



Empowering Women
since 1881



The Beacon

Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

September 2014

AAUW Santa Cruz County AAUW Funds Luncheon

The League of Women Voters will present the Pros and Cons of the six state ballot propositions for the November 4th election. This is a non-partisan explanation of state propositions with supporting and opposing arguments. The League encourages informed and active participation in government.

Two of the propositions were put on the ballot by the California Legislature, and four of them were put on the ballot by supporters who gathered sufficient signatures; of these, three are initiatives that seek to change state law and one is a referendum on an existing law.

See pages 4 & 5 of the Beacon under Public Policy news for details of the six propositions.



October 25th
11:30am–2:00 pm

Mei Gardens
533 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Mail this form or a sheet of paper with the relevant information to reserve your lunch for this informative event!

Deadline is October 20

A variety of Chinese dishes will be served family style, including vegetarian options

\$12 per person

Make your check payable to AAUW Santa Cruz
and send to Grace Gerbrandt, 152 Spring St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Coffee or tea included.

Member name: _____

Guest names: _____

AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 10 a.m., at the Goodwill Conference Room, 350 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, 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!

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**Board News****President's Message**

What a beautiful day it's been. Indian summer is here, though with climate change, it's not quite what we expect for Indian summer. However, I wouldn't mind a little rain. I walk most mornings on West Cliff Drive. There has been an abundance of marine mammal activity to observe between the locals and the migrants. The humpback whales and their fellow travelers should be moving on soon. And still, I wouldn't mind a little rain.

Life has been increasingly busy and hectic of late. During such times it is easy to let slip the taking care of one's self. Not just physically, but mentally and emotionally as well. This is why I walk on West Cliff. It aids in all of these areas.

This is going to be a busy year for our branch and our members. There is always much work to be done. Most of the weight will be carried by a small number of individuals. If you are asked for help, please give it. Remember that these same individuals have lives outside of AAUW that are at least as busy as yours, and sometimes more so. Don't wait to be asked, volunteer.

It's often difficult to make time for the monthly luncheon meetings in our busy lives, but it's something we need to do. Not only for ourselves, but for those who make the meeting arrangements and the speakers. It shows those putting out the effort to prepare and present that their efforts are appreciated, and not wasted. Every bit as important is what we receive from attending. Beyond the obvious, lunch, is a respite from the usual, the comradery of our fellows and the shared knowledge of our speaker.

This year take the time to care for your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Participate by sharing the load and attending meetings. And don't forget to walk along the cliffs and spend well deserved time with some fellow mammals. Maybe it will rain.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting in October.

Judy Cavin Brown

President, AAUW Santa Cruz County Branch



Membership News

Joining Interest Groups

If you missed signing up for interest groups at the September Membership Luncheon, please contact the interest group chair to join. You will be glad you did!

- Tues. Evening Book Group—Dorothy Foglia, dorothyfoglia@yahoo.com
- Thurs. Afternoon Book Group, Sec. I—Carole Beckett, cabeckett@sbcglobal.net, 457-2992
- Thurs. Afternoon Book Group, Sec. II, Dottie Smith, beebyte@sbcglobal.net, 685-1487
- Reader's Theater—Barbara Lewis, 335-7816
- Lunch Bunch & Walking Group—Andrea Losee, alosee@cruzio.com, 502-554-7572
- Bridge—Marlene Bushey, mbushey1@yahoo.com, 425-1491
- Dining Out—Linda Owens, 464-1292, jowens7069@aol.com
- Mahjong! - Janet Bostrom, bozobostrom@gmail.com, 440-9294
- Evening Great Decisions—Lois Holcomb, locomb@cruzio.com, 831-688-0541

Changes to By-Laws

Following the merger of the Santa Cruz and Watsonville Branches, the By-Laws needed to be updated. A separate e-mail will be coming from the By-Laws Committee reflecting these changes before the end of the month for your review. We will be voting on the proposed changes at our October 25th event.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Lois Holcomb, locomb@cruzio.com, 831-688-0541.



AAUW Northern CA Fall Funds Luncheon

On Sunday, November 2, at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville, the Northern California AAUW Funds Luncheon will hear from California Fellows and Grant Recipients. This is always a festive event and the speakers inspire those who attend. The distance may sound daunting, but a carpool extends the social event. Make your reservation at www.aauw-ca.org and call Lynn Cummins 728-2128 to make a plan.

Board Positions 2014-2015

The Board is still in need of officers for some positions for 2014-15.

These positions are not demanding in time and are an excellent way to get involved.

Our local AAUW provides service opportunities, book groups, bridge groups, foreign policy discussions, walking groups, speakers on important women's issues.

Current openings include Program VP, AAUW Funds (formerly EF), Tech Trek & Historian.

Please help us continue our valuable work. It's interesting, it's fun, it's important.

Contact Grace Gerbrandt graceger@sbcglobal.net for more info or to volunteer.

Special Thanks

...to Laina Farhat-Holzman for saving the day & speaking at our Sept. Luncheon when scheduled speaker cancelled at the last minute!

Financial Update

-from our Treasurer Janet Bostrom

We have collected \$6923 in dues for the new year. From each \$80 payment, the state organization receives \$16, the national organization receives \$49, and our local branch keeps \$15.

Hospitality

Let Anne McCallum know if you hear of anyone who needs a kind thought or some cheering up. Tel. 465-1840.



Public Policy News

If you'd like to study up on the Ballot measures & AAUW positions prior to our Oct. 25th meeting & be well prepared for the election, November 4th, the information below and on the next page is provided courtesy of AAUW CA (aauw-ca.org).

Ballot Measures - November 4, 2014 Election

There are two ways a measure can be placed on the ballot:

The Legislature has the ability to place constitutional amendments, bond measures, and proposed changes in law on the ballot.

Any California voter can put an initiative or a referendum on the ballot by following the "How to Qualify an Initiative process" as described on the California Secretary of State website.

A statewide ballot measure can be approved by a majority vote of the people.

For the November 4, 2014 Election, six propositions have qualified for the ballot. The AAUW CA Public Policy Committee has studied the ballot measures in the context of the approved AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities - 2013-2015, and has taken positions on four. AAUW CA recommends that members study the detailed Voter Information pamphlet with pros and cons, soon to be mailed to registered voters, as well as read the full text of the propositions on the Secretary of State website, <http://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2014/general/pdf/>

Proposition 1 : Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014

Under existing law, various measures have been approved by the voters in past elections to provide funds for water supply and protection facilities and flood control, but not all authorized bonds have been sold. Put on the ballot by the California Legislature, this measure, if passed, would authorize the sale of \$7,120,000,000 in state bonds, and reallocate \$425,000,000 of unissued bonds to finance the purpose of water quality, supply and infrastructure improvements.

Safeguarding California's supply of clean and safe water for homes, businesses and farms is an essential responsibility of government and critical to protecting the quality of life for all Californians. Every Californian should have access to clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. This measure provides funding to implement the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan which are more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainable managed water infrastructure. It will also enable investment in expanding groundwater storage. It is "tunnel neutral" and provides no funding for the proposed tunnels in the San Joaquin Delta region. This measure provides a comprehensive and fiscally responsible approach to addressing the varied challenges facing California's water resources.

This initiative is consistent with AAUW's Public Policy Priorities promoting the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. **AAUW CA supports the passage of this initiative.**

Proposition 2: State Budget. Budget Stabilization Account. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

Senate Bill 867 (Chapter 186, 2014) was signed by the Governor on August 11, 2014; changing the proposition number of this measure from 44 to 2.

Proposition 58 passed in 2004 required reserves to be set aside in the CA General Fund for economic uncertainties. However, no funds are currently set aside because the governor can declare a budget emergency and waive the "set asides" of 3% of the general fund revenues or a cap of \$8 million or 5%, whichever is greater, into a Budget Stabilization Account (BSA). Then 50% of these annual transfers must be used to pay off Economic Recovery Bonds.

Proposition 2 requires the state to spend minimum amount each year to pay down specified debts. It creates a Public School System Stabilization Account (PSSSA) which is funded by a transfer of capital gains-related tax funds in excess of 8% of the general fund revenues. It creates rules about forecasting estimates of revenues and expenditures for 3 fiscal years with 1.5% annual deposit of general fund revenues and taxes from capital gains in excess of 8%, and changes rules for taking money out of the BSA. Funds would be appropriated when state support for K-14 education exceeds the allocated revenues and resources. School districts will be limited in the amount of reserves that can be kept at the local level.

While theoretically the PSSSA is a positive step for education, an analysis by Ed Source (of which AAUW CA was a founding partner) states the PSSSA would not likely be funded until the end of the decade. With this degree of uncertainty, **AAUW CA remains neutral on this proposition.**

Proposition 45: Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes. Initiative Statute.

If passed by voters, this initiative would require the Insurance Commissioner's approval before a health insurer could change its rates or anything else affecting the charges associated with health insurance. It provides for public notice, disclosure, and hearing, and subsequent judicial review, and exempts employer large group health plans.

If an appointed Insurance Commissioner is given the power to approve "the change of rates or anything else affecting the charges associated with health insurance", concentrating this power in a single individual could have significant, negative ramifications. The commissioner could undermine key components of the Affordable Care Act, making quality affordable healthcare inaccessible for many. Insurers could withdraw their plans from the exchange if their rates are rejected by the state and lead to fewer affordable, quality plans from which consumers could choose. Passage of this initiative could cause a number of unique, unintended consequences creating barriers to coverage, confuse consumers, and possibly increase out-of-pocket costs for low- and moderate-income families enrolled in Covered California.

The ballot measure creates multiple, conflicting review processes and lengthy delays that undermine Covered California's ability to negotiate lower health insurance rates and coverage on behalf of California consumers.

AAUW's Public Policy Priorities promote "quality affordable and accessible health care" for all. This proposition holds no commitment to meeting this assurance, thus **AAUW CA recommends an oppose position on Proposition 45.**



Proposition 46: Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits. Initiative Statute.

Proposition 46 would require drug and alcohol testing of doctors and reporting of positive tests to the California Medical Board. It would also require the California Medical Board to suspend a doctor with a positive test and to take disciplinary action if the doctor was impaired while on duty. Health care practitioners would be required to report any doctor suspected of drug or alcohol impairment or medical negligence. It would require health care practitioners to consult state prescription drug history database before prescribing certain controlled substances. Finally, it would increase the cap on pain and suffering damages in medical negligence lawsuits from \$250,000 to over \$1 million, reflecting inflation.

Raising the cap on noneconomic damages would likely increase overall health care spending in California (both governmental and nongovernmental) by: (1) increasing direct medical malpractice costs and (2) changing the amount and types of health care services provided. The increased awards in medical lawsuits would likely be passed on to the consumer and would therefore increase the costs of health care. It is likely that some physicians would leave California if their malpractice insurance costs rise, thus decreasing access by consumers. Also there are concerns that the state prescription drug history database is inadequate for the scope of record-keeping required by this initiative.

Recommendation: Because AAUW supports access to quality, affordable health, it opposes this initiative and recommends a **NO vote.**

Be sure to vote
November 4, 2014!

-source aauw-ca.org

Proposition 47: Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.

The initiative would reduce the penalty for most nonviolent crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor. Specifically, the initiative would mandate misdemeanors instead of felonies for "non-serious, non-violent crimes," such as petty theft and drug possession, unless the defendant has prior convictions for violent and serious crimes.

It would permit re-sentencing for anyone currently serving a prison sentence for any of the offenses that the initiative lists as misdemeanors. About 10,000 inmates would be eligible for resentencing, according to the Californians for Safety and Justice group. Safeguards in this initiative include requiring a "thorough review" of criminal history and risk assessment of any individuals before resentencing to ensure that they do not pose a risk to the public.

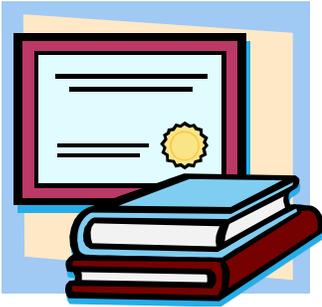
This proposition would create a Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund. The fund would receive appropriations based on savings accrued by the state during the fiscal year, as compared to the previous fiscal year, due to the initiative's implementation. Estimates range from \$150 million to \$250 million per year. Funds from the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund would be distributed as follows: 25% to the Department of Education, 10% to the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, and 65% to the Board of State and Community Correction. These funds will be applied to the above for k-12 schools for truancy etc.; mental health and drug treatment programs; and crime victims programs.

Basic to all AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the right of the individual and the needs of the community. **AAUW CA recommends a support position on this initiative.**

Proposition 48: Indian Gaming Compacts. Referendum.

AAUW CA did not study this initiative, as it is not related to the AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities.

Local Scholarship News



Over the past few months we have been pushing raising funds for next years' re-entry women to Cabrillo and USC. Congratulations to the following donors for their generosity to this fine program: Natalie Oliver, Sarah Howell, Mary Henderson, Mary K Simpson, Mary Lou Stewart, Joan Schwimmer, Pat Taylor, Joan Osborne, Melisa Walker, Pat Nellany, Muriel Fulford, Maggie Morales, Phyllis Edmundson, Roberta Bromberger, Jeanne Jorgensen, Madeline Fjelsad, Priscilla Peters, Jean Smith, Elizabeth Moore, Dorothy Patrick, Kathleen Oing, Debra Wallace, Anne McCallum, Audrey Strayer.

Donations to this great program can be sent to Jeanne Jorgensen, 270 19th Ave., Santa Cruz, 95062.

Save the Date—Upcoming Local Scholarship Events



December 2nd—Shadowbrook will donate 30% of our restaurant tab to AAUW Santa Cruz County Branch. Gather together to make a festive night of it. Last year we raised \$500!



December 6th—Holiday luncheon at Seascapes Golf Course.



News from Tech Trek

Those of use who attended the membership meeting had the wonderful opportunity to meet this years' campership girls from both Santa Cruz and Watsonville. It's great to see how enthusiastic the girls are about the wonderful week at Stanford. We have started to collect money for next year's attendees. It takes about \$100/day for each girl, so consider sending a donation today. Make out your check to: AAUW-CA-SPF & send it to: Jeanne Jorgensen, 270 19th Ave., Santa Cruz, 95062.

Tech Trek Corporate Donation Program

A subcommittee [of Tech Trek] has been formed to develop a corporate donation program. We are beginning with a pilot outreach project in the Pajaro Valley & have already received a \$300 donation! We intend to use feedback from the initial contacts to help us refine our approach when we expand into the rest of Santa Cruz County. Members who want to participate, or who can suggest contacts to businesses, should call Bettye Pina, 247-7023.



September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14	15	16	17	18 2pm Mahjong*	19 9:30am Walk- ing Group, Nisene Marks*	20
21	22	23	24	25 12pm Thurs. books Sec. 1	26 Thurs. books Sec. 2*, field trip—Thor House* (Fri. 9/26)	27
28	29	30				

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Lunch Bunch, Chaminda's Linwoods* 2pm Mahjong!	3 9:30am Walk- ing Group, Fall Creek*	4	
5	6 10am Board Meeting 7pm Great Decisions*	7 7pm Tues. pm Books*	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day 1-3pm Read- er's Theater*	14	15	16 2pm Mahjong! 6pm Dining Out, Café Cruz*	17 9:30am Walk- ing Group, Nearby Lagoon to SC Wharf*	18
19	20	21	22	23 12pm Thurs. Books Sec. 1* 1pm Books Sec. 2*	24	25 11:30am Octo- ber Luncheon, see front pg.
26	27	28	29	30	31 	



AAUW Santa Cruz 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 Linda Owens, 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 as is the Evening Great Decisions group. Spouses, partners and guests are welcome to attend the Dining Out and Evening Gourmet groups. Check your new Directory for phone numbers and email addresses.

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 Dorothy Foglia, dorothyfoglia@yahoo.com. The October book will be *Day After Night* by Anita Diamant. The reviewer will be Mary Maier. The meeting will be at the home of Marilee White on October 7th.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section One, The Afternoon Book Group will meet September 25th at the home of Barbara Lewis, 851 Lost Acre Dr., Felton, phone 335-7816, email bobbj44@gmail.com. The book we will discuss will be *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The reviewer will be Judy McNeely.

The October meeting will be on October 23rd at the home of Carole Beckett, 353 Henry Cowell Dr., Santa Cruz, phone 457-2992, email cabeckett@sbcglobal.net. The book we will discuss will be *Transatlantic* by Colum McCann. The reviewer has not been selected yet.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section Two, leader Dottie Smith, beechbyte@sbcglobal.net. This group reads one book each month. The next meeting, will be a field trip on Friday, September 26 to Thor House in Carmel after having read the poetry of Robinson Jeffers. Contact Dottie for more info.

The October meeting will be on Thursday, October 23 at 1:00 at the home of Dottie Smith. The book is *World's Strongest Librarian* by Josh Hanagame. Please RSVP Dottie @ beechbyte@sbcglobal.net or call 685-1487.

Reader's Theater

The Readers Theater interest group will meet Monday October 13 from 1-3 PM for socializing and play reading. For further information contact Barbara Lewis, 335-7816 in early October.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will now meet on the first Thursday of the month. On Thursday, Oct. 2 we have lunch at Chaminade's Linwood's Bar and Grill. All AAUW members are invited. Please contact Andrea Losee at 502-554-7572 or alosee@cruzio.com for more information or to make a reservation.

Bridge

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

Mahjong!

Originating in China, mahjong is a game of skill and strategy, calculation and luck. Janet Bostrom coordinates this delightful game. bozobostrom@gmail.com on the first and third Thursdays at 2pm.

Dining Out—This is a lot like Lunch Bunch except it's in the evening and spouses/partners are included. If you are interested in joining the group & trying different restaurants around town, contact new leader Linda Owens, 464-1292, jowens7069@aol.com.

Our October dinner will be on **October 16 at 6pm at Café Cruz**. If you'd like to join us, please contact Linda Owens (contact info above).

Walking Group

Walking/Hiking Group Schedule for September and October :

September 19 Nisene State Park

October 3 North entrance of Fall Creek

October 17 Neary Lagoon to Santa Cruz Wharf

Our walks are about 60 to 90 minutes on easy to moderate trails. For more information, contact Andrea Losee at 502-554-7572 or alosee@cruzio.com

Great Decisions

Beginning in October, The Evening Great Decisions will meet on the 1st Mon. eve. of each month from 7-8:30 pm. at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Aptos. Dr. Laina Farhat-Holzman is the lecturer. The public is welcome. For more information all Lois Holcomb at 688-0541.

The Morning Great Decisions - This foreign policy discussion group will recommence in January and runs for 8 weeks; We're a lively, diverse group.

Contact Vickie Birsall vickiebirdsall@yahoo.com or Grace Gerbrandt graceger@sbcglobal.net for further details.



Branch Schedule

2014-2015



October	6	Board Meeting	Judy Cavin Brown's home 135 McCornick Street, 95062
	25	Luncheon Meeting (Funds)	Mei Gardens
.....			
November	2	Nor Cal Funds Luncheon	Danville
	3	Board Meeting	CFSCC
.....			
December	1	Board Meeting	CFSCC
	6	Luncheon Meeting (Holiday)	Seascape Golf Course
.....			
January	5	Board Meeting	TBD
.....			
February	2	Board Meeting	TBD
	28	Luncheon Meeting (IBC)	Blackhorse & Bayonet Golf Course, Marina
.....			
March	2	Board Meeting	TBD
	15	Gala Celebration	TBD
	21	Nor Cal Leadership Development	TBD
.....			
April	6	Board Meeting	TBD
	11	Annual Business (LAF)	TBD
	18	State Meeting	So Cal
.....			
May	4	Board Meeting	TBD
	16	Luncheon Meeting (Local Scholarships)	Seascape Resort
.....			
June	1	Board Brunch Meeting	TBD
	18-21	National Convention	San Diego
	28	Annual BBQ / Picnic	TBD



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
position vacant

Local Scholarships

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

Legal Advocacy Fund / AAUW Funds

Make checks payable to
AAUW FUNDS and send to
Rosemary Anderson
14 Parkwood Drive
Watsonville, CA 95076

**Tech Trek
(Girls Science Scholarships)**

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

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

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.