



The Beacon

Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

February 2021

PLEASE JOIN US !

AAUW Monterey Bay Inter-Branch Council Meeting via Zoom,

which includes both the Monterey Peninsula and Santa Cruz County branches of AAUW

A Tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Date: Saturday, February 27

Time: 2:00 PM

Speaker: Representative Jackie Speier



Congresswoman **Jackie Speier**, 14th Congressional District, will be our guest speaker. She advocates for Women's Rights and supports the decisions made by Justice Ginsburg for Fair Pay, LGBTQ equality and same-sex marriage. She is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and also of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. She is the author of *Undaunted: Surviving Jonestown, Summoning Courage, and Fighting Back, 2018*. She also is a member of AAUW.

To Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86528726228?pwd=eFJWenVteXNWMjkzWGlmYmMk3VUovdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2872 6228 **Passcode:** 849928

Use the link above to attend but please **REGISTER** by sending an email to **Lorraine Margon** (Santa Cruz Branch) **by February 22** at lorrainemargon@gmail.com.

Friends and family of branch members are welcome to register. Because space is limited, branch members will have priority for registration. Additional spaces will be allocated to friends and family members based on date of registration.

Speaker Questions: You may submit questions for Congresswoman Speier in advance by email to Fatima Dias (Monterey Peninsula Branch) at mafadimo@yahoo.com. There will also be time to ask questions after the presentation.

Opportunity Drawing: After the end of the program, each branch will hold an opportunity drawing for a signed copy of Rep. Speier's book, *Undaunted: Surviving Jonestown, Summoning Courage, and Fighting Back*. Branch members who have registered and are present at the time of the drawing will be eligible to receive the book.

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

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President's Message

Like you, the images and events of the past four weeks have been seared into my brain....and heart.

The depth and details of political divisions in our country have been laid bare for all to witness. To my thinking, we've "hit rock bottom".

What will it take to repair the fabric of trust and civility that binds us as a nation?

I feel there's a powerful lesson to be learned by reflecting on the legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her improbable friendship with Chief Justice Antonin Scalia.

RBG and Antonin Scalia were two of the most diametrically opposed Supreme Court judges in recent history and yet they had a deep and enduring friendship. "These two great Americans demonstrated that argument need not destroy affection." * Their views on the constitution could not have been more divergent. For decades, they vehemently and publically attacked each other's ideas and decisions. But never did they attack each other. They respected each other. And our country was all the better for their strong, diverse beliefs and judicial decisions. We need balance. Our system functions best with the civil give-and-take of ideological diversity. Well informed ideological adversaries governed by the rule of law exemplify a functioning democracy.

Can the remembrance of an improbable friendship heal a nation? No, not by itself.... but it can be a start.

Come on February 27th and join us in our celebration of RBG's legacy.

Phyllis

* *Quote source; Judge Amy Barrett*



Membership/Program News



BRANCH PROGRAMS – by Lorraine Margon

We continue to meet via Zoom during the pandemic. I hope that some of you have already received your first Covid-19 vaccine and perhaps even your second. Others are waiting for their group to be called. Meanwhile, we are following state, county and AAUW National guidelines for meeting, or rather NOT meeting, in person. Of course, all of us are looking toward late-summer and fall with the hope of seeing one another over a festive luncheon meeting in a public setting. I certainly look forward to seeing your faces in person but delight in seeing you on Zoom as we bide our time. The recent announcement by Governor Newsom that we are back to our “purple status,” and do not have to shelter in place in the same way as we had been doing, is great news. We will persevere....and be patient!

In mid-January, we had a well-attended Human Trafficking Awareness event that was broadcast via Zoom without a glitch. The post-event survey yielded excellent results in terms of how well received it was. Attendees reported learning a lot and feeling passionate to do their part to help #EndHumanTrafficking. Thanks to Martha Mangan and her committee, along with the speakers from Shared Hope International, for making this such a success.

In late-January, we had our first “Women in Business” event with Jennifer Ashby, owner and chocolatier of [Ashby Confections](#) (located in Scotts Valley). We had a good turn-out for this chocolate-tasting event. Jen described our chocolates as we enjoyed them together, and we learned a lot about her business. Our chocolate purchases helped to keep Ashby Confections afloat during this difficult time for businesses trying to survive during the pandemic.



SURVIVING JONESTOWN,
SUMMONING COURAGE,
AND FIGHTING BACK



Coming up in February. . .

I hope to see you at our annual inter-branch council meeting on February 27 at 2 pm. You will have seen the notice for this on page 1 of this newsletter. Our branch and the Monterey Peninsula (MP) branch take turns organizing this program on alternating years. We organized last February’s event, which turned out to be the last in-person meeting we held. This year, the MP branch has organized an exciting program for us, with Congresswoman Jackie Speier as the featured speaker and with a theme of saluting Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Please RSVP to me as indicated on the announcement. This will ensure we have an accurate headcount (event is limited to 100) and will enter you into the “opportunity drawing” for Mrs. Speier’s latest book.

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.

AAUW's Policy Priorities for the 117th Congress

In January, Kate Nielson, AAUW Director of Public Policy & Legal Advocacy sent a letter to members of Congress which presented AAUW National's federal legislative priorities for the 117th Congress. Excerpts from that letter are below and illustrate AAUW's current policy priorities.

There is much Congress can do to ensure women's fair treatment in our workplaces:

- Swiftly pass the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA) to update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 so that it provides effective protection against sex-based pay discrimination in today's workplace.
- Swiftly pass the Raise Wage Act, which would gradually raise the federal minimum wage until it reaches \$15 an hour and provide for other wage related improvements.
- Support passage of the BE HEARD in the Workplace Act, which provides new protections for workers by restoring workplace protections for older Americans, employees harassed by their supervisors, and workers retaliated against for bringing harassment claims.
- Pass the Ending Monopoly of Power Over Workplace Harassment Through Education and Reporting (EMPOWER) Act to increase transparency and training in the workplace, making it less dangerous for employees to come forward and report inappropriate behavior.
- Barriers to equity in education persist, particularly for women and historically marginalized populations. To address these issues, Congress should:

- Pass the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA), which provides additional resources, training and technical assistance to educational entities to support compliance with Title IX.
- Pass the Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency on Campus Sexual Violence (HALT) Act which would, among other things, strengthen prevention efforts by our federal government and colleges and universities nationwide to eradicate and respond appropriately to sexual violence and other forms of discriminatory harassment and gender-based violence.
- Pass the STEM Opportunities Act which would combat factors that limit the advancement of women and underrepresented groups in STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) degrees and careers.

AAUW stands unwavering in its commitment to improving the lives of women and their families, and is ready to serve as a resource to Congress and staff as we work on this progress together.

See the complete letter [HERE](#).



New White House Gender Policy Council

On January 18th, AAUW CEO Kim Churches issued a statement that "AAUW is thrilled to learn that the Biden-Harris Administration has created a White House Gender Policy Council." According to the Biden administration, the council's aim is "to guide and coordinate government policy that impacts women and girls, across a wide range of issues such as economic security, health care, racial justice, gender-based violence, and foreign policy, working in cooperation with the other White House policy councils." Essentially, this means there will be a government-wide focus on advancing and protecting the rights of people of all genders both here in the United States and abroad.

It will be interesting to watch to work of this Council and see how it fulfills its mission.

See Kim Churches' full statement [HERE](#). **Equity For All.**

Public Policy News - CA

When Will the Gender Pay Gap be Closed? 2069? 2369? 2451?

By Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

How long will it take? What can we do to make it happen sooner rather than later? These are questions that AAUW has been grappling with for decades. As we mark Equal Pay Day on March 31st, perhaps there is hope that we can make progress in decreasing the gender pay gap in 2021, given a new administration that is committed to social justice and leveling the growing disparity between the haves and have nots. We also now have women in the highest echelons of national leadership; and as we all know, when women are in charge, things get done!

According to the 2020 update to AAUW's *The Simple Truth*, it will take white women until the year 2069 to achieve parity with men based on the projected earnings ratio compiled between 1988-2019. For women of color the numbers are even worse. Black women will have to wait until the year 2369 – 350 years – as their earnings ratio has only advanced a mere 7% from 1988-2019. And Latinas find themselves in the worse scenario as their earnings ratio has only increased 4% from 51% to 55% during this period of time, projecting their year of parity to 2451! (AAUW, *The Simple Truth* 2020 update)

The reasons for these disparities in the gender wage gap are known – and understanding what's causing the problem is the first step to meeting it head on. Members are urged to read the summary of *The Simple Truth* update on our National website which lays out the problem, its causes and solutions.

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/10/SimpleTruth_1.8.pdf

AAUW is leading the charge to effectuate change and you are part of the solution with the work branches undertake on behalf of women and girls. The more we educate ourselves and others about the scope of this gender wage gap with programs like Start Smart, Work Smart, NCCWSL, etc., the more we chip away at the disparity. What is your branch doing to make a difference in the Gender Pay Gap? Let us know what creative ideas you have come up with to spread the word in these days of social distancing, we'll share them on the web (send to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

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.

THE 46TH PRESIDENT

A New Day

On January 20, Joe Biden was sworn in as the next president of the United States alongside vice president Kamala Harris. AAUW celebrates the rich diversity of the new Administration and Congress, and pledges to work with these leaders to make equity a top priority in 2021.



Tech Trek News

Happy February. The month of love, vaccines, optimism and here, in our area Spring flowers!

We reported last month that our Tech Trek Committee had decided to opt out of the virtual camp offered by the state committee this year and instead provide a STEM opportunity to Santa Cruz County Girls. We will look forward to Tech Trek's residential camp next year in 2022.

We are very grateful to Susan Chollar, our inhouse recently retired Science Education expert who has developed the program we will use this summer.

During July 2021, AAUW Santa Cruz will introduce a selected group of campers to the fascinating world of nature journaling. Our goal is to get our girls off their devices and outdoors where they will practice the science of making and recording careful observations about natural phenomena.

The girls will be guided through their four-week adventure by John Muir Laws, a noted Bay area naturalist and science educator. Laws has produced a series of short videos ([The Nature Journal Connection](#)) that are designed to introduce young people to the art and science of nature journaling.

Our "camp" will be carried out through socially distanced interactions. There will be no in-person meetings, however, the girls will have many opportunities to get to know each other and to share their ideas via two digital platforms: weekly Zoom meetings and Padlet, a digital bulletin board where they will post, view and comment upon each other's journal entries.

The campers will begin each "lesson" by watching one 15-minute episode of **The Nature Journal Connection**. They will follow Laws' prompts to get outside, observe and create one or more journal entries. Each camper will photograph and post her work on Padlet. If a camper lacks the technology to photograph and post, she will post a written summary of her work on the Padlet board. To encourage connections and collaboration, the campers will view and comment on each other's work.

The campers will complete two lessons each week for a total of eight lessons. At the end of each week the campers and the camp directors (our AAUW Tech Trek committee members) will meet on Zoom to share their ideas and their experiences. The committee will guide the discussions and also use this time to give additional instruction and answer any questions that the girls might have.

There will be no cost to the girls. Through your generosity we will be able to provide the materials cost per girl, enabling a larger number of interested 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 our 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.

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



February 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
|  | 1 1st Day of Black History Month; 10am Board meeting | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 12:30 Human Trafficking Committee mtg* |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Lunch bunch* | 12 10am Great Decisions* | 13 |
| 14 Valentine's Day | 15 President's Day | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 March Beacon deadline | 23 Tues. evening books* | 24 | 25 Thurs. books Sec. 1 & 2* | 26 | 27 2pm IBC mtg, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, see pg. 1 |
| 28 | March 1 1st Day of Women's History Month | | | | | |

Upcoming Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendar!!!

| | |
|---|--|
| Sat. Feb.27 | 2pm Inter-Branch Council Meeting: Congresswoman Jackie Speier |
| 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 The Tuesday Night book group will meet via Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday in February, the 16th at 7pm, hosted by Darby Kremers. We will discuss *THE WORLD: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION* by Richard Haas. Shirley Marcus will lead the discussion.

On March 16, we will meet at 7pm via Zoom to discuss *AMERICAN DIRT* by Jeanne Cummins; Joyce Hopkins will lead the discussion. Darby will host each meeting, providing our zoom link.

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

We are continuing Zoom meetings 1st Saturday of month.

Great Decisions

Our Great Decisions Group begins its Zoom Meetings on Friday, February 12, 10 am. We meet eight Fridays, the second and fourth of the month. Our discussions are lively and respectful, based on DVDs and material from the Foreign Policy Association. All are welcome. Contact Grace Gerbrandt graceger@sbcglobal.net or Vickie Birdsall vickiebirdsall@yahoo.com.



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 _____

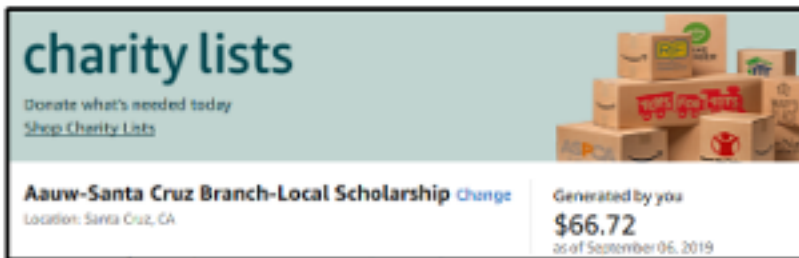
Send announcement to _____

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.