

President's Message

Jean Burns Slater

Leadership

It is time to plan for our election of Branch officers for the 2025-2026 year. Our current President, Secretary, and Treasurer have served for the last three years and it is time to recruit and support new officers.

- "A leader is best when people barely know she/he exists, when her/his work is done, her/his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves." Lao Tzu
- "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team" Phil Jackson
- "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!" Max Lucado

Our next AAUW branch leaders do not need to be front and center. All branch members become part of the leadership team through quiet determination, positive interaction, and dedication to our AAUW mission. Please share your skills with our Branch by contacting our nominating committee to serve as a Branch leader.

February Events

- 3 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting: Zoom
- 6 11:30 p.m. Lunch Bunch: Rose's in Pismo Beach
- 7 11:30 p.m. Daytime Page Turners: Carole Dempsey's home
- 11 6:30 p.m. Night Readers: Rose Ann Steiner's home
- 17 12:30 p.m. Let's Talk Travel: Susan Gray's home
- 19 12:30 p.m. Finessing Femmes Bridge: Laurie King's home
- 19 6:30 p.m. Scholarship: Priscilla Alquist's home
- 20 Newsletter Deadline
- 22 10:00 General Branch Meeting: Mesa Dunes Club House: Project 2025

February Birthdays

Jennifer Leland
Erica Hinojosa

March Preview

- 3 6:30 pm Board Meeting: Zoom
- 6 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- 7 11:30 am Daytime Page Turners
- 15 10:00 am General Meeting: Mesa Dunes
- 20 Newsletter Deadline

*Project 2025 and AAUW
Priorities February 22,
Saturday 10:00 a.m.*

*Location: Mesa Dunes Mobile
Home Park Club House*

*Topic: AAUW CA Webinar:
Project 2025*

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The February Board meeting will be held Monday, February 3 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. If you or your committee have an action item to place on the agenda, forward it to Jean Burns Slater, jbslater2006@gmail.com by February 1 for it to be considered at this meeting.

FEBRUARY 22 GENERAL MEETING 10 A.M.

Topic: Project 2025 and AAUW Priorities Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW will present a video recording of the AAUW CA webinar on Project 2025. The webinar is approximately 60 minutes. Discussion will follow with refreshments. All are welcome.

Location: Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Park: Club House 765 Mesa View Dr., Arroyo Grande Top of the hill.

Project 2025 and How it Would Impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities

The presentation covers a brief overview of where Project 2025 came from, what the Heritage Foundation is, and what the project is broadly attempting to do. The presenters address specific parts of the project that would impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities, such as education, Title IX, reproductive health, and gender equity.

AAUW is dedicated to advancing gender equity for women and girls. Awareness of Project 2025 and its potential impact is imperative.

MEMBERSHIP/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is time to plan for our election of Branch officers for the 2025-2026 year. Our current President, Secretary, and Treasurer have served for the last three years and it is time to recruit and support new officers. Contact Susan Brazil regarding your interest or your suggestions for these offices.

Susan Brazil: 209-747-6663.

LUNCH BUNCH, FEBRUARY 6, THURSDAY @ 11:30 a.m.

Our restaurant choice for Thursday, February 6th is Rosa's Italian Restaurant in Pismo Beach, an old standard offering delicious Italian fare. Rosa's opens at 11:30, just in time for us to gather. The free parking lot is located at 491 Price St. in Pismo. Do consider carpooling and send your RSVP to Carole Dempsey at medipharmix@aol.com

FRIENDSHIP OUTREACH

Happy New Year to all! How are your resolutions coming along?

Here are a few member updates:

Connie Rodgers has had a difficult year, as well as surgery, and a long and complicated recovery. She misses all of you and wishes she could participate in our activities, but that will be awhile.

Patti Melsheimer was also in the hospital quite suddenly in December, where she spent the week of Christmas. She is now back home and feeling stronger by the day! Her husband, Dick, was recently seen on local KBSY TV, touting the benefits of Pilates to stave off aging! Past member Olivia Larson is struggling with her husband's continuing health issues.

In happier news, Susan Brazil has moved to a bigger apartment in her complex in SLO. Rebeca Avila has been seen participating in her church bell choir along with past member Judy Zaretska.

Here are a few travel adventures over the holidays

Susan Grey went to the Panama Canal and then Costa Rica.

Gaye Peltzman and her husband traveled to the East Coast to be with relatives in December.

Priscilla Alquist and family braved the cold and crowds to visit the Christmas Markets of Austria and Germany in December. She loved the beautiful lights, crafts for sale, and delicious food and drink (especially gluhvine - a special mulled wine served in souvenir mugs). They learned that people in Munich enjoy visiting the beer halls on Christmas Day after Mass, as everything else - including the Christmas Markets - are closed!

AAUW wishes all of you a very happy and healthy New Year! Looking forward to being together again at our next meeting on January 25!!

Priscilla Alquist Sunshine

LET'S TALK TRAVEL

The next meeting of Travel Talk will be held at Susan Gray's home at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, February 17. All are welcome. Attendees are requested to bring an international dish to share. Contact Susan for directions susang481@gmail.com.

A spring excursion is planned with details below. Any AAUW branch members may join. Carpooling is planned. If interested, notify Mary Weeks: marylee35@aol.com



April 10-11 Thursday, Friday

Thursday John Steinbeck Museum in Salinas

April 10 Museum hours Wednesday – Sunday, 10 AM – 5 PM.

Admission: Adults \$15, Seniors \$13

Filoli Gardens Woodside, CA

16 acres of formal gardens, with a historic house museum, and lush, varied natural plants around the estate.

Open every day from 10 a.m. -5 p.m.)

The Café open daily from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Adults \$34.00 Seniors (65 years and up) \$32.00

Over night in San Jose - Hotel to be selected

**Friday
April 11**

Hakone Estate and Gardens

Saratoga, CA 95070

One of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's premier sites and 100 years old, Hakone is one of the old Japanese estates, retreat, and gardens in the Western Hemisphere. Hakone has also been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2013. 18 acres of magnificent beauty is nestled in the verdant hills of Saratoga overlooking Silicon Valley.

March to October Weekdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Weekends 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Adults (18 - 64) \$12 Seniors (65+) \$10

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum San Jose

Museum Hours:

Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturdays/Sundays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Adults (Ages 18-64) \$10.00 Seniors (Ages 65 and Older) \$8.00

Drive Home

TECH TREK



Now that Lucia Mar teachers have come back from their Holiday vacations, they will be working on nominating a young lady for the July 13-19 Tech Trek Camp at UCSB. They have until February 14th to get their nominations in and then the nominees will use CampDoc, an online application program, to complete their application and essay. Interviews will be on Sunday, March 16th and the girls selected will be introduced at our April general meeting.

The camp at UCSB is still looking for dorm moms who will chaperone 10 or so girls as they attend classes, reside in the dorms, eat in the school cafeteria, and go on field trips. If you would like to revisit your college experience and interact with wonderful young ladies, please let Linda Lidberg know.

There is also a need for AAUW members to provide 1–2-hour coverage for dorm moms when they attend their daily meetings. You could select one day or more to fit your schedule. You could even pair up with another member, carpool down to UCSB, and then go shopping in Santa Barbara or have a wonderful lunch on the pier. The teacher meetings usually occur while the girls are in classes so the job does not require overnights or a lot of walking. If that is something you would like, let Linda know. We have offered to provide four (4) day volunteers.

In addition, there are other opportunities to participate in the Tech Trek experience that do not require physical presence at the camp. We have committed to provide the following:

Virtual - Staff volunteers (build or social coach): (1)

Virtual - Daily volunteers (workshop coach): (2)

Please consider using your experience with youth as a stand by virtual coach to help facilitate a memorable and life changing experience for these young women.

Linda Lidberg Branch Tech Trek Coordinator

We are still looking for a Tech Trek co-chair to learn the process and help select campers.

Please respond to this very important request by contacting Linda Lidberg.

SCHOLARSHIP

Marjorie Ott, Chief Executive Officer of the Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Corporation reported that scholarship applications have been distributed to the high schools in the Lucia Mar USD. On February 19th, the committee will meet to review details. Applications were also sent to the Lopez and Pacific View Alternative High Schools within the District. Applications are due back in early March and on March 19th, the committee will decide whom to interview. Once awardees are selected, they will be presented to the Branch members at the April 28 meeting.

AAUW-CA BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP SURVEY

A Scholarship Survey will be emailed in the next few weeks to the branch presidents and any branch board member who may be involved with scholarships from AAUW-CA. This survey will help determine how branches establish their scholarships and provide feedback for other branches considering scholarships. Feedback will be constructive for all branches. Thank you!

Beckie Gomez

AAUW CA Director, Membership

EAGER READERS

The Dana, Nipomo, and Grover Beach Elementary Schools within the Lucia Mar Unified School District were notified of our 2025 Eager Reader program. Dana and Nipomo Elementary Schools have responded with a resounding YES. Each student in grades 2, 4 and 6 will have the opportunity to select a book of their choice on a treasure hunt. On March 18 Nipomo Elementary students will begin their search. Dana and Grover Beach Elementary schools are in the process of selecting their dates in March. All branch members are invited to help with this student hunt for a book to keep. It is a very rewarding activity and fun also. If you are interested in helping, notify Beth Hutton cahutton5@aol.com.



DECEMBER TREASURER 2024-2025 REPORT

AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach December Treasurer 2024-2025 Budget

Operating Expenses	24-25 Budget	YTD	YTD Vs Budget
Meeting Rent (<i>Church, 2xWomen</i>)	\$393.00	\$93.00	\$300.00
Membership Directory	\$140.00	\$126.12	\$13.88
Program Expenses (<i>Zoom</i>)	\$167.58	\$167.58	\$0.00
Hospitality	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Insurance	\$183.00	\$183.00	\$0.00
Post Office Box Rental	\$182.00	\$182.00	\$0.00
Business Expenses (<i>copies, ledger</i>)	\$30.84	\$ 7.19	\$23.65
Raffle/Bingo permit	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$0.00
State Renewal Fee	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
EXPENSES	\$1,251.42	\$1,213.89	\$37.53

Account Balance 1.1. 2025	\$52,246.91
<i>Reserves (Tech Trek, Op. Exp.)</i>	-\$ (41,245.32)
<i>Unencumbered funds</i>	\$94.42
Monthly expenses	\$(100.00)
Remaining operating funds	\$10,996.01

Bingo/Auction Sum	In Progress
Tickets Sales	\$3,250.00
Bingo Sheet Sales	769.31
Silent Auction	3,812.00
Donation	567.00
Square Fees	(75.00)

Expenses TBD	(773.63)	10% alloc
Less Tax	(206.99)	
	\$7,342.31	Estimated

Operating Income	24-25 Budgeted	YTD	YTD Vs. Budget
39 Memberships @ \$13	\$507.00	\$507.00	\$0.00
Advertising (12 Sponsors)	\$550.00	\$650.00	-\$100.00
Unencumbered Funds	\$94.42		\$94.42
Operating Income	\$1,151.42	\$1,157.00	\$5.58

Fundraising Income			
	Gross	Exp./Tax	Net
Bingo/Silent Auction	\$8,398.31	\$(1,056.00)	\$7,342.31
Adopt-a-Poll	TBD		TBD
Program Donation	\$300.00		\$300.00
Fundraising income	\$8,698.31	\$(1,056.00)	\$7,642.31

Reserve 2024-2025	Carry Over	Distribution	Balance
Scholarship (15%)	\$887.03	\$1,146.35	\$2,033.38
Tech Trek (36%)	\$9,818.39	\$2,751.23	\$12,569.62
Eager Reader (24 %)	\$5,836.76	\$1,834.15	\$7,670.91
AVID Classroom Support (5%)	\$1,000.00	\$382.12	\$1,382.12
AAUW Funds (15%)	\$1,067.05	\$1,146.35	\$2,213.40
Gen. Reserve (5%)	\$14,993.78	\$387.12	\$15,375.89
Total Reserves on Hand	\$33,603.01	\$7,642.31	\$41,245.32

Fundraising Distribution 2024-2025		
Scholarship (15%)	\$1,146.35	*New Allocations for this fiscal year: \$1,000 from General Reserves to AVID; contribution to National AAUW Funds of \$1,750, naming one gift honoree and \$1,000 to Funds to be made.
Tech Trek (36%)	\$2,751.23	
Eager Reader (24%)	\$1,834.15	
AVID Classroom Support (5%)	\$382.12	
AAUW Funds (15%)	\$1,146.35	
General Reserves (5%)	\$382.12	
Fundraising Totals	\$7,642.31	

AAUW FUND

Deanna Arthur, AAUW Fund Committee chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org



The 31 recipients of our AAUW Funds are listed [HERE](#). With the assistance of the communications team and Sandi Gabe, the Fund committee has posted the recipients' videos on the website. If a video has been posted, you will find it noted at the end of the recipient's information. The note indicates to which of the two videos it was added. Keep checking back as more videos are added daily. There is such a wealth of talent – watch, learn, and enjoy. You will not be able to see all the speakers in person, but you can share the wealth of knowledge and learn something new from these amazing Fellowship and Grant recipients.

We are looking forward to fulfilling everyone's [request for a speaker](#).

Please watch the videos to learn how the Fund donations are making a difference.

www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-2024-fund-fellows-and-grant-recipients/

Our Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch has donated \$1,750 to AAUW Funds for the year 2024-2025. We are supporting these remarkable young women.

AAUW
-CA

PUBLIC POLICY



Thank you very much to everyone who completed the survey for the AAUW California Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) Biennial Review. The committee is now hard at work evaluating member input. Based on your input and our larger review, we will revise PPPs as necessary. Any and all changes to PPPs will be circulated and adopted by a vote of AAUW California members in the spring of 2025.

Revised PPPs will guide AAUW California in 2025-2027.

Why Does it Matter?

- Public Policy work is the most effective way to fulfill our mission to advance equity for women and girls.
- AAUW believes that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of all members of the community.
 - Often – as now - we find ourselves in a time when these competing needs seem to be in a state of imbalance.
 - Constitutional protection for the rights of all individuals appear to be imperiled, and progress toward equity for women and girls seems to be at a stalemate.

10 Scary Facts About the State of Women's Equality in America October 2020

A lot has changed since 2020!

1. In 2019, 12 states passed 13 new restrictions on abortion, 36 Planned Parenthood clinics were closed,
and the Supreme Court will have 6 anti-choice justices in 2021.
2. At the current rate, women won't achieve pay equity with men until 2059 (AAUW).
3. In 2020, 36 states have bills placing restrictions on voting. (ACLU)
4. 33.6 million workers do not have paid sick days. (Pew Research)
5. 23.1% of women experience sexual assault while in college. (RAINN - Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network)
6. Women make up just 13 percent of the engineering workforce. (National Science Foundation)
7. Women make up 23.6 percent of Congress. Women of color make up less than 4.3 percent.
8. Black women are paid 62 cents for every \$1 paid to a white man, 54 cents for Hispanic women. (AAUW)
9. The United States is the only industrialized nation that doesn't mandate paid parental leave.
10. Just 37 Fortune 500 companies are led by women. (Dun & Bradstreet)

What Is AAUW California Doing About it?

AAUW State Public Policy Committee:

- Sets public policy priorities (every 2 years)
- Analyzes pending legislation, determines bills to be sponsored, supported, tracked or opposed by AAUW California, lobbies legislators (every year)
 - Analyzes state ballot measures, determines which to endorse or oppose (election years)
- Educates branches on public policy issues
- Encourages branches to actively engage in public policy work, provides resources, gathers data and compiles reports to state.

LOBBY DAYS 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

by Rhonda Skipper, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an in-person meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8 and a virtual meeting day over Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

Starting in January, the Public Policy Committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our [Public Policy Priorities](#). In mid March, the committee will meet to select 30-35 bills to make up AAUW California's 2025 Legislative Agenda, including the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, 2025, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31, 2025 at 7:00pm.

A registration form will arrive in your inbox in early January 2025. Please be sure to complete and return the form so that you get necessary updates about Lobby Days, including your team and meeting details.

After you register, you will be assembled into teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members and matched with Assembly and Senate districts. For in-person meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with at least 3 legislative offices while for Zoom meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with 1 to 3 legislative offices. Regardless of whether you are in-person or online, each meeting will last for 15 to 30 minutes.

Because legislators have many commitments during the busy legislative season, most Lobby Days meetings will be held with legislative staffers and it is not always possible to schedule AAUW members with their own legislators. However, be assured that these meetings are always impactful: because teams will be representing AAUW California as a bill sponsor and/or supporter, legislative offices will consider these meetings to be as important as constituent meetings.

Lobby Days 2025 is scheduled to take place just before the legislature adjourns on April 10th for Spring Recess. AAUW members are encouraged to participate in-person on April 8, 2025, and directly advocate at the State Capitol as these in-person meetings are the most effective way to advance our priority legislation. Even though we know that being in-person is impactful, AAUW California is not able to pay for your travel to Lobby Day in Sacramento. For those who are not able to come to the Capitol, there will be an opportunity to meet with legislative offices virtually via Zoom on April 9, 2025.

We understand that travel incurs a cost, and we appreciate you considering the in-person option. If you can afford to take a road trip, consider carpooling with your fellow members, and if driving a long distance, sharing accommodations to make in-person Lobby Day a more budget friendly event.

NOTE In addition to our members, this year some of your Lobby Days teams will include college students who have been invited to join in via a college outreach pilot project. Through this project, we will be distributing Lobby Days event flyers to several colleges and universities from November to February. Increased college student participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices; however, most importantly, we hope that this introduction to AAUW will inspire advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

If you have participated in Lobby Days in the past, we would love to hear your feedback on what worked and what didn't. Please send your comments to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Lobby Days are a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislative offices and advance bills to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to promote our values.

GREETINGS TO OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!

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Plan for What's Important



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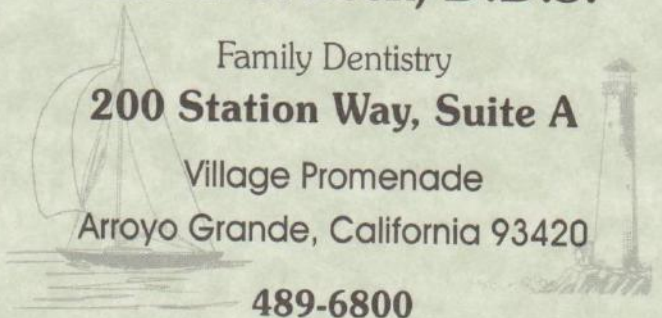
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At It's Really Yogurt, we serve delicious smoothies, yogurt and all kinds of juices. Always fast and efficient... Come try some!!

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