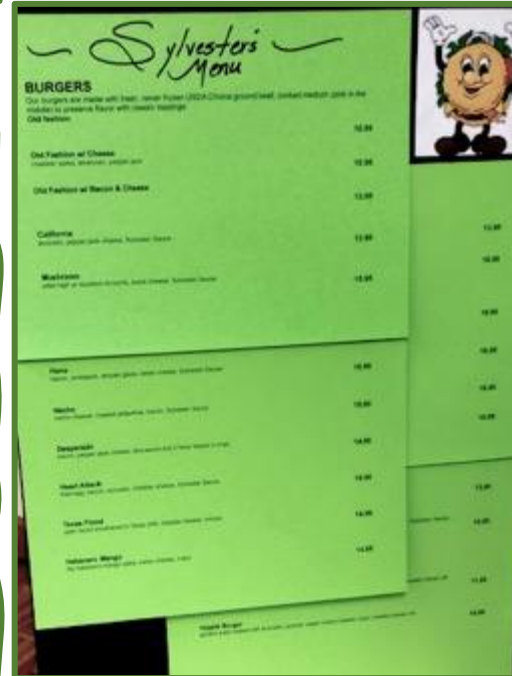
Thank You...



...to Jean Burns Slater, who has so diligently interviewed, photographed, and written all of the Spotlights that were highlighted in our Branch Newsletters for the past couple of years. Jean has also been my much-appreciated proofreader for most of the Newsletters, in addition to providing all of the Public Policy, Great Decisions, and most of the Scholarship entries. Now to top this, she will become President of our Branch in 2022/2023. What an incredible lady she is! And thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter.

This is my final AAUW Newsletter, as I am stepping down from AAUW for now to concentrate on other interests. I have enjoyed creating each edition and working with many of you in the process. I will miss everyone, but I still hope to contribute to the Branch through fundraisers and as a poll worker. I wish all of the members well, and hope you are able to continue with the valuable services you provide the young women of this community.

~ Gayle R Turner, Newsletter Editor



INTEREST GROUPS

AAUW NIGHT READERS

Tuesday, May 10 @ 6:30 @ Pat Muhlethaler's

FINESSING FEMMES BRIDGE

Weds, May 18 @ 12:30 @ Linda Lidberg's Home

LUNCH BUNCH

Let's celebrate Cinco de Mayo...

Thursday, May 5 at 11:30 AM

Old Juan's Cantina

(649 Pier Ave, Oceano - just off Hwy 1)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY MAY 3

E-mail or call Joan Knowlton.

Great Decisions

MYANMAR'S NEVER-ENDING CRISIS

Myanmar, former known as Burma and independent from British colonization in 1948, is a country of more 54 million people, bordering on Thailand, Laos, China, India, and Bangladesh. A military coup in February 2021 stopped Myanmar's democratic transition. What is going on now? Reads and learn about Myanmar's struggles and how they affect the Asia.

Location: Back in-person at Patti Melsheimer's

Date & Time: May 23 @ 7 PM

Leader: Kathi Pettersen

Treats: Marjorie Ott

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Lunch Bunch enjoyed being together on April 7th at Rosa's in Pismo Beach. (Not pictured: Patti Melsheimer)

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Daytime Page Turners Book GroupJean B. Slater
Finessing Femmes Rose Ann Steiner
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