

President's Message

What a year it has been! We started in September celebrating our Tech Trekkers at Mesa View Clubhouse and then in March we celebrated Women in History in this same beautiful setting. In October we travelled to Atascadero Library, sharing with SLO County AAUW members, an AAUW CA program called The School Board Project. November found us at St. John's Lutheran Church in Arroyo Grande for our Bingo and Silent Auction fundraiser. In December we enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Priscilla Alquist in her home, entertained by Nipomo Theater Company, New Tech High. In January we rested from all of the activities. In February we visited the Nipomo Library for a League of Women Voters presentation on Voter Services. March found us in the South County Regional Center adopting two polls and in local elementary schools distributing books. In April we met at the Arroyo Grande Women's Club for the celebration of our Scholarship recipients and now, in May, we are visiting Pam Zirion's lovely home for our officer installation, congratulation for our Named Grant Recipient, celebration of our year's efforts and an overview of the Lucia Mar USD AVID Program. What innovated, responsive, supportive, generous and mission directed members! We could not ask for more. Each of you have shared your gifts and have made our Branch remarkable. Thank you!

May Events

- 2 11:30 am Lunch Bunch: Hanna's Arroyo Grande
- 3 11:30 am Daytime Page Turners
- 6 6:30 pm Board Meeting: Zoom
- 14 6:30 pm Night Readers: Joan Florence's home
- 15 12:30 pm Finessing Femmes Bridge: Norma Stewart's Club
- 18 10:00 am General Meeting: Pam Zirion's Home
- 20 12:30 Let's Talk Travel: Greenhouse Coffee, A. G
- 20 Newsletter Deadline
- 27 7:00 pm Great Decisions: Priscilla Alquist's home

May Birthdays

Carol McBirnie

June Birthdays

Joan Florence

Carole Demsey

July Birthdays

Kathi Petterson

Susan Brazil

Renee David

Kim McGuire

May General Meeting

May 18, Saturday 10:00 am

Pam Zirion's Home: 1307 Ironbark St.

San Luis Obispo

Topic: AVID Program

Officer Installation,

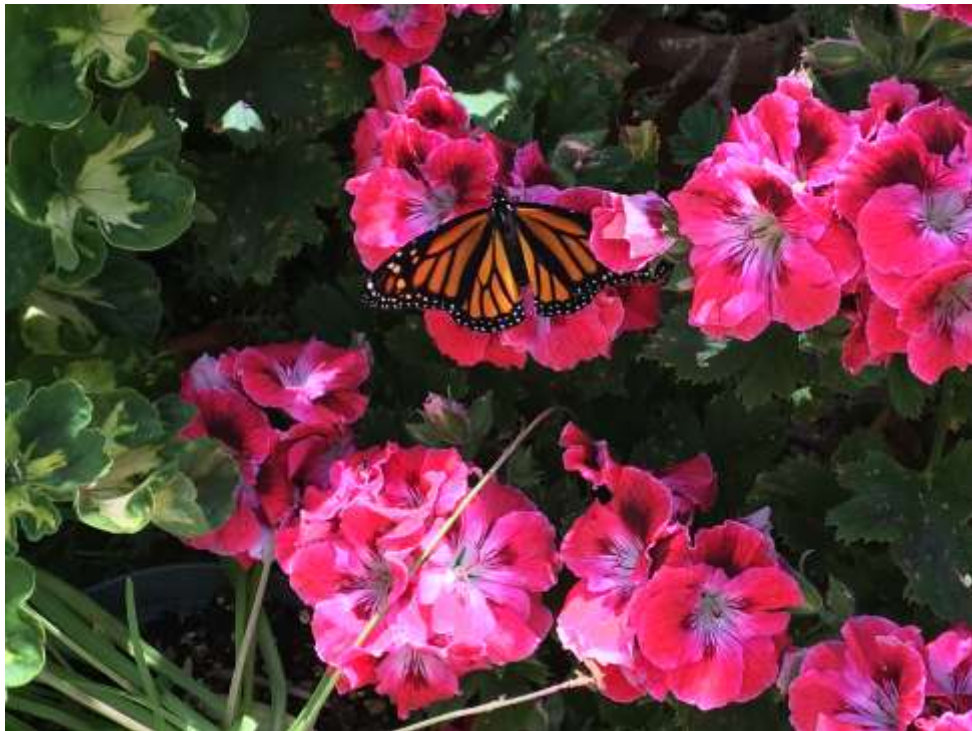
Year in Review

Upcoming May Board Meeting

The May Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 6 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 by May 2 for it to be considered at this meeting. Thank you.

May General Annual Meeting May 18, Saturday 10:00 am Pam Zirion's Home: 1307 Ironbark St., San Luis Obispo AVID Program, Installation of Officers Year In Review

At the April 15, 2024 Annual Meeting, the election of the following officers took place: President Jean Burns Slater, Secretary Pam Zirion, Treasurer Erica Hinojosa. The May general meeting will include the installation of Officers, celebration of our Named Grant Recipient, an Overview of the AVID Program in the Lucia Mar USD, and a year in review of the 2023-2024.



Annual Installation Meeting

Bonjour!

You are invited to our Branch Installation Tea/Brunch on May 18th, from 10 AM to 12 PM at Pam Zirion's home, 1307 Ironbark Street, San Luis Obispo.

We will have many savory and sweet items courtesy of you!

It will be a potluck with: (last name) **A-H** members bringing desserts **I-M** members bringing Breads or Fruit **N-Z** members bringing Eggs/Brunch Casseroles. The theme is Paris and Parisian food—so croissants, petit fours, and quiches et cetera, are all welcome. In addition, we will have a speaker to tell us more about the AVID programs at our local schools. Please RSVP to Pam by May 11th. A special email invitation will arrive shortly.

Membership

Thank you to members who have already paid their dues. We have 19 paid members. I hope the incentive of winning \$50 has spurred you forward. Remember your chances of winning increase the sooner you mail in your renewal. Three chances if mailed in April, two chances for May, and one chance by June 15. Easy money everyone! Our Branch is growing. We already have one new member for the coming year. Jennifer Leland, whose information was mailed to you by Linda, has joined and will be attending our May installation. Please welcome her.

Our membership renewal letter is included in this newsletter on page 11. If no personal info has changed you need only to submit a check for \$105 made out to 5 Cities Pismo Beach AAUW and mail it to P.O. Box 1604, Pismo Beach CA 93448. You may mail your check to Erica Hinojosa or to the post office box.

Good luck and remember to increase your winning potential, join early. Membership Chair Susan Brazil

Friendship Outreach

Good News: Members are having a good time traveling and visiting family this month. I believe all our members are doing well, at least I have not heard of any new issues to share with you. Although this is the last newsletter article of the year till next fall, please feel free to keep me posted on your news. We care! Coming up soon, Gaye Peltzman and Susan Gray will both be cruising to Scotland and Norway at about the same time as Priscilla Alquist will be off to the Baltics. It should be very interesting to hear their reports this fall at our new Travel Group.

Rebecca Avila just became a grandmother. Her son's wife gave birth to an 8-pound baby girl named Lila. All are healthy and thrilled with the new arrival.

Jean Burns Slater had a fabulous trip to Germany with her family (lucky them!).

Pam Zirion is the New Member Ambassador. She welcomes all new members to AAUW. You can call her for information or assistance with our Branch. Get to know her better by attending our final meeting of the year at her house on May 18 from 10-12 Noon. Officers will be installed and it is a lovely, relaxed event; good for getting to meet many of our members.

Please remember to offer a ride to Branch members and guests who may not feel comfortable driving. Call a member and ride together. Car pools are excellent ways to share fun conversations and our limited resources.
Sunshine Chair, Priscilla Alquist (805) 305-0907.

Let's Talk Travel

Many of us are planning holidays or expecting visitors in the next few months. The travel group is also busy finalizing plans for day trips, including Sensorio in Paso Robles and a PCPA performance in Solvang. Please join us to share your experiences or help in planning our next great adventure! We will meet Monday, May 20 at 12:30 PM at Greenhouse Coffee Company, 1064 E. Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande. See you there!

"Wherever you go becomes a part of you, somehow." Anita Desai

Scholarship Awards at the April General Meeting



Scholarship

The Scholarship Directors, after careful screening of applications, selected ten scholarship recipients, who will receive \$2,000 each for their college expenses, for a total of \$20,000 awarded in scholarships. The following recipients are:

Arroyo Grande High School

Ayla Gharavi, planning to attend Stanford University for Biomedical Research.

Sherry Andrawes, a past Tech Trek recipient, planning to attend Cal Poly for Biology.

Claire Hannegan, planning to attend San Diego State University or Cal Poly to major in Biology/Medicine.

Luna Gaona Gonzale (AVID), planning to attend Cal Poly and major in Structural Engineering.

Isabel Alvarez Rosas (AVID), planning to attend Cal Poly for Biology.

Hailey Williams (AVID), planning to attend UC San Diego and major in Biology or Law

New Tech High in Nipomo

Laila Zavala, planning to attend UCLA, UCSD or UCSB majoring in Environmental Science

Ashley Robinson (AVID), planning to attend UC Davis or Cal Poly for Animal Science

Isabel Rodriguez (AVID), planning to attend USC or UCSB for Psychology.

Lillyanna Ramirez (AVID), planning to attend Cal Poly for Animal Science.

These young women were present at the Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Annual Meeting on April 15, held at the Arroyo Grande Women's Club. Each young recipient spoke about her life, gratitude, and future plans. The result was a heartwarming experience for families, friends and our AAUW Branch members.

The Scholarship Corporation is dedicated to provide as much scholarship funds as possible for deserving young women. Funds for the scholarships are from donations specifically for the 501(c)3 Scholarship Corporation. The Scholarship Corporation thanks the community and the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch and members for their generous support. Without this generosity, scholarships would be few and very limited in amount.





Women in History

Thanks for another successful season of Women in History Presentations

Mary Jorstad, Jean Burns Slater, Pam Zirion, and Kathy Cohon portrayed Dorothea Lange, Hattie Caraway , Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Julia Morgan. They told their stories at our March AAUW Branch meeting and they visited elementary classrooms in LMUSD. 2024 is 32nd year of portrayals. Yay us! Thanks. PS Think about doing a portrayal next March, year # 33 Cheers, Kathy Cohon

Special thanks are offered to Carol Dempsey for arranging the use of Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Park Club House. Thank you, Carole!



Eager Readers Treasure Hunt Report

Our Eager Reader Book Treasure Hunts are now completed. Students were asked what we should call our program and one 4th grade fellow came up with the idea of a treasure hunt and that is exactly what our program provides. A Treasure Hunt for a book that a reader would like to keep. We used his term when we introduced the program to each class and they all took it seriously, looking for just the right book.

The greatest reward was helping over 600 students walk around display tables to select a book of their choice to keep. We offered this book gifting for the 2nd, 4th, and 6th graders at Dana Elementary, Grover Beach Elementary and Nipomo Elementary. As this was our second year at each school, each child at that school would have received a book during the last two years, with the exception of 1st graders.

Our books were purchased through Scholastic Books, ordered by Beth Hutton with a Scholastic consultant and with your generous donations through our branch fund raising. We ordered books for 2nd grade, 4th grade, and 6th grade level readers. We received 1069 books with 190 bonus books at no charge from Scholastic Books. The total cost was \$3137.58

In addition, Erica Hinojosa donated over 50 books from her sons' library. All these books were enthusiastically received.

The Eager Reader budget, after paying for these books, has a current balance of \$5,508.03. The yearly allocation from our AAUW Branch fund raising is 22.5 % of raised funds. \$1,667.10 was allocated for 2022-2023 from these efforts. By reviewing these figures, it demonstrates spending beyond our yearly allocation, but the Reading Program was suspended for several years during COVID, providing funds for this generous distribution. In addition, we do have books in our store room for next year and can supplement any order we make in the future.

We distributed books in one day at each school:

March 1: Grover Beach Elementary volunteers included: Beth Hutton, Jean Burns Slater

March 15: Nipomo Elementary volunteers included Priscilla Alquist, Beth Hutton, and Jean Burns Slater

March 21: Dana Elementary volunteers included: Patti Melsheimer, Mary Jorstad, Beth Hutton, Jean Burns Slater and Jeremy McEachern, a guest of Jean Burns Slater, who volunteered to help.

This translated into three days with over 600 young readers selecting from 1069 books. Remarkable! Volunteer help with this activity was especially meaningful and helpful. We thank you for sharing your love of books and reading with our local schools. We are fulfilling our AAUW mission! Thank you.

Beth Hutton Jean Burns Slater

Research supporting our Eager Readers Program, appears on page 12.



2024 Bingo & Silent Auction

Bingo & Silent Auction on **November 16th, 2024**

This is our last AAUW newsletter before summer. As we are out and about during the next few months, please keep Bingo and Silent Auction (B&SA) in the back corners of your mind.

Think about:

- meals & restaurants
- services (nails, massages, etc.)
- experiences you have that might become a gift certificate to use for the silent auction
- wine and wine tastings
- gifts for family members

Ask for a donation or purchase. We will be sending out, via email, letters for copying of donation requests and receipts. Thank you for all you do. See page 16 for bookmark reminders Pam Zirion & Kathy Cohon

Lunch Bunch, May 2 11:30 am Hanna's on Grand in Arroyo Grande

We are still working on our international tour of local restaurants. We have been as far away as Peru and Italy, so it is time we come a little closer to home. How about Mexico? There are lots of Mexican restaurants around, but you may not know of a new one in AG that has excellent reviews.

Hanna's is located at 1412 E. Grand Ave. in AG just over the border from Grover Beach. It is found in a mini-shopping mall off Courtland. All of this is to the right if you are traveling toward the beach. Once on Courtland, you should see the mall to your right. In the mall, there is a Smart and Final and a Dollar Tree Outlet. Hanna's is in the center of these.

Sandee has been here and raved about it. Combining Sandee's comments with the online reviews, it sounds like a 4 star plus winner. Ole! Praise includes clean, spacious, open floor plan, inexpensive, delicious and a real asset to the restaurant scene locally. Hanna's has a free salsa bar and styles itself as Mexican Fusion. Asian fusion, yes lots around, but Mexican Fusion? Perhaps you are in for an adventure.

One tip is to go to the website first and read the menu carefully as you will be asked to go to the window to order before sitting down, thus avoiding causing others to take a siesta while you figure out what to eat. The website is located at www.zmenu.com/hanna-s-restaurant-arroyo-grande...

Since Lunch Bunch is early this month, May 2, Thursday, at 11:30, please get your RSVPs in as early as possible to Linda Lidberg (lswl@aol.com). Carole and Sandee regret that they will be out of town (in Siberia looking for new restaurant locations) so they wish you all Buon Provecho!

Suffragists: A Musical Called Suffs

Do click on the link below and see the CBS Sunday Morning show after you weigh through the first commercial. CBS Sunday Morning segment about "Suffs", a Broadway musical about suffragists. It is co-produced by Hillary Clinton and Malala Yousafzai. A timely show!

https://www.cbs.com/shows/video/CIGrAp_8PfWwKrK8FZ_OdPJsYu2GeRB/

Great Decisions: Prepare to Discuss the World

Our next meeting of Great Decisions will be held on May 27 at 7:00 pm. Our topic for May is NATO's future, held in the home of Priscilla Alquist. Marjorie Ott will be providing the treats, Jean Burns Slater will lead the discussion which will include NATO's history, effectiveness of NATO as an alliance and NATO at war. 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, jbslater2006@gmail.com



The Equal Rights Amendment

An amendment may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress, or if two-thirds of the States request one, by a convention called for that purpose. The Amendment must then be ratified by three-fourths of the State legislatures, or three-fourth of the conventions called in each State for ratification. (38 states)

1972 Version

1. *Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States of by any state on account of sex.*
2. *The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.*
3. *This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of the ratification.*

Timeline

1923 -- (Three years after women were allowed to vote.) Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman wrote the first version and it was proposed to Congress. *"Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation ."*

After WW II – The ERA was part of both the Republican and Democratic party platforms.

1946 – The ERA received its first vote in Congress and did not reach the two-third majority needed to pass a congressional amendment

1960's – Both parties removed the ERA from their platforms.

1979 -- Both Branches of Congress passed the proposal, and it was sent to the states for ratification. As the deadline to ratify approached in 1979, the amendment was three states short of the 38 needed to ratify and to add it to the Constitution.

1982 -- Congress extended the deadline three years to 1982 but no other states ratified .

2017 – Nevada ratified

2018 – Illinois ratified.

2020 – Virginia ratified. **# 38!** Enough to ratify a constitutional amendment.

2024 – The ERA has met all the constitutional requirements for an amendment, our 28th Amendment. The US Archivist refused to enter it into the Constitution as an official amendment because of the legal debate on whether the ERA can become an official Constitutional amendment since the 38 state ERA ratifications were not done “by the deadline” originally written into the ERA wording.

Congress has introduced legislation to remove the deadline language. Congress wrote the deadline into the wording of the amendment and therefore, Congress has the power to change or eliminate the deadline wording. The deadline wording written by Congress is not a requirement for adding an amendment to our Constitution. We wait to see if the legislation will have enough support in both House and Senate to eliminate the deadline and clear the path to the US Archivist entering the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. Yes, California approved the amendment in the first years it was proposed. (Source: www.equalrightsamendment.org/faqs) Compiled by Kathy Cohon
Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch of American Association of University Women, AAUW -- May 2024

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

May 7

May 21

June 11

June 18



HAVE A
MARVELOUS
SUMMER FULL
OF
ADVENTURES!

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

Operating Expenses	23-24 Budget	23-24 YTD	YTD Vs Budget
Meeting Rent (<i>Church, 2xWomen</i>)	\$486.00	\$393.00	-\$93.00
Membership Directory (40)	\$95.70	\$122.89	\$27.19
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
EXPENSES	\$1,317.00	\$1,051.79	--\$365.21

Account Balance 2.5.2024	\$44,203.59
<i>Reserves (Tech Trek, Op. Exp.)</i>	-33,892.02
<i>Unencumbered funds</i>	-\$212.10
Monthly expenses	-\$661.65
Remaining operating funds	\$9,862.33

2023-2024 Dues collected to date, 42 members: \$3,929
2023-2024 Dues to State/National \$3,383 (1 dual branch)
Branch portion of dues: \$546 (\$13/member) 42 members

Operating Income	23-24 Budgeted	YTD	YTD Vs. Budget
42 Memberships @ \$13	\$455.00	\$546.00	\$91.00
Advertising (11 Sponsors)	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Unencumbered Funds	\$262.00	\$362.00	-\$100.00
Operating Income	\$1,317.00	\$1,508.00	\$191.00

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
Total Fundraising Income	\$8,037.97	\$628.65	\$7,409.32

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%)	\$3,840.93	\$1,677.10	\$5,508.03
AAUW Funds (15%)	\$1,486.50	\$1,111.40	\$2,597.90
General Reserve (20%)	\$14,319.71	\$1,481.86	\$15,701.58
Total Reserves on Hand	\$26,582.69	\$7,409.32	\$33,892.01

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	
Fundraising Totals	\$9,910.02	

2024-2025 dues being collected, not included in report, 1 new member



**AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach
2024 – 2025 Membership Renewal**

Our mission and focus:

“Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research”. Welcome and thank you for joining the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch of AAUW for another year to advance the AAUW mission, while making new acquaintances and renewing long term friendships! This year you may consider joining an additional project or interest section to meet new friends and explore new interests.

- Dues are \$105 for the 2024 – 2025 year (National \$72, State \$20, Branch \$13) \$69 of these dues are tax deductible
- Make checks payable to **AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach.**

Please return this form with your annual dues and any supplemental payments by **June 30, 2024** to:

AAUW Membership	Dues	\$105
Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW	Dual Member	13
P.O. Box 1604	Name Tag	\$ 12
Pismo Beach, CA 93448	Total	\$ _____
209-747-6663		

IF YOUR DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, FILL IN YOUR NAME ONLY.
Questions? Please call or email Susan Brazil 209-747-6663 susanbrazil@sbcglobal.net

Name: _____

Corrections:

Address: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

BRANCH PROJECTS : Check your interest/s

Scholarship

 Tech Trek

 Gov Trek
 Eager Readers (books into elementary classrooms)

 Women in Herstory

INTEREST SECTIONS: Check your Interest/s

Night Readers Book Group

 Great Decisions

 Lunch Bunch
 AVID Support in Classroom

 Adopt A Poll

 Daytime Page Turners
 Quilters

 Night Readers

 Cooking Together
 Finessing Femmes (Bridge)

 Travel Talk

A SUMMER READING PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN BOOKS IMPROVES READING ACHIEVEMENT AND REDUCES SUMMER READING LOSS.

This article appears in the April 2024 issue of *Kappan*, Vol. 105, No. 7, p. 48-51.

Over a decade ago, my colleagues and I began to study the impact of access to books on the reading achievement of children from low-income families (Allington et al., 2010; McGill-Franzen, Allington, & Ward, 2021). We designed a summer program to narrow or eliminate the reading achievement gap between children from low-income families and those from wealthier families that remains in place today (Cahill et al., 2013). Schools have narrowed the racial reading achievement gap between Black and white students over the past 50 years, cutting the gap in half. The opposite has been true with the family wealth reading achievement gap, which has doubled over the same period (Allington & McGill-Franzen, 2017).

To address this widening gap, we designed and carried out two large experimental studies addressing summer reading loss. We elected to study summer reading loss because children from low-income families lose roughly two to three months of reading achievement every summer, while children from wealthier families add about a month of reading achievement growth each summer (Alexander, Entwisle, & Olsen, 2001).

From kindergarten to 12th grade, the two- to three-month annual summer reading achievement loss among children from low-income families, plus the one month of reading achievement gain among children from wealthier families, accumulates to become a four-year reading achievement gap by 12th grade (Reardon, 2011). Even though summer reading loss has been documented for more than 50 years (Hayes & Grether, 1983; Heyns, 1978), the topic is not often considered in discussions of underachievement in reading.

My colleagues and I have spent decades studying children who struggle with learning to read, which led us to summer reading loss. We came to understand that children from low-income families do not read much during their summer vacation periods. A major reason is a lack of accessibility to books they wanted to read. Many children of low-income families have little if any access to books during the summer when the school library is closed. There are few bookstores and other stores that sell children's books in low-income communities, leaving many homes bereft of publications for young readers.

AT A GLANCE



- The reading achievement gap between students from low-income families and students from more affluent families starts in kindergarten and widens every year of school to the 12th grade.
- Studies by author Richard L. Allington and his colleagues looked at summer reading loss and revealed a solution that is simple, effective, and relatively inexpensive.
- Elementary school students from low-income families in their studies chose 10 books during a spring bookfair and received the books at the end of the school year.
- Over three years, this intervention, in which the students voluntarily read the books over the summer, improved their reading achievement.
- The reading achievement gains were similar to those in students who attended summer school programs.

This is a direct support of our Eager Readers Program.

Touché

The Central Coast Women's League has supported our Bingo/Silent Auction

Central Coast Women's League **Back by popular demand - Jewelry Sale!**

Who: We are the **Central Coast Women's League**, a non-profit 501(c)3

What: Vintage and more **Jewelry Sale** - affordable (\$3 and up), elegant, and whimsical treasures

When: **Saturday, May 4, 10:00 – 2:00.** Sorry – NO early birds!

Where: **1700 block San Luis Drive, SLO** (down the street from the high school)

Why: Because 100% of our proceeds support local charities (*and you'll have loads of fun!*)



100% of our proceeds benefit local charities

Organizations we support:

- *Boys & Girls Club*
- *Family Care Network*
- *Home Instead*
- *Lumina*
- *Noor Clinic*
- *Pregnancy & Parenting Support SLO*
- *Restorative Partners*
- *SLO Food Bank*
- *Transitions Mental Health*
- ... *and MORE!*

Over 500 pieces of jewelry:

- ⇒ Pre-owned
- ⇒ Vintage
- ⇒ Contemporary

*From classical to fanciful:
Something for Everyone!*



Your donations benefit our community.

AAUW Public Policy Priorities and Social Justice

Social justice is justice in relation to a fair balance in the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society where individuals' rights are recognized and protected. The five main principles of social justice include access to resources, equity, participation, diversity, and human rights. United Nations. "Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities. Social workers aim to open the doors of access and opportunity for everyone, particularly those in greatest need." Sep 24, 2022

Social justice is built on the pillars of human rights, equity, participation, and access. When a society is just, everyone is respected, supported, and protected. Achieving social justice is not easy as there are many issues that need to be addressed. Here are 7 examples:

#1. The gender pay gap

Around the world, the gender pay gap is one of the slowest-moving social justice issues. There's been progress, but according to the [World Bank's Women, Business, and the Law 2022 report](#), around 2.4 billion women of working age aren't getting equal economic opportunities. 95 countries don't ensure equal pay for equal work. When it comes to lifetime earnings, how big does that gap end up being? Globally, The World Bank Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnership says women make about [\\$172 trillion less than men](#). Some areas are doing better than others. According to the [WE Forum's Global Gender Gap Report](#), only five countries got scores higher than 0.800 on wage equality for similar work: Albania, Burundi, Algeria, Iceland, and Singapore. Unfortunately, wage equality for similar work has gone down since 2021 in seven countries, including China and Cambodia.

#2. Income inequality

The gender pay gap contributes to income inequality, but it's not as if all men are doing well financially. Income inequality concerns people within states and the wealth between states. When the pandemic struck, [global income inequality got worse](#) and even undid some of the progress of the past 20 years. While the global economy rebounded in 2021, the World Bank estimated that global growth would decelerate from 5.5% in 2021 to 3.2% in 2023. Inflation is also a major issue. However, while people fall into poverty, [the world's ten richest men](#) more than doubled their fortunes during the first two years of the pandemic, earning an average of \$1.3 billion a day. It's hard to think of something more unequal than that.

#3. Climate change

[Many factors](#) drive climate change, such as agriculture, offshore drilling, fracking, and more. Despite decades of warnings and serious events like drought and hurricanes, fossil fuel emissions are not improving. The past seven years were the warmest on record. [Scientists agree](#) that if significant change isn't made, temperatures will continue to rise. Extreme weather events will become more frequent and billions will be at risk. Fighting climate change is important because it affects other issues, such as food security, poverty, gender equality, and more.

#4. Food insecurity

With climate change, supply chain issues, and inflation, food insecurity is an ever-present issue. Things got especially dire in 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine and blockaded Ukrainian ports, [cutting off grain exports](#) to the rest of the world. While events like war trigger food insecurity, increased hunger has been on the rise for years. The 2022 edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report found that hunger affected around [828 million people in 2021](#), which reflects a 46 million people increase.

#5. The refugee crisis

According to the [UN Refugee Agency](#), over 2 million refugees will need to be resettled in 2023. That's a 36% increase from 2022. There are a few reasons why, including the pandemic, climate change, conflict, and more. Women and children are especially vulnerable to trafficking and violence. [According to a report](#) from Save the Children, "likely all children" migrating to Europe through the Balkans faced violence. Police and smugglers were the most common perpetrators. Both the resettlement and safety of refugees as they migrate are must-address social justice issues.

#6. Universal healthcare

"Good health and well-being" is the third [Sustainable Development Goal](#). It's closely linked to other goals such as clean water, sanitation, and zero hunger. To achieve this goal, universal healthcare is essential. The need for it was made blatant during the COVID-19 pandemic, but healthcare systems around the world were already failing many people. According to [the WHO](#), over 930 million people spend at least 10% of their household income on healthcare. Because of out-of-pocket spending, 100 million people fall

into poverty each year. Universal healthcare, which ensures everyone has access to all the healthcare they need without financial hardship, is one of the most urgent social justice issues.

#7. Poverty

The world has been trying to deal with poverty for many years, but according to the [World Bank](#), it's unlikely to end extreme poverty by 2030. COVID-19 was a big reason why. In 2020, 70 million people fell into extreme poverty. This number represents the largest one-year increase since 1990 when the world started monitoring global poverty. Extreme poverty, which is defined as earning less than \$2.15 a day, concentrates in areas where it's hard to address, such as rural areas, Sub-Saharan Africa, and areas with conflict. Ending poverty is complex and involves addressing other social justice issues, such as low-quality education, inferior healthcare, gender inequality, and so on.

2023-2025

AAUW
OF CALIFORNIA

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
- 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
- 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
- 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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