

# The Waves AAUW

September 2023- Volume 45 - Number 1

editor: jbslater2006@gmail.com

## President's Message page 3

Jean Burns Slater

## September Events

- 1 11:30 Daytime Page Turners: Mary Weeks Home      Joan Florence, Carole Dempsey, Kathi Pettersen
- 5 6:30 pm Board Meeting: Zoom      Susan Brazil, Renee David, Priscilla Alquist, Laurie King
- 7 11:30 am Lunch Bunch: Darwish 967 W. Grand Ave. Grover Beach
- 9 1:30 pm Welcome Back General Meeting: [Mesa View Mobile Home Estates](#)
- 12 6:30 pm Night Readers: Joan Florence's home
- 20 Newsletter Deadline
- 20 12:30 pm Finessing Femmes Bridge: Linda Mabry's home
- 25 Great Decisions: 7:00 Patti Melsheimer's home

## Summer Birthdays

## September Birthdays

- 11 Linda Lidberg
- 14 Gaye Peltzman
- 18 Maurina Kusell
- 23 Pam Zirion

## October Events Preview

- 2 6:30 pm Board Meeting: Zoom
- 5 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- 6 11:30 am Daytime Page Turners
- 28 10 am General Meeting: Atascadero Library  
Topic: School Board Project



Welcome Back – First Meeting of 2023-2024  
Come and Hear What our Tech Trek Campers experienced at Camp!  
**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-4 pm**  
**Mesa View Mobile Home Estates**

Details on page 2

## Upcoming September Board Meeting

The September Board meeting will be held on **September 5, Tuesday**, due to the Labor Day Holiday, at 6:30 PM, via Zoom. If you or your committee have an action item to place on the agenda for this meeting, please forward it to Jean Burns Slater, [jbslater2006@gmail.com](mailto:jbslater2006@gmail.com) by August 31 for it to be considered at the meeting. Thank you!

## Welcome Back – First Meeting of 2023-2024

Come and Hear What our Tech Trek Campers experienced at Camp!



**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm**

**Location:** Mesa View Mobile Home Estates Clubhouse located on the top of the hill: 765 Mesa View Dr. Arroyo Grande

The girls will share their experiences while at UCSB. Hear about the Branch 2023-2024 plans and enjoy light refreshments as we start our new year.



Andrea Zarate



Zoe Purdy



Vivienne Ling



Emma Uclaray

Dear Five Cities-Pismo Beach Community.

I'd like to start off by saying thank you to the Five Cities Pismo Beach Community that raised money to sponsor other Tech Trek campers and myself into the Tech Trek STEM Camp 2023! This experience is a great opportunity for young girls that are interested in STEM fields. You are given a core class, share a dorm with someone, have a dorm mom, and junior counselor. You also work on a group project including girls in the marine class, aerospace class, coding/robotics class, and the forensics class. The project to solve is a problem that could happen in 20 years, including all the core classes to solve together.

One thing I enjoyed most about Tech Trek was the boat ride. Although I had never been interested in marine science, getting that opportunity to get involved in the experience was amazing, especially because I had never been on a boat before! We were able to see marine life such as sea pickles, dolphins, plankton, and a humpback whale.

Something I learned the most in Tech Trek was coding/robotics. We learned how to block code for our robots (Bolts) by making them move, make sound, and animations.

In conclusion, Tech Trek was an amazing experience and you should really continue sponsoring more young girls to get involved in this program. Tech Trek has made me more aware about STEM and, most importantly, college! Giving girls this opportunity at a young age can really encourage girls to be successful in the future. You can also get to create friendships and socialize with others. Thank you so much for this amazing experience.

Sincerely,

Andrea Zarate  
UCSB Hypatia Camp

## AAUW Refreshment Signups for September General Meeting

The **Topic** will be **The Tech Trek Experience** and we will have several of our recent Tech Trek girls present to share with us about their experiences at UCSB! We are expecting 3 or 4 of our Tech Trekkers and their parents and siblings to attend...and hopefully a good number of our members will be there also.

I am thinking we need to plan to have food for 30+ people!

**REFRESHMENTS NEEDED: 2 CHEESE & CRACKER TRAYS 1 FRUIT PLATE 1 VEGGIE PLATE 3 COOKIE OR BAR TRAY** Please **EMAIL OR TEXT MAUREEN KELLY ( HOSPITALITY)** IF YOU CAN BRING ONE OF THE NEEDED REFRESHMENT PLATES! (TEXT to 805 7106035) PLEASE INCLUDE your name and which plate you would like to bring! IF too many sign up to bring cookies, I will be asking for some substitutions... Hope to hear from some members ASAP! I will respond to you...so you know that I got your message & am expecting you and your goodies at the meeting! Maureen Kelly

### President's Message

Jean Burns Slater

### AAUW California Public Policy Committee Launches the "School Board Project"

"There is a dangerous wave sweeping across our country to withhold certain historical information from students and to preclude student access and exposure to educational materials and/or campus events concerning a number of historically marginalized groups, including persons of color and people in LGBTQ+ communities. These efforts include financial and other forms of support for candidates for school board positions who support these policies and who would then be in a position to see them come to fruition.

These policies are antithetical to AAUW California's public policy priorities to ensure "equal access to quality public education for all students" including "access to diverse curriculum that represents historically accurate information." This is why AAUW California is determined to do everything we can to stop this movement from taking hold in our beautiful state, and why we have entered into a collaboration with Equality California to identify, recruit, and support candidates to run for nonpartisan school board races up and down the state.

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-california-public-policy-committee-launches-the-school-board-project/>

And it is right here in San Luis Obispo County!

"Moms 4 Liberty (M4L) ([www.momsforliberty.org](http://www.momsforliberty.org)) is an organization that evolved during the pandemic related to masking and school closures. Their organization has grown to 110K members and 250 chapters, they're running (and winning) school board elections, and they're advocating and advancing extreme policies and dangerous narratives. Their geographic influence is growing, and they have an active chapter in SLO County. " (Doug Heumman, Esq., Central Coast Coalition 4 Inclusive Schools (CC4IS), Chair")

There are at least two school board members endorsed by Moms for Liberty and one QAnon school board member in our county. We must pay attention and act with diligence.

Mark your calendar for our October meeting;

**Event: Central Coast Discussion: AAUW School Board Project:**

**Presented by: Kathi Harper, past Public Policy Chair of CA AAUW**

**October 28, 2023**

**Saturday**

**10-12 noon**

**Atascadero Library : Located in: Hotel Park Business Center**

**Address: 6555 Capistrano Ave, Atascadero, CA 93422**

All are welcome

Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW is hosting this event.

## Summer Planning Meeting Report

Branch members met to formalize plans for the 2023-2024 year on July 26, at 4:00 pm at the home of Jean Burns Slater. This planning meeting reviewed the 2022–2023-year activities, the end of the year financial report and a draft proposed budget was presented for discussion. Treasurer Hinojosa announced that we have 34 Branch members which will assist in a balanced budget. Branch members in attendance included Beth Hutton, Priscilla Alquist, Marjorie Ott, Kathi Pettersen, Erica Hinojosa, Pam Zirion, Mary Matakovich, Patti Melsheimer, Linda Lidberg, Jean Burns Slater. Plans for the upcoming year included program topics, fund raising emphasis, meeting locations, membership tips, public policy focus and Branch projects. Members will see the results of this planning meeting throughout the year. Thank you to all who attended and offered their time and thoughtful comments.

### AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Proposed Budget 2023-2024

	22-23 Actual	23-24 Proposed Budget
Operating Expenses		
Meeting Rent (Church, 2xWomen)	\$396.00	\$492.00
Membership Directory (40)	\$86.13	\$86.13
Program Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hospitality ( <i>Propose Unencumb.</i> )	\$191.25	\$190.87
Insurance	\$202.00	\$242.00
Post Office Box Rental	\$166.00	\$166.00
President's Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Treasurer's Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Publicity	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter Expenses	\$0.00	\$10.00
Out-going President's Pin	\$0.00	\$0.00
Raffle/Bingo permit (exp. Dec)	\$30.00	\$0.00
Annual State Renewal Fee	\$25.00	\$25.00
Membership adjustment	\$87.00	\$0.00
<i>Unencumbered funds</i>		\$0.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,183.38</b>	<b>\$1,212.00</b>

*9 Sponsors: Clean Slate 805, Wacker Wealth, Mersea, Hula Hut, Renee David, Real Estate by Erica, Beck Dental, Papich, KG Berry*

<b>2023-2024 Dues collected to date, 34 members: \$3478* (\$3294)</b>
<b>2023-2024 Dues paid to State/National: \$2852</b>
<b>Branch portion of dues: \$442 (\$13/member)</b>

\*To reimburse 2 lifetime members \$92 each, adjusted total \$3294

	23-24 Proposed Budgeted	YTD	YTD Vs. Budget
Operating Income			
<b>34 Memberships @ \$13</b>	\$442.00	\$442.00	
Advertising ( <b>12 Sponsors</b> )	\$600.00	\$450.00	<i>9 Sponsors</i>
Unencumbered Funds	\$170.00	\$170.00	
Operating Income	<b>\$1,212.00</b>	\$1,062.00	-\$150.00

Fundraising Income			
	Gross	Exp./Tax	Net
Fall Bingo and Silent Auction	\$7,657.93	\$469.91	\$7,188.02
Adopt-a-Poll	\$1,512.00	\$0.00	\$1,512.00
Sylvesters	\$1,210.00	\$0.00	\$1,210.00
<b>Total Fundraising Income</b>	<b>\$10,379.93</b>	<b>\$469.91</b>	<b>\$9,910.02</b>

Reserve 2023-2024	Carry Over	Distribution	Balance
Scholarship (10%)	\$0.00	\$991.00	\$991.00
Tech Trek (32.5%)	\$3,714.78	\$3,220.76	\$6,935.54
Eager Reader(22.5%)	\$4,748.76	\$2,229.75	\$6,978.51
AAUW Funds (15%)	\$0.00	\$1,486.50	\$1,486.50
General Reserve (20%)	\$12,337.71	\$1,982.00	\$14,319.71
<b>Total Reserves on Hand</b>	<b>\$20,801.25</b>	<b>\$9,910.02</b>	<b>\$30,711.27</b>

Fundraising Distribution 2023-2024 of \$9910.02		
Scholarship (10%)	\$991.00	This amount is added to the Carry over from 2022-2023
Tech Trek (32.5%)	\$3,220.76	
Eager Reader (22.5%)	\$2,229.75	
AAUW Funds (15%)	\$1,486.50	
General Reserves (20%)	\$1,982.00	
<b>Fundraising Totals</b>	<b>\$9,910.02</b>	

**AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach  
Treasurer's Report End of Year 2022-2023**

Operating Expenses	Budgeted	Actual	Budget Vs Actual
Community Center Rent	\$396.00	\$396.00	\$0.00
Membership Directory	\$90.00	\$86.13	-\$3.87
Program Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hospitality	\$321.00	\$191.25	- \$129.75
Insurance	\$202.00	\$202.00	\$0.00
Post Office Box Rental	\$166.00	\$166.00	\$0.00
President's Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Treasurer's Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Publicity	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter Expenses	\$10.00	\$0.00	-\$10.00
Out-going President's Pin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Raffle/Bingo permit	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$0.00
Annual State Renewal Fee	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Membership adjustment	\$0.00	\$87.00	\$87.00
Unencumbered funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
			\$0.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,240.00</b>	<b>\$1,183.38</b>	<b>-\$56.62</b>

*Budget Differential - under budget*

Account Balance 6.30.2023	<b>\$40,736.75</b>
Reserves (Tech Trek, Op. Exp.)	-30,711.27
Unencumbered funds**	-170.00
Remaining operating funds	<b>\$9,855.48</b>

Operating Income	Budgeted	Actual	Budget Vs Actual
31 Memberships @ \$18	\$540.00	\$558.00	\$18.00
Advertising (13 Sponsors)*	\$600.00	\$700.00	\$100.00
Operating Income	\$1,140.00	\$1,258.00	\$118.00

Fundraising Income			
	Gross	Exp./Tax	Net
Fall Bingo and Silent Auction	\$7,657.93	\$469.91	\$7,188.02
Adopt-a-Poll	\$1,512.00	\$0.00	\$1,512.00
Sylvesters	\$1,210.00	\$0.00	\$1,210.00
<b>Total Fundraising Income</b>	<b>\$10,379.93</b>	<b>\$469.91</b>	<b>\$9,910.02</b>

Reserve 2022-2023	Carry Over	Distribution	Balance
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AAUW Funds (15%)	\$0.00	\$1,486.50	\$1,486.50
General Reserve (20%)	\$12,337.71	\$1,982.00	\$14,319.71
<b>Total Reserves on Hand</b>	<b>\$20,801.25</b>	<b>\$9,910.02</b>	<b>\$30,711.27</b>

Anticipated Fundraising Distribution 2023-2024 of \$9910.02		
Scholarship (10%)	\$991.00	This amount is added to the Carry over from 20222023
Tech Trek (32.5%)	\$3,220.76	
Eager Reader (22.5%)	\$2,229.75	
AAUW Funds (15%)	\$1,486.50	
General Reserves (20%)	\$1,982.00	
<b>Fundraising Totals</b>	<b>\$9,910.02</b>	

**Great Decisions: Prepare to Discuss the World**

Great Decisions Discussion Group's next meeting will be on September 25, Monday, 7 pm, with the topic of **Iran at Crossroads**. Each meeting starts with a brief introduction, viewing the DVD related to the topic, followed up with a group discussion of the relevant reading materials chapter and ends with treats. **Consider joining in the world discussions of Great Decisions** and recognizing the importance of community conversations of global events and topics. Questions: [palquist@gmail.com](mailto:palquist@gmail.com), [jbslater2006@gmail.com](mailto:jbslater2006@gmail.com)





## Annual Installation of Officers for AAUW & Tea Party



On June 3rd, 2023, Saturday at 10:00 AM the Annual Installation of Officers, awarding Wendy Robinson as the named gift recipient, a delightful tea party and special guest, Jane Austen, were held at Patti and Dick Melsheimer's beautiful garden in Arroyo Grande. This was a postponement from the May date due to illness.

Delicious scones, tea sandwiches, fruit & chocolate, along with fragrant hot tea, were provided.

Jane Austen—in person made a very special appearance. The event was elegant and delightful with over 27 members and guests. Priscilla Alquist, Pam Zirion, and Patti and Dick Melsheimer deserve special thanks, along with committee members who helped with the setup, food and clean up. Kristina Melsheimer portrayed Jane Austen with the utmost grace, dignity, humor, and professionalism. Thank You all.

Due to high demand, we have the famous Scone Recipe provided by Marjorie Ott.

### CRANBERRY ORANGE SCONES

#### Ingredients:

4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup sugar plus additional for sprinkling  
2 tablespoons baking powder  
2 teaspoons kosher salt  
Grated orange zest from 1 orange  
¾ pound (12 ounces) cold unsalted butter, diced  
4 extra-large cold eggs, lightly beaten  
1 cup heavy cream, cold  
1 cup dried cranberries  
1 egg beaten with 2 tablespoons water or milk for egg wash

#### Method:

1. In the bowl of an electric mixer, mix 4 cups of flour, 1/3 cup sugar, baking powder, salt, and orange zest.
2. Add cold butter and mix at the lowest speed until butter is the size of peas.
3. Mix in the cranberries.
4. In a separate bowl, combine the eggs and heavy cream.
5. With the mixer on lowest speed, slowly pour egg/cream mixture into the flour/butter mixture. Mix until just blended.
6. Dump the dough onto a well-floured surface and knead it into a ball. Flour your hands and a rolling pin and roll the dough to ¾-inch thick.

7. Flour a 2 ½ -inch round cutter and cut circles of dough. The dough will be wet and sticky.
8. Place the scones on a baking pan lined with parchment paper. Brush the tops of the scones with the egg wash, sprinkle with sugar.
9. If baking right away, place the scones in the freezer while you heat the oven to 400 degrees F.
10. Bake the scones for 20 to 25 minutes until the tops are browned. The scones will be firm to the touch.
11. Allow the scones to cool for 15 minutes.

**TIPS:**

- Do not over knead the dough. By over kneading, all the air bubbles will escape from the dough. Air bubbles are essential for scones to rise.
- Ingredients need to be cold. During baking the cold butter melts releasing steam. This steam acts as an additional rising agent.
- It is important to use cold ingredients and to chill the scones before baking. The chill relaxes the gluten to yield a tender texture. It also cools the butter down again.
- You can freeze the scones after forming them. Heat the oven when you take the scones from the freezer.
- Scones are best eaten the day you make them.

## **Bingo and Silent Auction November 18, 2023 doors open at 12:00 Games begin at 1:00 PM**

Now is the time to begin thinking about our major fund raiser for the year. Bingo and Silent Auction are coming up on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, doors open at 12 noon, games start at 1:00 PM.

Even though it's three months away, there are things to do NOW. For those of you who are new to the Branch, this money we raise ensures that we can provide scholarships for high school seniors, camperships at a summer Tech Trek experience for 8th graders at UCSB and books for elementary students. Your assistance will make these projects successful.

Here is how to help.

- We need everyone to ask local businesses for donations and or gift certificates. Please ask for donations for the Silent Auction from local businesses, be it monetarily or an item. Letters to present to businesses are available via email from Pam Zirion. Items that sell the best are gift certificates to restaurants, salons, wineries, and experiences for people to enjoy. Ask businesses that you patronize, then you give back to them too!
- We need to sell tickets and get members organized to assist with various jobs.
- At our First Branch meeting on September 9th, we will have tickets available for everyone to sell.
- We will have sign-up sheets for both the Bingo jobs and Silent Auction jobs.
- In addition, we need members to provide or buy a \$25 Gift Card to use as Bingo prizes.

So come to the September 9 meeting, ready to get your tickets and volunteer for a job—from set up/clean up to preparing sack lunches to wrapping Silent Auction baskets. This is our major fundraiser, and it cannot happen without your support!

Questions? Call Kathy Cohon or Pam Zirion

As we begin a new year for our Branch, I am bringing you a new newsletter column with news of our members, both good news and challenges. When you have news you would like shared, please let me know!

Late spring and summer brought good times for many of our members:

- Patti Melsheimer's granddaughter, Isabella, graduated from Scripps College in Claremont, CA.
- Nancy Sperling attended a large family reunion under the trees in Sequoia, although she and her husband enjoyed the comforts of a lovely nearby lodge! It was a Sperling family reunion of 29 participants and a celebration of Nancy and Roger's 65th wedding anniversary, held at King's Canyon National Park.
- Maurina Kusell took a family trip to Washington, D.C. to the Holocaust Museum to honor her mother-in-law.
- Pam Zirion traveled to Washington D.C. in June to honor her late husband's memory at the Vietnam Memorial.
- Linda Lidberg travel with her daughter, Amy, on a Viking River cruise down the Rhine River last spring from Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland. She learned about windmill operation, chocolate making, wine production and Black Forrest cuckoo clocks. To top it off, she met a gentleman from Arizona that had met her own father through his work!
- Jean Slater's grandson, Trey Mahan, graduated from Poly in June with a major in animal science and an interest in being a veterinarian. Her granddaughter, Isabella Mahan, is currently attending Cal Poly as a sophomore in business with a minor in journalism.
- Gaye Peltzman's grandson, Anthony, graduated last year from an honors high school and last fall entered Boise University. He is taking Political Science, with aspirations for great things in his future!
- Kathi Pettersen's grandson, Enzo Hinojosa (Erika Hinojosa's youngest son!), graduated from Branch Elementary in the spring and will be attending Paulding Middle School this fall.
- Lisa Walker's son, Coty, is getting married in late August in her back yard! To recover, Lisa and hubby are going on a trip to Spain, Portugal and Morocco
- Rebecca Avila's daughter, Carina, is home for a few weeks, having recently completed performing in the Disney National Tour of the ballet Aladdin in San Francisco and other previous tour locations. In September, she will be giving her last performances at the Pantages Theatre. She can be seen dancing brilliantly in the Ensemble.

### Member Challenges:

- Jean Slater had knee replacement surgery. Her knee is healing and flexibility continues to improve. Her incentive is a trip to Iceland!!
- Priscilla Alquist completed 16 session of Pulmonary Rehab at Marian's Rehab facilities and received a Certification of Completion to prove it!
- Wendy Robinson is slowly continuing to improve and it is reported that she recently hosted a sewing circle at her home!
- Pat Muhlethaler was seen at Sharon Lowell's Memorial service, looking good!
- Marjorie Ott's sister in the Bay Area has been declining and was recently put on Hospice.
- Kathy Cohon's brother recently passed away locally.



## Next Lunch Bunch: September 7

After a summer break, the Lunch Bunch is starting again on Thurs. Sept. 7th at 11:30. We will be going to a terrific Persian restaurant, named Darwish, located at 967 W. Grand Ave. in Grover Beach on the right hand side as you travel west.

Darwish is a very spacious restaurant with a low noise level. There are several lunch specials for \$12.99 which are very filling. Some of the specials which are beef or chicken and Jasmine rice based may be new to you, but not so new as to be intimidating. The owner is cordial, the atmosphere is bright and cheery, and you might even become a regular, according to Carole Dempsey, who is the new coordinator for the group. Please RSVP no later than Sept. 5th to Carole at [medipharmix@aol.com](mailto:medipharmix@aol.com). Carole is looking forward to your suggestions for some fun restaurants and will also enjoy exploring some on her own."

Special acknowledgment is extended to Joan Knowlton for her wonderful selection and organization of our Lunch Bunch for the last several years. Thank you, Joan!

## Let's Talk about Travel

Have you recently traveled to a great destination?

Are you hoping to go on a trip but wonder how much has changed since you traveled last?

Do you like packing cubes?

What about Global Entry?

Our Branch is planning an exciting new interest group to share ideas, concerns, and tips about travel. Whether you're interested in Santa Fe or St. Tropez, there is sure to be a topic that you have been thinking about! Please email me with days and times you could attend our discussions and look forward to more information that will be available shortly. Mary Lee Weeks [marylee35@aol.com](mailto:marylee35@aol.com)

## What is GOV Trek?



### LEADING THE WAY: HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN AAUW CALIFORNIA'S GOV TREK PROGRAM

AAUW California's Gov Trek Program is an innovative and engaging way for high school junior and senior girls to explore careers in public service and elected office. The board recently voted to recognize this program as a state program, alongside the popular Speech Trek and Tech Trek. Through a variety of activities such as speech writing, voter data analysis, guest speakers, digital campaign ad creation, and a realistic team campaign simulation competition, Gov Trek equips students with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to become informed and active citizens.

Gov Trek also helps provide mentorship opportunities for students to learn from experienced AAUW California members and professionals in their fields. This program gives students (and mentors) the opportunity to meet with elected officials at the local, state, and federal level.

### MARY MATAKOVICH: OUR GOV TREK BRANCH COORDINATOR

It's time to elevate the next generation of women leaders while networking with inspiring leaders in the AAUW community and gaining visibility for your local branch! Shauna (Oenning) Ruyle Gov Trek Program Director

## Eager Reader Book Gifting

### Eager Readers Project: Book Distribution to Elementary Students in the Spring

Beth Hutton will be coordinating our Eager Reader Program once again. She is working with Samantha Turner at Scholastic Education Literacy Partnership to select and purchase the books. Books will be ordered to support students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade at three different Lucia Mar Elementary Schools. The generosity of our Branch fund raising efforts provides funds to purchase approximately 200 books per each selected grade level. That will be over 600 books, as bonus books are added to the purchase, compliments of the Scholastic Literacy Program.

Once books arrive, they will be sorted for distribution in the spring to the schools. The goal is to select schools with the greatest need for reading support. Plans include distributing the books in an array, allowing students to elect their own books, similar to last year's program.

Eager Reader Committee members help with the book sorting and distribution. This is a very rewarding way to be involved in our Branch project, gifting books to kiddos.

Contact Beth if you would like to assist in this project.



### Illegal Book Bans: Governor Newsom, Attorney General Bonta, and State Superintendent Thurmond Warn Against Book Bans Statewide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 1, 2023 Governor's Press Office: (916) 445-4571

*Statewide leaders highlight legal and constitutional protections restricting the removal of books from libraries and schools*

SACRAMENTO – Today Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond sent a joint letter to all county school superintendents, district school superintendents, and charter school administrators cautioning against book bans. The letter outlines pertinent educational civil rights and corresponding legal mandates school administrators are required to follow to preserve freedom and ensure access to diverse perspectives and curricula.

“In the first half of this school year alone, 1,477 books were banned nationally, with teachers and librarians threatened with prison time for shelving the wrong book,” **said Governor Newsom, Attorney General Bonta, and Superintendent Thurmond.** “As state leaders elected to represent the values of all Californians, we offer our response in one shared voice: Access to books – including books that reflect the diverse experiences and perspectives of Californians, and especially, those

that may challenge us to grapple with uncomfortable truths – is a profound freedom we all must protect and cultivate.”

The joint letter sent today highlights case law and constitutional precedent that restricts the removal of books from libraries and schools; the responsibilities of school administrators to provide students exposure to various world views; and the legal mandates that require school administrators to provide an unbiased curriculum to students and preserve freedom of speech. Additionally, the joint letter informs local educational agencies that if they remove or ban instructional materials from classrooms or libraries, they may be requested to provide information to the Attorney General’s Office for analysis.

While other states ban books, California is improving education outcomes and investing tens of billions of dollars to improve literacy. California [outperformed most states](#) — including Florida and Texas — in mitigating learning loss during the pandemic, and through [historic levels of school funding](#), the state is building a cohesive structure of support for educators and students that reflects a focus on equity, inclusion, and academic success.

## **AAUW Public Policy**

### **AAUW California Public Policy Committee to Host Webinar on How to Prevent Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California**

AUGUST 12, 2023

In a 2023 survey, our membership made it clear that they were alarmed by the nationwide movement to ban books and censor curricula in K-12 schools, particularly as this censorship denies students’ access to historically accurate information pertaining to marginalized groups.

This is perhaps unsurprising as AAUW members’ concern with access to high-quality education has been long standing. When AAUW was founded in 1881, [its stated purpose was](#) “for practical education work, for collection and publication of statistical and other information concerning education, and in general, for the maintenance of high standards of education.” Today, AAUW California continues to support this purpose in [the second pillar of our Public Policy Priorities](#), “Equal Access to Quality Public Education for all Students.”

Earlier this year, at the urging of the state Public Policy Committee, the state board adopted and membership approved the addition of an important bullet point under this second pillar, “Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information.” In furtherance of that goal, the Public Policy Committee has established “The School Board Project” (SBP) designed to ensure school boards up and down the state include members who are committed to “the

maintenance of high standards of education” for all students – including access to diverse and historically accurate information.

Whether you are aware of problematic censorship happening in your district, you fear it may be coming, or you just want to learn more about what AAUW California is doing, we hope you will [join us virtually on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm](#) for the presentation of “Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!” Kathi Harper, SBP Committee Chair, will explain the project, what we are doing, and how all AAUW California members can help. A representative from our collaborative partner, [Equality California](#), will be in attendance to help you understand why this project is so important, and members from the [League of Women Voters](#) will be on hand to provide guidance on how to speak out effectively and civilly at school board meetings. We hope to see you there.

Registration is now open, and the link can be found on our website [here](#). Additional information about our guests and collaborators can be found below.

- [Equality California](#)
- [League of Women Voters](#)

## AAUW FUNDS Investing in Women

For more than 130 years, AAUW has funded the educations of countless women so they could follow their dreams. From astronauts to zoologists, the recipients of AAUW’s fellowships, grants and awards represent nearly every imaginable field of endeavor.

### **Current Funding Opportunities**

- [American Fellowships](#)
- [Career Development Grants](#)
- [Community Action Grants](#)
- [International Fellowships](#)
- [International Project Grants](#)
- [Research Publication Grants in Engineering, Medicine and Science](#)
- [Selected Professions Fellowships](#)

Overall, we’ve given more than \$135 million to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world. Our recipients include some of the most [influential voices](#) of the past two centuries — women who have helped shape history — as well as nonprofit organizations at the forefront of driving social change.

**Fellowships and grants were awarded to more than 320 women and community projects in 2022-23**

**In the 2022-23 academic year, AAUW awarded over \$6M in fellowships and grants.**

This funding has a tremendous impact. It helps to ease the burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women, so that promising women can excel in their fields and become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts and sciences.

## **FACES OF AAUW      Meet a Fellow**

AAUW paved a way for me, which is why I can now pave a way for others. For me, it's so other women of color can say, 'Hey, she made it despite all of the challenges. **Esther Ngumbi, 2007-08 International Fellow and assistant professor of entomology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**



We seek a diverse pool of applicants who represent the full spectrum of ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, gender expressions, socioeconomic backgrounds, disciplines and perspectives.

Due to the longstanding, generous contributions of members and supporters, AAUW will continue to invest in world-changing women through our fellowships and grants program for many decades to come

## **AAUW Public Policy**

**The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).** This year marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the ERA. AAUW's 2023-25 Public Policy Priorities state that we advocate for ratification and passage of the ERA "to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society." We are happy to report that multiple paths are being pursued in the current session of Congress to affirm the ERA as the 28th amendment. Right now, we could use your help to finally make this a reality!

One of the paths that looks fruitful for advancing the ERA is passage of a [discharge petition for House Joint Resolution 25 \(H.J. Res. 25\)](#). This will allow there to be a vote to remove the current ratification deadline for the ERA. Here in California there are two members of Congress who are a focus of critical outreach because of their demonstrated bipartisanship:

- CA-13 Rep. John Duarte
- CA-41 Rep. Ken Calvert

If you want to know more, you can learn about the ERA and current pathways for its passage [HERE](#). As always, thank you so much for all you do. Please reach out if you have any questions, or if there is anything we can do to support you.

Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko  
Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee  
[publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)





**AAUW Central Coast Discussion with Kathi Harper:  
AAUW School Board Project**

All across America, a movement is underfoot to allegedly “protect our children” from hearing, reading, or learning about the struggles of marginalized groups and our government’s role in creating and/or responding to those challenges. Books are being pulled off shelves and curriculum is being censored on a daily basis. These efforts include financial and other forms of support for candidates for school board positions who support these policies and who would then be in a position to see them come to fruition.

These policies are antithetical to AAUW California’s public policy priorities to ensure “equal access to quality public education for all students” including “access to diverse curriculum that represents historically accurate information.” This is why AAUW California is determined to do everything we can to stop this movement from taking hold in our beautiful state, and why we have entered into a collaboration with Equality California to identify, recruit, and support candidates to run for nonpartisan school board races up and down the state.

If you’d like to learn more about how AAUW California is responding, and what you, as an AAUW California member, can do to help stop this from happening in our state and local districts, join us for a presentation hosted by the Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW and presented by Kathi Harper, past Chair Public Policy Chair of CA AAUW

**Event: Central Coast Discussion: AAUW School Board Project:**  
**Presented by: Kathi Harper, past Public Policy Chair of CA AAUW**  
**October 28, 2023                      Saturday                      10-12 noon**  
**Atascadero Library : Located in: Hotel Park Business Center**  
**Address: 6555 Capistrano Ave, Atascadero, CA 93422**  
**All are welcome**

Jean Burns Slater [jbslater2006@gmail.com](mailto:jbslater2006@gmail.com) Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch President  
Program will be recorded during event. See Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW website: [fivecitiespismo-beach-ca.aauw.net](http://fivecitiespismo-beach-ca.aauw.net)

## **Personal Safety**

### **Can you spot a scam?      Five red flags to watch out for**

When it comes to helping you and your family avoid scams, it starts with awareness. Here are a few consistent red flags you can watch for so you can stop a scammer in their tracks.

Unexpected Contact: A person or company contacts you out of the blue by phone, text, or email about an invoice, order, delivery, or charge you didn’t know about.

Everything is urgent: Scammers will create a false sense of urgency and use pressure tactics like rude or pushy language to get you to act immediately.

Very Specific or unusual way to pay: Someone is asking you to pay or send money using gift cards, cryptocurrency, a payment app, or even an online wire — to pay for something, resolve an “issue,” get sweepstakes “winnings,” or secure a high return on your “investment.”

Threatening Language: Scammers may tell you that you owe money and then threaten to call the police if you don’t pay immediately. They may also coach you on what to tell the bank to withdraw or transfer money, or ask you to keep a secret.

Romantic “Emergency” : A new online love interest bombards you with “sweet talk” but doesn’t seem to want to meet in person. Suddenly a hardship or emergency strikes and they want you to send them money.

**What to do if you suspect a scam**

- Slow down. Pause, take a breath, and think it through.
- Someone you don’t know is asking you for your money. Remember, it is your right to confirm things no matter how urgent anyone says it is. *You are in charge when it comes to your money.*
- Contact the company they claim to be, call your bank, or call the police if it does not seem right.
- Consult with a friend or family member you trust.


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