



The Beacon

Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

January 2021



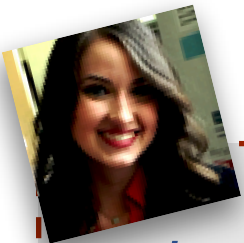
#End Human Trafficking Committee

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

President-Elect *Open*

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Secretary

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AAUW Funds VP

Lynn Cummins 728-2128
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By-Laws & IBC Liaison

Lois Holcomb 688-0541
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Local Scholarships / Publicity

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

Tech Trek

Kris Sheehan 915-3630
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Human Trafficking

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dwallace@karonproperties.com

President's Message

HELLO 2021!



Something "new" to think about.....

As members of AAUW, we are not a disconnected group of women who meet monthly just to enjoy lunch, review a book, play bridge or discuss foreign policy. On the contrary, we all belong to a nationwide organization guided by a mission to make life better for women and girls. We show our national support through our dues. We show our local support through our participation.

Attending our branch's general meetings is one of the best and easiest ways to fully participate in AAUW. It shows support for our national mission and acknowledges the efforts and accomplishments of our own branch.

Our mission based committees like Local Scholarships, Tech Trek and Human Trafficking work hard to fulfill their designated missions and to bring us engaging and informative programs. Each month our Program Vice President creates innovative and timely events that both educate and entertain I'm already looking forward to next week's showing of "Chosen"....sounds intense! In early February we'll be treated to our own Valentine Chocolatier (yum!) and in late February, the opportunity to "chat" with US Representative, Jackie Speier, a proponent of women's rights. A pretty impressive lineup! You won't want to miss any of these great programs.

Start this New Year off with familiar connections and new interests, be part of all that is happening in our Santa Cruz branch.

DON'T MISS OUT!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.

I guarantee you will learn something new, enjoy the company of others and not have to worry about finding a parking space.

Happy New Year Everyone,

Phyllis

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.



Congratulations to
Our Membership VP, Local
Scholarships & Publicity
Chair Jeanne & husband
David Jorgensen
on their 60th Anniversary,
December 30, 2020

- **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, phone: 475-9073
- **Other announcements to share?** The next Beacon deadline is Monday, January 25. Please send entries to dwellace@karonproperties.com. We hope to have the upcoming Beacons in your inbox the first week of each month!

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/56JT7XE>

Public Policy News

By Laura Nolan, Branch Public Policy Chair



AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

Hopeful Biden-Harris Transition Team Will Support AAUW Policy Objectives

Over the last month, AAUW has communicated with the Biden-Harris transition team about the actions we, and our coalition partners, would like to see the incoming administration take to support the economic security and education of women and girls. COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on women and people of color, and we must take bold steps to address economic disparities and inequitable educational opportunities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

We asked the Biden-Harris Administration to focus on equity issues, including increasing the minimum wage, advancing pay equity, canceling student debt, suspending implementation of the new Title IX rule, and prioritizing gender and racial equity across departments and programs. We also urged them to appoint candidates to key cabinet positions who have a deep understanding of systemic barriers to equal opportunity faced by historically marginalized communities and have a record of advocating for the civil rights of all working people and students they serve. Read the full 4-page letter here: [AAUW Priorities Letter to Biden-Harris Administration](#)

Source: AAUW Washington Update email dated 12/22/20.

Start the New Year Watching The Best of AAUW 2020 Webinars!

Watch, or re-watch some of the top policy webinars of the year: The Status of Latinas in the United States, Justice Ginsburg's Legacy and the Future of the Court, and Social Media Advocacy 101, and more.

aauw.org/resources/programs/equity-network (Scroll past the Upcoming Events sign up fields to see webinar listings)

Sign up for AAUW -CA Action Alerts!

Help with the passage of these and other pieces of legislation, by using Action Alerts to your elected state officials. Go to Sign up for Action Network and sign up. You will automatically be enrolled

[Read More](#)



Equity For All.

Local Scholarships News

We held a zoom, "virtual" luncheon on Dec. 12th with video entertainment (Fiat Musica from 2019) and speakers from Cabrillo and UCSC. The women scholarship recipients told us of their educational process, including the difficulties of field work in the time of covid and expressed their appreciation of our support. Attendees enjoyed visiting with each other and sharing what they were eating at the "virtual lunch". Winners of the raffle prizes were: Joyce Hopkins (Chardonnay tickets), Mary Lou Stewart (Shoppers' Corner gift certificate), Mary Maier & Vickie Birdsall (Palace Arts coupons_ and Barbara Pearson and Audrey Strayer (Marinelli's sparking juice). The committee wishes to thank Martha Mangan, Anne Sherwood, Darby Kremers, Dorothy Patrick, , Barbara Lewis, Lorraine Margon, Lynn Cummins, Kit Hein, Grace Gerbrandt, Lois Holcomb, Phyllis Taylor, Roberta Sosbee, Vickie Birdsall, Mary Lou Stewart, Karen Coatney, Barbara Pearson, Liz Thorington, Joyce Hopkins, Debra Wallace, Jane Amaral, Audrey Strayer, Marilyn Brenner, Doreen O'Donovan, Laura Nolan, Mary Maier, Nicci Winner, Shari Hastings, Andrea Losee, & Cyndi Schuette for their "reservation donations". Please continue to support this good fund by sending donations to: AAUW LS & P Fund, 270 19th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062.

AAUW Fund News

While the fourth quarter numbers are not complete, the Santa Cruz County branch has given very generously to the AAUW Fund this year. Next month's report will be more specific. I can say that there were many contributions since I last thanked donors by name. There may be other donations in the pipeline, checks I forwarded by USPS around Dec. 1 were still not received in Washington on Monday when I asked; I was told that the postmark earlier than Dec. 31 would guarantee the amounts were doubled. Whether inspired by the end of the year match, or other factors, the branch thanks Sharon Bush, Judy Cavin Brown, Lynn Cummins, Kathy Donovan, Trudie Fator, Kit Hein, Trisha Kett, Carol Schmidt, Audrey Strayer and Phyllis Taylor.

With great hopes and best wishes for 2021, Lynn Cummins, AAUW Fund vice president

AAUW Statement on Biden/Harris Choice for Education Secretary



AAUW

@AAUW

Dr. Miguel Cardona @teachcardona is a great choice for Secretary of Education in the Biden Administration. We look forward to working with him to fulfill the promise of #TitleIX.

AAUW endorses the selection of Dr. Miguel Cardona to serve as Secretary of State in the Biden/Harris Administration.

Click [HERE](#) for full statement on Biden/Harris Choice



Tech Trek News

TECH TREK REPORT, January 2021

Kris Sheehan

So good to put 2021 on the report! Let's hope that 2021 is a fabulous year for all. We need to stay well until we can get the vaccine. Beyond the vaccine, until deemed normal again, we need to continue with safety precautions wearing a mask (Is yours a fancy one?) and staying the appropriate 6 feet apart.

Our Tech Trek Committee met in early December and evaluated the Virtual Camp offering from the state. As noted in last month's Tech Trek report, there were a number of issues with the Virtual Camp that impacted Santa Cruz County girls. Most importantly were interest and connectivity issues:

- Robotics is the emphasis of the camp, will it appeal to girls who want a different STEM opportunity?
- Connectivity issues would need to be resolved.

Our schools use ChromeBooks. They do not work with the Qualcomm Robotics program. Qualcomm is working on a solution, but has not guaranteed it will be completed by 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. A recent survey has shown that about 30% of the branches have opted out of the Virtual Camp and are doing their own STEM related program this year. We will not participate in the Virtual Camp.

Our committee has decided to create a STEM program based on Nature Journaling. This will offer girls the opportunity to move outside (away from screens for awhile) to conduct nature investigations on various topics. They would journal and then post their findings, sharing them with girls from around the county at interactive weekly Zoom meetings. Details of the program will be more fully described next month.

We will provide the required materials to each participant. There is little cost, about \$25 per girl, (covered by your recent generous donations) which enables a wider group of girls to participate in the program. We will invite Tech Trek alums from 2017 and 2018, girls nominated in 2019 (camp cancelled because of the virus) and 2020 7th grade girls nominated by county teachers.

We will be asking Tech Trek Alum, Danika Marlett and her Women in Science Soquel High group, as well as several other TT alums to engage with the girls in the 2021 local STEM program as mentors.

As Danika is now working with WISE at UCSC, there may also be an opportunity for that group to offer support to our 2021 program.

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.

This month Lois Holcomb has very generously contributed to our 2022 Tech Trek residential camp fund. Planning continues for Tech Trek camps on college campuses in summer 2022.

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



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	8	9
10	11 Human Trafficking Event, see pg. 1	12	13	14 Lunch bunch*	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

Upcoming Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendar!!!

Fri. Jan. 8	Last Day to Register for Virtual Lobby Day: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56JT7XF
Mon. Jan. 11	2pm Human Trafficking Awareness Event with Shared Hope International Ambassadors
Late-Jan or Early-Feb	1st Annual Local Women in Business Program This will be a chocolate-tasting event with business owner and chocolatier Jennifer Ashby of Ashby Confections.
Sat. Feb.27	2pm Inter-Branch Council Meeting
Mon. Mar. 22	7-8:30pm Virtual Lobby Day Training Webinar
Wed. Mar. 24	Virtual Lobby Day
Sat. Apr. 17	AAUW-CA Annual Meeting

Note: All meetings will be held via Zoom.

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.

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 3rd Tuesday in January, 19th at 7pm, hosted by Darby Kremers. We will discuss THE LOST GIRLS OF PARIS by Pam Jenoff. Mary Maier will lead the discussion. All are invited to join this group; please contact Mary Maier, marylmaier@gmail.com for information.

Thursday Afternoon Books, Section One, Leader Andrea Losee, phone 462-3010, email 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. 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.

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, 831-477-7025.

Lunch Bunch

Continues to meet via ZOOM, the second Thursday of the month at noon. Contact Kit Hein: 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



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 _____

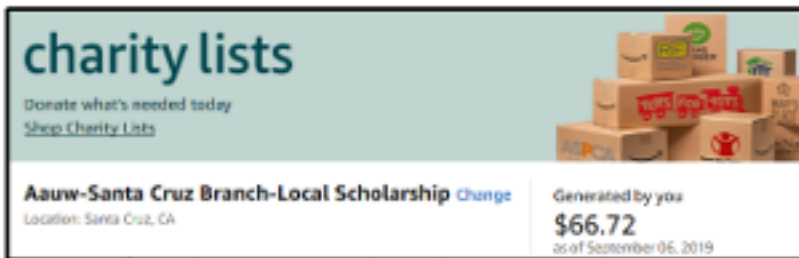
Send announcement to _____

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."



To get started:

- Go to 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.

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