

October 2023- Volume 45 - Number 2

editor: jbslater2006@gmail.com

Jean Burns Slater

President's Message

Your assistance is urgently needed. Our Branch fund raiser, to be held on **November 18, Saturday** at St. John's Lutheran Church, 858 Valley Road, Arroyo Grande, is a <u>silent auction and bingo</u>. You can help with gathering silent auction items, assisting in planning for the refreshments, set up, break down, selling tickets, and any number of jobs. Kathy Cohon is leading the Bingo Games volunteers and Pam Zirion oversees the Silent Auction. With due determination and your help, we can make this a very successful event full of fun, laughter, prizes, and shopping!! See page 5 for details. And thank you in advance.

October Events

- 2 6:30 pm Board Meeting: Zoom
- 5 11:30 am Lunch Bunch: Bamboo Bamboo, in Creamy San Luis Obispo
- 6 11:30 Daytime Page Turners: Susan Gray's Home
- 10 6:30 pm Night Readers: Rose Ann Steiner's home
- 18 12:30 pm Finessing Femmes Bridge: Linda Mabry's home
- 20 Newsletter Deadline
- 23 Great Decisions: 7:00 Priscilla Alquist's home
- 28 General Meeting: 10 am, Atascadero Library AAUW School Board Project

November Events Preview

- 2 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- **3** 11:30 am Daytime Page Turners
- 6 6:30 pm Board Meeting: Zoom
- 14 Drop off Silent Auction Items
- 15 Silent Auction Wrapping Party
- **18** Silent Auction/Bingo Fund Raiser

Upcoming October Board Meeting

The September Board meeting will be held on Monday, **October 2** 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, <u>jbslater2006@gmail.com by September 30</u> for it to be considered at the meeting. Thank you!

ol Board Project General Meeting: Central Coast AAUW Branches join together Topic: AAUW School Board Project

Atascadero City Library:

October 28 Saturday, 10-12 noon

See page 2 for details

Let's car pool



Beth Hutton

Kathy Cohon Linda Kime

REALIZED

Susie Wedell Rose Ann Steiner

October General Meeting: October 28, Saturday 10-12 noon

Event: Central Coast Discussion: AAUW School Board Project: Presented by: Kathi Harper, past Public Policy Chair of CA AAUW

Across America, a movement is growing 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 daily. 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. Come 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 Public Policy Chair of AAUW California 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. Contact Mary Matakovich or Jean Burns Slater to arrange a carpool rid

Welcome Back General Meeting September 9, 2023

You learned what our Tech Trek Campers experienced at Camp on Saturday, September 9th, our first



general meeting of the year at Mesa View Mobile Home Estates Clubhouse. Many compliments were given for the location and program. The girls shared their experiences while at UCSB this summer. There were 26 people present, three Tech Trek girls and three mothers. New members were welcomed. The Branch now have 36 members. Sign-up sheets were available for bingo, hospitality, and travel group. Special thanks to Linda Lidberg, Susan Brazil, Carole Dempsey, Maureen Kelly.



Lucia Mar Unified School District Board Meet Our Tech Trekkers

On September 19th, Linda Lidberg represented our Branch at the Lucia Mar School District Board meeting with Tech Trek attendees. After planning with Dr. Paul Fawcett and his assistant, Marilyn Dwight, Tech Trek participants were asked to share with Board members the scope of the Tech Trek Program. With only five minutes to present, Linda Lidberg, Treh Trek Chairperson, provided a brief introduction about our branch history with Tech Trek program, and how the girls were selected. She included a brief explanation of the camp activities and then introduced two of this past summer's campers, Andrea Zarate and Vivienne Ling. They each shared what camp meant to them and how it would impact their future schooling and life. They were very nervous but stepped up to the podium and did a wonderful job. Linda wrapped up the presentation with information about previous Tech Trekkers receiving scholarships and going on to STEM careers. She delivered a big thank you to the Lucia Mar middle school science and math teachers for their support. A boisterous round of applause ensued and Dr. Fawcett said he would love to go do camp next summer and visit. Yippee!

Tech Trek Leadership

Linda Lidberg will be finishing up her Tech Trek leadership this year. Our Branch is requesting for a Branch member or two to work side by side with Linda this year and take over the responsibility for leading the program in 2024-2025. This program is so valuable, that we do need a member/s to work with Linda and keep this program viable. Thank you.

Please call Linda to volunteer or with your suggestions for leadership.

Tech Trek Thank You

Dear Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch,

My name is Emma Uclaray and I am a marine scientist. My core class was Marine Science. I cannot express to you how grateful I am that you sponsored me for this trip. I was so excited for the opportunity even before I knew anything about camp. Over time, my interest grew as more information was given to me.

At this camp we did so many fun and interesting activities. I wrote so many pages in my journal of all the things we did. I had fun all the time, even when it was just me and my dorm group hanging out in each other's rooms. On the first full day of camp, my core class went down to the Research Experience Education Facility for our first class. We got to touch some cool animals and even a sea lion corpse on the beach. We also had core integration classes which were all the core classes rotate and learn a little bit about each class. We did an escape room in a box in Forensics, learned about aerodynamics in Above & Beyond, and played around with some robots in Coding. Throughout the week we did some other activities such as learn about abalone, go whale-watching, and watched the Falcon 9 launch from Vandenburg.

One of my personal favorite activities that we did was go whale watching. Even before we saw any animals, me and some of my roommates, Dulce, Brooklynn, and Lillian, were entertained by the water that came up the sides of the boat at the front. We stood by the railing and waited to get splashed. At about the tip of our journey we saw a couple pods of dolphins! It was especially cool because I had never seen dolphins out in the wild like that. After we went back to the water around Goleta Beach and started collecting plankton. Next, we saw even more dolphins and even sea lions in a feeding frenzy. We followed them and eventually got to see two humpback whales. I ended up taking a nap on the way back to the harbor.

Again, I am so grateful for this opportunity. This camp was an interesting and incredible opportunity. I had so much fun and met so many amazing people. Thank you so much for sponsoring and choosing me for this camp.

With love, Emma Uclaray



AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Adopted Budget 2023-2024

Operating Expenses	22-23 Actual	23-24 Proposed Budget
Meeting Rent (Church, 2xWomen)	\$396.00	\$486.00
Membership Directory (40)	\$86.13	\$95.70
Program Expenses (Zoom)	\$0.00	\$149.00
Hospitality (Propose Unencumb.)	\$191.25	\$116.20
Insurance	\$202.00	\$245.00
Post Office Box Rental	\$166.00	\$176.00
President's Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Treasurer's Expenses	\$0.00	\$13.20
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
Unencumbered funds		\$0.00
EXPENSES	\$1,183.38	\$1,317.00

Operating Income	23-24 Proposed Budgeted	YTD	YTD Vs. Budget
35 Memberships @ \$13	\$455.00	\$455.00	
Advertising (11 Sponsors)	\$600.00	\$600.00	
Unencumbered Funds	\$262.00	\$262.00	
Operating Income	\$1,317.00	\$1317.00	

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	
Total Fundraising Income	\$10,379.93	\$469.91	\$9,910.02	

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
Total Reserves on Hand	\$20,801.25	\$9,910.02	\$30,711.27

11 Sponsors: Clean Slate 805, Wacker Wealth, Mersea, Hula Hut, Renee David, Real Estate by Erica, Beck Dental, Papich, KG Berry, Five Cities Computer Repair (\$100), It's Really Yogurt

202 (\$33		Du	es colle	ted to da	ate, 35	mem	ıbers: \$3583*
202	3-2024	Due	es paid t	o State/N	Nationa	l: \$2	944
					4.4.4		-

Branch portion of dues: \$455 (\$13/member)

*To reimburse 2 lifetime members \$92 each, adjusted total \$3399 \$262 in Donations: Friend of Shell Beach Library, Book Sales, Patti M added to unencumbered funds

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

Questions: palquist@gmail.com, jbslater2006@gmail.com

~~Solicit/buy at least one \$25 gift card to use as a Bingo prize.

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

Decisions and recognizing the importance of community conversations of global events and topics.

Member Challenges:

- Judy Zaretzka is undergoing major surgery the end of September. Please send good wishes notes and cards to her home address.
- Marjorie Ott's sister, Carol, recently passed away in the Bay area.
- Nancy Sperling's husband has been in rehab in SLO for 3 weeks. They are considering moving to an assisted living facility in Nipomo

Member Good News:

- Jean Burns Slater's grandson, Trey Mahan, is finishing up the fall quarter at Cal Poly while he resides in the Slater's home. What fun!!
- Andy and Jeff Portney are celebrating their daughter's marriage in November in Seattle Washington.
- Linda Lidberg is off to Mexico with friends and family in early October.

Friendship Outreach **Priscilla Alquist**

Great Decisions Discussion Group's next meeting will be on October 23, Monday, 7

pm, with the topic of Iran at Crossroads. Iran anti-government demonstrations, where will they lead? 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 and ends with treats. Consider joining in the world discussions of Great

Great Decisions: Prepare to Discuss the World

For *silent auction* ~~ Tell donors what we do for Lucia Mar students: high school scholarships, middle school Tech Trek scholarships, and free books for elementary students.

~~ People are more willing to buy experiences. Consider adding a few extra dollars of your own money to the donation so donors see that we too are invested in making this a successful fundraiser.

~Check the times and places to deliver Silent Auction items so we can wrap them on Wednesday, Nov 15. \sim Sign up for a job for this event. It's busy and it's fun, and it allows us to support our projects.

Let's do this. Many thanks,

Kathy Cohon and Pam Zirion

Hello all you Wonderful Women

are gone.

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

Please don't offer to do Will Call, but we will do it if people ask.

Re: Bingo and Silent Auction. (B&SA) ~~Please sell your tickets. You can return money and get more tickets from Joan Florence, until all 125

It's FUNDRAISING TIME.



Sharon Lowell's Memorial Service

About 15 members of our AAUW Branch, including one former member, attended the Memorial Service for Sharon Lowell on August 7 at the Coastal Community Church in Grover Beach. It was an inspiring service in tribute to Sharon's life and passions. As Jean Slater so aptly reported in her "Spotlight on Sharon" article a number of years ago, "she was the greeter, visitor, friendly face in the crowd, hostess and people person." Sharon was our Co-President in 1998-99 and was honored as a Named Gift Recipient for our AAUW Branch in 1997-98. In recent years, she could often be seen walking the boardwalk in Pismo Beach with her dog and her daughter or a friend. She is missed by many.

As her philosophy of life centered around "right now" and "live in the moment," I would like to challenge our readers to honor her memory with a contribution to the AAUW Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Committees a 501(c)(3) tax deductible entity, which gave ten scholarships of \$2000 each to senior girls at the local high schools this year. To make a donation, go to our Branch website "fivecitiespismobeach-ca.aauw.net". Click on "Community" along the top box choices and you will see the choice "Scholarship," which will give you the donation form to click on. You'll be glad you did come next April when you meet next year's Scholarship awardees and hear their stories.

Next Lunch Bunch: October 5

"Come back, come back to our monthly Lunch Bunch gathering. We are back in full swing, and hope you will join us at 11:30 am on Thursday, October 5th for the short drive to SLO and what I believe is a fairly new Chinese restaurant with the clever name of BAMBOO BAMBOO. And yes, it lives up to its name with wonderful bamboo decor and chairs with ample indoor and outdoor seating.

It is based adjacent to the Creamery, at 1049 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo. There is an adjoining parking lot for off street parking., near the Children's Art Museum. More detailed parking directions will follow the day before our lunch.

Please email Carole Dempsey at <u>medipharmix@aol.com</u> for reservations by October 3, if possible. Check out the luncheon menu <u>www.bambooslo.com</u> Thanks to Joan Knowlton for the suggestion and I second it after having lunch there this week."

Let's Talk about Travel

We will gather for our first meeting on **Wednesday, October 4, at 10:30 AM** at Greenhouse Coffee Company, 1064 East Grand Ave. in Arroyo Grande. Please bring ideas for future topics, meeting places and dates and any other suggestions you have to make this a fun and informative group. Looking forward to seeing everyone there! Mary Lee Weeks <u>marylee35@aol.com</u>

Public Policy Action Requested



AB 933, one of the bills on AAUW California's support list, is a beacon of hope for survivors of sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination. In the wake of the MeToo movement, we've seen the unsettling rise of legal threats and intimidation against survivors. AB 933 pushes back. It ensures survivors have adequate protections against retaliatory and

baseless defamation lawsuits and are entitled to relief in the form of reasonable attorneys' fees and damages for prevailing against baseless lawsuits.

Please ask your branch members and your network to take action. Ensure survivors have the right to share their experiences without fear. Encourage Senators to support survivors by voting YES on AB 933! Advocate for AB 933

AB 524 is one of the bills that AAUW California is supporting. This bill will prohibit employment discrimination on account of family caregiver status, as well as recognize the opportunity to seek, obtain, and hold employment without discrimination because of family caregiver status as a civil right. AB 524 is currently in the Suspense File, and on September 1 the Suspense File hearing will announce whether it will advance to the Senate Floor.

Stronger California, a coalition partner of AAUW California, has provided a social media toolkit for AB 524: The Family Caregiver Anti-Discrimination Act.

Take action on AB 524 now:

Ask your branch members and your network to urge their State Senators to vote Yes on AB 524. They can very easily do this by going to https://actnow.io/Q2oxkgM and completing the form. An email to their State Senator will be automatically generated.

The information below can be shared on social media:

Family caregiver discrimination affects workers from all walks of life, regardless of income, race, gender, or industry. #StrongerCA @equalrightsadv @WorkFamilyCA @caringacrossgen @buffywicks

Tell lawmakers: NO to caregiver discrimination.



What is family caregiver discrimination? AN AN AN AN AN AN AN

YES on #AB524! https://actnow.io/Q2oxkgM



Webinar: Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!

We all know book banning and censorship of educational materials are rapidly sweeping across the country. And now, they are on our doorstep! But we don't have to - and we won't - tolerate it.

Watch

Read More. Webinar recording available on AAUW California

2023-2024 Calendar of Events

Please refer to the newsletter for	r a more complete & up-to-da	te listing of events.			
SEPTEMBER Board Meeting: September 5, Tuesday 6:30 pm Zoom General Meeting: September 9, Saturday 1:30 pm Welcome Meeting, Overview of 2023-2024 year Featured Topic: The Tech Trek Experience: greet our local Tech Trekkers and families Location: Mesa View Clubhouse located on the top of the hill: 765 Mesa View Dr. Arroyo Grande All are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome					
General Meeting: October 28, Saturday Featured Topic: A Discussion with Central Coast A Public Policy Chair Location:		ark Business Center			
	6:30 pm Doors open 12:00 noon, game ser Location: <u>St. John's Lut</u> 959 Valley Rd, Arroyo (heran Church			
DECEMBER Board Meeting: December 4, Monday General Meeting: December 9, Saturday Featured Topic: Holiday Gathering, voluntary gift	6:30 pm 3:00 pm. Honorary Life Time exchange, holiday attire L	Zoom Members, Branch History, ocation: To Be Determined			
JANUARY Board Meeting: January 2, Tuesday General Meeting: No General Meeting	6:30 pm	Zoom			
<u>FEBRUARY</u> Board Meeting: February 5, Monday General Meeting: February 24, Saturday Featured Topic: League of Women Voter's Topic	6:30 pm 10:00 am Location: <u>To Be Determine</u>	Zoom <u>ed</u>			
MARCH Board Meeting: March 4, Monday General Meeting: March 16, Saturday Featured Topic: Women in History, Readers' Thea	ter, Equal Rights Amendment	Zoom ations for Elected Officers , Seneca Falls Convention 918 W Tefft St, Nipomo, CA			
<u>APRIL</u> Board Meeting: April 1, Monday General Meeting: April 15, Monday Featured Topic: Scholarships; Tech Trek Honorees	6:30 pm 6:30 pm Annual Meeting	Zoom g, Elections			
<u>MAY</u> Board Meeting: May 6, Monday General Meeting: May 18, Saturday Featured Topic: AVID Program	6:30 pm 10-12 noon Location: Private Home	Zoom Installation of Officers, <u>To be Determined</u>			

BRANCH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS 2023-2024

President	Jean Burns Slater	805-627-1845
Secretary	Pam Zirion	805-215-0971
Treasurer	Erica Hinojosa	805-459-2659
Parliamentarian	Liz Wineman	805-925-0304
AAUW Funds	Mary Matakovich	805-595-2526
Public Policy Coordinator	Patti Melsheimer	805-801-7548
Membership Coordinator	Susan Brazil	209-747-6663
Fund Raising Coordinator	Kathy Cohon	805-594-1249
Program Committee Chairs	Executive Board and Individ	lual Chairs
Hospitality	Maureen Kelly	805-710-6035
Communication and Publicity Coordinator		
Advertising & Public Announcements	Vacant	
Email Communication	Linda Lidberg	805-929-6958
Newsletter Editor	Jean Burns Slater	805-627-1845
Website Management	Linda Lidberg	805-929-6958
Friendship Outreach	Priscilla Alquist	805-305-0907
Phone Tree Contact	Mary Matakovich	805-595-2526
Inter-branch Council Representative	Linda Lidberg	805-929-6958
BRANCH PROJECTS		
Scholarship CEO	Marjorie Ott	805-924-1789
Tech Trek Chairperson	Linda Lidberg	805-929-6958
Eager Readers (books into the classroom)	Beth Hutton	805-235-8484
Women in Herstory	Kathy Cohon	805-594-1249
Gov Trek	Mary Matakovich	805-595-2526
INTEREST SECTIONS		
Night Readers Book Group	Rose Ann Steiner	805-748-7975
		0907/805-627-1845
Lunch Bunch	Carole Dempsey	805-904-6646
	rship Directors Contact	805-627-1845
INDEPENDENT INTEREST SECTIONS		
Adopt A Poll	Linda Lidberg	805-929-6958
Daytime Page Turners	Jean Burns Slater	805-627-1845
Quilters	Linda Lidberg	805-929-6958
Cooking Together	Anna Zucker	805-459-4663
Finessing Femmes	Rose Ann Steiner	805-748-7975
Travel Talk	Mary Weeks	775-721-4747
Morning Coffee Gathering	Vacant	



Cuesta College Night

- SAVE THE DATE MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023 CUESTA COLLEGE, SAN LUIS OBISPO
- 5:30-8:00 PM
- High school students and families are invited to College Night 2023 for free workshops on college preparation, financial aid, and more in English and Spanish and the opportunity to meet college representatives from in and out-of-state.
- Sponsored by the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust For more information visit collegenightslo.com

The Cuesta College Night Planning Committee and I are looking forward to working alongside you and your AAUW volunteers to help students and families feel welcome. There will be Cuesta College students helping with parking and other areas, but the team has identified a few volunteer slots that would be perfect for AAUW volunteers.

Interested in volunteering?

Click here to learn more and sign up to help!

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you all at College Night! All my best,

Emily Jagger Scholarship Manager 805-543-2323 www.cfsloco.org



Unconscious Bias

AAUW Diversity Tool Kit

- Definition of *unconscious*
 - not marked by conscious thought, sensation, or feeling
 - not knowing or perceiving: not aware
 - not consciously held or deliberately planned or carried out Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Definition of bias

• prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be <u>unfair</u>: a personal and sometimes unreasoned judgment : prejudice

We all know what overt biases are, but did you know that we all have unconscious biases, too? These are biases that might be inconsistent with our values, that we would never knowingly act on and that we weren't even aware we had? And having them doesn't make us racist or sexist or homophobic, for example. Still, becoming aware of them is the first step to ridding ourselves of them. So, let us understand more about unconscious bias.

The easiest way to understand unconscious bias is figure out why it happens. At any given, moment we are bombarded with lots of different information, but our brains can only process a fraction of that information at once. So, to help us try and make sense of the world around us, our brain uses short cuts. Those short cuts are shaped and informed by our experiences. But, because sometimes the things we need to make sense of are unfamiliar, bias can enter the picture.

Look at an example. Below is an image, what do you see? Triangles, circles? How many?



This is the <u>Kanizsa Triangle</u>. Most people see a solid white triangle pointing upwards, an inverted triangle pointing downwards, and a set of black discs. But the fact is, none of these shapes are actually present in the figure. (In fact, this image is of "pac-men" and V's, not triangles and circles). This is an example of our unconscious mind using familiar information to try and make sense of what it sees, because in the absence of complete information, our mind needed to rely on something to help us figure it out. That is unconscious bias! Perhaps now you can see why we said earlier that because you have it does not make you bad inherently and once you realize it exists you are empowered to do something about it.

So, what can you do?

- 1. Self-awareness is the first step
- 2. Create safe spaces to have open discussions about the biases you have
- 3. Increase your contact with people who are dissimilar
- 4. Set realistic expectations

We are not going to be able to change our unconscious mind over night, but with some hard work and dedication, we will be able to make progress. Only when we confront our biases are we able to truly recognize the value diversity brings to an organization like AAUW. It's important for our continued growth and sustainability as an organization to make a concerted effort to be inclusive and create spaces where everyone feels welcome.







Real Estate by Erica Hinojosa REAL ESTATE AGENT AUW MEMBER 805-459-2659 EHINO805@GMAIL.COM CA Dre #01987938 Ask me about AAUW Member Discounts

& Branch Program Donations!!









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