



Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

From Pat's Desk...

March is National Women's History Month. The 2018 Theme is **"Nevertheless, She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women."** Throughout this year, The National Women's History Project is honoring fifteen outstanding women for their unrelenting and inspirational persistence, and for understanding that, by fighting all forms of discrimination against women and girls, they have shaped America's history and our future. These 2018 Honorees refused to be silenced. Their lives demonstrate the power of voice, of taking action, and of believing that meaningful and lasting change is possible in our democratic society. Go to their website at <http://www.nwhp.org> to read about the honorees.

Our local chapter will be celebrating Women's History Month with a brunch on March 10 to be held at the Sage Restaurant. Please attend and bring a guest. Last year's luncheon was wonderful and I am certain this year's will be great too.

I brought up the subject of dues at our February meeting. For those who are not life members or who have not reached 50 years of membership, national dues are being increased from \$49 to \$59 effective March 15. State dues are remaining at \$20. We discussed at the last board meeting the possibility of raising our local dues from \$17 to \$20. This has been our only source of income to pay for insurance, postage, advertising, and programs. We have had programs almost monthly and usually pay a facility fee. As costs have risen, it might be time to add a little to our local dues. The total annual cost for most, if we increase the branch dues, would be \$99 for national, state, and local dues.

Pat Grijalva, President

AAUW Fund: Bits and Pieces

Supporting AAUW Programs: A Brief Encounter

Many of our long-time members recall the several separate funds that now make up AAUW Fund: the Legal Advocacy Fund, the Public Policy Fund, the Leadership Programs Fund, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and the Educational Opportunities Fund. Several of these funds are supported by our members individually, apart from our Branch's annual gift, because the purpose they serve is special and dear to those members.

The need is huge and constant! I was reminded of that at February's Bow Wow Days, helping to staff a table at Lompoc's AHC campus with Barbara and Pamela. I met a recent widow with young children who is seeking out business and entrepreneurial skills to keep her late husband's business thriving to support all of them. I also met an older student who is trying to get her grades up to return to UCSB---an educational goal she freely admitted she had squandered in the past. Her many low-level jobs with younger children have inspired her to pursue speech therapy as a career. Another student was already planning her transfer to Cal Poly to major in mechanical engineering.

Several young men approached our display and seemed particularly concerned about the injustices of the pay gap. Already aware, they were articulate, polite and interested.

Although the challenges facing today's students are a bit different from what I experienced as an undergraduate, the passion for learning and succeeding is the same. I was pleased to help represent the Lompoc – Vandenberg Branch of AAUW and thoroughly enjoyed interacting with a few of today's students. Our AAUW was present and welcomed. Please continue to be generous with your support and contributions.

AAUW FUND: THE HEART OF AAUW

The California State AAUW has AAUW Fund luncheons in northern California and southern California annually in October. The Central Coast AAUW Fund luncheon celebrates in February to salute AAUW Fund as the heart of AAUW in February, heart month. Held this year on February 24 at the Madonna Inn, attendees from Lompoc – Vandenberg Branch included Joyce, Barbara, Pam, Barbara, Dianne, Mary Beth and me. Dianne also stepped up to give the welcome and announcements for Donna, AAUW CA President, who was unable to attend. The arrangers and official hosts for the Interbranch Council event were the San Luis Obispo County branches.

AAUW Fund: Bits and Pieces (Continued)

As the 104 attendees applauded the 20th anniversary of Tech Trek, Susan, the Tech Trek Director at UCSB, invited us all to visit on Thursdays during the sessions to get an overview of the program and why we work so hard to send campers. “AAUW members’ support can be the tipping point for Tech Trek girls” she noted. At the 2018 upcoming AAUW conference in Irvine, Tech Trek alumni and supporters will receive special recognition.

This year’s keynote speaker for the luncheon was the 2017 AAUW Selected Professions and Fellowship Recipient who is currently enrolled at USC and due to graduate in May in an environmental chemistry Master’s program. Daisy, a first-generation college student, gives full credit for her academic successes to her hard-working parents who often said “Work with your mind, not with your hands.” Re-locating to California from Mexico City after the 1985 earthquake, Daisy’s father was set to enter law school and her mother was the equivalent of a CPA; neither of those professions would be open to them in their new country. But manual labor picking table grapes allowed them to survive and make certain Daisy would have the best they could manage. During high school, Daisy discovered a group that would provide numerous college application processes to be underwritten. Daisy was accepted to USC, her only west coast choice, with all tuition paid.

Daisy navigated her education to provide for her needs of helping people, organizing and encouraging Hispanic women and men in engineering, and seeking a career in green technologies. She has the goal of contributing to the development of technologies for safe, sustainable and reliable energy generation while also minimizing the negative impacts further burdening marginalized, low income communities.



Daisy closed her remarks by thanking AAUW for allowing her to attend grad school without worrying about finances, to attend conferences for professional and personal development, to feel confident, and to engage with other amazing women. We were wowed.

Kati, Vice President AAUW Fund

Pictured from left to right are Sharon, AAUW CA Director, AAUW Fund; Daisy, AAUW Fellow, Environmental Engineering; Susan, SLOC IBC Chair.

Tech Trek

I have received the nominations for campers from LVMS and VMS and will meet with them this week to hand out applications. March will be a busy month with the Applebee's fundraiser (**March 17th**) and camper selection.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Applebee's pancake breakfast, March 17th. I hope you will attend or pass your tickets on to others who might enjoy joining us for breakfast. We would like to have a big turnout. If you are able to help with the serving or busing of tables that day, let me know (some of you have already offered to help)... "many hands make short work"

Great news, SpaceX will continue their sponsorship of **three** campers again this year. That means, we will be able to send **five** campers to UCSB in July. This is our 20th year of participating in the Tech Trek program...we can feel proud of our contribution to the girls of Lompoc. Hooray! For the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch.

Thanks again for making this possible. I hope to see you at the breakfast.

Wyn, Coordinator

Membership

Dear Fellow Members,

When we joined AAUW, we became part of a community that creates impact by identifying and solving problems. AAUW's mission is moving forward by leaps and bounds, as we achieve some phenomenal new goals. Women and girls around the world need us to take the lead, to take action and to make an impact!

As you know, March is National Women's History Month: let's celebrate it with our friends and family. Attend our March 10th brunch with Assemblywoman Monique Limon at the Mission Club in Vandenberg Village and stop by the South Side coffee company in Lompoc to see our window display.

We believe we can do great things together and we thank you for your continued support.

Elena, Membership VP

Public Policy

DEEPER IN DEBT: WOMEN AND STUDENT LOANS

WOMEN TAKE ON MORE STUDENT DEBT THAN MEN ... BUT ARE PAID LESS AFTER COLLEGE

Between 1976 and 2014 the price of college attendance more than doubled, but household incomes barely budged. Today most students must bridge the gap between income and cost with student loans—followed by student debt. Women take on more loans and take longer to repay their debt, thus women hold almost two-thirds of the outstanding student loan debt in the United States.

Following graduation, women repay their loans more slowly than do men, in part because of the gender pay gap, and they are also more likely to struggle economically during repayment. This means that women may have to put off saving for retirement, buying a home, or starting a business.

Student debt is a systemic and national problem that disproportionately impacts women. AAUW members can help make changes to reduce women's student loan debt burden:

1. Congress must protect and expand Pell Grants for low-income students to reduce the amount of student loan debt they must take on to complete a degree.
2. State and federal legislators should increase funding for public colleges and universities and support efforts to move toward tuition- and debt-free options for students.
3. The department of education and lawmakers should make it easier for students to enroll in income-driven repayment options to help mitigate some women's financial difficulties.
4. Institutions can address the academic and financial needs of traditional and nontraditional students, such as access to child care.

Learn more and take action at: [HTTP://WWW.AAUW.ORG/RESEARCH/DEEPER-IN-DEBT/](http://www.aauw.org/research/deeper-in-debt/)

Adapted by Michele, Public Policy Director, AAUW Healdsburg Branch, from <https://www.aauw.org/resource/deeper-in-debt-one-pager/>

Marell, Public Policy Chair

Branch Programs

March 10, 2018: “Nevertheless, she persisted”--Women’s History Month Celebration

Our annual **Women’s History Month** celebration will be held on **Saturday, March 10 at 10 am** at the Mission Club (Vandenberg Country Club), 4300 Club House Road, Vandenberg Village. Assemblymember Monique Limón, 37th Assembly District, will be the keynote speaker. The theme for the 2018 Women’s History Month is **“Nevertheless, she persisted.”**



Assemblymember Limón was elected to the Assembly in November 2016 and represents the 37th district that includes over half of the County of Santa Barbara, as well as nearly a quarter of the County of Ventura. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a Master’s degree from Columbia University. Education and women’s issues are two of Monique’s top priorities. She has a passion for bringing community groups together and building strong coalitions among local nonprofit organizations and civic groups.

A brunch buffet of eggs with all the trimmings will be served for **just \$25. Reservations and checks are required by Sunday, March 4.** Contact Dianne Owens at dianneowens9@gmail.com for reservations. Checks for \$25 should be mailed to me or to Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch, AAUW, P.O. Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438 to arrive by March 4. Please bring a friend or neighbor! All community members are invited to join us!

Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch receives Program Recognition

We received the following notification that our October 10, 2017 meeting, “Gender Bias at Work,” with UCSB Assistant Professor, Dr. Sarah Thebaud was selected for recognition at the April 27-29 Convention in Irvine.

Congratulations!

Your branch was selected as one of the Programs of the Quarter between July 1 and December 31, 2017. Each branch will receive a certificate and will be able to speak for two minutes on Friday, April 27, at the AAUW CA convention at the Irvine Marriott. We hope that you have a representative who will be attending the convention.

We are so impressed by the wonderful mission-based programs that our AAUW CA branches have presented this year. We hope that your remarks will inspire other branches to follow in your footsteps.

Branch Programs (Continued)

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Jane

AAUW CA Program Co-Chair
AAUW CA Co-President Elect

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, April 5, 2018, “Climate Change—what can we do?”

Lompoc Library, Grossman Gallery / Deborah Lee Williams, UCSB, Environmental Studies.

Dianne Owens, Program VP

Interest Groups

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.

P.M. Book Explorers (3rd Wednesday of each month)

March 21, Contact Gail Meehan for the next book and location.

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 (1st Monday of the month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Host</u>
March 5	My Life on the Road (Gloria Steinem)	Leigh Olsen
April 2	Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker (Jennifer Chiaverini)	Cathy Rudolph
May 7	The Other Einstein (Maria Benedict)	Sally Prentiss

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 (2nd Thursday of the month)

Our dine-out group went to Sake Sushi Korean BBQ in February. The restaurant received high marks from everyone in our group. First of all, the decor is modern with clean lines and warm earth colors and chrome. The service was very good. Our orders covered a wide range of Asian dishes. The menu has pages of sushi and rolls. We had the Shrimp Tempura Roll, Combination Udon Noodles, and several different tempura dinners. The prices were reasonable.

The Dine Out Group will go to La Botte Restaurant on Thursday, March 8th. Please be sure and make reservations by calling Billye or Leslie.

Leslie & Billye, Chairs

AAUW WOW Group — "Women Of Wine"

The Women of Wine shall meet four times this coming year. More information will be provided at a later time.

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

Billye

Interest Groups (Continued)

Armchair Travelers (4th Thursday of the month)

February was the last meeting for Armchair Travelers unless someone steps up to take over the group. Sally would be very happy to support a new volunteer for a while, but her travels will interfere with her continuing this chair position.

Sally, Chair

Calendar of Events

March 5	Roaming Readers: "My Life on the Road" by Gloria Steinem
March 8	Dine Out Group to La Botte
March 10	Women's History Month Brunch with Monique Limon
March 17	Applebee's Tech Trek fundraiser
March 21	PM Book Explorers: "TBD" by TBD
April 2	Roaming Readers: "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini
April 5	Branch Program: Climate Change – What Can We Do?
April 18	PM Book Explorers: "TBD" by TBD
April 27-29	State convention Irvine Marriott (see "Winter 2018 California Perspective for details)
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