



Empowering Women  
since 1881



# The Beacon

Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

December 2016



January  
8

## NEW MEMBER TEA

Sunday, January 8, Time TBA 1421 Chanticleer Ave.

A tea to welcome and get acquainted with new members at the home of Membership Chair Louanne Ellison, 831-471-8381 or louanneec@gmail.com.

January  
21

## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS NETWORK BRUNCH

Saturday, January 21, 10:30 First United Methodist

Annual Roe v. Wade Brunch at First United Methodist Church at 250 California Ave., Santa Cruz. Donations at the door.

February  
25

## INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC) Event

Saturday, February 25, 11-2 Bayonet & Blackhorse GC

An opportunity for SC County, Monterey and Salinas Branch members to enjoy lunch and one another's company. Special guest speakers will be the authors from Sisters in Crime. Program & reservation form to follow in Jan. Bea-

March  
25

## AAUW SC County Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, March 25, Time TBA CFSCC, Aptos

Details & reservation form to follow in Feb. Beacon.

April  
11

## LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS Fundraiser at Shadowbrook

Tuesday, April 11, 5-closing Shadowbrook Restaurant

Fundraiser at Shadowbrook Restaurant in Capitola. Local Scholarships will receive 1/3 of the revenue from our meals, and this is a very fun event for our members.

May  
13

## LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS Luncheon & Installation of Officers

Saturday, May 13, 11:30-2 Seascape Resort

A great opportunity to hear from our scholarship recipients. Reservation info to follow in April Beacon.

**Board Meetings**

Board meetings are held at 10 a.m., on the first Monday of each month. If you wish to be on the agenda, please contact the Secretary in advance. All members are welcome to attend!

**Officers and Committees: 2016-2017****President**

Grace Gerbrandt 423-9472  
[graceger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceger@sbcglobal.net)

**President-Elect***open***Branch Treasurer**

Lynn Cummins 728-2128

[lynn.cummins@csun.edu](mailto:lynn.cummins@csun.edu)

**Secretary**

Kit Hein 854-2165

[bythebeach15@gmail.com](mailto:bythebeach15@gmail.com)

**Vice Presidents****Legal Advocacy***open***Membership**

Louanne Ellison-Cole 471-8381

[louanneec@gmail.com](mailto:louanneec@gmail.com)

**AAUW Fund**

Geri Williams 708-4133

[gerisjs@aol.com](mailto:gerisjs@aol.com)

**Program***open***Appointed****By-Laws & IBC Liaison**

Lois Holcomb 688-0541

[locomb@cruzio.com](mailto:locomb@cruzio.com)

**Local Scholarships / Publicity**

Jeanne Jorgensen 477-7025

[jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com)

**Tech Trek**

Jane Amaral 722-7839

[lvs Swamp@charter.net](mailto:lvs Swamp@charter.net)

**Public Policy**

Kathy Donovan 425-4513

[kathy@rattlebrain.com](mailto:kathy@rattlebrain.com)

**Hospitality**

Anne McCallum 465-1840

[jubilado@comcast.net](mailto:jubilado@comcast.net)

**Historian***open***Directory Editor**

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**President's message:**

Yes, the Election was a stunner and will be analyzed for a long time. One campaign drama still puzzles me: in his own coarse language, Donald Trump gleefully bragged about routinely sexually assaulting women.

In the old days, (two months ago,) I would have thought felony assault would prevent a person from becoming even city mayor. But more than sixty million voters - men and women - said it was no big deal and elected him President of the United States.

AAUW has advocated dignity and equity for women since 1881. The 2016 election makes it clear that much work and persuasion is still needed. The struggle for Women's Right to Vote was long, 1848 to 1920. Many men supported women in this effort, advocated for it, marched with women, but ultimately, success depended on women themselves, on their heroic efforts and tenacity.

Today, AAUW works tirelessly for women's rights at State and National levels. We work in areas of equal pay, equal advancement in employment, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, access to affordable health care, family planning, reproductive rights, legal advocacy, retirement security, work-life balance, family leave.

The road looks a little longer today, the goals not so clearly shared. As a member of AAUW, you help in the important struggles ahead. Your dues help fund our efforts; your membership strengthens our voice. Your participation builds our community. Thank you.

*Grace Gerbrandt*  
 President, AAUW Santa Cruz County

## Membership News



As many of you know, long time member **Natalie Oliver** passed away October 28, 2016. Visit this page for a wonderful write up on Natalie's life: [Natalie Oliver obituary](#)

Natalie was a tireless advocate for women and girls through her actions and generosity to Local Scholarships and Tech Trek.

Cards can be sent to her son Michael Oliver at 1600 46th Ave., Capitola, CA 95010. The family requests any memorials be directed to our Local Scholarships Fund.

We also extend our sincere condolences to former member **Nancy Eidam** who lost her daughter Gralen to cancer on October 23, 2016: [Gralen Wilson obituary](#)



### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Samantha Forde  
550 Meder St.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
831-426-9527  
sameford@gmail.com

Harriet Cohen  
419 Spring St.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
occicohen@cruzio.com

Martha Mangan  
201 Prospect Heights  
Santa Cruz, CA, 95065  
mmanganesc7@gmail.com

### WELCOME BACK:

Carol Schmidt  
14310 Campagna Way  
P.O. Box 1049  
Watsonville, CA 95077-1049  
831-722-9460  
carolschmidt@ix.netcom.com

Clarice Wiggins  
35 Secondo Way  
Royal Oaks, CA 95076-5414  
831-724-0715  
hcwig@aol.com

### Know someone who would like to join our branch?

Our local membership application can be found here: [AAUW Santa Cruz County Membership Application](#)

**Mail Membership Application and \$84 to:** Louanne Ellison, Membership VP 1421 Chanticleer Avenue Santa Cruz CA 95062-3174

### Still need to officially renew your membership?

Annual dues are **\$84** for regular membership (National \$49, unless previously paid by Life Members or National members joining the branch, State \$20 and Branch \$15). Dues are renewable online at [aauw.org](#), look for **JOIN** on the right top bar and follow the directions. You can also mail your dues to Louanne Ellison (address above) with your address, phone number, email, how you heard about AAUW Santa Cruz, College graduated from with its location and your major. Or you can phone Louanne for an application. **Questions?** Contact Membership Chair **Louanne Ellison** @ 831-471-8381 or louanneec@gmail.com.

### HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee. A vital part of the branch operations, the Nominating Committee should be made up of members who have many branch contacts as well as a willingness to spend time calling, emailing, and otherwise contacting those members to ask them to serve on the Branch Board next year. The bylaws state that 5 committee members should represent the many section groups that we have.



Please step forward to help on this committee. The first meeting will be in December. A slate of officers has to be in place by early February. The election will be held in March. Call Kit Hein 925-305-6301 or 831-854-2165 or email [bythebeach15@gmail.com](#)

## Membership News cont'd



## AAUW Fund

The October 29 Fund Luncheon in Danville showcased our Fellowship & Grant Recipients. Click on a link below to a video of the event:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/meet-fellowship-grant-recipients/>

Fun Fact: This year, our branch has contributed \$2,650 in amounts of \$15- \$500 to the AAUW Fund, money that's used where needed to advance equity for women and girls. [The AAUW Fund Diagram: One AAUW. One Mission. One Fund.](#)

### SCC-AAUW Action: Joint Event with League of Women Voters a BIG Success!

Although it is a little late, our thanks are no less sincere to all the people who helped make our "Propositions Night" a huge success. Those members who attended, along with 85+ students from Cabrillo, were treated to an informative, collaborative evening. Working with the League of Women voters, we showed the community how seriously AAUW takes the "advocacy" part of our mission. - *Lynn Cummins and Kit Hein*

## Local Scholarship News

Thanks to **Jacqueline Cotta**, a former AAUW member and **Elizabeth Porter** for recent contributions to this great fund. Details of funds raised at our Holiday event will be in the next Beacon.



### NEW NEWS is GOOD NEWS!



Two of our former Tech Trek girls, Sophia Tatum-McNeill and Sarah Hancock, who are now seniors at Aptos High, were recently selected to compete in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. It is the first time in seven years anyone has been chosen

from Aptos High. It is truly a National honor. You can read more in The Aptos Times paper, Nov. 15th edition. I am proud to tell you that the 2015 Valedictorian and Salutatorian of Aptos were also former Tech Trek students. I'm sure there are many more great success stories.

Kit Hein and I recently attended a camp coordinators meeting in Foster City. We learned what is happening with Tech Trek on the National and California levels. It helped us to understand the internal workings of such a comprehensive program.

Thank you to the following people who have made Tech Trek donations to our branch this Fall: **Sue Kleibrink, Debra Wallace, Susan Howard, Pamela Peterson, Pat Nellany, Clarice Wiggins, Carol Schmidt** —and **Audrey Strayer**, in memory of **Natalie Oliver**.

If you have questions or concerns that are not addressed in the letter just sent to our membership, contact me at 359-3357 or [lvswamp@charter.net](mailto:lvswamp@charter.net). Hope to hear from many of you so we can sponsor five girls again! Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Jane Amaral and Kit Hein  
TT Coordinators

## Five Takeaways from Election 2016

November 17, 2016

The seemingly never-ending 2016 election is finally over, and it was one for the record books. It was a year fraught with controversial candidates, positions, statements, and tweets – one that saw an [uptick in voter interest and engagement](#) but then a [major decline in voter turnout](#). It was an election that saw [increased levels of anxiety among voters](#) as well as [incidents of bullying in schools](#).

One important takeaway I have about this election is that candidates did speak to issues affecting women and families. Remember in the first presidential debate when both candidates had mentioned equal pay AND child care in the first five minutes? While America, and the world respectively, try to process last week's outcome, I'm here to help you nurse your election season hangover with a few takeaways to mull over.

### 1. 2016 Shocker

No one saw this coming. Reading the polls and looking at early voting and registration numbers, who could have guessed it? For the first time ever, America elected a president with no background in politics or public service, who touted his role as a business leader as his main qualification for office. All most Americans have to go on is the controversial racist, sexist, and xenophobic language President-elect Donald Trump used on the campaign trail.

While campaign rhetoric is one thing and governing is another, we do have to continue to hold Trump accountable for his behavior both during the campaign and after. AAUW, along with the rest of the country, will be waiting with bated breath to see what we can expect from the Trump administration and the appointees [who will make up his cabinet](#). We believe personnel is policy. We will continue to speak truth to power as we have for 135 years and will act as valuable allies or fierce critics, depending on what's warranted at the time.

### 2. Congress Stays the Same, Mostly

The GOP ended the night still controlling both chambers of Congress. Remember, this is the Congress we had before; it hasn't changed that much.

We will still be focusing on [AAUW policy priorities](#). Women are still facing unequal pay and calling for relief through the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) and [Pay Equity for All Act](#). Students are still waiting for real action on [college affordability](#) and high student debt, and they expect a continued commitment to [combating campus sexual assault](#). Working families are still looking for good jobs with [paid family and medical leave](#) and other [workplace equity policies](#). And Americans still don't have the basic necessity of a [full Supreme Court](#).

Interesting fact to remember: Vice President-elect Mike Pence was a U.S. representative for more than a decade and knows the ins and outs of the process. The vice president-elect looks to be a major player in a Trump presidency, but it'll be interesting to see what his impact will be on policy and if Trump administration priorities will line up with Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) and those of other House Republicans.

### 3. Good Night for Women in the Senate

Women did make impressive gains in Senate representation this cycle. In 2017, there will be [21 women](#) serving in the U.S. Senate – the highest number in history. The chamber will also feature a record number of women of color. Senators-elect Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Kamala Harris (D-CA) [made history](#) by becoming the first Thai American, first Latina, and first biracial woman, respectively, to serve in the Senate.

### 4. AAUW-Supported Ballot Initiatives Did Well

Ballot measures related to AAUW's priority issues had a pretty successful night. Voters in Maine, Colorado, Washington, and Arizona voted to [increase their state minimum wages](#). Arizona and Washington also approved new paid sick leave programs. In Missouri, a ballot question on [raising the cigarette tax](#) to help fund a school voucher scheme failed. But it was disappointing to see that the state passed a measure requiring government-issued photo IDs in future elections. Alaska passed an initiative to [automatically register](#) all qualified voters when applying for a Permanent Fund dividend. In addition, California passed a [number of AAUW-supported ballot initiatives](#), including wins for community college funding and improving health coverage for low-income Californians.

### 5. Voter Suppression Tactics in Motion

I'm sure I wasn't alone at 10 p.m. on election night wondering why there were so many states too close to call amid reports about polls going haywire. From miles-long early voting lines to extended voting hours due to [Election Day glitches](#), many would-be voters saw their right to vote stymied at every turn. This wasn't a complete surprise since it is the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protections of the [Voting Rights Act \(VRA\)](#). Since the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, states have been emboldened to pass harmful voting restrictions in response to discredited claims of voter fraud.

All told, in 2016, [14 states had new voting restrictions in place](#) for the first time in a presidential election, and many amount to a return to the poll tax, which disenfranchised so many would-be voters. Politicians should not be allowed to choose their electorate – or to manipulate it in a way that not only silences voters' voices but affects the outcome.

You can show your support for enhanced voting rights [by urging your member of Congress](#) to cosponsor the Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore the protections of the VRA and ensure equal access to the ballot box in all future elections.

#### Go More In-Depth



AAUW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy Lisa Maatz discussed the general election and more in a conference call with members.

[Listen now](#)

## December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Local Schol- arships Holi- day Party	
4	5 10am Board Meeting	6 7pm Evening Books*	7	8 1pm Books Sec. 1*	9	10
11	12 12pm Bridge*	13	14	15 1pm Books Sec. 2*	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Happy Hannukah!
25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30	31

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

## January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 11:45 Lunch Bunch, TBA*	6	7
8 New Member Tea	9 10am Board Meeting	10 7pm Evening Books*	11	12	13	14
15	16 MLK Day 12pm Bridge*	17	18	19	20	21 10am Repro- Rights Brunch
22 /	23 1pm Read- er's Theater*	24 /	25	26 1pm Books Sec. 1&2*	27 10am Great Decisions*	28
29	30	31				



## AAUW Santa Cruz County Branch Interest Groups

All work and no play will make you dull--and to counteract that we have a variety of interest groups enjoyed by many of our members. Some have gone on for years!

Some of these groups are close to capacity (limited by how much room people have in their homes) but it's always possible to start a new section. If you're interested in starting a new group, check with Louanne Ellison, she will be able to give you some pointers.

Membership in these interest groups is a privilege of AAUW membership; you may bring a non-member guest three times but then we ask that they join AAUW if they wish to continue to attend. In order to attract new members and make AAUW's aims and goals more visible to the public, our lunches/meetings are open to the public.

### Book Groups

Our book groups have become extremely popular. Numbers in the groups fluctuate, and if you're interested contact the leaders to see if there's an opening at your preferred time. A new group is not difficult to establish, that's how we ended up with three!

**Tuesday Evening Books, The Tuesday night Book Group** will meet on December 6, 2016. This month's book is **THE READERS OF BROKENWHEEL** by Katarina Bivald; our reviewer is Lynn Raadik. We will meet at the home of Joyce Hopkins, 251 Beach Pines Dr., Aptos. Call 688-2397 for directions. All are welcome to join this lively group. Get in touch with Joan Schwimmer, 408-353-2657, joanschwimmer@hotmail.com for further information.

**Thursday Afternoon Books, Section One, Leader Carole Beckett**, phone 457-2992, email [cabeckett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cabeckett@sbcglobal.net); December Meeting, December 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Marian Disperati, 531 Pinecone Dr, Scotts Valley. Email for RSVP is [raymard@pacbell.net](mailto:raymard@pacbell.net)

The book for December is **Wesley the Owl: The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl**. Discussion by Carole Beckett (and also Andrea Losee)

January 26 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Anne Sherwood, 632 Townsend Dr., Aptos. Email for RSVP is [annesherwood2@gmail.com](mailto:annesherwood2@gmail.com) The book for January is **A Tale for the Time Being** by Ruth Ozeki. Discussion by Linda Owens.

**Thursday Afternoon Books, Section Two, Leader, Susan Elgin**, phone (831) 335-7288, email [elgin@cruzio.com](mailto:elgin@cruzio.com). This group reads one book each month.

On December 15 we will discuss **The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating** by Elisabeth Tova Bailey & on January 26, we will discuss **Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** by Jonathan Safran Foer.

### Reader's Theater

The Readers Theater interest group will be meeting Jan. 23rd and Feb. 27th. To join and for further information, contact Barbara Lewis, chairperson of this interest group, by telephone at 335-7816 or by email at [bobbi44@gmail.com](mailto:bobbi44@gmail.com).

### Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch meets on the first Thursday of the month. All AAUW members are welcome to join us. Contact Kathy Oing [irishpml@yahoo.com](mailto:irishpml@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Bridge

Bridge is coordinated by Jeanne Jorgensen. Contact her for details at [Jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com](mailto:Jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com), 831-477-7025.

**Dining Out—Seeking a new leader** This is a lot like Lunch Bunch except it's in the evening and spouses/partners are included. If you are interested in leading the group in trying different restaurants around town, contact former leader Linda Owens, 408-204-0408, [jowens7069@aol.com](mailto:jowens7069@aol.com).

### Great Decisions

Great Decisions' eight week series begins Friday, January 27, 2017 at 10 am, *Latin America's Political Pendulum*.

Friday February 10, *Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan*

Friday, February 24, *The Future of Europe After Brexit*

New members and interested visitors are welcome. Contact Vickie Birdsall [vickiebirdsall@yahoo.com](mailto:vickiebirdsall@yahoo.com) or Grace Gerbrandt [graceger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceger@sbcglobal.net).



# Branch Schedule

## 2016-2017



December	3	Holiday Luncheon	Seascape Golf Course
	5	Board Meeting	CFSCC
.....			
January	8	New Member Tea	Louanne Ellison's Home
	9	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	21	Reproductive Rights Brunch	First United Methodist
.....			
February	6	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	25	IBC Luncheon	Bayonet/Blackhorse Golf Club
.....			
March	6	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	25	Annual Business Meeting	CFSCC
.....			
April	3	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	11	Local Scholarships Fundraiser	Shadowbrook
.....			
May	1	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	13	Local Scholarship Luncheon	Seascape Resort





### Did you know...?

Through research, education, advocacy, and philanthropy, AAUW members have worked together for more than 130 years as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

**Research:** AAUW conducts groundbreaking research on issues related to gender equity in education and the workplace. This research serves as a catalyst for action at local, state and national levels.

**Education:** AAUW’s campus leadership programs shape the lives of thousands of college women to be the next generation of leaders. Through our summer Tech Trek camps on college and university campuses, we are leveling the playing field for girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through AAUW Start Smart and AAUW Work Smart, we are fighting to close the pay gap, one workshop at a time.

**Advocacy:** We advocate for policies that advance equity for women and girls. We support challenges to sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

**Philanthropy:** One of the world’s largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 230 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2016-17 academic year. –*Courtesy of Kit Hein*

### Help Us to Help Others

**Our philanthropic projects benefit women of all ages,  
both here at home and across the nation.**

*Make a donation to remember a family member, friend or colleague, or to honor a birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special occasion.*

#### AAUW Fund

Make checks payable to  
AAUW FUND and send to  
Geraldine Williams  
412 Rio Del Mar Blvd.  
Aptos, CA 95003

*for AAUW Funds contributions,  
you may mail your check or do  
it online on the AAUW Web-  
site (at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)- click on Ed-  
ucational Funding)*

#### Local Scholarships

Make checks payable to  
AAUW-LS and send to  
Jeanne Jorgensen  
270 19th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

#### Tech Trek

#### (Girls Science Scholarships)

Make checks payable to  
AAUW with Tech Trek on the  
memo line  
and send to  
Jane Amaral  
409 Larkin Valley Road  
Watsonville, CA 95076

In Memory of/In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
Send announcement to \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_