



## Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

*From Pat's Desk...*

It is the New Year and time for reflection on the past year. Our local branch should be very proud of its accomplishments in presenting timely and inspiring programs of interest to the community as well as members. We have presented two more young women with scholarships, and have had participation in Tech Trek by sending five middle school girls to camp plus providing dorm Mom's to assure that they have a successful experience. We made a contribution to AAUW fund to help support larger goals of our organization. Speech Trek has been started and our initial competition will be this month. Our social activities keep us in touch and introduce us to others in our community. Each of us may pull a little something different from our membership, but we all benefit.

On the national level AAUW has awarded \$3.7 million to women and communities through fellowships and community action grants. Due to the longstanding, generous contributions of AAUW members, a broader community of women continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities — breaking through barriers so that all women have a fair chance. Over 17,000 people learned to negotiate their salaries through the Work Smart/Start Smart programs. Over 270,000 messages were sent to lawmakers by AAUW members and supporters through the two-minute activist program. These messages are important as lawmakers act on bills that impact our economic security, civil rights, education, and Title IX. AAUW helps our voices be heard.

We need to continue in our support both locally and nationally of our goals to improve the lives of women and their families. Please remain active and invite potential new members to join us. Our next program will be a great time to socialize and learn. Hope to see you January 12!

***Pat Grijalva, President***

## AAUW Fund

### *Lompoc – Vandenberg Branch Holiday Affair Donations*

Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$665 toward our 2017 – 2018 annual gift to the national AAUW Fund. We have been told of several more donations coming in and we received one sizeable (and matchable) donation online during the national Day of Caring. Our Treasurer, Mary Beth Parks, will be researching this new method of giving to see how our branch is credited and to follow up on the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation matching offer.

At our Board meetings, we have been discussing and making forays into the social media realm to enhance our visibility, advertise our events, and to attract new members. Our Membership Vice President, Elena Jones, has been sharing information for our newest members and utilizing local e-bulletin boards and online informal social groups to publicize some of our activities. And one of our long-time members shared a good tip for us all; she keeps each month's "Scattered Seeds" in her e-mail in box until the next issue arrives. Without a phone call or file search, she can easily check dates and times of upcoming events. As a branch we are getting better at renewing membership on line and trusting the financial transactions. These will become even more important in our future fundraising.

As you join family in the New Year 2018, please discuss AAUW and what our efforts mean to you. Many of our close family members might need and would like some direction as to gift or memorial donations. If you have made a will or are planning one, please consider the Lompoc – Vandenberg Branch of AAUW as a beneficiary.

May 2018 bring you and yours health and prosperity, peace and kindness.

***Kati, AAUW Fund Vice President***

## AAUW Speech Trek

The Lompoc Vandenberg Village Branch is sponsoring Speech Trek this year, a speech contest for all High School students. Students will prepare and present a 5-6 minutes speech responding to the topic: How Can We Stand Up to Sexism?, to the AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch members, judges, and public attendees. The Speech Trek Contest will be held Friday, January 26, 2018 at 3:30 pm at the Lompoc City Council Chamber in City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza.

Anyone members who would like to help with the contest or mentoring, please contact Pam.

***Pam***

## Branch Programs

### January 12, 2018: AAUW International Program

**On Friday, January 12, 2018, the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch will once again celebrate our AAUW International Programs at the same venue with the same speaker!** But this year, we are having an “Indian, Bhutanese, Nepalese” themed potluck dinner beginning at 6 pm at the Valley of the Flowers Church, 3346 Constellation Road, South Vandenberg Village.

So begin your “google search” for recipes early and we will have even more fun than we did last year! For those who aren’t into cooking, but are into eating, I have suggestions for you. We have to have Naan bread and it is available in garlic, butter and probably other varieties at your favorite supermarket. Let’s have soup for a starter—vegetable, tomato, squash or pumpkin are all favorites in that part of the world. Many Indians and people from Bhutan and Nepal are vegetarians, so cooked vegetables are a big part of every meal. And rice is served at every meal. Anyone have a rice cooker or one of the new Instant Pots? Red rice is a favorite in Bhutan and Nepal. Chicken, pork, fish and some beef are served and almost every dish has a dash or two of curry! And sometimes more!

I promise that it will be lots of fun, so please join us! A short business meeting will follow dinner. At about 7 pm, Dianne Owens, Program VP, will facilitate a slide show and discussion about her 3-week trip to India in April 2017 and her 3-week trip to Bhutan and Nepal in November 2017. She might even appear in costume! And we will have a Sari wearing demonstration by Kati Smith.

The public and prospective members are invited to join AAUW for dinner and/or the program. **Reservations are necessary by January 10 and should be made by emailing Dianne. Let me know what you are planning to bring, so that we will have a balanced meal.**

### SAVE THE DATES:

**Saturday, February 3, 2018:** “Healthy and Happier Me” with a healthy brunch, exercise and speakers! More details in a later email and in the February newsletter!

**Saturday, February 24, 2018:** Our annual Central Coast Fellows Luncheon in San Luis Obispo at the Madonna Inn. More details will be in the February newsletter.

***Dianne Owens, Program VP***

## Public Policy

### **From the Two-Minute Activist:**

If you go on our branch webpage, you will find a link for the AAUW national website. From there, you can access so much information regarding Public Policy issues. Here is information about taking action in support of Dreamers. Congress punted this issue to 2018 so there is still time to show your support.

**Tell Congress: Stand Up for Dreamers! Pass the Dream Act Without Amendment**

For the past five years, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided nearly 800,000 recipients the ability to attend school, go to work, and contribute to our economy without fear of deportation. But with a simple swipe of the pen, President Trump has moved toward ending the DACA program, taking with it the opportunity for thousands of immigrants to achieve the American Dream.

DACA recipients – also known as Dreamers – are an integral part of our communities. Ninety-seven percent are either in school or employed. One-quarter are enrolled in institutions of higher education while another third are in high school and considering their options for postsecondary education and career training. AAUW understands the impact that education has on the lives of students and on the nation's overall prosperity and strength. The DACA program has opened the doors to higher education for thousands of Dreamers, while developing a skilled workforce prepared to compete in the global economy. Our commitment to increasing opportunities in education for all women and girls stands firm.

The President's decision to end DACA is both morally and fiscally irresponsible and Congress must take action. Tell Congress we must protect Dreamers and pass the Dream Act today!

The Dream Act is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would offer many, including DACA recipients, protection from deportation while allowing them to continue to access education or work and contribute to our society. Our higher education system and our economy are stronger because of the contributions of DACA recipients.

***Marell , Public Policy Chair***

## **Membership**

Dear Fellow Members,

As we move forward into a new year, I would like to remind you of the opportunity to provide a national membership at no cost to new graduates. If you know someone who has graduated from college this past semester, introduce him or her to AAUW. To submit the request online, go to <https://ww2.aauw.org/grad-gift/>, otherwise contact me and I will be happy to assist you with the process. Members may give as many free gifts as they like.

Another opportunity that AAUW gives us is to showcase our talent by entering the Annual Art Contest. This year, members can submit up to two pieces from January 4 to February 4, 2018. After that, AAUW members will be invited to vote for up to 10 entries until March 4, 2018.

The six winning entries will be announced early March 2018 and be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the spring. For more information and to submit your artwork, go to <https://www.aauw.org/contests/>. Let us know if you have entered the competition, so we can rally for you!

*Elena , Membership VP*

## **Interest Groups**

### **P.M. Book Explorers (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month)**

January 17, "Dark Money" by Jane Mayer; Location - ??; Treats - ??; Drinks - ??

February 21, "Unfinished Business" by Anne Marie Slaughter; Location - ??; Treats - ??; Drinks - ??

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 if you would like to volunteer treats or beverage and possible book choices. The following books have been suggested: "My Stroke of Insight", "In Dubious Battle", "Rogue Lawyer", "Just Mercy". If you suggest a book, please check to see if it is in paperback. Some of our members do not use e-books and find hardbacks would not be their first choice to purchase if the book is not available through the library. The three books listed are all available in paperback. Please feel free to contact Gail for further information.

*Gail , Chair*

### **Interest Groups (Continued)**

**Roaming Readers (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Host</u>
January 8	Reader's Choice	
February 5	My Brilliant Friend (Elena Ferrante)	Myra
March 5	My Life on the Road (Gloria Steinem)	Leigh
April 2	Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker (Jennifer Chiaverini)	Cathy
May 7	The Other Einstein (Maria Benedict)	Sally

Roaming Readers meets the first Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at a place of the host's choice. If a holiday falls on the first Monday of the month, we meet on the second Monday. Guests are always welcome. Questions can be directed to the co-chairs: Carol Ann and Cathy.

***Carol Ann and Cathy, Co-Chairs***

**Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)**

On January 11 the Dine Out Group will go to 805 Chop House - a new Lompoc restaurant at 319 E Ocean. They do not take reservations so we are suggesting you just go at 5:00 p.m. and get a table. The dining room is so small we will all be able to visit. No reservations will be needed with Leslie or Billye. It is up to you to show up and get a seat.

Hope to see a fun crowd there.

Contact Leslie or Billye to find out more about the 2nd Thursday of the month Dine-Out group.

***Leslie & Billye, Chairs***

**Armchair Travelers (4th Thursday of the month)**

In January will be the travel program at the AAUW general meeting and February I have a program set-up for Cuba. I also have to announce that I will have to give-up doing Armchair Travelers after the February program. I have done it for four years and feel I need to give someone else this opportunity.

***Sally, Chair***

**Interest Groups (Continued)**

### **AAUW WOW Group — “Women Of Wine”**

The Women of Wine shall meet four times this coming year. January we shall be doing champagnes and desserts. More information will be provided at a later time.

Contact Billye for information if you are interested in learning more about wine.

***Billye***

### **Mission Walkers Group (Weekdays)**

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 great 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**

January 8	Roaming Readers: Reader’s Choice
January 11	Dine Out Group to 805 Chophouse
January 12	International Night to India, Bhutan and Nepal
January 17	PM Book Explorers: “Dark Money” by Jane Mayer
January 25	AAUW Speech Trek Branch Competition
February 3	“Healthy and Happier Me” Brunch & Program
February 5	Roaming Readers: “My Brilliant Friend” by Elena Ferrante
February 21	PM Book Explorers: “Unfinished Business” by Anne Marie Slaughter
February 22	Armchair Travelers: Cuba
February 24	Central Coast Fellows Luncheon
April 28	State Speech Trek Competition
August 11	Santa Barbara County IBC PCPA event: Mamma Mia!

### **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**