

President's Message

Greetings members of Five Cities-Pismo Beach Branch,

We are at the beginning of November, heading into the busy holiday season and soon the new year. First up, our big Bingo Fundraiser! This year will be all the more important since we are not staffing the election. Most of the funds to support our mission activities—book distribution, Tech Trek, scholarships, and AAUW funds— will come from this event. Everyone, this is a time when we need all hands-on deck. Find a bit of time to help out in some capacity. The ever-intrepid team of Kathy Cohon and Pam Zirion and their wonderful crew have been working hard to make this event a continual success.

Speaking of success, Five Cities-Pismo Beach Branch has earned the Five Star Award from AAUW National. We were one of only sixty branches nationwide to earn this award. Kudos to us and especially to Past President Jean Burns Slater who led the effort.

After we have wrapped up the Bingo Fundraiser, and survived the Thanksgiving feast, we can look forward to a fun and relaxing brunch and Holiday (yes, I said "Holiday") get together for our December meeting. Mary Weeks is planning something special at the home of Priscilla Alquist. Let's all look forward to coming together to enjoy some good food and laughter. We need it!

We deserve it! It's good for us!

Susan Gray

Co-President

November Events

- 1 Nominations due for Name Gift Honoree: Mary Matokovich
- 3 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting: Zoom
- 6 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch: Lure Fish House, San Luis Obispo
- 7 11:30 a.m. Daytime Page Turners: Susan Gray's home
- 8 11:00 SLO AAUW Panel on Immigration: Unitarian Church
- 11 6:30 p.m. Night Readers: Joan Knowlton's home
- 15 12 noon Bingo/Silent Auction: St. John's Lutheran Church
- 17 11:30 a.m. Travel Talk: Rooster Creek Arroyo Grande
- 19 12:30 p.m. Finessing Femmes Bridge: Rose Ann Steiner's home

December Preview

- 1 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting: Zoom
- 4 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch: Gardens of Avila Restaurant, San Luis Obispo
- 13 11:00 Holiday Gathering: Priscilla Alquist's home

November Birthdays

Connie Rodgers
Andi Portney

Action Alerts

Bingo/Silent Auction pg. 5
Named Gift Honoree pg.5
SLO Panel Discussion pg.6

PRESIDENTIAL ASSIGNMENTS

The trio of Presidents have divided their duties in the following manner:

September	Mary Weeks	February	Patti Melsheimer
October	Patti Melsheimer	March	Susan Gray
November	Susan Gray	April	Mary Weeks
December	Mary Weeks	May	Patti Melsheimer
January	Susan Gray		

UPDATES FOR YOUR 2025-26 AAUW DIRECTORY

The December holiday meeting will be at the home of Priscilla Alquist, 424 Vista Drive, Arroyo Grande

The January General Meeting is January 24, 2026. It is incorrectly listed as January 22.

ZOOM BOARD MEETINGS

WOMEN AT WORK!

The AAUW Board meets monthly and continues to keep our Branch on track and running smoothly. Thank you, each Board member!! The November Board meeting will be held Monday, November 3 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you or your committee have an action item to place on the agenda, forward it to Susan Gray susang481@gmail.com by November 1 for it to be considered at this meeting.



October 6 Board meeting via Zoom

OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING: ALL ABOUT TECH TREK

The October 18 Branch meeting, held at Mesa View Clubhouse, focused on Tech Trek. Linda Lidberg, who has been spearheading this program for the last 12 years, interviewed our Tech Trek camper, Aria Martinez. Linda gave a brief history of our Branch involvement, which has been since 1999, sending over 100 girls to STEM summer classes on a university campus. Liz Wineman previously served as Tech Trek Chairperson for 11 years. Pam Zirion has accepted the position of Tech Trek Chair for this current year. Kathy Cohon was acknowledged for starting the Tech Trek fundraising efforts with bunco and now bingo events. Patti Melsheimer presented a lovely floral arrangement to Linda who explained the vast influence of this program and the rewards it offers both personally and to the community.



Linda Lidberg receiving her well-deserved acknowledgement



Mr. Martinez, proud Dad



Pam Zirion, new Tech Trek Chair



Nomination forms and criteria for potential Tech Trek campers was sent to Middle School teachers in Lucia Mar School District. Now we wait and see who is nominated.

This is a big job and encompasses quite a lot of work. Linda Lindberg and Liz Wineman held the posts of chairpersons for many years between the two of them. I am attempting to follow in their footsteps.

However, I would really appreciate a member to partner with me. There are a lot of little things to do for Tech Trek and two people would be better than one. Most of the work is done in February - April, and then in June for the ice cream social, when girls and parents can meet alumni. July 12-17 is Tech Trek this year at UCSB and I will ask for volunteers from our membership to come to the university to assist with various short jobs helping with the campers.

Let me know if you'd like to join me on this journey to make a difference in girls' lives! Thank you!
Pam Zirion

Aria Martinez

Dear Pismo Beach Branch,

Thank you so much for sponsoring my experience at Tech Trek. I have really enjoyed my week here and am so grateful I got to go. My core class was Engineering and we learned how to build and code car sensors that detect how far away objects are. I also learned how to build and code a speaker to play music. Some of my favorite things about camp were my Engineering core class, the REEF, polymers, and grocery chemistry workshops and the food. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I will never forget it.



Dear AAUW members,

I can't express how thankful I am to have this opportunity to attend Blackwell camp at Tech Trek. I was able to get an idea of what I do and do not want to do in the future, meet new people, have amazing food, and overall a great time. Even though Computer Science was not something I would see myself doing in the future, I learned so many things including learning some of the steps to programming an app. I did start to have an interest in being a water chemist. Thanks to this organization not only letting us learn about the classes we got but brought in amazing women in STEM to talk about their careers

Sophia Lopez

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 NAMED GIFT HONOREE

All members are encouraged to contribute nominations for this year's Named Gift Honoree. Deadline for nominations is November 1. Please email your nominee's name and a brief paragraph highlighting why you are selecting her or the business to Mary Matakovich mmatakovavila@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 15, 2025 SATURDAY SILENT AUCTION/BINGO

Our Bingo and Silent Auction on November 15th is up and running! Many people have volunteered for the various jobs we need to fill for this major fundraising event! Thank you to all who have sold tickets or returned unsold ones to Joan Florence.

We appreciate those who have gotten items donated as well. Please let Pam know as you go to businesses and get items. Don't forget to attach a "donated item receipt" to your donations when you bring them to Pat Muhlethaler's home. Items are due by November 3rd.

We will set up for Bingo on November 14th, beginning at 3:30 at St. John's Church. Those of you who signed up to assist with lunch assembly please be there by then. In addition, we will be assembling the Silent Auction tables, tablecloths, and risers.

For other jobs, either Kathy or Pam will be reaching out to you regarding details of the job for which you signed up.

The next day, November 15th, we begin at 9:00AM and hope to be all cleaned up and finished by 4:30 PM. Thank you in advance for your participation in our major fundraiser.

Pam Zirion and Kathy Cohen

2024 SILENT AUCTION FUND RAISER

Breezeway Lunch

October 11, 2025





Help monitor our local School Board!
Lucia Mar USD Board of Trustees Calendar
7:00 p.m. 602 Orchard Street, Arroyo Grande

November 18 **December 16**

"Silent acquiescence in the face of tyranny is no better than outright agreement" by C.J. Redwine.

We cannot stay silent.

SAN LUIS OBISPO AAUW NOVEMBER PROGRAM PANEL

SLO County Immigrant Advocacy: Support Services and Volunteer Opportunities

Explore with our presenters the assistance and support available for local immigrants, documented and undocumented, who face personal and legal challenges during these unprecedented times and discover the opportunities to volunteer and serve as allies.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 8, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

WHERE: Social Hall, Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo, 2201 Lawton Ave. Free parking is available in the UUSLO parking lot, across the street from Meadow Park.

PRESENTERS:

Michelle Fries, Director of Grants and Programs, The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County – holder of the *SLO County UndocuSupport Fund*

Jan Meslin, Member, UUSLO Immigrant Advocacy Team and Volunteer, 805 SLO Rapid Response Network

Sponsored by the **American Association of University Women (AAUW), San Luis Obispo Branch.**



Opportunities to volunteer will also be presented. Chelsea Ruiz, The Community Foundation Program Manager at SLO County UndocuSupport will also be available for questions. Let'

MEMBERSHIP

Thirty-six Branch Members Strong!

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications amongst ourselves and with our community is vital to our continued existence. Remember to share with all of us what has brought you joy, sorrow, or pain. We wish to support each other. Priscilla would love to hear from you. But also, what do you wish to share with friends. Please consider bringing them into our branch so we can meet them. I, Susan Brazil, wish to share that I have a new great granddaughter, Charlie, born October 1. She lives with grandson, Kyle's family, in Reno. Unfortunately, I'm having back issues and won't be seeing her for a while. Now what is your news?

FRIENDSHIP OUTREACH

The November Sunshine report begins with our wonderful meeting on October 18, highlighting the history of our many years of Tech Trek and the most recent group of girls this past summer. As many campers were exceptionally busy with activities this Fall, we were lucky to have Aria Martinez attend our meeting with her father, Mr. Martinez. Aria shared her experiences at camp and the activities she enjoyed. Her father shared that it gave his daughter great joy to have been selected and she has carried that on into her school year, really blooming! Linda Lidberg was honored with a lovely floral spray by Patti Melsheimer for her 12 years of service to Tech Trek. Pam Zirion was introduced as the new chair of Tech Trek. It would be most helpful if someone would volunteer to support her.

Branch members have been busy as ever. Linda Lidberg flew to Colorado to celebrate her great grandbaby's first birthday and then on to Cancun to relax by the pool with members of her family. Susan Gray headed to England and Scotland with a tour group specializing in the fine arts. Rose Ann Steiner celebrated Homecoming with fellow alumni at Texas Tech and then headed to New York to take in the sights of the Big Apple with her daughter-in-law. Her tip was to just ignore the crowds and take it all in!! Mary Jorstad headed to Las Vegas with several other couples, assuring us that our treasury was safe at home! Kathi Pettersen reported that her stay-cation to Cambria in October with friends was great fun and she enjoyed checking out all the scarecrows and many of the excellent restaurants.

I would be lacking if I didn't report on our members who marched in No-Kings Day on that same day of our meeting. I believe they included Joan Florence, Susan Gray, Jean Slater, and Patti Melsheimer. Thousands were reported to have filled the streets of SLO and Santa Maria.

Laurie King and Joan Florence shared their secret to health and longevity: daily walking of their dogs! Liz Wineman sticks with larger beasts - she's moving her cattle, plus volunteering on a committee to help ameliorate the effects of the construction planned for the upcoming Dana Project. Pat Muhlethaler is sticking much closer to home these days, but has volunteered her garage to gather items for the Bingo Silent Auction. I had a great visit with her this week and found out that we were both raised in the San Fernando Valley and probably born in the same hospital!! And last but not least, we all missed Susan Brazil's bubbly personality at our October 18 meeting - she was unable to attend due to painful back issues which just came on recently.

If I missed your story, call or send me a text. Please reach out to Susan Brazil and all of our members who find that they can't join us regularly. You'll find a good chat will enrich your day!

Kathi Pettersen Scarecrow, Cambria



Peltzmans Albany, Oregon



LUNCH BUNCH

Photo on Thursday October 2, 2025
Rancho Nipomo BBQ & Deli

November Date and Location

Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:30 am

Lure Fish House

1101 Monterey St, Suite 100, San Luis Obispo

Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:30 am

Lure Fish House in downtown San Luis Obispo



offers a wide variety of seafood, including oysters, tacos, grilled fish, etc., and even some lunch specials. Check out their seasonally changing menu at <https://www.lurefishhouse.com/location/san-luis-obispo/#lunch-slo>.

RSVP no later than Sunday, November 2, 2025 to aauw5cpblunchbunch@gmail.com

To be added to or removed from our Lunch Bunch e-mail distribution list, please send your request to aauw5cpblunchbunch@gmail.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AAUW INTERBRANCH COUNCIL REPORT SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

Representatives from the following Branches were present: Paso Robles, Atascadero, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo and Five Cities Pismo Beach Branches. Jean Burns Slater attended as the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch representative. An overview of different branch activities was presented. Branches hold their meetings at 10 or 11 am on a Saturday. Most meetings are in person. Gaining new members continues to be a challenge for all. Supporting and sharing in fund raising activities was strongly encouraged.

Suggestions for increased visibility were:

- KSBY news clip on a specific event
- KCBX Central Coast Connections
- Farmer's Market table
- Participation in local parades such as Colony Days or Harvest Festival
- Wearing T shirts advertising AAUW: A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water. Eleanor Roosevelt

- Happy Hour at a home or establishment to meet and greet
- Bringing Tech Trek and other branch programs to service organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions' Club
- Branch members volunteering at middle school

HOSPITALTY NEEDS

December 13: Holiday Brunch	Main Dish, Fruit/Salad	Bread	contact Mary Weeks
January 24: General meeting	Fruit/Vegetables	Cookies/Bars	contact Maureen Kelly
February 21: General Meeting	Cheese/Crackers	Cookies/Bars	contact Maureen Kelly
March 21: General Meeting	Fruit/Vegetables		contact Maureen Kelly



AAUW-CA PUBLIC POLICY

Proposition 50

Get Out the Vote for November 4 State wide election.

Legislative Agenda

15 of the 26 bills supported by AAUW have made it to the Governor's desk! As of this writing, the Governor has signed two important bills.

- [AB 260](#), which protects medication abortion by establishing that the current standard of care for the use of mifepristone will remain legal in this state, protecting providers who legally provide mifepristone, requiring the continuation of existing coverage for medication abortion, and expanding access to reproductive health care through telehealth.
- [SB 627](#), a first-in-the-nation bill that makes it a crime for law enforcement officers to wear facial coverings during their duties, except in certain situations.

Two of our priority bills that are waiting for Governor Newsom's signature, SB 771 and AB 418.

- [SB 771](#), which addresses the problematic ways that major social media platforms have altered their content moderation practices—specifically allowing AI and algorithms to amplify credible threats and intimidation targeting historically marginalized groups. SB 771 holds these platforms accountable under existing California law.
- [SB 418](#), which prevents sex discrimination in healthcare coverage in CA, specifically protecting anyone subject to discrimination, generally, and sex stereotyping, specifically, from losing coverage or being denied benefits in California based on sex.

Stay up to date with the AAUW Public Policies CA at the AAUW CA website: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy>

We are tenacious and trailblazing: advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!

Our Mission

Higher Education & Economic Security

AAUW empowers women and girls by championing their success in higher education and pushing for bold policy solutions to create lasting change. For more than 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity in higher education and beyond. With a strong record of advocacy and action, AAUW continues to break barriers and defend the rights of women in education and the workplace.



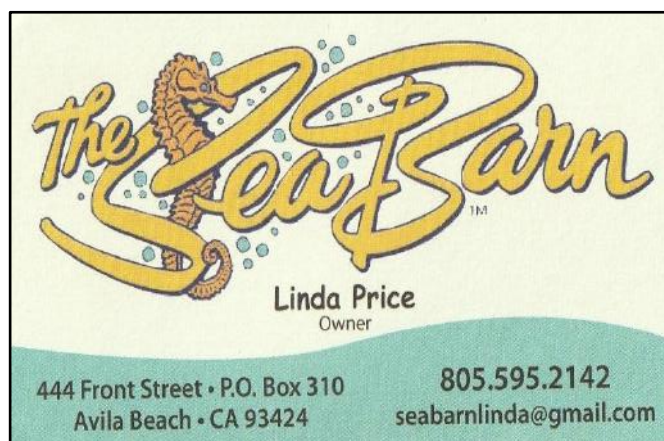
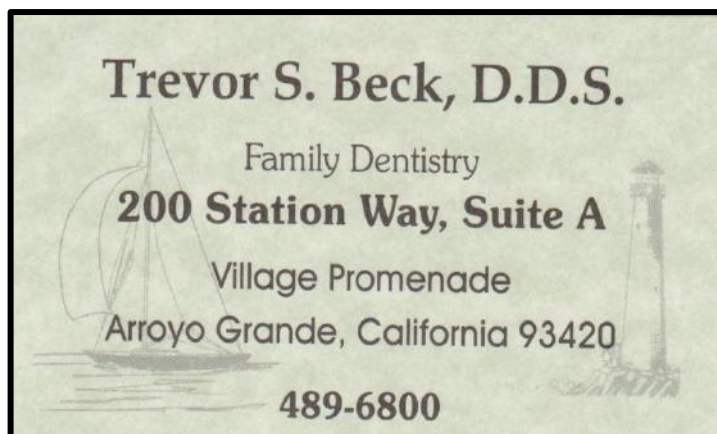
Our Values

Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.

Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. AAUW provides [critical funding](#) and support to advance equity in education and improve the lives of women and girls both in the U.S. and internationally. And we [advocate](#) for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.



**OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF THE FIVE CITIES – PISMO BEACH BRANCH OF AAUW!**





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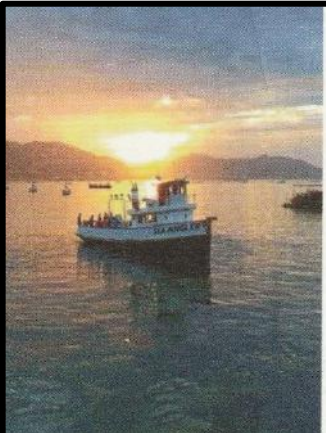
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 PO Box 1581 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Acknowledging the dedication of the AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch as it works to change our world.

Andi & Jeff Portney

