



The Beacon

Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

December 2021

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS HOLIDAY PARTY SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 2021 1-2 PM

Last year's party was so much fun we decided to reprise it. Join us via Zoom (link below) to hear from last year's scholarship recipients and representatives from the re-entry programs at UCSC & Cabrillo. Make a reservation & send a donation if you wish. (Maybe what you would have spent on lunch & raffle tickets.) All donations received from publication of this flyer up to December 9th will be matched (up to \$1000) by an anonymous donor.

We will have speakers & entertainment and will read the descriptions you sent of your yummy "at home" party food.

Information; contact jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com

Don't miss out!

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwuduYurTMvGtLtwyj0hU8AxEdDDspl0D7q>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

WHAT'S ON YOUR

MENU _____

YOUR DONATION _____

Make checks payable to:

AAUW Santa Cruz County Branch LSEP Fund

Mail to: Jeanne Jorgensen, 270 19th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062

pageborders.org

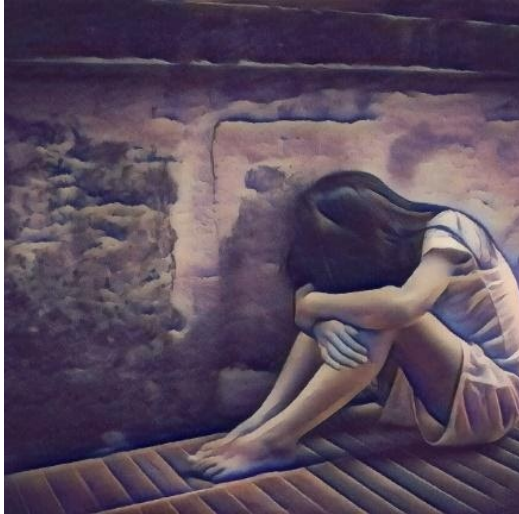


Presents

Mind Games:

Understanding the Predator Psychological Methodology

Saturday, January 22
12 noon - 2:30 pm
via Zoom



Traffickers and other predators use a mental methodology to ensnare our children in their traps. Learn how they gain the unconditional trust of youth, manipulate and control them, and keep them coming back despite extreme abuse and dehumanization.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3543348917?pwd=SzVETkQ2bXJlcW9POXB1bHJFelRqUT09>
Meeting ID: 354 334 8917 Passcode: 472354
For audio, find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbxNMcjKt>

Dr. Deena Graves is an award-winning communicator and strategist who uses her expertise to give a voice to children who are sexually exploited. She is the founder of M3 Transformations, an organization that designs solutions to take our children back from predators and trauma. Dr. Graves has received national recognition for her anti-trafficking work.

Derek Williams has been working for more than a decade to get traffickers, buyers and victims out of the human trafficking game. Once a trafficker himself, Mr. Williams says "While I can never make retribution. . . I long to prevent the destruction of more of our children."

This training is for those work with teens or want to know more about child sex trafficking.

Event sponsors:

AAUW Santa Cruz County
<https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net>

 **M³ Transformations**
<https://www.m3transformations.com/>

Questions?
831-425-1306



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: 2021-2022**President**

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Jeanne Jorgensen (+Publicity) see Membership
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President's Message

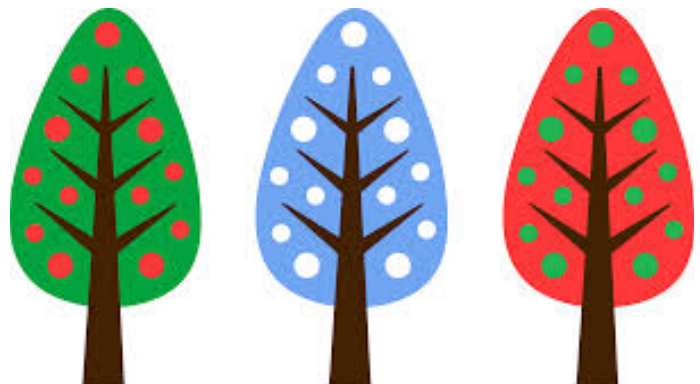
Last Holiday Season was certainly not what any of us expected or wanted, but this year we will have a fresh opportunity to not only receive but to give merriment in person! For me, last year's social restrictions have made this December's celebrations even more anticipated. I am so looking forward to Christmas morning and actually being with my grandchildren as they open their presents. Never too old for some holiday myth and magic, especially when it involves children!

As each of you looks forward to your own unique holiday traditions and celebrations, I hope you'll take a few moments and join me in reflecting on all that we have experienced this year and be grateful for all that we have and to think of how we might share that with others.

May you gather safely and experience joy and connection this holiday season.

With my warmest wishes for a wonderful new year,

Phyllis



Program News



From our Program Vice President

To our wonderful members,

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and perhaps are also now enjoying a Hannukah celebration. If not Hannukah, then you may be decorating for Christmas and buying presents. If shipping gifts, don't forget to mail early this year. To ensure your gifts arrive on time, the USPS has stated a deadline of December 17 for mailing cards and December 15 for shipping packages.

As you read this, I expect to be sailing with my husband through the West Indies, then on to a transit of the Panama Canal, with final stops in Costa Rica. Our "kids" are visiting relatives in the east, so there was nothing keeping us home for Thanksgiving. Hence, this 18-day cruise. The process of getting all of one's Covid testing ducks in a row is quite extensive. And so, by the time we board the ship, my husband and I will have taken 5 Covid tests each over a 6-day period. Given that we are both triple vaccinated, things should go according to plan.

Our programs continue to be virtual—via Zoom--until AAUW-California deems it safe for us to meet in person. We will re-assess in the spring and hope to physically see you then. Fingers crossed!

Because of travel, I will miss the Saturday, **December 11 Holiday Gathering** (at 1 pm). I will be there in spirit, however. Having already viewed the musical presentation (a slide show with several beautiful choral selections), I know you will enjoy that, along with hearing from our local scholarship recipients. Please have a cup of cheer for me!

As you will probably read in Kris Sheehan's report on Tech Trek activities, we had an excellent **program on November 6**. Our nature journaling students were very uplifting. It was fun to see their nature journal entries and to hear about how much each got out of the program that we put on for them. Speaker Melinda Nagakawa was terrific and showed us how nature journaling can be calming and meditative, and easy! You really do not need to be an artist at all. Just start with words, begin to draw, draw more, and you will get better.

On the horizon, we have a wonderful **Human Trafficking Awareness program in the works for January 22** at 12 noon. And I know you will enjoy the program I've put together for Saturday, **February 26** (at 12 noon) during which our speaker, an astronomer, will enlighten us on the topics of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). DEI has become quite the buzz word not only in AAUW, but in most organizations, as we all try to do better in these areas. More details will be published in the January edition of The Beacon. Meanwhile, be sure to save the date for this joint (inter-branch) program with the Monterey Peninsula Branch.

Happy Holidays!

Lorraine Margon



Saturday, February 26, 2022

12 noon via Zoom

Mark your calendars for this program with Dr. Dara Norman, a prominent astrophysicist and recognized specialist in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). We will meet jointly with our sister branch of the Monterey Peninsula. Dr. Norman will speak about her career path as an African American woman along with how we can do better in the areas of DEI. We hope you'll join us to learn more about this very important and relevant topic.

Tech Trek News

I hope your Thanksgiving this year was thankfully spent with friends and loved ones in real time, if possible.

I would like to share so many thank yous this month. Thank you to all our members who attended our Tech Trek meeting on November 6th. Thank you to those who bought raffle tickets. While we took in a small amount from the raffle, we know the winners will enjoy the prizes.

Winners were: The Nature Journaling Class and drawing materials - Pamela Peterson. The Succulent Gardens Gift Certificate - Mary Ripma. The Alladin Nursery Gift Certificate - Jeanne Jorgensen. The Elkhorn Slough Tour - Nicci Winner. The Nicholson Winery Wine Tasting - Susan Chollar. The Nature Journaling Book by John Muir Laws - Vicki Birdsall.

Every dollar from the raffle helps Tech Trek and Santa Cruz County girls. Of course if you would like to donate to Tech Trek anytime through the year, we will gladly accept your generosity.

A very special thank you goes to Susan Chollar, Lorraine Margon, Darby Kremers and Jane Amaral, our very small committee who did a fabulous job producing and narrating the program.

A unique experience was had for those who learned about Nature Journaling for the first time. Girls from our summer Nature Journaling Adventure spoke about their journey into Nature Journaling and their favorite nature Padlet entry.

Melinda Nagakawa's mini Nature Journaling lesson was rewarding for those of us who are adamant we cannot draw! What a fun exercise. Now to put her lesson into practice!!

Now for 2022! We are looking forward to hearing from State Tech Trek about the 2022 Tech Trek Summer Camp. Fingers crossed that good news about when, where and how many girls will be able to attend comes this month.

For the past 20 years, Tech Trek has developed summer STEM camp programs for girls generously supported by AAUW branches such as ours. Thank you all.

Best to you, Happy Holidays and stay healthy,
Kris



Public Policy News

2020-21 Legislative Session Winding Down

How Did AAUW California-sponsored Bills Fare?

By Kathi Harper, Co-Chair Public Policy, AAUW California



Note: I believe this is the first time in many years our branch members participated in Lobby Day which was held in March. As a follow up to that, I thought this article from our state Public Policy Committee on how many of our sponsored bills were approved, postponed, or became part of next year's budget, might be of particular interest.

Laura Nolan, Santa Cruz Branch, Public Policy Chair

Not particularly well, as it turns out! We started the year off with 39 bills we selected for varying degrees of support. We chose one bill to co-sponsor, AB 92 (establishing a sliding scale for family fees for childcare through 2023), with four additional bills for top-priority attention ("A" level), five bills for "important" status ("B" level), twenty-two bills for low ("C" level) attention, and seven bills to "watch."

Overall, 28 of our 39 bills have been designated "2-year" bills, which means they are dead for this year and likely will be taken up again in 2022. Our advocate, Kathy Van Osten, has explained that this is because **Senate and Assembly leadership set a limit of just 12 bills that a member could move to the second house, so members had to pick and choose what would they wanted to move forward.**

Three of our sponsored bills were signed by the Governor. They were AB 62 (upgrade garment worker wages), AB 367 (free menstrual products), and AB 887 (allows domestic violence restraining orders to be filed electronically).

Some of our bills did not make the cut. Four of our five top priority bills, along with our co-sponsored bill, and four of our other bills, did not make it through. These include AB 22, AB 92, AB 737, AB 966, AB 1361 (all promoting varied preschool and transitional kindergarten issues), and SB 245 (no cost-sharing for abortion services). However, several of them were converted into the Budget and Budget "trailer bills," which will provide funding for childcare. Although we were not entirely successful in getting our top bill AB 92 passed, the state budget includes \$60 million for one year of relief for all families using subsidized childcare, increased reimbursement rates for childcare providers, and funding for 206,000 new childcare slots.

The Governor vetoed the following bills: AB 123 (paid family leave), AB 1074 (rehire displaced workers), and AB 1461 (health services for non-citizens).

Thanks again to all our members who participated in Lobby Day and/or weighed in at critical junctures on social media. For descriptions of each of these bills and information on their status, visit our AAUW CA Bill Tracker on the website at:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2021/04/bill-tracking.pdf/>

Note: The original article was written before the Governor reviewed all of this session's bills. I have updated the article with the results of the Governor's actions. Watch for news about 2022 Lobby Day, coming in the spring.

LN

Membership News



Liz Thorington and Jeanne Jorgensen, co-vice presidents of membership, encourage you to look closely at your directory information and see if changes need to be made (link to new directory below). Send any updates to either Liz Thorington – elizabeththorington@yahoo.com or Jeanne Jorgensen – jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com. We want the Directory to be as accurate as possible. Thank you all to those who have sent in their renewals, and a reminder to those who haven't: Remember to get your dues in to maintain your membership!

Your NEW 2021-2022 DIRECTORIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD AT:

[AAUW SCC 2021-2022 Directory](#)

Local Scholarships News

The Local Scholarship committee thanks all who have contributed to make it possible to give out scholarships this year. We are looking forward to our virtual holiday event on Saturday, December 11th. Remember to send in your reservation; that's all you need to do to be eligible for our drawing. We have some lovely gifts that have been donated by local vendors. Please remember to contribute to the fund by sending donations to: AAUW LS & P Fund, 270 19th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062.

AAUW Fund News

Did you get the recent mailing from National with the beautiful summary of AAUW's achievements and impacts over the last 140 years? Were you as awed and inspired as I was? And did you notice that gifts to continue our work for equity and advancement will be doubled if they are received by Dec. 31? There are three ways to contribute to the Greatest Needs Fund in honor of the 140th Anniversary of AAUW's founding: 1) use your credit card at www.aauw.org/give140 or mail a check payable to AAUW either 2) to the Washington DC office in reply to the mailing or 3) to me at P.O. Box 556, Freedom 95019.

I hope you all have Happy Holidays and a Great New Year!

Lynn Cummins

AAUW Fund vice president

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.

Human Trafficking Committee News

Several years ago our committee was fortunate in having the organization Shared Hope be our presenter. Shared Hope has just released the 2021 Human Trafficking State Report documenting the United States progress from 2011 to 2019 in curtailing and preventing trafficking. I strongly recommend the site [Shared Hope Just Conference Plenary held Nov 19th](#). The program is online and tape recorded with excellent overviews and speakers on issues and policies the organization is recommending to the national audience. As stated before, this issue is bipartisan with a study that was able to carefully document what all states have done in this period of time. As you will see, progress was made. The highlights of the study reveal that states were organized as to Tiers. California ranked the last in the first Tier with Florida receiving the highest score. California was able to gain points featuring the issues of prevention and training. Our committee has emphasized these two issues so we feel we are on the right track. The letter grade for California was a D, so we can certainly improve in the next go-around. 40 US states received an F. To fully understand the ratings the report should be viewed online: <https://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/reportcards/>

Are your calendars marked for the AAUW SCC event on January 22 "World Trafficking Awareness Day"? Wear blue to tell our fellow citizens it is World Trafficking Awareness Day.

AAUW@140: Learn about our history of influence, impact and accomplishments.



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, December 27. Please send entries to dwallace@karonproperties.com.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Hannukah 11/28-12/6	1	2	3	4 Human Trafficking committee mtg.
5	6 10am Board mtg	7 Tues. evening books	8	9 Lunch bunch	10	11 AAUW LS Holiday Party
12	13	14	15	16 Thursday books, section 1 & 2	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26	27 Dec. Beacon deadline	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	



All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

- 1. Saturday, December 12 - 1pm** - Holiday Gathering
- 2. Tuesday, January 22 - 12 noon** - Human Trafficking Awareness Program
- 3. Saturday, February 26 - 12 noon** - Program Meeting with Monterey Peninsula Branch
- 4. March (date/time TBD)** - Second Annual Local Woman in Business Series
- 5. Saturday April 30** - AAUW-California's UNconvention
- 6. Saturday, May 14 - 12 noon** - Annual Meeting and Scholarship Luncheon
- 7. Friday, July 29 - time TBD** - Program honoring World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

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 in person on December 7th at 7pm at Jeanne Jorgensen's house. We will share the current titles we are reading and enjoy some holiday conviviality. Call: 477-7025 for directions.

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 fourth 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

Now meeting in person the second Thursday of the month at noon. Contact Kit Hein: bythebeach15@gmail.com with questions.

Human Trafficking Committee

Public presentation planned for January 2022. We are continuing our Zoom meetings on the 1st Saturday of month at 12:30 pm.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions, our friendly Foreign Policy group, is organizing for the 2022 season. We meet twice monthly, January through May for video presentations provided by the Foreign Policy Association, America's largest and oldest discussion program on world affairs.

If Covid allows, we meet in the homes of members. This year we met successfully via Zoom. Our group is lively, thoughtful and diverse, offering an easy, interesting way to stay current in this ever-changing world. Everyone is welcome. Contact graceger@sbcglobal.net or 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 on the memo line and send to

Kris Sheehan

215 Brodin Lane

Corralitos, CA 95076

In Memory of/In Honor of _____

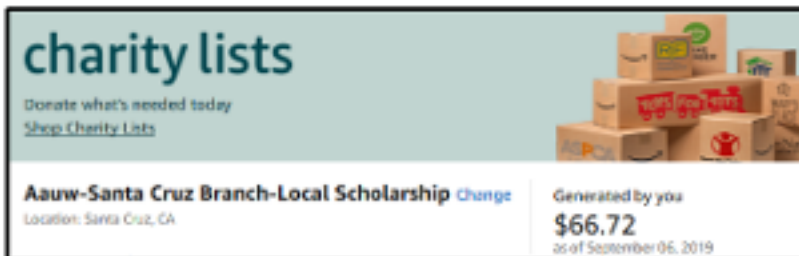
Send announcement to _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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. Set a bookmark.

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