



Empowering Women
since 1881

The Beacon

Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women
December 2017

What's Happening

January
2018

NEW MEMBER TEA to welcome and get acquainted with our new members at the home of Membership Chair Louanne Ellison, 1421 Chanticleer Ave. 831-471-8381 or louanneec@gmail.com. The date and time will be announced in the January Beacon.

February
24

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL Event Saturday, February 24, 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 speaker will be a leader from the Salinas Muslim Community. Program & reservation form can be found on page 5 and will also follow in January's Beacon.

April
10

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS Fund Raiser at Shadowbrook Restaurant in Capitola. Tuesday, April 10, 5-closing. This is a very popular, fun event for our members and Local Scholarships receives 1/3 of the revenue from our meals.

April
21

ANNUAL BRANCH LUNCHEON & ELECTION of OFFICERS for 2017-2018 at the Museum of Natural History.

May
19

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS Luncheon & Installation of Officers Saturday, May 19, 11:30-2 Seascope Resort. A wonderful opportunity to hear from our scholarship recipients. Reservation info to follow in April Beacon

As 2017 comes to an end, our Santa Cruz County Branch of AAUW wants to acknowledge the members we lost this year: **Madeline Fjelstad, Lee Gilbert, Sue Kleibrink, Patricia Jackson, Anne McCallum, Ginny Miller-Lohr, and Natalie Oliver.**

We value their many contributions to AAUW and we shall miss them greatly.

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 President in advance. All members are welcome to attend!

Officers and Committees: 2017-2018**President**

Grace Gerbrandt 423-9472
graceger@sbcglobal.net

President-Elect

open

Branch Treasurer

Darby Kremers 206-3623
dkrem19260@aol.com

Secretary

Kit Hein 854-2165
bythebeach15@gmail.com

Vice Presidents**Legal Advocacy**

open

Membership

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

AAUW Fund

Geri Williams 708-4133
gerisjs@aol.com

Program

Trudie Fator 662-8960
trudelaf@aol.com

Appointed**By-Laws & IBC Liaison**

Lois Holcomb 688-0541
locomb@cruzio.com

Local Scholarships / Publicity

Jeanne Jorgensen 477-7025
jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com

Tech Trek

Kris Sheehan 915-3630
krisssheehan@gmail.com

Co-Chair:

Geri Williams 708-4133
gerijs@aol.com

Hospitality

open

Historian

Nancy Stephens 423-4164
nstephensjd@gmail.com

Communications

Debra Wallace 325-9948
dwallace@karonproperties.com

Beacon Mailing (Postal)

Liz Thorington 408-353-3185
elizabeththorington@yahoo.com

**President's message:**

As the holidays approach, our Branch has an impressive list of accomplishments for 2017.

Our Tech Trek committee sent five young women to the STEM camp at Stanford last July at the cost of \$1,000 per student. This excellent program enables talented middle school girls to pursue their interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Our Local Scholarships awarded \$10,510 to re-entry women, helping them to resume their studies at Cabrillo and UCSC.

In October, our Human Trafficking Committee held a successful Community outreach program, open to the public. Our committee already has plans for the upcoming year, working hard to increase awareness of this terrible scourge and what we can do to combat it.

Throughout the year, our Branch's Interest Groups kept us all together. The Groups offer our members friendship, community, and stimulation with Bridge, Books, Foreign Policy, Theater Readings, Lunch Bunch Adventures, and Local Outings.

Our membership dues also supported AAUW's state and national work. Through lobbying, legal action, and education, the AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting justice and fairness for women and girls.

Thank you for being part of this important effort. With your help and participation, our Branch of AAUW is looking forward to another exciting, fun, productive year!

Grace Gerbrandt
 President, AAUW Santa Cruz County

Learn more about AAUW's ongoing fight. Become a two-minute activist by clicking [here](#), or sign up for email newsletter Mission & Action [here](#).

Membership News

A Warm Welcome to our newest member:

Jacqueline Rall
1943 Nelson Road
Scotts Valley, 95066
831 335-4739
jrall@finemaltcoding.com



Please make a note of the information above in your directory.

Contact Louanne Ellison if your information is incorrect in any way at 831-471-8381 leaving a message with corrections if not answered or email louanneec@gmail.com. She will contact Debra Wallace with corrections.

New Easy Walking Interest Group:

A new Easy Walking Group has formed. Our next meeting is at East Cliff Beach at the end of 41st Avenue in the parking lot at 9:30am on Friday January 5th. Walks are aimed for 1 hour. This first walk will be headed by **Audrey Strayer** whose number is 831 475-9073. Please call or email and let her know you are coming. Her email is molliej6@cruzio.com. Some areas we propose to walk are Rio Del Mar, West Cliff, San Lorenzo river beginning near the ocean, Arana Gulch and we are welcoming other ideas.

Human Trafficking Committee

Our newly formed Human Trafficking Committee will meet the first Saturday of every month, 1PM, 201 Prospect Hts. Please contact **Martha Mangan**, tel # 425-1306, for additional information.

A Fond Farewell to our recently departed long time members:

Many of us were fortunate to call **Anne McCallum** and **Ginny Miller-Lohr** friends. They both were very active in AAUW for many years and will be missed. Our thoughts are with their families at this time of sorrow.



There will be a celebration of life for **Anne McCallum** on **December 22nd, from 12-4** at her home, 225 Waugh Avenue in Santa Cruz, hosted by her daughters Gayle and Leslyn. All are welcome to attend. Contact Gayle, 831-332-0614.

Anne has been our branch's Hospitality chair for many years. She served as President and in other capacities on the Board.

Anne was a warm and wonderful soul, with a contagious zest for life.

Memorial plans for **Ginny Miller-Lohr**, who passed away on Dec. 3rd are pending. Cards can be sent to Ginny's husband Ted Lohr at 444 Pebble Beach Drive, Aptos, CA 95003.

Ginny was very active in our interest groups and held LAF and EF positions on the Board for many years. She was an ardent supporter of our programs, particularly Tech Trek.

Ginny was engaging, politically passionate and a lot of fun to be around.



Local Scholarship News



Our annual Holiday luncheon supporting the Local Scholarship Funds for re-entry women to UCSC and Cabrillo College was, as usual, a great success. **Details and photos will be in the next Beacon.** As many of you know, but a few might not, this Holiday luncheon is one of the major fundraisers for this committee. Local Scholarships has foundations at UCSC and Cabrillo College which draw interest during the year. In the spring we find out how much interest has accrued to be used for scholarship for re-entry women at UCSC and Cabrillo. Re-entry women must be at least 25 years old to receive our scholarships. Throughout the year many people donate to the Local Scholarship Fund and we raise money at our Holiday Luncheon and our dining out event at Shadowbrook. We usually are able to award 8-10,000 dollars to various women to help them pursue their degrees at our local college and university.

If you would like to make a contribution to this wonderful fund, make out a check to AAUW Santa Cruz County Branch - Local Scholarships & send to: Jeanne Jorgensen, 270 19th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

Tech Trek News

We really appreciate all your past support for Tech Trek, giving Santa Cruz County young women an opportunity to experience STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) on a college campus, Stanford University, for a week in the summer.

As we enter the special season of sharing with others, please think of contributing your tax deductible donation and writing a check to AAUW CA SPF. It is a 501c(3) fully deductible charity. Tax ID 68-0463071

Over the years the generosity of our AAUW members has grown and been gratefully accepted. Our Branch initially sent one girl to Tech Trek Camp; last summer we were able to send five girls.

Our goal for 2018 is to send 6 Santa Cruz County girls to Camp Hopper - at a cost of \$1000 per girl. Your tax-deductible donation can be made by writing a check payable to AAUW CA SPF (Tech Trek on the memo line) and sending it to Kris Sheehan, 215 Brodin La, Corralitos, CA 95076

An additional way to support Tech Trek (and other AAUW contributions) can actually save on taxes. If you are 70 1/2 years old and required to take a minimum distribution annually; you can make a gift of your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA directly to AAUW CA SPF, Tax ID 68-0463071 without adding it to your income or being taxed on it.

Such donations must be made by year-end and must be initiated by the IRA administrator. Talk with your tax adviser about "Required minimum distributions" from IRAs and donations to "Qualified charities".

The annual meeting of the Camp Hopper Tech Trek reps was held on December 4th in Foster City. Geri Williams and Kris Sheehan represented our Santa Cruz County Branch. Specifics about Stanford Tech Trek camp were shared and will be beneficial in our 2018 planning.

The Tech Trek committee will meet in early January to offer County 7th grade science and math teachers additional information to help in their nominating process.

We will ask that teachers nominate two to three girls from their schools. The girls chosen complete an application and essay to be interviewed and possibly selected as a 2018 Camper.

March interviews of the potential Tech Trek Campers will take place at the Best Western in Aptos and the meeting room at Scotts Valley Parks and Rec. Big thank yous to Geri Williams and Jean Gregson for securing the spaces.

Fundraising with the tech companies has not yet proved to be successful as an option.

We did receive a very generous donation from Bret Zischke, Bailey Properties.

Happy Holidays and thanks to all of you for thinking of AAUW and Tech Trek.



AAUW Fund

THANK YOU ALL - for your generous support of AAUW Fund! Here is information on the last chance to make a tax-deductible gift to AAUW Fund for 2017.....You may also make a donation at the AAUW website -

Please remember that the deadline for contributions to AAUW Fund is December 31 for recognition for 2017. In accordance with IRS regulations, National goes by the postmark date rather than the date on the donation check. Click ([HERE](#)) for branch donation forms. Please consider designating your contributions to help finish an unfinished California endowment. Click ([HERE](#)) for the list.

Seventeen remarkable stories you helped make possible

In three locations across the state, Fellowship and Grant recipients shared their passion for education, research and changing the world. With topics ranging from decreasing and decarbonizing the nation's energy footprint to life and death-term criminal sentencing of women, the impact of our financial donations to support fellowships and grants was evident and inspiring. Catch a glimpse of their thought-provoking research by watching the [videos](#) from the recent AAUW California Fund Luncheons. As an example, listen to Coly Lenz discuss her research on criminalization, gender violence, and social movements in California. Her studies focus on life and death-term criminal sentencing of women. Watch her [presentation](#) from the Seal Beach Fund Luncheon.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

When: Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018 @ 11:30 a.m.

Where: Bayonet & Blackhorse Golf Club Grill

What: Speech about being a Muslim Woman in America today

Who: [Maha Elgenaidi](#), founder & executive director, [Islamic Networks Group](#)

Interbranch Council News

Note: Our very own SHARYN SIEBERT IS RUNNING FOR STATE DIRECTOR OF AAUW -CA, and voting will be between April 22-May 12, 2018. Let's be sure to support Sharyn when it is time to vote! Stay tuned for details!

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

Please reserve _____ @ \$26 each. Total enclosed _____

Menu: Please mark your CHOICE of Stuffed Chicken Breast w/Roma tomatoes, jack cheese & basil in a whole grained mustard sauce _____

OR Grilled Portabella Mushroom Sandwich _____

All lunches include organic green salad w/candied walnuts, goat cheese & balsamic vinaigrette, served w/garlic mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables & dinner rolls; chocolate cake w/raspberry sauce; iced tea & lemonade.

Member name _____

Guest _____

Phone# _____

RSVP by Feb. 16

Checks made out to: AAUW-MPB

Mail to: Nancy Soule 504 Larkin St., Monterey, CA 93940

Reservations need to include your phone number on your check, MADE OUT to [AAUW MPB](#)
ALL RESERVATIONS ARE PRE-PAID AND NON-REFUNDABLE

Public Policy News

Step Up for Women's Health Rights 2018

January 22, 2018, is the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to confirm women's right to terminate a pregnancy. However, health rights, especially reproductive rights, face considerably more pressure on the established law since the beginning of 2017.

To remind members, AAUW-CA advocates for equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society, including self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions and increased access to safe, affordable, and comprehensive health care and family planning services, including expansion of patient rights.

What has happened this year?

First, after months of deliberation Jane Doe, a "minor undocumented immigrant" was allowed to terminate her pregnancy. Still, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has more workers concerned with anti-abortion issues, and Solicitor General Noel J. Francisco's stance on the law has led to justices resigning in the DOJ. The government does not have to "facilitate" the law and instances of an "undue burden" have changed.

Second, Congress exerted influence to change the law during the fight this summer over the Affordable Care Act. Since then, September 15, Pro-Life actions in Michigan against FACE (Federal Access to Clinic Entrances - 1994) leaves advocates unsure whether the Attorney General will enforce the law or leave it to each state. Fortunately for California, the law is enforced.

Third, on Tuesday, October 3, an ACLU lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Hawaii on behalf of Kauai argues medication abortion should be offered by prescription at the local drug-store. It challenges a restriction imposed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that requires mifepristone, known by the brand name Mifeprex, to be dispensed in clinics, doctors' offices, and hospitals—rather than a pharmacy.

Next, on October 7, with a lawsuit submitted on October 31, the HHS undermined women's reproductive rights by rolling back the Affordable Care Act rule that required most employers and universities to provide insurance coverage for birth control. Now, access can be denied for "religious and moral reasons."

Good news! In an October 20, 2017 report by the National Institute for Reproductive Health, clinics in four California cities out of 40 major American cities meet standards for quality reproductive health, rights, and justice politics. Los Angeles and San Francisco receive 4.5 stars; San Diego - 3 stars; and San Jose - 2.5 stars.

How are women affected by Congress' current tax bill?

As of December 2, the bill includes changes in child care credits, student loan payback, medical bills, a federal ban on abortion after 20 weeks of conception, like in Texas (or perhaps 6 weeks), college savings plans allowed for the unborn child (aligned with the HHS call that life begins at conception), and more restrictions on contraception.

The tax bill will change before it is sent to the president for signature, but members of AAUW-CA must keep their eye on the details of each sentence. Since *Roe v. Wade* was decided, states have passed more than 1,000 restrictions on women's reproductive rights. —*The Progressive*, March 25, 2017

by Claire Noonan, Los Altos-Mountain View AAUW-CA



Fifty years since the HEA's passage, Americans - especially women - are attaining more college degrees than ever before, and higher education has become a necessity in today's economy.

The House's higher education bill is a raw deal for students - especially women. Here's why:

When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the [Higher Education Act](#) (HEA) into law on November 8, 1965, he made a bold prediction:

"This legislation [...] will swing open a new door for the young people of America. For them, and for this entire land of ours, it is the most important door that will ever open - the door to education."

So why is Congress trying to turn back the clock and close the door to opportunity?

The House of Representatives is considering a proposal to overhaul the HEA in a way that makes college more expensive, more hostile, and ultimately further out of reach for many. H.R. 4508 would:

- Eliminate student loan forgiveness for public service employees and alter income-driven repayment options, increasing debt burdens for struggling borrowers
- Weaken schools' requirements to prevent and end campus sexual assault and support survivors

- Fail to strengthen the Pell grant program, which makes it possible for millions of low-income students to go to college, or even increase its annual grant amount to reflect inflation



Make no mistake, these provisions would particularly harm women's access to education. AAUW's own [research](#) shows student debt disproportionately impacts women, who face a gender pay gap throughout their careers and make up a majority of the public service workforce. Coupled with the reality of sexual violence on campus, this proposal would only further jeopardize women's educational opportunity and economic security over their lifetimes.

President Johnson sought to eliminate barriers to education through the HEA. Congress should do the same - not make it harder and costlier. Urge your Representative to oppose H.R. 4508.

TAKE ACTION!



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10	11 12pm Bridge*	12  Happy Hanukkah!	13	14 1pm Books Sec. 1&2*	15	16
17	18 Reader's Theater*	19	20	21	22 Anne McCallum Celebra- tion of Life	23
24 31	25 	26	27	28	29	30

January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2 7pm Evening Books*	3	4 11:30 Lunch Bunch *	5 9:30 Easy Walking Group*	6
7	8 10am Board Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17	18 1pm Books Sec. 1&2*	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Great Deci- sions*	27
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 January 2, 2018 at Mary Miaer's house, 2-1120 East Cliff Dr. Call 462-2764 for directions. We will be discussing *ENDURANCE*; *SHAKLETON'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY* by Alfred Lansing. Darby Kremers will lead the discussion. All are welcome to join this lively group. Get in touch with Joan Schwimmer, joanschwimmer@hotmail.com for further information.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section One, Leader Carole Beckett, phone 457-2992, email cabeckett@sbcglobal.net; We will meet on December 14 and January 18. Contact Carole for details.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section Two, Leader, Susan Elgin, phone (831) 335-7288, email elgin@cruzio.com. This group reads one book each month. Our upcoming meetings are on December 14 and January 18. Contact Susan for details.

Reader's Theater

Our next meeting will be on December 18. 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.

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 for more information.

Bridge

Bridge is coordinated by Jeanne Jorgensen. Contact her for details at 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.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions begins its discussions on Foreign Policy on Friday January 26 with the topic, "China and America: the New Political Equation." We welcome new members and interested visitors. Contact graceger@sbcglobal.net or vickiebirdsall@yahoo.com

Local Outings

FIELD TRIP INTEREST GROUP

Stay tuned for exciting upcoming field trips after the holidays! Contact Jane Amaral with questions or suggestions: lvswamp@charter.net 359-3357

Human Trafficking Committee

The Human Trafficking Committee meets the first Saturday of every month, 1PM, 201 Prospect Hts. Contact Martha Mangin, tel # 425-1306, for more details.

Easy Walking Group

A new Easy Walking Group has formed. Our next meeting is at East Cliff Beach at the end of 41st Avenue in the parking lot at 9:30am on Friday January 5th. Walks are aimed for 1 hour. This first walk will be headed by Audrey Strayer whose number is 831 475-9073. Please call or email and let her know you are coming. Her email is molliej6@cruzio.com. Some areas we propose to walk are Rio Del Mar, West Cliff, San Lorenzo river beginning near the ocean, Arana Gulch and we are welcoming other ideas.



Branch Schedule

2018



January	8	Board Meeting	
February	5	Board Meeting	
	24	Interbranch Council Luncheon	Bayonet and Blackhorse Golf Club Grill
March	5	Board Meeting	
April	2	Board Meeting	
	10	Local Scholarships Dinner	Shadowbrook
	21	Annual Gen. Membership Business Meeting	Museum of Natural History
	27-29	State Convention	Irvine
May	7	Board Meeting	
	19	Local Scholarship Luncheon, Installation of Officers	Seascape Resort



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- click on Educational 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 CA SPF, with Santa Cruz
County Tech Trek, Camp Hopper on
the memo line
and send to
Kris Sheehan
215 Brodin Lane
Corralitos, CA 95076

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