



Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

From Dianne's Desk...

April 2015 was a busy month for our branch. Over 200 people came to the Dick DeWees Center April 7 to hear Carissa Phelps, author of "Runaway Girl," talk about her experiences, her book and what we can do about sex trafficking on the Central Coast. It was a very successful event!

Tuesday, April 14th was Equal Pay Day! Women (on average) worked until April 14, 2015 to make what a man made by December 31, 2014. AAUW (all three County branches) received a proclamation from Supervisor Doreen Farr and the County Board of Supervisors. On Tuesday, April 21st our branch received a proclamation from Mayor Bob Lingl and the Lompoc City Council proclaiming April 14th as "Equal Pay Day." This is the first time our branch has received this proclamation from the City Council.

I attended the AAUW CA Annual meeting in Manhattan Beach April 18th and the Leadership Training Day on the 19th. The Santa Barbara County Interbranch Council and the San Luis Obispo County Interbranch Council received an award for our November 20, 2014 Human Trafficking Program featuring Opal Singleton, President and CEO of Million Kids. Donella Jenkins, co-president, San Luis Obispo Branch and I accepted the certificates. I also learned that we could have included future programs, such as our April 7 event with Carissa Phelps.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Planning Retreat June 27 at 9 am, Valley of the Flowers Church. It will be a fun day planning for our 2015-16 AAUW year! Hope to see you soon!

Dianne Owens, President

News & Events

“Thank you” reception for Teachers

AAUW supports a strong system of public education and we would like to recognize LUSD and Lompoc Center, Allan Hancock teachers for all their hard work and dedication.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, we are hosting a “Thank You” reception on Thursday, May 7, 4:30-6:00, at the Providence Landing Clubhouse, 697 Mercury Avenue, South Vandenberg Village and we really hope all of our AAUW members will come and support our local teachers.

Members are asked to bring a small finger food to share. Those of you who are both an AAUW member and a teacher, do not need to bring anything. Many of you have friends, neighbors, relatives who are local teachers, please reach out and invite them to attend with you.

Thank you and I hope we have a great turnout to demonstrate how much we appreciate our LUSD and Allan Hancock teachers. Please RSVP to Barbara by Monday, May 4.

AAUW National Voting and AAUW CA Voting

It is election time again for AAUW. For those who use email, you should have received an email from AAUW National and two from AAUW CA with instructions for voting.

Voting for CA officers has begun and will be open until Friday, May 8. We are electing six board members this year: President Elect, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and three Directors. In addition, there is a proposed bylaws change to clarify how we fill board vacancies, as well as the approval of our Public Policy Priorities for 2015-17. Your vote is important. To fully prepare yourself, you can visit the Elections section of the AAUW CA website.

Voting for AAUW National officers has also begun and will continue through June 19 at the National Convention in San Diego. You should have received an email with your personalized link to your ballot for the 2015 AAUW national election. Your ballot includes the candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors, amendments to the AAUW Bylaws, and proposed changes to the AAUW Public Policy Program.

Details about the [candidates](#) and [ballot issues](#) are available on the website and in your Spring/Summer *Outlook* magazine. Your member number and voting pin are on the label of your Outlook!

Please be informed. Please vote. Every member has a vote!

Let Dianne know if you have questions. She is also available to help, if this is your first time to vote electronically.

Tech Trek

This year our branch was fortunate to receive a donation from SpaceX funding three TT campers. In addition, our branch raised funds to support a fourth camper. We have spent the last month identifying and selecting our girls for 2015 which saw our largest group of applicants, 14, from both middle schools. Marell, Dianne, Cathy and I interviewed each applicant and selected the following 7th grade girls to attend UCSB: Victoria Carrillo and Ony Anogwi from Vandenberg Middle; Bella Huckably and Denise Robles from Lompoc Valley Middle.

Thanks to all of our members who continue to support our participation in this worthy project. Along with our campers, we have three dorm moms, Pat, Cathy and Dianne, going off to UCSB this summer. If you would like to spend a week at the beach you might consider joining them, they are always looking for more dorm moms.

Wynn, Tech Trek Coordinator

Save the dates!

Our PCPA IBC play will be July 11 and our Membership Event will be August 15. More information will be in the July/August Newsletter.

Programs

Help us install our new board for the 2015-2016 year

Friday, May 1st at 5:30 pm we will meet at the home of member, Dulcie with new members and returning, see old friends and make some new ones.

Please bring either a finger food item or a beverage, alcoholic or not.

Bring your input

How To Keep our Branch Current While Providing Mission Based Programming

What: Membership Planning Retreat

When: Saturday June 27th, 9 a.m

Where: Valley of the Flowers Church, 3346 Constellation Road, Lompoc, in South VV

Bring a food item for continental breakfast. Beverages will be provided.

Hope to see you then and hear your good ideas of what you would like to see for the future

Cathy, Program VP

Membership

Renew your AAUW Membership!

Don't forget, 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. Members who have paid their dues on or before the May 1th installation will be entered into a drawing for a free national membership as well as other door prizes.

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. Your membership in AAUW is very important to us.

Thank you, Barbara, Membership VP

Public Policy

As our very busy AAUW year comes to a close, I want to remind our members that one of the priority issues for AAUW is protecting the rights of women in the area of reproductive health. This year has been extremely active for issues such as STEM, human trafficking, and equal pay. But what about women's health issues? Even when I visited the AAUW website to research this topic, information on abortion and reproductive rights seemed to be way down on the list.

This year has not been a good year for women in terms of reproductive rights. It all started last year with the Hobby Lobby decision. I am including excerpts of an article from the AAUW Outlook magazine from late 2014 to remind us that we must be vigilant that women's reproductive health care does not become more of a political 'football'.

Public Policy (Continued)

"in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, it was argued that closely held, for-profit organizations could prevent their employees from accessing birth control through their insurance. David Green, the CEO of Hobby Lobby, cited his family's objection to "abortion-causing" drugs and devices. In the lawsuit, members of the Green family, who posit that life begins at conception, singled out two types of birth control: emergency contraceptives (or "morning-after" pills) Plan B and Ella and intrauterine devices (IUDs) ParaGard, Mirena, and Skyla.

The Hobby Lobby ruling sent a shockwave through the women's rights, health, and legal communities, especially because the objected-to contraceptives don't actually cause abortion. Doctors, including those at the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, say that, medically, pregnancy starts when a fertilized egg implants in the uterus — not when sperm meets egg, as some religions dictate. Hobby Lobby argued that IUDs and morning-after pills were "abortifacients" because they could, potentially, prevent a fertilized egg from implanting. As ACOG said in one of several statements about the case, "Contraceptives that prevent fertilization from occurring, or even prevent implantation, are simply not abortifacients, regardless of an individual's personal or religious beliefs or mores."

The lawsuit itself and the Supreme Court's ruling reflect a profound misunderstanding about what birth control does, but they are also symptoms of a larger, stereotypical cultural perception. Birth control is still perceived by many as the province of "sluts," as Rush Limbaugh's infamous remarks about Sandra Fluke reminded us all two years ago. Never mind that 99 percent of sexually active women in the United States have used birth control or that contraceptive use is linked to healthier pregnancies, greater educational achievement, higher income levels, and better mental health. The fact is, in a country that still pushes abstinence-only sex education, birth control remains shrouded in secrecy and misinformation.

These biological details can be difficult to parse, but their meaning couldn't be more important. The advent of reliable, affordable contraception ignited a social revolution for women. But because Hobby Lobby's owners incorrectly conflate contraception with abortion, thousands of workers are seeing their reproductive rights rolled back. Families have lost the right to make health care decisions that are, frankly, none of their bosses' business.

The implications are serious. As Ginsburg said in her dissent, "The court's reasoning appears to permit commercial enterprises like Hobby Lobby and [fellow plaintiff] Conestoga to exclude from their group health plans all forms of contraceptives." That's because most hormonal birth control primarily prevents ovulation but, just like IUDs and Plan B, could also prevent fertilization and implantation. Other widely used contraceptives that do the same thing include the pill, the vaginal ring, and birth control injections, implants, and patches. Is all birth control now up for debate by our bosses?

Public Policy (Continued)

AAUW and other groups object to the Hobby Lobby decision because it sacrifices the privacy and health care choices of employees and their families. After decades of seeing the cultural, economic, and health benefits that abound when women are able to control when and whether they have children, we're experiencing a dramatic rollback in access to one of the most important tools ever created for women's empowerment."

Marell, Public Policy Chair

Interest Groups

Armchair Travelers

A friendship started at the Santa Barbara Women's Literary Festival and recently culminated in a trip of a lifetime. Join us May 28 as guest speaker Julie shares the details of her trip with Rebecca Tinsley and her charity, Network for Africa, to London, Kenya and Rwanda. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a snack or beverage to share. RSVP to Sally or Julie.

Please reserve Thursday June 25th. Dana worked at the Santa Barbara Travel Bureau for over 20 years and would like to share her experiences with us: what happened during 9/11; how the industry has changed; advantages of using a travel agent and when you can do it on your own; etc. Please send me any questions you would like to ask Dana ahead of time. We will meet at Dana's home.

Sally

Healthy Gourmet Interest Group

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

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 Brooks. If you are interested in walking on the weekends, please let the group know.

Roaming Readers

Date	Book	Moderator
May 4	Orphan Train (Christina Klein)	Dixie
June 1	This House of Sky (Ivan Hoig)	Cathy
July 6	Still Alice (Lisa Genova)	Myra
August 3	I am Malala (Malala Yousafza)	Diane
Sept. 14	Killing Patton (Bill O'Reilly)	Betty

Roaming Readers meets the first Monday of each month (unless that falls on a holiday, in which case we meet the second Monday) at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast at the restaurant of the moderator's choice. All AAUW members are invited to attend.

Co-chairs: Carol Ann and Cathy

P.M. Book Explorers

May 20, "Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt. Location?? Treats?? Beverage??



June 17, "Stolen Lives" by Malika Oufkir and Michele Fitoussi. Location – Billye's home; Treats and Beverage??

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 have not chosen a book for July or August so be sure to come with ideas for our next meeting.

We did meet last month but no one volunteered for a place to meet. Please e-mail or call me if we can use your home. I will e-mail everyone where we will be meeting.

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

Gail, Chair

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

For May, we will stay in Lompoc and go to La Botte for dinner on the 14th. Reservations are at 6:00 p.m.

On June 11, we are heading up to Old Orcutt for the epicurean delights at Pasion Comida Mexicana. We will meet at St Mary's church at 6:00 p.m. to be there for our reservations at 6:30 p.m. The website address for Pasion's is <http://www.pasioncomidamexicana.com/>

Reservations can be made in any of the following ways:

Email Leslie

Call Leslie

Text Leslie

Email Billy Iverson

Call Billye

Text Billye

Hope to see you there!

Leslie & Billye, Chairs

Calendar of Events

May 4	Roaming Readers: Orphan Train (Christina Klein)
May 5	Board Meeting, Dianne's home
May 7	Thank You Lompoc Teachers Event
May 14	Dine Out Group at La Botte
May 20	PM Book Explorers, <i>Goldfinch</i> by Donna Tartt
May 28	Armchair Travelers – Kenya and Rwanda with Julie Schneringer
June 1	Roaming Readers: This House of Sky (Ivan Hoig)
June 11	Dine Out Group at Pasion Comida Mexicana
June 17	PM Book Explorers, "Stolen Lives" by Malika Oufkir and Michele Fitoussi.
June 25	Armchair Travelers – Dana, Santa Barbara Travel Bureau
June 27	Branch Annual Planning Retreat
July 6	Roaming Readers: Still Alice (Lisa Genova)
July 11	IBC PCPA Theater Event

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

Scattered Seeds Editor: Julie