



Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

From Dianne's Desk...

AAUW 2014-15 is coming to a close soon! Our February 28th "Healthy Gourmet Luncheon" was enjoyed by all for the delicious food and Melinda Reed's presentation on nutrition! On March 28, we viewed the documentary "Miss Representation," which gave us an inside look at how the media portrays women in our culture. Young girls are led to believe that their value lays in youth, beauty and sexuality—not in their ability or capacity to lead. .

April 7th is an important day for our community and all of Santa Barbara County. We are fortunate to be able to sponsor Carissa Phelps, author of "Runaway Girl," who will talk to us about the ABC's of sex trafficking on the Central Coast. The first is **Awareness** and that is what our branch is doing now! Please join us and bring lots of friends. You might want to come early to get a seat!

"Equal Pay Day" falls on Tuesday, April 14th this year! AAUW (all three County branches) will be receiving a proclamation from the County Board of Supervisors that day in Santa Barbara. On Tuesday, April 21st, our branch will receive a proclamation from Mayor Bob Ling! and the Lompoc City Council proclaiming April 14th as "Equal Pay Day." This is the first time our branch has received a "Equal Pay Day" proclamation from the City Council. Please consider attending the council meeting that night to show your support!

At our Annual Meeting and Installation on May 1st, we will have an opportunity for everyone to vote for our National AAUW officers and our CA officers. We will have laptops available for you to cast your vote. Every member can vote and should vote. Bring your member number and voting pin, which are on the label of the latest "AAUW Outlook" and let's all vote on May 1st!

Hope to see you soon!

Dianne Owens, President

News & Events

Thank you Lompoc Educators

We hope all our members can join us to acknowledge and honor our local educators with an Appreciation Event on Thursday, May 7, 4:30 at the Providence Landing Clubhouse, South Vandenberg Village.

Today's educators face complex and diverse challenges and we want to show our appreciation for all they do. Members are asked to bring a small finger food dish or beverage to share.

Thank you and I hope we have a great turnout to demonstrate how much the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of AAUW values the dedication and service of Lompoc educators and support personnel.

Nominations for Officers for 2015-16

A round of applause for Katie and Mary who served on the nominating committee, along with Dianne Owens to make the following nominations for our Branch officers for next year!

- President—Dianne Owens
- President-Elect—OPEN
- Program VP—Cathy
- Membership VP—Kari
- AAUW Funds VP—Betty
- Treasurer—Pat
- Secretary—Kristen

Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual meeting on May 1st. Voting and installation will also be held that evening at Dulcie's home.

Tech Trek news

Interviews for our four 2015 Tech Trek campers were held at Vandenberg Middle School on March 23 and at Lompoc Valley Middle School on March 26 by Wynn, Cathy, Marell and Dianne Owens. We had six great candidates at VMS and eight great candidates at LVMS. We will have four fantastic campers this year that will represent Space X and our branch very well.

Cathy will be a dorm mom once again for both weeks of camp at UCSB, Pat for one week and Dianne Owens for one week. A special thanks to Wynn for doing all the work to introduce the girls to Tech Trek, collecting the applications and interviewing at both schools. This wouldn't happen without her!!

News & Events (Continued)

The following email was sent to Wynn by AAUW on March 24!

Yesterday at the White House, Tech Trek's collaboration with Verizon for the App Coding program was among the programs mentioned. Please share these links with your branch members!

Here is the article on the AAUW website: <http://www.aauw.org/article/aauw-verizon-white-house/>. Here is the White House webpage with the entire fact sheet on STEM: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/23/fact-sheet-president-obama-announces-over-240-million-new-stem-commitment>.

Linda Stinebaugh, State Project Coordinator, AAUW California Tech Trek

Aurora goes to NCCWSL

Aurora Ruvalcaba, Allan Hancock student and President of the AHC Honor Society, has received a national scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The Conference will be held at the University of Maryland May 28 -30. Barbara and Dianne met Aurora when they attended a meeting of the Honor Society and knew she would be a great candidate to attend the conference. We encouraged her to apply for the scholarship and she is very excited about attending. Dr. Kevin Walthers, AHC President is very pleased and is working on a press release about Aurora and the award. Kathy Headtke, our AHC liaison at the Lompoc Center is an advisor to the Honor Society along with Mary A. Majoue. They are both pleased that Aurora received the national scholarship, as she is such a deserving student.

Board members have donated \$60 (we want to give her at least \$100) for spending money plus 3 Metro cards that have cash remaining for Aurora to use at the Conference. I will keep you posted on her travel plans, etc. She will leave on Wednesday, May 27, so that she can attend a pre-conference workshop in DC about social justice. She will graduate from AHC in May and is waiting to hear from the UC schools she has applied to. She is hoping to go to UC Berkeley to continue her studies in law. We will invite Aurora to a future event so that you can meet her before school starts in the fall.

Branch Program Recognition

We were notified on Wednesday, April 1 that our branch has been selected to receive one of the top 7 outstanding branch program awards for 2014-15. We submitted our November 20, 2014 "Human Trafficking" program with Opal Singleton, President and CEO of Million Kids and Director of Development for Rapha House International, and Megan Rheinschild, Victim-Witness Assistance Program Director with the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, Dan Dow, San Luis Obispo District Attorney and members of the San Luis Obispo Human Trafficking Task Force. The recognition and certificate will be presented to the branch at the Annual Meeting in Manhattan Beach on April 18. Martha, Santa Maria Branch, Jenkins, San Luis Obispo Branch and Allan Hancock College will be recognized by us for their help with this event.

Membership

“The years have proven that a member sharing their passion about AAUW with someone else has helped to keep our numbers strong. The stronger we are, the more we can accomplish on behalf of women and girls.” from National AAUW.

Thanks to all your contacts and referrals, we now have 113 members!

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page, Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW, and "like" us.

Renew your AAUW Membership!

It's time to renew your commitment to American Association of University Women and its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Membership dues are \$86 (Life members \$37) for the year, beginning July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. Our branch has opted-in to the AAUW Membership Payment Program (MPP), a secure, on-line dues processing alternative that will allow members to pay their national, state, and local dues on-line with a credit card. To pay on-line, one will need to go to aauw.org, log-in, and go to the Member Service Database (MSD). Enter the MSD, on the left side of the page click Membership Payment Program (MPP), renew my membership. I paid my dues on-line and it's very easy and convenient. Members will need their AAUW membership number to log-in. If you don't have it, please contact me and I'll send it to you. Of course, members may continue to pay by check; if so, please make checks payable to AAUW and mail to me at 826 Pellham Drive, Lompoc, by June 1. Members who have paid their dues on or before the May 1st installation will be eligible for a door prize. Be sure to pay your dues early, come to the installation, and you will have an opportunity to win a prize!

Money is available to assist any member needing help to pay their AAUW national dues. All requests are confidential; please contact me for more information.

Thank you for your continued support for education and equity for women.

Thank you, Barbara, Membership VP

Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Vision Statement

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

Diversity Statement

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

Programs**Human Sex Trafficking: the fastest growing crime in the US**

Tuesday, April 7th at 7 pm

Dick DeWees Community and Senior Center, 1120 West Ocean Avenue, Lompoc

It's happening right here in Lompoc CA. If you missed our November speaker, Opal Singleton, you're already behind.

Don't miss hearing Carissa Phelps share strategies Lompoc can use to combat the problem. Her book will be available for sale and she will sign books after the event. If you want to read the book before, visit The Bookstore, 1137 North H Street, Suite Q to buy your copy and bring it for Carissa to sign.

Carissa Phelps is a 38 year old Mexican-American author, attorney, and advocate for sexually exploited runaway children and homeless youth. Carissa's Runaway Girl, FPC, helps communities develop positive opportunities for runaways, former runaways, and survivors of trafficking.

At the age of 12, Carissa ran away, and was kidnapped by a pimp and forced into prostitution. Through small miracles and the unexpected kindness of a teacher and a counselor, Carissa has graduated from UCLA with both a law degree and MBA. She now spends her time working to help homeless and at-risk youth discover a better way of life.

Come early as we only have 150 seats. If you need a ride, call a friend and suggest they go too!!

From Opal Singleton, President and CEO, One Million Kids

Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in America!

- **California is the number one state for human trafficking cases! Three out of four victims are U.S. citizens!**
- **Teenagers are the most likely targets to be groomed and lured into prostitution and exploitation.**

Targets:

- **Foster kids, homeless kids, runaway kids and pregnant teens.**
- **60% of kids engaged in prostitution in the U.S. are from the foster care system. 80% of homeless kids are from the foster care system.**
- **One out of three kids that run away will engage in “survival sex” within the first 48 hours.**

70% of kids in prostitution are accessed through social media. The FBI states there are over 750,000 predators on line at any given time.

From Juvenile Hall to J.D.—
Carissa Phelps
author of “Runaway Girl”



AAUW

Carissa Phelps

Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 7:00 pm

Dick DeWees Community &
Senior Center

1120 West Ocean Ave., Lompoc

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Sex Trafficking

“The Fastest Growing Crime in America”

- = What is happening on the Central Coast?
- = How can our community help?

Carissa Phelps, is a 38 year old Mexican-American author, attorney, an advocate for sexually exploited runaway children and homeless youth. Carissa's organization, Runaway Girl, FPC, helps communities develop positive opportunities for runaways, former runaways, and survivors of trafficking.

Free admission

Call 805-757-3677 for information

Sponsored by the Lompoc-
Vandenberg Branch, AAUW



Programs (Continued)**Women in Space:**

Let's join the Santa Maria Branch showing of the documentary "**Women in Space**". **There will also be a live presentation by Capt. Cynthia Knoblock, AF Space Command at Vandenberg, followed by Q&A.**

When: Sat. 25 April; 2-4 p.m.

Where: Shepard Hall of the Santa Maria Library, 400 S. McClelland, S.M.

Light refreshments and beverages will be provided.

Donation of \$15 with check made payable to SM AAUW and sent to: Claire.

RSVP Deadline: April 21st

We would encourage you to invite any young ladies interested in the STEM at no charge

Annual Meeting and Installation, Friday May 1st, 5:30 p.m.

Our branch annual meeting and installation will be held at Dulcie's home, Lompoc at 5:30 pm on Friday, May 1st. Please bring an appetizer to share or a bottle of wine or non-alcoholic drink. We will have short reports from our Board members about the year's activities, as this will be our last meeting of the 2014-15 AAUW year. We will vote on our new officers and then install them for the 2015-16 year. Please join us for great food and conversation! Let's wear our AAUW colors—blue and green—for our last meeting !

Reservations should be made by Tuesday, April 28 to Cathy.

Cathy, Program VP

Public Policy

Originally published as the Forward View: Equal Pay and Equal Representation

Each year, as Women's History Month comes to a close, I usually share some statistics to explain why many areas recognize Equal Pay Day, which this year falls on April 14. This is the day which represents how much longer women have to work to earn the same wage as men in similar jobs.

However, this topic was well presented a few weeks ago by another writer. Ms. Holmes' statistics and commentary agreed with the ongoing research on pay equity done by American Association of University Women

Since Ms. Holmes' commentary, there is an exciting development on the state level. Senator Hannah Beth Jackson has authored Senate Bill 358 which will address wage inequality by strengthening protections against pay discrimination for women and stopping retaliation against workers who make inquiries about pay. If legislature can pass SB 358, it is hoped California can serve as a model for the nation and urge other states and the U.S. Congress to pass similar legislation in support of equal pay.

Public Policy (Continued)

On a related topic, last week, the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women presented the results of a study they conducted on gender representation on County and municipal boards and commissioners. For the County, women occupy 33% of the seats; men, 51%; and the remaining 16% of the seats are vacant. Looks like our elected county officials need to fill some spots. Although we always want the most qualified candidates chosen, filling some of these vacancies with qualified women would not be a bad idea.

The above statistics include the 15 member Commission for Women which traditionally has several vacancies, especially in the North County. Men are welcomed to apply. I would urge some of those who comment negatively on the local online sites about the merits of even having a Commission for Women, (or why women even have the right to vote!), to consider applying. Serving on the Commission would open their eyes about the concerns of women and families in our area.

In the study done by the Commission for Women, Lompoc did not fare too badly, with 41% of commission and board seats appointed to women. What their study does not mention is that there could have been a woman appointed to fill the recent vacancy on City Council. The sitting Council had the opportunity to appoint a woman to serve for two years as there were several very qualified candidates. However, the Council majority had other ideas. So, for the first time in decades, no woman sits on the City Council. In this instance, Lompoc took a step backwards.

As the SB CFW president noted in her presentation to the Board of Supervisors, encouraging women to voluntarily engage in public service can serve as a springboard to greater leadership opportunities. Elected officials should understand that and strive to have an equal or close to equal number of women on boards and commissions so women get the experience necessary to run for office.

More equality in public service, combined with legislation such as SB 358, might get the pay inequity issue resolved. The Lompoc Vandenberg branch of the American Association of University Women recently asked the Mayor of Lompoc to present a resolution to recognize April 14 as "Equal Pay Day". AAUW is delighted to learn that this will happen at the April 21 City Council meeting. In previous years, our request was denied. So this is a big step for Lompoc, which will now join other municipalities across the nation in presenting resolutions for Equal Pay Day. We urge residents to attend this event in support of the women wage earners of the Lompoc Valley.

Marell is the public policy chair of the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch, American Association of University Women.

Marell, Public Policy Chair

Interest Groups**Armchair Travelers**

We had a great turnout for Jana Hunking's talk on Iceland. Thanks to all that attended. The next Armchair Traveler's group will meet at Mary and Bob's home to enjoy their trip to the Galapagos Islands. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16th. Hope to see you soon. If you would like to share a trip you took or know of someone that may want to share their trip, please let Sally know. We don't have a speaker for May as yet.

Sally

Roaming Readers

Date

April 6

Book

Runaway Girl by Carissa Phelps (Gail Meehan)

Roaming Readers meets for breakfast and discussion at 9:00 a.m. on the first Monday of each month, unless that day is a holiday. In that case, we meet at the same time on the second Monday of the month. Meeting place is selected by each month's host. All AAUW members are invited to attend and welcome to join the group at any time.

Co-chairs: Carol Ann and Cathy

P.M. Book Explorers

April 15, "The Meaning of Human Existence" by Edward O. Wilson. Location: Kristen's home. Beverage: ?? Treats:?? Kristin will lead the discussion.

May 20, "Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt

We usually meet the 3rd Wed. of each month at 7 p.m.. Members whose homes are not convenient can volunteer to bring treats or beverage. The hostess will provide water and tea. Please e-mail me your volunteer treats or beverage and possible book choices.

We are always looking for additional "explorers" so please feel free to contact Gail for further information.

Gail, Chair

Interest Groups (Continued)

Healthy Gourmet Interest Group

Our first Healthy Gourmet luncheon was a great success. Registered Dietician, Melinda, spoke about "Nutrition after 50;" we enjoyed many nutritious and delicious dishes; and, our table conversations were lively and interesting. We are very much looking forward to another luncheon.

Several luncheon attendees have expressed an interest in having Healthy Gourmet luncheons twice per year. As with the first luncheon, we will do potluck again around a theme. Interest group members can discuss and plan before each luncheon either in person or via email. We will also invite a speaker to each luncheon for a talk about our theme.

Please email or call Kristen to join the Healthy Gourmet Interest Group. I will assemble a roster of names and email everyone with the list. Let's start planning our next luncheon! I was thinking about brain food???

Kristen

Dine out, Food, Fun and Friends Group (2nd Thursday of the month)

Thursday, April 9th is our next dine-out and we are off to old Santa Ynez. The restaurant is the Vineyard House which occupies a Victorian home dating back to 1907. The restaurant consists of two indoor rooms and two outdoor decks surrounded by beautiful gardens and the cool shade of 100 plus year old pepper trees. The views of the surrounding mountains are stunning!

Our reservations are at 6:30 p.m. and we've chosen inside seating. The address is 3631 Sagunto Street. Directions: Take 246 East to the traffic light on Edison (just past the Chumash Casino). Make a left on Edison and a right at the first stop sign on Sagunto Street. The restaurant is 1 1/2 blocks on the left. Those wishing to carpool should meet at St. Mary's church between 5:30 and 5:45. We will need a couple of drivers.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: The Vineyard House does not accommodate separate checks. So please bring cash - all denominations so you can calculate and pay your portion of the bill with correct change. Please feel free to go to their website and review the menus.

<http://www.thevineyardhouse.com/>

Hope to see you there!

Leslie & Billye, Chairs

Interest Groups (Continued)**Mission Walkers Group**

Join the AAUW women who walk the La Purisima Mission every Monday through Friday at 8:30 am. Just show up to enjoy the walk and company. If you need more information, contact Marell. If you are interested in walking on the weekends, please let the group know.

Calendar of Events

April 6	Roaming Readers: <i>Runaway Girl</i> by Carissa Phelps
April 7	Program: Carissa Phelps, author "Runaway Girl"
April 9	Dine Out Group at The Vineyard House
April 14	Equal Pay Day—SB County Board of Supervisors Proclamation
April 15	AAUW National Election voting opens
April 15	PM Book Explorers, <i>The Meaning of Human Existence</i> , by Edward O. Wilson
April 16	Armchair Travelers – Galapagos Islands with Mary and Bob Vossler
April 18	AAUW CA Annual Meeting, Manhattan Beach
April 18 – May 8	AAUW CA voting period
April 19	AAUW Southern California Leadership Day, Manhattan Beach
April 21	Lompoc City Council Meeting for Equal Pay Day Proclamation
April 25	Women in Space, Santa Maria AAUW Program
May 1	Branch Annual Meeting, Installation
May 5	Board Meeting, Dianne's home
May 7	Thank You Lompoc Educators Event
May 20	PM Book Explorers, <i>Goldfinch</i> by Donna Tartt
June 18-21	AAUW National Convention in San Diego

Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW Branch Information

LV Branch Website: <http://lompocvandenberg-ca.aauw.net/>

LV Branch Mailing address: P.O. Box 2523. Lompoc, CA 93438

Facebook: Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There is no barrier to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Scattered Seeds Editor: Julie