



Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

The Beacon

February 2022

Join Us for the
Annual Inter-branch Meeting
of the AAUW branches of
Santa Cruz County and
the Monterey Peninsula

Topic: Diversity in STEM Disciplines
A Look at Astronomy
Speaker: Dr. Dara Norman

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022
at 12 noon via Zoom

REGISTER
NOW!

The number of women in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics has grown significantly in recent years. In 2017, 33 percent of astronomy bachelors' degrees and 40 percent of astronomy doctorates went to women; however, there is still much work to do at senior levels. Additionally, although the number of White women has grown, representation is still poor for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Women of color especially struggle with the effects of this "double jeopardy" in their STEM careers. Efforts for diversity, equity, and inclusion have increased to the point where now long-established organizations (e.g., professional societies, university departments, and funding agencies) are moving to support the improvement of representation in Physics and Astronomy. Dr. Norman will discuss some of these ongoing efforts, note where changes have occurred, and highlight areas where more effort is needed.



GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Dara Norman, is an astrophysicist and a recognized leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). She holds a B.S. in Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Science from MIT, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Astronomy from the University of Washington.

In addition to her personal astronomy research, Dr. Norman is a prominent diversity advocate and the Deputy Director of the Community Science and Data Center at NOIRLab (National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory),* which manages telescopes and astronomical data distribution at observatories in Arizona, Hawaii and Chile. In this role, she works on establishing and implementing recruitment and retention initiatives for minorities and women in astronomy. She is one of approximately only 20 African-American astronomers in the world at present.

She also serves as a member of the American Astronomical Society's Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy. She has served as an expert panelist in a number of National Academy of Sciences studies, which have culminated in the Academies' 2013 report on advancing women of color in academia and a 2018 report on sexual harassment in the sciences.

*NOIRLab is the preeminent US national center for ground-based, nighttime optical and infrared Astronomy. The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA) operates these facilities and NSF's NOIRLab under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation (NSF).

REGISTER BELOW: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Guests are welcome.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYscO6grTsiE9IMnm-gq4pdTJ8031bDDIW6>

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!

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President's Message



I recently discovered yet another reason to like February as if heart-shaped boxes and chocolates aren't enough! February is **National Women's Invention Month**. Making it the perfect time to celebrate female curiosity, creativity and inventive powers.

As we know, for centuries women have had to fight for civil rights and getting a patent for their ideas or inventions was no exception. Until the late 19th century there were laws denying women the right to own property, including intellectual property like a patent. During those times most often fathers and husbands were issued patents that rightly belonged to their wife or daughter.

Fortunately the last 150 years have led to societal changes that now support and encourage recognition of women's achievements.

That said, have you ever:

- operated a circular saw...thank Tabitha Babbitt, 1813
- turned on a dishwasher...thank Josephine Cochrane, 1886
- needed windshield wipers...thank Mary Anderson, 1902
- eaten a chocolate chip cookie ...thank Ruth Wakefield, 1930
- dialed a cell phone...thank Hedy Lamarr, 1941
- had laser cataract surgery...thank Patricia Bath, 1986

....and a whole lot more! Go online, have some fun exploring 'women's inventions'. You'll be amazed and delighted.

One last thought, think of our Scholarship and STEM programs, imagine how they might play a role in influencing a young woman's or girl's future. Could our support help put someone's name on the above list?

phyllis

Continue our February's achievement focus with celebrated speaker Dr. Dara Norman, see pg. 1

Public Policy News

Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment

By Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield

AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

"It's past time that we treat childcare as what it is – an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy...and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades," says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childcaring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- 56% of married families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work.
- The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it's 83% for single fathers who maintain custody.
- The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare.
- Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding.
- 50% of Americans live in childcare "deserts" or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening.
- In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent.
- 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! *The Build Back Better Act*, now awaiting action by the Senate would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. **Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year.** Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation's future.

AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

To find out more or to contact your senators, go here: [TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST](#)



Public Policy News Cont'd

AAUW Is Nonpartisan, but has Always Been Political

By Laura Nolan, Santa Cruz County Branch Public Policy Chair

AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW, founded in 1881, has a long history of advocacy:

1935 Supported legalizing physicians' dispensation of contraceptive information.

1945 AAUW member Representative Chase Woodhouse (D-CT) introduced the first proposed federal equal pay legislation.

1964 Members worked to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

1972 Instrumental in the passage of Title IX.

1993 Advocated for the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

2009 Provided critical support resulting in President Obama signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Note: There are rules about representing AAUW, find out more here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/>

Source: 12/15/21 AAUW Webinar: *Exploring Tough Policy Issues through an AAUW Lens: Political and Non-Partisan*



AAUW National:

- Takes political stands, dictated by member-adopted Public Policy Priorities,
- Endorses legislation based on these priorities,
- Uses advocacy to influence legislative debate on critical issues affecting women and girls,
- Guides state and local advocacy efforts, and
- Works with any policy makers from any party to advocate for our priority issues.

Here's what you can do to advocate on behalf of AAUW:

- Contact your state or branch leaders to see if there are any meetings or events you can attend.
- Do Two-Minute Activist social media posts when asked by email.
- Write letters to the editor of local newspapers.
- Call and meet with your local officials.
- Educate friends, family members and voters.

AAUW California Lobby WEEK 2022

This year's lobby effort will be partly in person at local legislative offices and partly via Zoom.

Set aside **April 11-15** for Lobby Week when legislators will be in their home districts. The State Public Policy Committee, with help from our advocacy firm MVM Strategies, will set up meetings for branch members to personally meet with representatives in their local district offices this week.

March 17-18: The State Public Policy Committee will meet to review state legislation to determine our legislative agenda for the 2022-23 legislative session.

April 7: Zoom training for Lobby Week for members.

Stay tuned for more details.

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. 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.



A Warm Welcome to our Newest Member:

Susan Shane

250 Cottini Way, Bonny Doon, CA 95060

(831) 423-9725

suse223@gmail.com

Also...be sure to see page 7 for a fun new Beacon feature: **Member Spotlight!** Kudos to our Hospitality/Sunshine Chair, Audrey Strayer, for coming up with this great idea. It will be a nice way to get to know one another!

Local Scholarships News

The Local Scholarship committee will soon begin the process of reviewing scholarship applications. Awards will be made in the late spring and we will announce our scholars at our May meeting. If anyone is interested in taking part in the reviewing of applications, please send an email to jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com.

Please continue to contribute to the fund by sending donations to:

AAUW LS & P Fund, 270 19th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062 or online by credit card or PayPal here: [Local Scholarships Donations](#)

Human Trafficking Committee News

Our Zoom event "Mind Games" met with great success. We had good support from our branch and positive feedback. Dr. Graves was an excellent presenter. Keep in mind that there will be a book published the first of March written by Dr. Graves, "Mind Games". We have pre-ordered and hope to preview it when it arrives.

We will continue to meet by Zoom the first Saturday of the month at 12:30. We will again focus on posters with hotline numbers mandated by the state to be placed in strategic places throughout the county. We will also investigate ways of promoting the signing of the Convention for Children's Rights by our government. Our thanks to the many donors who generously contributed to the committee in the last month. Please join the Feb. meeting for a review of the Zoom presentation by our members.

Tech Trek News

February, 2022 Tech Trek

Kris Sheehan

Here we are: Spring coming in with hopefully more rain on the horizon. Not sure about you all, but I have out of season flowers opening, camellias, azaleas and daffodils peeking up their heads!

As I shared with you last month, we were waiting for the state to tell us how to proceed with our Tech Trek challenge in this very strange pandemic era.

We received a note from the state president letting us know a few decisions have been made. They will offer a Virtual Camp as they did last year. It will be June 19 for a week.

Five college campuses have agreed for overnight camps in the June/July time frame, but not Stanford yet!

This poses an issue for our girls in this county as the closest overnight campus is some three hours away. The State has yet to let us know where girls in our area would be eligible to attend. If so, how many?

They have promised complete details by the end of next week.

Our Committee will be meeting next week to put together information for the schools and teachers who will be asked to nominate girls for the Virtual/or Sleep Away Camp.

Teachers are very busy with the everyday challenges of teaching in this strange atmosphere. We usually are able to give them plenty of time to nominate aspiring STEM girls. This year, timelines will be compressed based on required completion dates from the State.

We will let you know next month how we progress with the Tech Trek selection and the options we will have for the selected girls.

Thanks for your continuing support. Tech Trek is valuable for so many girls' futures in the STEM world.

Stay Well,

Kris



AAUW Fund News

Thank you to all who sent year-end donations to the Greatest Needs Fund: Sharon Bush, Lynn Cummins, Kit Hein, Sarita Motove, Carol Schmidt, Phyllis Taylor and Debra Wallace. At this writing, the staff at National has not yet presented the final year-end report. If you made a contribution that is not acknowledged here, please contact me at 831-728-2128 or lynncummins113@gmail.com so I can follow up with them.

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.

Member Spotlight



A passion for learning defines the life of **Susan Cafarelli Burke**, one of our newest branch members.

Born and raised in Salt Lake City to a Mormon mother and Catholic father, she was the 6th of 7 children.

Her upbringing involved a unique blend of spiritual thought. She was educated in Catholic schools, sometimes feeling socially isolated as a member of a religious minority.

After earning a BA in history from the University of Utah, Susan spent two years as a flight attendant for United Airlines, based in Chicago, and traveled to many places in the United States.

To develop spiritually, she traveled to India in 1972 and visited an ashram to study Transcendental Meditation. Upon her return, she earned an AA degree in art--and in later years got an MFA also.

Always interested in theology and spirituality as a result of her family background, she then attended the Berkeley Graduate Theological Union, earning an MA in Theology.

An accomplished artist, Susan worked as a graphic artist for several years and then received an MA in Instructional Technology, which she put to use teaching comparative religion for several years at De Anza College.

She married in 1989. Her husband also taught at De Anza. A Social Science instructor, he had been a Catholic priest, but left the priesthood to marry Susan.

In 1991, the couple moved to Scotts Valley. Her husband died in 2015, and she remained in Scotts Valley, sharing her home with her beloved poodle, "Blue".

Susan's art and writing reflect spiritual, feminist, and ecological themes. Writing as Susan Cafarelli, she published "The Cross Symbol", which is available on Amazon.

Interviewing Susan was a stimulating experience. Her life of creativity and learning is inspiring.

Audrey Strayer



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



All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

- 1. Saturday, February 26 - 12 noon** - Program Meeting with Monterey Peninsula Branch
- 2. March (date/time TBD)** - Second Annual Local Woman in Business Series
- 3. April 11-15:** AAUW California Lobby week.
- 4. Saturday April 30** - AAUW-California's Annual Event
- 5. Saturday, May 14 - 12 noon** - Annual Meeting and Scholarship Luncheon
- 6. Friday, July 29 - time TBD** - Program honoring World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



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, February 21. Please send entries to dwallace@karonproperties.com.

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 February 1st at 7pm at Mary Maier's house. We will discuss TRANSATLANTIC by Colum McCann. Mary will lead the discussion. Call: 239-7695 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

We are continuing our Zoom meetings on the 1st Saturday of month at 12:30 pm. We are working on an event for July 29th.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is our friendly Foreign Policy group. We meet the second and fourth Fridays at 10am. Our first few meetings will be via Zoom. After that, we hope Covid will allow us to meet in the homes of our members. Our group is lively, thoughtful and diverse. It's 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 _____

Two ways to donate to Local Scholarships, Tech Trek and Human Trafficking prevention ONLINE:

**Local Scholarships
Tech Trek
Human Trafficking**



NEW! Donating directly to our programs just became a whole lot easier! Click the 'donate' button above to make a donation by credit card or PayPal. Shoutout to **Doreen O'Donovan** for setting this up!



Select AAUW Santa Cruz on AmazonSmile

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.

