

October 2018

Scattered Seeds



From Pat's Desk...

September certainly has been a busy month for our Branch. We have sponsored 3 forums this month (with one more to go October 3). Since there is no League of Women Voters in Lompoc, our branch steps up to help get the issues and candidates in front of the public. All of the forums have been well attended and could also be viewed on our local TAP TV. Thanks to the committee that put together the forums, decided on the questions to ask, and hosted and kept the meetings on track. Well done!

Another event that has been in the news is the nomination process for Supreme Court Justice. As I am writing this, it is very unclear what will happen with Judge Kavanaugh's nomination. AAUW national has [carefully considered](#) his record and states that one thing is clear: Judge Kavanaugh would put at risk the issues that are central to AAUW's mission. Judge Kavanaugh's record shows that he is willing to do grave harm by undermining positions central to AAUW's mission, including upending employment and labor rights, curtailing reproductive rights and access to healthcare, entangling public education and religion, and restricting voting rights. With the recent allegations of sexual assault, AAUW is urging a delay in the vote to confirm until an investigation is complete.

In this season of elections, it is important to remind all of us to encourage eligible voters to register and to vote. It is very easy to do online by going to <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> and voters have until October 22 to complete the process. There really is no excuse not to vote—if you cannot get to the polls, request to vote by mail. Each of your votes is important and we have many local issues on the ballot.

Pat, President

News and Events

2018 - 2019 Speech Trek Speech Contest

AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch will again participate in the Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial Speech Contest for all high school students: The 2018- 019 Speech Trek Contest topic is: How can we eliminate violence aimed at our schools?

We are in the planning stages for the Contest we plan to hold in February, 2019, and again are looking for volunteers for mentoring, serving on the committee and yes - donations are greatly

appreciated. The Branch Toolkit is available on the CA AAUW website. Many thanks to Lucy and to those who have assisted her in reviewing the Fund for Santa Barbara Grant Application.

The January 2018 Contest was a very successful event with our first branch winner Erin's speech taking 4th placement at the State AAUW level. We are working towards increasing the number of participants, and the services and support we offer them. We will again seek to have students from the Lompoc, Solvang, Santa Ynez, Los Olivos and Los Alamos (Mid-County) areas.

Pam, Program VP

Fundraiser, October 25 at Wild West Pizza

Please support our Branch Friend-raiser and Fund-raiser on October 25 at Wild West Pizza, 1137 North H Street. AAUW will receive 50% of proceeds from regular price pizza purchases from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., eat-in or take-out. Customers must mention AAUW while ordering!

A bake sale will be in progress until sold out and an information table for our Branch will be staffed throughout the event. Branch members can also remind customers to say "AAUW!" with their orders.

We need about 12 volunteers to staff our AAUW table and bake sale. Plus, we need your best homemade goodies to sell.

Tell your friends! We hope for more community awareness of AAUW and support for our activities. See you there!

"And yet, WE persisted."

When we review the national AAUW 2018 Strategic Plan, we can acknowledge that the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch has already taken steps to fulfill the Mission: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy." The focus areas are Education and Training, Economic Security, Leadership and Governance, and Sustainability.

If these focus areas, supporting the mission, sound familiar, they should to any Branch member. Branch actions and events since 1964 and the establishment of our Branch have targeted and fleshed out their aims. However, we still have work to do.

Seventy-eight per cent of Americans working full-time live paycheck to paycheck. Ninety per cent of people born in the 1940s out-earned their parents--a traditional American expectation. Only fifty per cent of people born in the 1980s have met that expectation.* Looking at women earners, the figures are much worse. One quick example: currently, women make 80 cents for every dollar a man in a similar position earns.

So how can we help? How can we be, and support, agents of change? By persisting. We must continue to provide resources for AAUW scholarships, fellowships, mentoring, training--and the list goes on. Again and again, we are called upon to do exactly what the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of AAUW has always done--and if at all possible--even more.

As always, any day is a good day to donate to AAUW Fund.

Kati, AAUW Fund VP

* Statistics from the Equality of Opportunity Project (Harvard University)

Branch Programs

Community Forums

In preparation for the upcoming November 6th election, the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of AAUW is sponsoring a series of community forums. Our last forum is Wednesday, October 3 on LUSD School Board Candidates. The forum will be held at Lompoc City Hall, Council Chambers, 100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and will be taped by TAP-TV.

“Intersectionality”: What is it? And why does it matter to all of us?

Dr. Lata Murti, Associate Professor of Sociology at Brandman University, will be the featured speaker at the October 16 meeting of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch.

The general meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm at the Lompoc Public Library’s Grossman Gallery, 501 E. North Avenue. Dr Murti’s presentation will follow at 7:00 pm.

Dr. Murti will enrich our understanding of how gender connects with other aspects of our lives. “Come learn how we don’t just experience the world as women and men, but instead how gender identities intersect with many other identities to shape our lives”.

Dr. Murti was the recipient of Brandman University’s 2015 Outstanding University Faculty of the Year Award, she has received recognition for both her pedagogy and her publications from organizations such as the National Institute of Learning outcomes Assessment, the National Center for Institutional Diversity, and Universal Publishers’ dissertation.com, which selected her dissertation on the racial experience of Indian immigrant doctors for its 2015 Annual Excellence Award. She has presented at numerous conferences related to teaching and sociology in addition to publishing on Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia, and the “Work in Progress” blog of the American Sociological Association. Proficient in Spanish and a former elementary and middle-school Spanish teacher, she also has many years of experience mentoring students of all ages and



grade levels to achieve their academic goals. Dr. Murti's greatest inspiration is her family, which includes two daughters, ages 10 and 7, and her mother Viji Satya Murti, who is also a member of the AAUW-Santa Maria Branch. Dr Murti holds dual membership in the AAUW-Santa Maria Branch and the BU-Virtual Branch of AAUW through her university.

Proficient in Spanish and a former elementary and middle-school Spanish teacher, she also has many years of experience mentoring students of all ages and grade levels to achieve their academic goals.

Pam, Program VP

Public Policy

By the time you read this, our branch will have completed four candidate/issue forums for the Lompoc community. A small and dedicated group met in July and August to plan the forums, contact the candidates, and deliver four evenings that asked the candidates challenging and topical questions to help the community make informed choices on November 6. All forums were held in the Lompoc City Council Chambers.

On September 17, the first forum featured the two candidates for Mayor, two candidates for District 2, two candidates for District 3.

Questions were asked about the District Elections and issues of each District, the City Budget discussions, future City growth and homeless issues. The final and surprise question asked was about their leadership qualities and how they would promote Lompoc regionally and nationally.

On September 20, the second forum was planned for the 35th Assembly District with incumbent, Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham and William Ostrander. Unfortunately, Mr. Cunningham couldn't participate and chose not to send a representative or answer the questions that an AAUW member would have read that night, so only Mr. Ostrander spoke. Questions asked of both candidates concerned Healthcare for all Californians, Gun Violence, Agriculture, as it pertains to water usage and farm worker availability, Immigration Policies and Women's Self-Sufficiency pertaining to pay equity and employment. The final and surprise question asked the candidates how they proposed to represent the Lompoc Valley community.

On September 24, a Bond Measure E and Measure Y Forum was held featuring Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD) and Allan Hancock College (AHC) representatives. Each school presented the reasons to support their measure for twenty minutes each and then took questions from the audience.

On Wednesday, October 3, the final and fourth forum featured the seven candidates for the Lompoc Unified School District. Questions were asked about Title IX, an important policy issue for AAUW, Freedom from Violence in our schools, Post-secondary Education, as it applies to our graduating seniors and the CA Healthy Youth Act, as it relates to sexual and reproductive health. The final and surprise question asked them to address the two most pressing concerns of the students and teachers.

All forums were taped and shown live by TAP TV. They may be viewed through a link on the City of Lompoc website at: <https://www.cityoflompoc.com/services/city-clerk/election-official>.

Marell, Public Policy Chair

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

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

This month we are going to a restaurant in Nipomo for lunch. Reservations are for Thursday, October 11 at 1:00 p.m. Reservations are required by Tuesday, October 9.

Leslie & Billye, Chairs

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

October 17, 2018 TBD

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", "Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout", and "Wonder". 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.

Gail, Chair

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book & Author</u>
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October 1	<i>Educated: A Memoir</i> by Tara Westover
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November 5	<i>Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI</i> by David Grann
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December 3	<i>When We Were Strangers</i> by Pamela Schoenewaldt
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January 7	Reader's Choice
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Remaining books: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, *An American Marriage* by Tayani Jones

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.

Carol Ann and Cathy, Co-Chairs

Calendar of Events

October 1	Roaming Readers: "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover
October 3	LUSD School Board Candidates Forum
October 5	Comments due on Branch Budget
October 11	Dine Out Group
October 16	Program "Intersectionality: What Is It? And Why Does It Matter to All of Us?" with Dr. Lata Murti
October 17	PM Book Explorers: TBD
October 25	Wild West Pizza Fundraiser for AAUW
November 5	Roaming Readers: "Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" by David Grann

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.