



Empowering Women
since 1881



The Beacon

Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

January 2016

Monterey Bay Interbranch Council Annual Luncheon

When: Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Seascape Resort in Aptos, CA

Who: Our speaker will be **Dr. Bonnie Irwin**,
Provost & Vice-President for Academic Af-
fairs, CSUMB



Dr. Irwin was an AAUW EF grantee during her dissertation work, and is a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UC, Berkeley.

Luncheon choices: (\$20 all inclusive)

Either: _____ Poached prawns on heirloom tomatoes, with grilled heirloom corn kernels, shaved red onions, green beans, spinach, basil topped with roasted garlic dressing

Or: _____ Classic Brown Derby Cobb salad with grilled chicken breast, avocado over romaine lettuce with crumbled blue cheese, chopped egg, bacon and classic blue cheese dressing

Vegetarian option is also available.

Luncheons all include chef's choice of dessert and beverage

Make checks out to AAUW-MPB for \$20. ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PRE-PAID AND ARE NON-REFUNDABLE! RSVP BEFORE FEB. 19th with: a check, menu selection and phone number.

Mail to: Jane DiGirolamo at 665 Park St., Salinas, CA 93901-1352

Member name: _____ Tel# _____

Guest names: _____ Tel# _____

AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881

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: 2015-2016**President**

Judy Cavin Brown 423-2439
jwcavinbrown@comcast.net

President-Elect

Grace Gerbrandt 423-9472
graceger@sbcglobal.net

Branch Treasurer

Lynn Cummins 728-2128
lynn.cummins@csun.edu

Secretary

Louanne Ellison-Cole 471-8381
louanneec@gmail.com

Vice Presidents**Legal Advocacy**

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lorrainemargon@gmail.com

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Kathy Oing

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Program

open

Appointed**By-Laws & IBC Liaison**

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Board News



President's Message

Here we are beginning 2016 with the much needed rain. It seems as though 2015 sped past like a whirlwind, with a somewhat brusque beginning then rushing to just as abrupt a finish. My hope is for a somewhat less hectic and more productive time in this year.

Many of us have dealt with changes in our lives this past year, and continue to do so. One thing we can be sure of is that we will face more changes in the coming year. Desired or not, expected or not, the changes will come. Some are things we will have no voice in, or control over. However, we can choose how we face them, and how we conduct ourselves along the way. Every journey has its beautiful scenery, as well as the not always appreciated sagebrush parries. It all has its purpose. Every single experience adds to who we are ever becoming.

Even though the year has only begun, it is already that time of year again. Election of officers will take place in April. Thus, the slate of nominees must be full by March. Grace Gerbrandt will once again be heading up the Nominating Committee. Each of the interest groups is required to contribute one person to serve on the Nominating Committee. These individuals need to be members not already serving on the Board. No, one person cannot cover more than one interest group's responsibility. We have been functioning with a few vacant positions yet again this year; and there will be even more positions to fill for the coming year. If you have a desire to serve our branch in some capacity, please don't wait to be asked, volunteer. If you have any questions, or wish to volunteer, contact Grace Gerbrandt.

Let's look forward to the year to come with hopeful anticipation and participation.

Judy Cavin Brown
 President
 AAUW Santa Cruz County Branch

Membership News



With Sympathy...

Member and sister of Anne McCallum, **Mary Ellen Rusch**, passed away Dec. 18th in Mt view after three weeks in Dominican Hospital and a week in hospice care. A celebration of her life took place in Mt. View on January 2nd, 2016. She was a long time member of AAUW in various places where she lived in the U.S. including Santa Cruz.

Published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on Dec. 23, 2015:

Mary Ellen Rusch
Sept. 11, 1929 - Dec. 18, 2015
Resident of Santa Cruz and Los Altos
..."Lani", "M.E.", "Emmy"

In loving memory of our mother, sister, wife, grandmother, great grandmother & friend. Mary Ellen Rusch, (NEE Svhirra) passed peacefully in Mountain View, under the care of her family and caregiver, Leilani. She is survived by her sister, Anne McCallum, her ex-husband, Ivan Robert Rusch and her loving children: Steven Winton Riley, Laurel Ann Riley, Daniel Stuart Riley & Richard John Todd Riley. Her adored grandchildren, Clay Winton Riley, Daniel James "DJ" Riley, Heidi Powless, Leilani Codner, Sabrina Lynn Riley, Connelley "Wills" Riley, Kyra Rose Riley & Joseph Todd "JT" Riley and her Great Grand son, Matthias Powless.

She lived out her last 25 years in Aptos and Santa Cruz, Ca., singing, performing & volunteering whenever possible. Singing on stage was her biggest passion & joy, as were her grandchildren. Previously, she lived and raised her four children in Palo Alto and Los Altos, Ca. Mary Ellen became a very successful realtor in Los Altos and also went on to get her Masters in Marriage & Family Counseling from San Jose State University. For all family and friends, a celebration of life will be held at "Michaels at Shoreline" in Mountain View, Ca on January 2, 2016 from 1-4pm. In Lieu of flowers we kindly ask that you consider a donation to your local SPCA or Veterans Programs.

Dan Riley (Son)
650-906-6528

Rilecon@me.com

- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santacruzsentinel/obituary.aspx?n=mary-ellen->

Our heartfelt condolences to...Lorraine Margon for the loss of her mother Jean. Lorraine and family were by her side at her passing on January 10 in Maryland.

Congratulations & email address change...

To Rosemary Anderson on her new position as Emergency Services Manager for the County of Santa Cruz. Rosemary's new email address is: 4rlaing@gmail.com. Please make a note of it.

Welcome, new member...

Susan Kettmann
1980 Ocean Street Extension
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-428-5364 / suekettmann@gmail.com

Note email address change...

Louanne Ellison-Cole also has a new email address: louanneec@gmail.com.

Let Hospitality Chair [Anne McCallum](#) know if you hear of anyone who needs a kind thought or some cheering up. Tel. 465-1840.



It is that time of year again! We are seeking volunteers for the Nominating Committee as well as Board Members for 2016-2017. Please contact President-Elect Grace Gerbrandt at 831-423-9472 or graceger@sbcglobal.net to volunteer!



Our branch enjoyed a lovely holiday lunch at Seascap Golf Course on December 12, 2015. Food and entertainment were wonderful and participants spent freely to win raffle prizes. Book sales, white elephant sales, crafts and food items are snapped up. The committee is

happy to report that we added a little over \$2000.00 to our scholarship fund.

If you missed the photos of the event published in the Dec. Beacon, please click here: [Holiday Photos](#)

Mark your calendars for **February 9th at Shadowbrook** where you can enjoy good food and contribute to the fund as Shadowbrook will donate 33 1/3 % of your bill to the Local Scholarship Fund. Call the Shadowbrook at 831-475-1511 to make reservations for February 9th or book a table for your party online: <http://www.shadowbrook-capitola.com/home/home.php>

Be sure to mention "AAUW" when making your reservation.

Local Scholarship News

As many of you know we have endowments at UCSC and Cabrillo. The endowment report on the Helen Sigismund Gibson AAUW Endowment Award from UCSC has been posted. Here is a financial summary:

Market Value as of July 1, 2014 \$43,592.10

Gifts Received 117.50

Change in Fund Value 2,986.16

Endowment Payout 1,368.27

Market Value on June 30, 2015 \$45,327.49

When we receive information on the endowment at Cabrillo we will post it.

If you wish to contribute directly to the fund or if you wish to contribute to our current account, please send your tax deductible checks to Jeanne Jorgensen, 270 19th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Thanks to **Beth Svee, Pat Clark, Trudie Fator and Audrey Strayer** who have recently contributed to this fund.

Tech Trek News

Our Tech Trek year is beginning with letters of information sent to principals of eleven middle and Jr. high schools. Seems like a lot to tackle, but when a few members met in November, we decided to notify all schools for an opportunity to become involved. Thanks to Jean Gregson for her time writing and mailing the letters.

We have had donations since last June from some of our members. Thank you to all of the following people who have contributed: **Claudia Bartelt, Ginny & Roy Lohr, Anne McCallum, Natalie Oliver, Andrea Losee, Barbara Lewis, Jean Gregson, Audie Henry, Lois Holcomb, Anne Sherwood, Jamie Muzzio.**

We have committed to sending five girls to Tech Trek camp again this year. There are ten colleges/universities in CA that host this program, however, it is very costly. Our girls will attend one of two camps held on the Stanford campus. The cost is \$900 per girl (\$50 from the family).

Donations are welcome through February. Please join your fellow members in supporting this great Math/Science program for our 7th grade girls.

Please make check to: AAUW with Tech Trek on the memo line. (Note it is not the same as the past.) Send to: Jane Amaral, 409 Larkin Valley Road, Watsonville, 95076.

If you would like more info at this point, feel free to call me at 831-359-3357, or email me at lvswamp@charter.net. Hope to hear from you!

Thank you,
Jane Amaral, TT Coordinator



AAUW Funds

**Santa Cruz County Branch
AAUW Fundraising Luncheon 2016
Benefiting AAUW Funds**

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Seascape Resort
One Seascape Resort Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

\$30 per person with reservation; \$35 at the door

Guest Speaker: Rachel Nelson

- Rachel is an American Fellowship recipient working toward her Ph.D in Visual studies at UC, Santa Cruz. Her research focuses on contemporary art practices that participate in conflicts for power, political representation, economic stability, and racial and social justice.

~ Invite your guests and join your AAUW friends to hear Rachel and enjoy a delicious luncheon of Roasted Turkey and Avocado Salad with Grapefruit Radish, Organic Greens and Lemon Vinaigrette.

\$30 (a portion will be announced as tax deductible) per person or \$35 at the door

Lunch served at 11:45 a.m.

For additional information please contact Geri Williams (gerisjs@aol.com) or Kathy Oing (irishpml@yahoo.com), co-VP's AAUW Funds

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Number attending _____ x \$30 each = \$_____ (Total Enclosed)
(Your check is your receipt.)

Reservations with payment must be received by **Tuesday, March 8, 2016.**

Cost is \$35 at the door.

Mail completed form and check payable to **AAUW (with Santa Cruz County Branch on the information**

AAUW Vision Statement:

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

Working within this Vision statement, in 2015, AAUW awarded \$3.7 million dollars to 241 Fellowship and Grant recipients in the U.S., with 25 recipients studying or directing projects in California.

And, because of the generosity of our members and branches, \$509,701.08 was contributed by California in 2014 to the various programs under the AAUW Fund.

Please plan to attend the Santa Cruz County Branch of AAUW's Fund-Raising luncheon this March 12, 2016, at Seascape Resort. Consider bringing a friend and/or potential member for AAUW !

Our Guest Speaker on March 12 will be Rachel Nelson, an AAUW American Fellowship recipient working toward her Ph.D in Visual studies at UC, Santa Cruz. Her research focuses on contemporary art practices that participate in conflicts for power, political representation, economic stability, and racial and social justice.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet and welcome one of the recipients of AAUW Funds. Send in your reservation on the attached flyer - with check made out to: AAUW - don't forget to write Santa Cruz County Branch on the information line at the bottom of your check!

For further information, contact:
Geri Williams, gerisjs@aol.com
Kathy Oing, irishpml@yahoo.com

AAUW WASHINGTON UPDATE

January 8, 2016

Happy New Year! For many, the beginning of a new year marks an ideal time to set new goals and make personal resolutions. In AAUW's policy shop, we like to kick the year off by prognosticating what's in store for the political world in 2016 (see below). Last year came with political highs and lows, which I addressed just last week in a Huffington Post blog called "[The Good, the Bad, and the Oh-So-Ugly for Women in 2015.](#)"

This year, we'll continue to make progress for the working world, with better policies on paid leave and higher minimum wage laws in the states, as well as improved federal overtime rules and better compensation data reporting that will help close the pay gap. The new year is an optimal time to build upon the momentum of 2015's accomplishments. Recently approved local and state laws to raise the minimum wage are a positive development in our fight to raise the federal minimum wage. During an election year, it will be critical to make sure that other AAUW policy priorities such as paid sick leave, high quality public education, access to birth control, and equal pay are also discussed in the political debates. The AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps will continue advocating for legislation to address campus sexual assault, improve the climate for women in STEM, and open up more career and technical education options for girls.

In addition to these policy efforts, our grassroots work is equally important. In the coming weeks, we will be hosting all-member conference calls to kick off our 2016 "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard" voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaign, and to update members on our Title IX coordinator outreach. If you are looking for the perfect branch activity, look no further than delivering these game-changing Title IX materials to your local Title IX coordinators!

There is a lot on our plate for 2016, but as always, I know that AAUW advocates are ready to meet the challenge.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Maatz
Vice President of Government Relations

Top Story

President Obama vetoes bill that would repeal Obamacare and defund Planned Parenthood

On Friday President Obama [vetoed a bill](#) that would repeal key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including a measure to block federal funding of Planned Parenthood. Earlier this week, the House approved the bill on a near party-line vote (240-181). The Senate passed its version of the bill last month. Neither chamber appears to have the votes to override the veto. In addition to defunding Planned Parenthood, the bill would have removed the mandate for individuals to purchase health care, halted the expansion of Medicaid, and eliminated the mandate for employers to provide insurance to employees.

State Spotlight

Fair Pay Act takes effect in California

California's Fair Pay Act [was passed](#) in October and went into effect on January 1. Dubbed the strictest fair pay law in the country, companies in California are required to validate pay gaps between female and male employees regardless of their job title. The law also contains anti-retaliation language so co-workers can ask each other about pay without retribution. Companies in the state have begun reassessing their wage practices and some have already begun addressing inequities. Software company Salesforce spent \$3 million to adjust its payroll and social media company Buffer provided a Transparent Salary Calculator to employees to check their salaries.



HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10	11	12 12pm Bridge*	13	14	15	16
17	18 MLK Day 1pm Reader's Theater*	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26 12pm Bridge*	27	28 1pm Books Sec. 1&2*	29 10am Great Decisions*	30

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10am Board Meeting	2 7pm Evening Books*	3	4 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ The Hideout, Aptos*	5	6
7	8	9 LS Shadowbrook Dinner	10	11	12	13
14 	15 1pm Reader's Theater* 	16 12pm Bridge*	17	18	19	20
21	22 1pm Reader's Theater*	23	24	25 1pm Books Sec. 1& 2*	26	27 IBC Event, see pg. 1 for details
28	29					



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 Rosemary Anderson, 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 luncheons/meetings are open to the public. Spouses, partners and guests are welcome to attend the Dining Out and Evening Gourmet groups.

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, Leader Jeanne Jorgensen,

Bookies, the Tuesday evening book group, will meet February 2, 2016 at Lynn Raadik's home, 697 Paradise Park, Santa Cruz. Claudia Slater will review CIRCLE THE SUN by Paula McLain. The meeting begins at 7pm. All are welcome. For directions, call 425-1038.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section One, Leader Carole Beckett, phone 457-2992, email cabeckett@sbcglobal.net;

The Thursday Afternoon Book Group will meet January 28 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Carole Beckett, 353 Henry Cowell Drive, Santa Cruz. Contact her at cabeckett@sbcglobal.net or call 831-457-2992. The book is Longbourn by Jo Baker and the discussion leader will be Barbara Lewis.

In February, the group will meet February 25 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Anne Sherwood, 632 Townsend Dr, Aptos. Phone 688-9753 and email annesherwood2@gmail.com. Our book will be Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown. Our discussion leader will be Andrea Losee.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section Two, leader Dorothy Patrick, dorothyapat@yahoo.com. This group reads one book each month.

On Jan. 28, the meeting will be at Karen Green's house. The book is Gutenberg's Assistant by Alex Christie.

On Feb. 25, we are reading Dead Wake, the Last Crossing of the Lusitania, by Eric Larsen. We meet at Pat Nellany's home and I will be the reviewer.

In March, we meet on March 17 to discuss Tell the Wolves I'm Home, by Carol Rifka Brunt. It will be at my house, and the reviewer is Susan Elgin.

Reader's Theater

The Readers Theater interest group will meet on January 18 and February 15 from 1-3 PM to socialize and engage in play reading at Pat Clark's house. To join and for further information, contact Barbara Lewis, chairperson of this interest group, by telephone at 335-7816 or by email at bobbie44@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch meets on the first Thursday of the month. All AAUW members are welcome to join us. Join us for lunch at The Hideout in Aptos on February 4. Contact Kathy Oing irishpml@yahoo.com for more information.

Bridge

Bridge is coordinated by Marline Bushey. Contact her for details mbushey1@yahoo.com, 425-1491. We are looking for NEW MEMBERS!

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.

Walking Group

Our walks are about 60 to 90 minutes on easy to moderate trails, beginning at 9:30am. For more information, contact Andrea Losee alosee@cruzio.com.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions: Foreign Policy Group. Our 2016 eight week series begins Friday, January 29, 2016 at 10am with the topic Migration. *Discussion Leader: Vickie Birdsall; Hostess: Grace Gerbrandt*

February 12's topic is Challenges for the United Nations led by Joan Schwimmer. The location will be announced.

February 26's topic is Climate Change led by Sarita Motove and Melisa Walker. The location will be announced

New members and visitors are welcome. Contact Vickie Birdsall vickiebirdsall@yahoo.com or Grace Gerbrandt, graceger@sbcglobal.net.



Branch Schedule

2016



February	1	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	9	LS Fundraiser	Shadowbrook
	27	Luncheon (IBC)	Seascape Resort
March	7	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	12	Luncheon (Funds)	Seascape Resort
April	4	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	9	Luncheon (Business Meeting) (LAF)	
	15-17	State Convention	San Mateo Marriott
May	2	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	14	Luncheon (Local Scholarships)	Seascape Resort
June	6	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	26	Annual BBQ/Picnic	



Our Vision is Simple

We bring people together for the common goal of breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

Our Mission is Sound

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.



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.

A card or letter announcing your gift will be sent to the person you name.

Educational Foundation / AAUW Funds

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

Legal Advocacy Fund / AAUW Funds

Make checks payable to
AAUW FUNDS and send to
Lorraine Margon
329 Canon Del Sol
La Selva Beach, CA 95076

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 _____