



# The Beacon

Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

December 2020



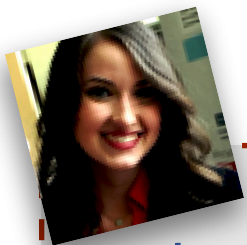
#End Human Trafficking Committee

**JOIN US** for a webinar program to learn how predators operate to manipulate our young people, how to respond if you recognize the signs, and what you can do to prevent it from happening. A representative from Shared Hope will provide an introduction and the latest update on what is happening on the internet with recruitment tactics.

**WHEN: Monday, January 11, 2021 at 2 pm**

***"National Human Trafficking Awareness Day"***

**REGISTER AT: <http://santacruz-ca.aauw.net>**



## Featuring the film "Chosen"

***Learn the shocking true story of two teen girls tricked by traffickers***

Brianna, 18, was a star student, cheerleader and waitress eager to break out of her small town to attend college in the big city. Lacy, 13, enjoyed church and school but struggled to help care for her siblings while her stepfather was deployed and her mother worked to support the family. Brianna and Lacy share how traffickers used manipulation to lure them into the world of sex trafficking.



*AAUW-SCC's #End Human Trafficking Committee continues to focus on protecting our youth from this horrific practice. The media has become a hiding place for sexual predators throughout the world. This makes recruitment of minors incredibly easy through the use of their smart phones and all internet platforms.*

**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: 2020-2021****President**

Phyllis Taylor 335-8146  
dmcmurtry@yahoo.com

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**AAUW Funds VP**

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**By-Laws & IBC Liaison**

Lois Holcomb 688-0541  
locomb@cruzio.com

**Local Scholarships / Publicity**

Jeanne Jorgensen (+Publicity) see Membership  
f/contact info

**Tech Trek**

Kris Sheehan 915-3630  
krisrsheehan@gmail.com

**Human Trafficking**

Martha Mangan 425-1306  
mmanganesesc7@gmail.com

**Public Policy**

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**Hospitality/Sunshine**

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molliej6@cruzio.com

**Historian**

Jane Amaral 722-7839  
lvswamp@charter.net

**Communications**

Debra Wallace 325-9948  
dwallace@karonproperties.com

## President's Message

*North Pole, Planet Earth*

Dear Santa,

It's me again and a lot has happened since my last letter. Things have been very challenging down here and we could really use your help.

We need your smile and bright red suit to remind us of treasured traditions and seasonal delights. We need to hear carols and the sound of sleigh bells. We need to share in your joy of giving and holiday goodwill.

Thank you!

Now, about this year's "list", it's not very long, so everything should easily fit onto your sleigh.

### PLEASE BRING:

1. to our president elect, enough wisdom and courage to bring our nation together
2. to our doctors, nurses and caregivers, the thanks and respect we have for their tireless care and compassio
3. to our wildfire- ravaged landscapes, plenty of sunshine and healing rain to aid in their recovery
4. to people everywhere, renewed hope for a better tomorrow

See, just four things, but each could make a make a big difference...and would certainly help to bring the Happy back in "Happy New Year!"

Fly safe,

Phyllis

P.S. Don't forget your mask!

*Wishing everyone a very safe and very Merry Holiday*



## Membership News



### AAUW Mission:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

### AAUW Vision:

Equity for All

### AAUW Values:

Nonpartisan

Fact-based

Integrity

Inclusion & Intersectionality

### Diversity:

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

## Directory Additions & Corrections

### Change of Address

Laurie Reinhart

401 Santos St., Apt. 6304

San Antonio, TX, 78210

e-mail [lauriereinhart@msn.com](mailto:lauriereinhart@msn.com)

*Please make a note of the above in your directories. Other corrections or additions?*

*Please email them to*

*dwallace@karonproperties.com to be noted in our next issue of The Beacon.*

### First Ever VIRTUAL Lobby Day

Learn more about AAUW-CA's legislative goals and the public policy process by participating in the 2021 VIRTUAL lobby day from the comfort of your own home! **Register by January 8th at**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56JT7XF>



### Watch Veterans Day Program Recording

If you missed our November Veterans' Day program, you can watch the recording here:

[Vets Day Program Recording](#) passcode: d.+9?HjP

It was an excellent program with two wonderful guests, both of whom are veterans with their own stories to tell.

- **Hospitality** : Please let our Sunshine Director Audrey Strayer know if you hear of anyone who needs a kind thought or some cheering up due to recent surgery, losses, etc. email: [molliej6@cruzio.com](mailto:molliej6@cruzio.com), phone: 475-9073
- **Other announcements to share?** The next Beacon deadline is Monday, December 28. Please send entries to [dwallace@karonproperties.com](mailto:dwallace@karonproperties.com). We hope to have the upcoming Beacons in your inbox the first week of each month!

## Local Scholarships News

We will report on the success of our virtual luncheon, to be held on December 12th, in the next Beacon. The committee wishes to thank Jennifer Bovitz Cobas for her generous donation. Please continue to support this good fund by sending donations to: AAUW LS & P Fund, 270 19 th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062.

## AAUW Fund News



You probably know that the AAUW national Board, committee leaders and staff will match donations made to the Greatest Needs Fund through December 31, 2020. And we have been hearing about the flexibility this fund has to respond to critical issues as they emerge. In a recent email, Board Chair Julia Brown spelled out more specifically what the current plans are for use of these funds. In case you missed it, here is the list:

This #GivingTuesday, donate to support five key goals:

1. Push Congress to **pass long-delayed COVID relief** to the millions of Americans and families who lost jobs and benefits, most of whom are women and people of color.
2. With Betsy DeVos exiting as Secretary of Education in January, reverse the damage she did by reinstating Title IX provisions to **protect women and girls from harassment and unequal educations**.
3. In the midst of our nation's overdue reckoning with racism, **prioritize equal compensation and opportunities for Black women and Latinas**, who have the widest pay gaps.
4. **Seed the future of STEM with women of color** who will bring perspectives these fields have lacked for generations.
5. **Build on the gains women and women of color made to elected office** by dramatically increasing women leaders in every sector.

I plan to update you on branch giving in the next Beacon. In the meantime, I wish you all Happy Holidays.

Click [HERE](#) to make a donation to AAUW FUND.

Lynn Cummins, AAUW Fund vice president

## Upcoming Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendar!!!

<b>Monday Jan. 11</b>	<b>Human Trafficking Awareness Event with Shared Hope International Ambassadors</b>
<b>Late-Jan or Early-Feb</b>	<b>1st Annual Local Women in Business Program</b> <b>This will be a chocolate-tasting event with business owner and chocolatier Jennifer Ashby of Ashby Confections.</b>
<b>Saturday Feb.27</b>	<b>Inter-Branch Council Meeting</b>
<b>Saturday April 17</b>	<b>AAUW-CA Annual Meeting</b>

Note: All meetings will be held via Zoom.

## Tech Trek News

Finally good news going into December, that various vaccines may be available soon! Hope you all stay well and have the vaccine when you are offered it, and wish to take it.

Of course, very importantly, continue to wear your mask and socially distance. Join us for the Holiday Zoom and have a lovely holiday with the friends and/or loved ones that you are able.

As you may remember, because of the virus Tech Trek did not have residential camp at Stanford last year. Nor will there be a residential camp this year.

Last year the San Diego Branch partnered with Qualcomm with a Robotics camp participated in by 40 girls in that area. It was deemed successful and will now be offered statewide as a Tech Trek Virtual Camp.

As the Virtual Camp Week is still being developed, a Zoom meeting was scheduled last Thursday with the state Virtual Camp Director, Mary Isaac who provided some details about what the California AAUW Tech Trek Virtual Camp is to be this year.

There are to be at least three camps, late June and twice in July for 288 girls at a time. The Qualcomm Robotics program developed and used last summer is scheduled for each of four mornings. Following a lunch break, one required 90 minute workshop and one optional workshop created with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in mind, will be available. Friday will be a presentation day for parents and each other. Those girls completing the required 15 hours of class time will receive a certificate. There are still issues to be resolved for Santa Cruz County girls to participate.

- Will a virtual camp be of interest to girls who have been in front of screens all year?
- As Robotics is the emphasis of the camp, will it appeal to girls who want a different STEM opportunity?
- Connectivity issues will need to be resolved for the girls that may be selected.
- Our schools use Chrome Books. They do not work with the Qualcomm program. Qualcomm is working on a solution, but have not guaranteed it will be completed by camp.
- Teacher Nomination of 2021 7th grade girls will not be until January. The required Application will be updated for the Virtual Camp. Details have not been finalized as to how the girls might be chosen, or apply.

- There was concern about being able to use funds on deposit from last year's camp for this year. In the current Board to Board email FAQ it appears that previously deposited funds will be able to be used.
- In 2019 we had selected 15 girls to interview in March. That did not happen.

Another ongoing issue for our committee was what we might be able to do for the girls chosen from last year. There may be a chance to send them to this virtual camp.

- The state director has said that no branch needs to participate in the virtual camp, but may mentor past TT and current 7th graders in a STEM program if they wish.

Virtual Camp marketing materials are currently being developed to share with teachers and potential campers explaining the camp. The materials are to be available by the first of the year.

Our Committee will be meeting Thursday to discuss the Virtual Camp and STEM opportunities available for Santa Cruz girls.

Our Tech Trek Committee continues to support Danika Marlet, who, in our latest email exchange, shared that her Soquel High group Women in Science recently connected with WiSE. "We had a career panel two weeks ago and it went fantastic! All of the research they conduct is fascinating and my club and I were able to ask some great questions. In fact, we are scheduling another panel in January!" Danika is a great example of a Tech Trek seed planted that has sprouted! It is wonderful to see her pursuing opportunities in STEM.

If any of you would like to be a part of helping young women in their STEM journey, please let us know. Can you share your STEM experience, or do you know of someone who can? Do you know of a volunteer project in the STEM area that a middle school or high school girl might be a part of? All ideas are welcome.

Your contribution to Tech Trek is warmly received anytime during the year. You may send a check payable to:

**AAUW CA SPF with Santa Cruz County Tech Trek on the memo line.** Mail to: Kris Sheehan, 215 Brodin Lane, Corralitos, CA 95076.

Thanks so very much,  
Kris Sheehan





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## Human Trafficking Committee News

### Ending Human Trafficking

*An update on human trafficking during the pandemic*

Human trafficking has not been slowed down by the pandemic. Learn how predators operate to manipulate our young people, how to respond if you recognize the signs, and what will prevent it from happening, at our Zoom event on National Human Trafficking Day, Monday, January 11, 2021 at 2 pm. A representative from Shared Hope International, an organization working to prevent sex trafficking, will provide an introduction and the latest update on what is happening on the internet with recruitment tactics.

The meeting will feature the film "Chosen," the true story of two girls tricked into trafficking. Brianna—star student, cheerleader, waitress—and Lacy—who enjoyed church and school, but struggled to help care for her siblings—tell their own stories of how they were lured into the world of sex trafficking.

Social media has become a hiding place for sexual predators throughout the world. This makes recruitment of minors incredibly easy through the use of their smart phones and all internet platforms. This meeting continues the focus of the #End Human Trafficking Committee of the Santa Cruz branch of the American Association of University Women on protecting our youth from this horrific practice.

This webinar is free and open to the public. **Register to attend at:** [santacruz-ca.aauw.net](https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net)

*Human Trafficking committee continues to meet at 12:30PM the first Saturday of each month.*

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## AAUW California Public Policy

By Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs,  
[publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)

### AAUW California Public Policy Team Announces First VIRTUAL Lobby Day!

On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities.

**All members (this means you!) are encouraged to participate.**

Register by January 8, 2021 for Lobby Day here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56JT7XF>

All participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Go to <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/> to register for the "How to Talk to Your Legislators" webinar.

### Important Dates

- **January 8, 2021 Last day to register to participate in Lobby Day**
- **March 22, 2021 Lobby Day training webinar 7:00 – 8:30 pm**
- **March 24, 2021 Lobby Day**

## Public Policy News

This timely and informative article originally appeared in the AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch newsletter (December 2020 issue). It is reprinted here with permission.

*Our election is over, and people turned out in massive numbers to vote. The voting process has been declared fraud-free, the Electoral College met in December and certified state's votes. It is anticipated that President elect, Joe Biden, will take the oath of office in January.*

### **What's next?**

December 14, 2020 Each state's certified results will be reflected in the votes taken by the Electoral College.

December 23, 2020 Congress will receive the results from the Electoral College. Because the U. S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled against faithless Electors, the Electors are expected to vote according to the popular vote in their respective states.

January 3, 2021 The 117th Congress will be sworn into office.

January 6, 2021 Congress will count the electoral votes and certify the winner. The candidate team with 270+ electoral votes will be declared President and Vice-president.

January 20, 2021 We anticipate that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be sworn into office.

### **Vice President**

*Our own Californian, Kamala Harris, will be the first woman, the first Black, and the first South Asian American to serve. Harris has been a leader in legislative reform as Attorney General in our state and has spoken often about the disproportionate effect of coronavirus on Black and Brown communities. Her early beginnings in Oakland/Berkeley sowed the seeds of her civil rights and social justice reforms. Her recent book, "We Hold These Truths" provides a good window into the background and motivations of this truly remarkable woman. Her new role creates an opening for a new U. S. Senator from California. Prospective picks include Barbara Lee, Alex Padilla, Xavier Becerra, and Libby Schaff.*

### **AAUW supports a peaceful transition**

*AAUW joins with the World Justice Project in supporting the rule of law and peaceful acceptance of election results as stated in the "A Joint Appeal to Protect the Rule of Law in the 2020 U.S. Elections." We urge those in leadership positions to encourage peaceful participation in the election Process and to condemn any threats or acts of violence. We also urge all Americans to exercise patience, civility, and restraint, so that the results of the elections can be determined in accordance with the rule of law and peacefully accepted by the American people.*

### **Call to Action**

*Make your voice heard in the halls of our representatives. We deserve a peaceful and smooth transition. We deserve a coordinated and adequate response to the pandemic and we deserve a chance to issue stimulus help to the many people who have lost their jobs. Let's urge our representatives to do the right thing by our democracy and nation.*

*Stay well-Stay engaged and keep up the fight.*

*Asha Bajaj*

*AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek*

*Public Policy Chair*

**Equity For All.**



## December 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	14	15 Tues. evening books*	16	17 Thurs. books Sec. 1 & 2*	18 Hanukkah ends	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28 Jan. Beacon deadline	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

## January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2 12:30 Human Trafficking Committee mtg*
3	4 10am Board meeting	5	6	7 Lunch bunch*	8	9
10	11 Human Trafficking Event, see pg. 1	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 MLK Day	19 Tues. evening books*	20 Inauguration	21 Thurs. books Sec. 1 & 2*	22	23
24 31	25 Feb. Beacon deadline	26	27	28	29	30



## AAUW Santa Cruz County Branch Interest Groups

All work and no play? To counteract that we have a variety of interest groups for our members. If you'd like to join a group or attend one to see if it interests you, please contact the leaders listed below. We'd love to see you. If you're interested in starting a new Interest Group, we welcome your ideas. Contact Jeanne Jorgensen, [jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com).

In order to attract new members and make AAUW's goals more visible to the community, our Membership meetings and luncheons are open to the public. Come join us and bring a friend! You'll find an amazing group of women who offer you friendship and intellectual stimulation.

### 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!

The Tuesday Night book group will meet via Zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in December, the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, hosted by Darby Kremers. We will discuss TAPESTRY by Nancy Bilyeau. Jeanne Jorgensen will lead the discussion. (Someone will bring the virtual cookies!) All are invited to join this group; please contact Mary Maier, [marylmaier@gmail.com](mailto:marylmaier@gmail.com) for information.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section One, Leader Andrea Losee, phone 462-3010, email [alosee@cruzio.com](mailto:alosee@cruzio.com); Continues to meet via Zoom, the third Thursday of the month at 1 PM. Book List for 2020-21 is available. Contact Andrea for details.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section Two, Leader, Susan Elgin, phone (831) 335-7288, email [elgin@cruzio.com](mailto:elgin@cruzio.com). We will be meeting via Zoom. Contact Susan for details.

### Reader's Theater

Our play reading group typically meets on the third Wednesday of the month. The Readers Theater group is **not meeting during the coronavirus pandemic**. Since scripts are distributed at our meetings, we are delaying our play reading until conditions change. 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).

### Bridge

Bridge is coordinated by Jeanne Jorgensen. Am trying to get groups to play online through Bridge Base Online. No plans to resume in person playing at this time. Contact Jeanne for details at [jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com), 831-477-7025.

### Lunch Bunch

Continues to meet via ZOOM, the second Thursday of the month at noon. Contact Kit Hein: [bythebeach15@gmail.com](mailto:bythebeach15@gmail.com) with questions.

### Human Trafficking Committee

Virtual presentation planned for January 11, 2021, see page 1 and page 6. We are continuing Zoom meetings 1st Saturday of month.

### Great Decisions

Contact Grace for details: [graceger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceger@sbcglobal.net)



## 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  
and send to  
Lynn Cummins  
P.O. Box 556  
Freedom, CA 95019  
for AAUW Fund contributions,  
you may mail your check or do it  
online on the AAUW Website (at  
aauw.org click on Donate)

### Local Scholarships

Make checks payable to  
AAUW LS&P 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 and send to  
Kris Sheehan  
215 Brodin Lane  
Corralitos, CA 95076

In Memory of/In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

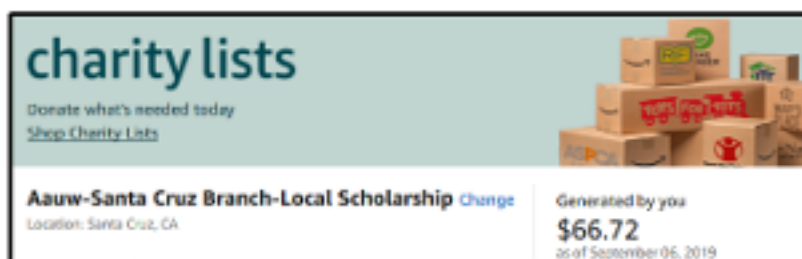
Send announcement to \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Select AAUW Santa Cruz on AmazonSmile

### Another Way to Donate to Our Local Scholarships & Projects Fund

Lorraine Margon continues to donate through the AmazonSmile program, and says, "It's so easy to contribute to our important programs this way."



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

To get started:

- Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).
- Note that the first time you use it, you will need to designate "AAUW-Santa Cruz-local scholarships" as the charity you wish to designate.
- There is an easy pop-up box that prompts you to make your selection.
- And then, every time you shop with Amazon, you need to begin at: [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

These monies fund local scholarships, special aspects of Tech Trek and our Human Trafficking prevention work.