

## President's Message

The month of March will be filled with community service and fun! Eager Readers book distribution starts March 1 with free books provided to every 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grader at three different elementary schools in Lucia Mar Unified School District, lead by Beth Hutton, Project Director. Adopt a Poll continues our community service with wonderful volunteers helping at the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande on March 5, under the leadership Linda Lidberg and Kathy Cohon. But wait, March 4<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for our scholarship applications from Lucia Mar Unified School District high school women seniors. Still to come is our Women in History program with visits from Dorthera Lange, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Hattie Callaway, & Julia Morgan in the schools and at our General meeting on March 16.

Another important AAUW project is our AAUW Funds which supports grants and fellowships for advanced study by women. This program has supported many women in their making a place in history. Did you know that Marie Curie was a recipient of an AAUW grant and was able to purchase some of her radium samples with the grant? A brief listing of historical recipients of our AAUW Fellowships and grants appears on page 10. Be sure to note their achievements. Current Fellowship recipients of AAUW Funds are on page 13, and these women are forging the future with your support.

## March Events

- 1 11:30 am Daytime Page Turners: Patti Melsheimer's home
- 4 6:30 pm Board Meeting: Zoom
- 7 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- 12 6:30 pm Night Readers: Pat Muhlethaler's home
- 16 10:00 am General Meeting Mesa Dunes Club House
- 18 12:30 Let's Talk Travel: Greenhouse Coffee, A. G
- 20 Newsletter Deadline
- 20 12:30 pm Finessing Femmes Bridge: Laurie King's home
- 25 7:00 pm Great Decisions: Mary Week's home

## April Events Preview

- 1 6:30 pm Board Meeting Zoom
- 4 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- 5 11:30 am Daytime Page Turners

- 15 6:30 pm General Meeting: Women's Club Scholarship

## March Birthdays

- Pat Muhlethaler
- Maureen Kelly
- Susan Gray
- Susan Opava

### March General Meeting

March 16, Saturday 10-12 noon

**Mesa Dunes Club House**

**Topic: Women in History**



## Upcoming March Board Meeting

The March Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 4 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 March 1 for it to be considered at the meeting. Thank you!

### March General Meeting March 16, Saturday 10 am

#### Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Clubhouse, 265 Mesa View Drive Arroyo Grande

You will have the opportunity to meet and greet influential women who are stepping from history into our local AAUW General Meeting to share their stories. Come and discover the actual life stories of Dorothea Lange, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Julia Morgan, and Hattie Caraway. And Alice Paul will also make an appearance to discuss the Equal Rights Amendment, its history and current status.

It is possible that you are not familiar with these women and may not recognize them when they appear.

Get ready for some live action!! **Please invite friends.**

Hattie Who you might say? Alice Paul? Dorothea Lange? Come and meet these women at our

#### Women in History General meeting

Saturday, March 16

10:00 at the

#### Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Park Club House

265 Mesa View Drive. Enter Mesa Dunes Mobile Park and drive straight up the hill to the Club House. Special thanks are offered to Carol Dempsey for arranging the use of Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Park Club House. Thank you, Carole!

### Revised Branch Bylaws on our Website

Our recently revised and approved Branch Bylaws are posted on our website under Membership. Scroll down to Bylaws. Thank you, Liz, for gaining approval from National AAUW of our updated Bylaws, thank you to the Branch Board members and to Linda Lidberg for posting the Bylaws on our website

<https://fivecitiespismobeach-ca.aauw.net> Next year we will review Branch Policy and Procedures.

### Eager Readers

It is all set for our Eager Reader Book distribution. Elementary schools from the Lucia Mar Unified School selected for book distribution include Grover Beach Elementary, Dana Elementary and Nipomo Elementary. These are the same schools which received books in 2023. By selecting these same school for 2024, every child will have received a book either in 2023 or 2024 with the exception of the newest first graders. Beth Hutton ordered our books through Scholastic and our members' generosity in fund raising provided the money to purchase these books for distribution, placing books selected by the young readers into their hands and homes. The books are ready for distribution on the following schedule:

|                       |  |                |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>March 1 Friday</b> | <b>Grover Beach Elementary</b>                       | Set up at 8:45 |
|                       | <u>365 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street Grover Beach</u> |                |
|                       | Second Graders: 2 classes                            |                |
|                       | Fourth Graders: 3 classes                            |                |
|                       | Sixth Graders: 2 classes                             |                |

**March 15, Friday**      **Nipomo Elementary**  
190 East Price Street Nipomo      Set up 9:00 am  
Second Grade: 2 classes  
Fourth Grader: 2 classes  
Sixth Grade: 2 classes

**March 21 Thursday**      **Dana Elementary**      Set up at 9:00 am  
920 West Tefft Nipomo  
Second Grade: 3 classes  
Fourth Grade: 3 classes  
Sixth Grade: 3 classes

*If you would like to help with this project, which only requires a portion of your selected date, please contact Beth Hutton. If you are volunteering, please bring your driver's license to the school office when you check in for Identification verification. This is great fun and a very worthwhile service. Thank you.*

### Women in History Month

Happy Women in History Month. Learn about influential women who have greatly contributed to our United States History. Four of our members will be visiting 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in Lucia Mar Unified School District to present portrayals of women in history during the month of March. The historical women who will be appearing are: Dorothea Lange, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Julia Morgan, and Hattie Caraway. These impressive women will be attending our general meeting on March 16, Saturday, 10 am at Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Club House, 265 Mesa View Drive, Arroyo Grande. How very fortunate we are that they are taking their time to step out of history and into the present.

### SYLVESTER'S BURGERS FUNDRAISER

We are hoping to have available at the April meeting, the discount cards from Sylvester's Burgers. Last year we received half the cost of each card for our treasury. Members talked about eating out with friends, giving the discount cards as gifts to family and friends, treating friends to lunch after a game or an event, giving them as appreciation tips to the mail deliverer and other service providers and just eating those delicious burgers themselves.

All for fun and  Yes.      Kathy Cohon

### Speaking of Fund Raising: 2024 Bingo & Silent Auction

Mark Your Calendar: Saturday November 16, 2024

### Friendship Outreach

Susan Brazil, as of March 15, will be living in a senior center in SLO. The move is not due to health issues but she is changing her life style. Her address information will be shared through an E-blast once her move is complete. She has assured us that she will continue to be active with the 5 Cities Pismo Branch AAUW. "You are all so awesome and I will continue to keep you in my friendship circle." Susan

### Lynn Janeway Memorial Scholarship Endowment SLO AAUW

At the start of the 2023-24 AAUW year, the SLO AAUW board voted to rename their Cal Poly Scholarship, which was established in 2022, to the AAUW SLO Branch Lynn S. Janeway Memorial Scholarship in recognition of Lynn's longtime commitment to the branch and to her tireless efforts in forging

opportunities to support gender equity and women's educational achievements. Upon hearing that news, Lynn and George were in contact with Cal Poly to endow the scholarship by establishing the **AAUW SLO Branch Lynn S. Janeway Memorial Scholarship Endowment** with an initial generous contribution that now ensures that the scholarship can continue in perpetuity. The branch will continue to support the scholarship and be involved with the recommendation process. The scholarship recognizes a continuing Cal Poly student who came to the university as a transfer from Cuesta or Allan Hancock Community College, has demonstrated financial need, and shows a commitment to AAUW's mission.

Lynn joined AAUW and the SLO Branch in 1972 at the recommendation of Miriam Palmer, a favorite cousin from San Luis Obispo and active member at the time. Lynn received her Honorary 50 Year Life Membership in 2023. During these 50+ years, she developed lasting friendships with amazing women, many of whom were her mentors.

Lynn has graciously observed that AAUW has given her multiple opportunities in leadership at both the local and state levels. She served as President of the branch five times, as Central Coast District Director, and as a Board Member and Program Director for AAUW California. She has been involved with the AAUW Central Coast Interbranch Council over numerous years, serving in all capacities. The branch has recognized her as its Named Gift Honoree three times. Among her involvement in various AAUW programs and projects, Lynn was instrumental in developing a mentoring program for high school girls. She also helped bring the Tech Trek STEM camp for middle school girls to San Luis Obispo. In building connections with Cal Poly, she brought the \$tart \$mart Pay Equity Workshop to Cal Poly and provided an AAUW SLO presence on campus by tabling on Equal Pay Day and at Take Back the Night events. Lynn is passionate about equity for women and girls. It is the hope that the individuals who receive this scholarship will carry on this legacy.

If you would like to make a contribution to the AAUW SLO Branch Lynn S. Janeway Memorial Scholarship, please click [HERE](#). Cal Poly's Foundation meets the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(3) and donations may be deductible as allowed for federal income or estate tax purposes. Link information: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/699/bp19/interior.aspx?sid=699&gid=1&sitebuilder=1&pgid=961&cid=2272&bledit=1&dids=770>

## Membership

Hello everyone. Spring is coming and time to start think of renewing your membership. There will be a renewal letter in the April newsletter as well as information about a surprise we have for you regarding dues payment. As of now, dues will be the same as last year, \$105 due at the end of June, but accepted beforehand. Your dues help us to continue to meet the goals of AAUW for gender equality for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. And your dues cover our business expenses allowing all of our fund raising to be allocated to our projects.

Many thanks to all of you who continue your support for our branch.

Susan Brazil, Membership Coordinator. Please call if you have any questions. 209-747-6663.





New Member Welcome, January 30

## Great Decisions: Prepare to Discuss the World

Our next meeting of Great Decisions will be held on March 25 at 7:00 pm. Our topic for March is Risky Science across Borders, in the home of Mary Weeks who will also be providing treats. World discussions in the Great Decisions Program recognizes the importance of community conversations of global events and topics. If interested in joining the discussion for 2024, contact Priscilla. Questions: [palquist@gmail.com](mailto:palquist@gmail.com), [jbslater2006@gmail.com](mailto:jbslater2006@gmail.com)

## Lunch Bunch: March 7

Ada's Fish House Pismo Beach 11:30

By popular request, we will be returning to Ada's Fish House at 11:30 on Thurs. March 7<sup>th</sup>. Ada's is located at 558 Price St., right across from Rosa's Italian Restaurant. Ada's was founded and run by Rosa's son.

Ada's is a fish house with an accessible on-line menu. Its popularity may rest on the fact that it has both East Coast (lobster mac and cheese, lobster roll) and West Coast (local fish and wine) offerings. You will find Susan Brazil and Carole Dempsey feasting on lobster given our East Coast roots. For you West Coasters you will find plenty familiar selections.

Parking may not be a problem for lunch; the restaurant does have a small parking lot. Prices are a bit higher than our usual places and Ada's will add a 20% gratuity if there are more than 6 guests. For this special location and menu, a once in a while occasion, please join us. The lobster is worth the price. Please let Carole Dempsey at [medipharmix@aol.com](mailto:medipharmix@aol.com) know if you will be joining us.

## Daytime Page Turners

Read a good book lately. Join Daytime Page Turners for discussion and dessert. What more could you ask for? Contact Jean Burns Slater for more information [jbslater2006@gmail.com](mailto:jbslater2006@gmail.com)





Lunch Bunch February 1, Gina's



Let's Talk Travel

## Let's Talk Travel

Inspired by the expectation of Spring, the travel group is planning a series of day trips for 2024, including a wildflower walk/hike, a PCPA theater event in Solvang, a Hearst Castle tour, and Field of Light at Sensorio in Paso Robles.

Recent rains promise an exceptional wildflower display, so to kick off the schedule, Jeanne L. has agreed to coordinate a walk/hike at the Carrizo Plain. The exact date will depend on the peak wildflower season, but is expected in late March or early April and tours will be scheduled for a Saturday. If you are interested in a 3-mile guided tour of the Painted Rock area or a 1.3-mile hike at Wallace Creek, please contact Jeanne (her information can be found in the branch Directory) for more detailed information, specific dates, and times. Carpools will be arranged when plans are finalized.

Note: the 3-mile guided tour requires a reservation, so please contact Jeanne soon to secure a spot!

This is our kickoff event, but only the beginning of a great year. We are always looking for new ideas and areas of interest, so please plan to join us at our next meeting on Monday, March 18 at 12:30 PM at Greenhouse Coffee Company, 1064 E. Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande.

"Blessed are the curious, for they shall have adventures". Anonymous

## Scholarship

The Scholarship Directors met on February 21, 6:30 pm at the home of Patti Melsheimer to refine plans for scholarship application review in anticipation of the scholarship deadline of March 4. Scholarship Directors include: Priscilla Alquist, Joan Florence, Erica Hinojosa, Beth Hutton, Maureen Kelly, Maurina Kusell, Patti Melsheimer, Marjorie Ott, Kathi Pettersen, Jean Burns Slater, Rose Ann Steiner. Bylaws of the Five Cities Pismo Beach Scholarship Corporation were reviewed and revised at the February meeting and will be sent to the proper government office for acceptance and then published in the April newsletter.

The Scholarship Directors would like to share with the Branch the listing of AAUW Scholarship recipients for 2022 and 2023 and their colleges of attendance. The Directors sincerely thank Branch members and donors for their generous support of the Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Corporation.

We are so proud of these women!



## Scholarship Recipients

|           |                               |                      |         |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 2021-2022 | Savannah Davison              | UCLA                 | \$2,000 |
|           | Alexis Seiler                 | Cal State Fullerton  | \$2,000 |
|           | Nevaeh Burns                  | Cal State Northridge | \$2,000 |
|           | Lissette Cuevas               | Cal State Long Beach | \$2,000 |
|           | Daniela Mejia Pille           | UC Berkeley          | \$2,000 |
|           | Damaris Beas                  | UC Santa Barbara     | \$2,000 |
|           | Sofia Reynoso                 | Berkeley             | \$2,000 |
|           | Daniela Ruelas                | Dartmouth            | \$2,000 |
|           | Toireasa Marie O'Rourke       | Berkeley             | \$2,000 |
|           | Paloma Nava                   | Cal Poly             | \$2,000 |
| 2022-2023 | Isabelle Bowdey               | UC Davis             | \$2,000 |
|           | Zoe Lodge                     | UC Berkeley          | \$2,000 |
|           | Lauren Cruz                   | Cal Poly Pomana      | \$2,000 |
|           | Natalie Barton                | Cal Poly             | \$2,000 |
|           | Genesis Donato Garcia         | UC Irvine            | \$2,000 |
|           | Annalisse Lopez               | UC San Diego         | \$2,000 |
|           | Itzela Rodriguez              | Cal Poly             | \$2,000 |
|           | Evelyn Lomeli Zarata          | Cal Poly             | \$2,000 |
|           | Alexandra Izarraras Cervantes | San Diego State      | \$2,000 |



## Lucia Mar Unified School District School Board Meeting Dates

Our close relationship with Lucia Mar Unified School District supports our interest in their school board meetings. Find a partner and visit a school board meeting or two.

### Lucia Mar USD Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

602 Orchard Arroyo Grande 7:00 pm

February 13

March 5

March 19

April 23

May 7

May 21

June 11

June 18

August 6

August 20

September 3

September 17

October 1

October 15

November 12

December 17

**AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach  
January 2024 Treasurer Report**

|   | 23-24<br>Budget   | 23-24<br>YTD     | YTD Vs<br>Budget  |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Expenses                        |                   |                  |                   |
| Meeting Rent ( <i>Church, 2xWomen</i> )   | \$486.00          | \$393.00         | -\$93.00          |
| Membership Directory ( <i>40</i> )        | \$95.70           | \$95.70          | \$0.00            |
| Program Expenses ( <i>Zoom</i> )          | \$149.90          | \$149.90         | \$0.00            |
| Hospitality                               | \$116.20          |                  | -\$116.20         |
| Insurance                                 | \$245.00          | \$185.00         | -\$60.00          |
| Post Office Box Rental                    | \$176.00          | \$176.00         | \$0.00            |
| Treasurer's Expenses ( <i>20 Stamps</i> ) | \$13.20           |                  | -\$13.20          |
| Newsletter Expenses                       | \$10.00           |                  | -\$10.00          |
| Raffle/Bingo permit (exp. Dec)            | \$0.00            |                  |                   |
| Annual State Renewal Fee                  | \$25.00           | \$25.00          | \$0.00            |
| Membership adjustment                     | \$0.00            |                  |                   |
| <i>Undistributed Unencumbered funds</i>   | \$100.00          |                  | -\$100.00         |
|   |                   |                  |                   |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                           | <b>\$1,317.00</b> | <b>\$1024.60</b> | <b>--\$392.40</b> |

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Account Balance 2.4.2024                | <b>\$47,564.86</b> |
| Reserves ( <i>Tech Trek, Op. Exp.</i> ) | -37,029.59         |
| Monthly reserve draws                   |                    |
| <i>Unencumbered funds</i>               | -\$212.10          |
| Monthly expenses                        | -\$822.15          |
|   |                    |
| Remaining operating funds               | \$9,501.02         |

|  |
|--|
| <b>2023-2024 Dues collected to date, 41 members: \$3,829</b>   |
| <b>2023-2024 Dues to State/National \$3296 (1 dual branch)</b> |
| <b>41 members: Processing 3 as Shape Future Campaign</b>       |
| <b>Branch portion of dues: \$533 (\$13/member) 41 members</b>  |
|  |

|                                    | 23-24<br>Budgeted | YTD               | YTD Vs.<br>Budget |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Income                   |                   |                   |                   |
| 41 Memberships @ \$13              | \$455.00          | \$533.00          | \$78.00           |
| Advertising ( <b>11 Sponsors</b> ) | \$600.00          | \$600.00          | \$0.00            |
| Unencumbered Funds                 | \$262.00          | \$262.00          | -\$100.00         |
| <b>Operating Income</b>            | <b>\$1,317.00</b> | <b>\$1,495.00</b> | <b>\$178.00</b>   |

| Fundraising Income as of 12.4.23 |                   |                 |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                                  | Gross             | Exp./Tax        | Net               |
| Fall Bingo and Silent Auction    | \$8,037.97        | \$628.65        | \$7,409.32        |
| Adopt-a-Poll                     | \$0.00            | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Sylvesters                       | \$0.00            | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| <b>Total Fundraising Income</b>  | <b>\$8,037.97</b> | <b>\$628.65</b> | <b>\$7,409.32</b> |

| Reserve 2023-2024             | Carry Over         | Distribution      | Balance            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Scholarship (10%)             | \$0.00             | \$740.93          | \$740.93           |
| Tech Trek (32.5%)             | \$6,935.54         | \$2,408.03        | \$9,343.57         |
| Eager Reader(22.5%)           | \$6,978.51         | \$1,677.10        | \$8,645.61         |
| AAUW Funds (15%)              | \$1,486.50         | \$1,111.40        | \$2,597.90         |
| General Reserve (20%)         | \$14,319.71        | \$1,481.86        | \$15,701.58        |
| <b>Total Reserves on Hand</b> | <b>\$29,720.27</b> | <b>\$7,409.32</b> | <b>\$37,029.59</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> |   |

Monthly expenses: Membership, Taxes, Badges





AAUW California Family,

This April, we will have the opportunity to practice the inclusion that we value by voting to welcome any person who is passionate about equity for women into AAUW, whether they have a degree or not.

AAUW National is proposing a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. On January 20th, the AAUW California Board of Directors unanimously approved a statement of support for the bylaws change.

We'd like to share our reasoning with you.

Our organization was founded in 1881 to advance opportunities for women and to work toward equal treatment with men. While the early members focused on increasing the number of women going to college, they also worked to make employment of women and children safer and began the fight for pay equity. As AAUW evolved to meet women's needs, the organization and its impact grew. Our focus expanded to include advocating for the needs of people of color and individuals/communities in poverty. The efforts of AAUW earned us permanent United Nations (U.N.) observer status which in turn led to AAUW members expanding the fight for civil rights and an overall deeper understanding and appreciation of those who are marginalized.

Throughout the past 143 years, AAUW members never stopped advocating for education while expanding our focus to ensuring policies around maternity leave, reproduction rights, equal pay, and policies against sexual harassment and violence against women. Welcoming those without a degree will not change who we are and what we are working towards- it will enhance our efforts by including anyone who is as passionate as we are about equity for women and girls. AAUW and its eligibility requirements have changed substantially over the years and yet, we still work together and strive to make women's lives better and we will continue to do so for years to come. Treating each other fairly and supporting one another with compassion is the foundation of AAUW and serves as the catalyst for current and future efforts. As we enter a time of uncertainty in our nation, we need to band together and continue to advocate for a better future.

We encourage you to practice the inclusion our founding members worked for and vote "yes"- watch for your ballot in April.

Together in equity,

AAUW California State Board

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS



### Funding Women's History

AAUW founder Marion Talbot in 1881

AAUW has a proud heritage of helping women pursue higher education, tracing back to a time when few women had that opportunity.

It started after the U.S. Civil War. With a growing middle class and more women looking to go to university, AAUW founder Marion Talbot gave the call to support a fund for women's graduate education. She and Fellowships chair Christine Ladd Franklin asked all members to contribute \$1 per year. The goal was "to enable gifted women to use their intellectual powers for the good of humanity."

### The First Fellows



As a result, in 1888, the very first fellowship went to Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history, in the amount of \$350. "It was the beginning of AAUW's history of funding women in education," says Gloria Blackwell, AAUW's senior vice president.

The first American Fellowship recipient, Ida Street, who was awarded \$350. The idea of a fellowship program for women took off like wildfire. By 1890, AAUW — which was then called the Association of Collegiate Alumnae — had awarded the first European fellowship and by 1917 the Latin American Fellowship, which eventually evolved into the International Fellowship program that has funded women from more than 150 nations.

By the late 1890s, it was not unusual to see women on college campuses, and many women's colleges were also being formed. However, very few women went on to become professors, administrators, deans, or college presidents. AAUW's focus on graduate funding was designed to push more women to take on those roles and other important leadership positions.

### Supporting a STEM Pioneer in the 1920s



Marie Curie's 1903 Nobel portrait

In 1920, AAUW identified a groundbreaking scientist they wanted to support: Madame Marie Curie. Members helped raise funds to purchase a gram of radium for Curie to use in her research at a cost of \$100,000. The Marie Curie Radium Fund was so successful that it raised an additional \$56,000 over the required amount.

After Curie died in 1934, the money was passed to her daughter, Irene Joliot-Curie, who at the time was continuing her mother's research. The funds eventually went into a fellowship to support a French or American woman studying chemistry, physics or radiology.

## Post-WWII

By World War II, AAUW had a very active fellowship and grant program with many named endowments. It established a War Relief Fund to help many women in Europe either find positions or in the U.S. or Latin American Countries.

When the war ended, AAUW launched another drive to raise funds to bring women from liberated countries to the United States to study. In many cases the women's home countries had been completely obliterated so the grants enabled them to further their education.



AAUW helped Jewish scholar Lise Meitner escape from Europe during WWII. Here, as visiting physics professor at Catholic University, she meets with finalists in a science talent search competition in 1946.

By the 1950s, AAUW had funded more than 1,100 women in over 40 countries. A lot of women who received AAUW funding in the 1950s and 1960s later became the first women college presidents. Others, like author Susan Sontag and psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers, went on to become cultural touchstones.

## The Civil Rights Era

In 1963, AAUW expanded its fellowship and grant program. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, it developed the African Educators' Program, which brought African teachers from newly independent African nations to America to study in U.S. colleges.



Artist Nell Painter (left) with Coretta Scott King (right) and former AAUW President Anne G. Pannell (middle) in 1969.

At the same time, the country had become deeply immersed in the Civil Rights movement. AAUW members decided to create a fund in honor of Coretta Scott King, raising \$150,000 for African-American women to study African-American culture, civil rights and peace.

Just months after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, King wrote to AAUW members: "I am deeply grateful to the American Association of University Women for establishing this scholarship fund There is entirely too little research, writing and understanding of non-violence, peace, and Afro-American history."

"I am deeply grateful to the American Association of University Women for establishing this scholarship fund There is entirely too little research, writing and understanding of non-violence, peace, and Afro-American history." — Coretta Scott King

## The Women's Movement

In the 1970s, AAUW authored a report titled "Where Do Women Stand?" and found that women were underrepresented in all levels of academia. During that time, women were demanding their rights and demanding equality.



Astronaut and 1975–76 AAUW American Fellow Judith Resnik, 1978. Photo credit: NASA

AAUW created research and project grants that allow women to return to school, to re-enter the workforce, and to give them the skills they need to be competitive in the workplace. It created "Selected Professions Fellowships" to bring more women into non-traditional fields such as law, business and medicine. Later the focus for these fellowships and grants evolved to cover science, technology, engineering and math as well.

AAUW's 1975–76 American Fellow Judith Resnik made history by becoming the second female astronaut in space. After she perished in the 1986 *Challenger* tragedy, AAUW members raised \$235,000 to fund the Judith Resnik American Fellowship endowment.

## Fellowships & Grants Today

As it entered the new millennium, AAUW awarded \$4 million in fellowships and grants for the first time. It also developed International Project Grants that allow International Fellowship alumnae to return to their home countries and work in their communities on projects that impact women and girls locally.

A few notable 21st century fellows include: scholar and humanitarian Tererai Trent, 2001–02 International Fellow and 2017 Alumnae Recognition Awardee; Rachael Rollins, the 1996–1997 AAUW Selected Professions Fellow who in 2018 became the first woman elected district attorney in Boston; and award-winning author and news commentator Melissa Harris Perry, AAUW 2001–02 American Fellow.



2010–11 AAUW American Fellow Ayana Johnson at work on the ocean.

**AAUW was there in the beginning, helping ensure women had the opportunity to pursue their dreams. And thanks to the long-standing generosity of its members and supporters, its large endowment will continue to support women for generations to come.**

## AAUW California 2023 Fellows and Grant Recipients

### 2023 Fellows and Grant Recipients



Be inspired by watching [videos](#) of California AAUW Fund fellows and grant recipients discussing the innovative work our contributions helped sponsor.

### ANNUAL CALIFORNIA FELLOWS AND GRANTEES!

See what your AAUW Fund donations support.

Our 24 California fellows and grantees recorded a 5–8-minute presentation on their study or project. Topics include Women’s History, Medical Sociology, Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and others.

These presentations on AAUW California website. In one click you will be able to watch them all whenever and as often as you want.

For 2023-24, these **recordings will replace the typical Fund events that we have had in the past.** Videos will be available until April 20, 2024.



2023-2025



## PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The AAUW California Public Policy Program establishes policy directives that will guide our members, inform our legislative priorities, serve our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, and are consistent with our values of achieving fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society. Toward that end, AAUW California advocates policies that promote, enhance and ensure:

### Economic Security for All Women, including:

- Equity in the workplace
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement
- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and caregiving leave

### Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, including:


- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence.
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures
- Protection and expansion of voting rights
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns

### Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, including:

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Removal of barriers for girls to access instruction in STEM fields
- Civics instruction in all CA high schools
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

### Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles, including:

- Proportional appointment to publicly held corporate boards
- Access to leadership skills training
- Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers



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