



***From Pam...***

As I write this note for the October 2020 newsletter, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg — The Notorious RBG — weighs heavily on my mind and in my heart. Where would we be today if she had not persisted and prevailed? How do we march on in a way that both honors her and keeps the light burning bright for equality, equity and justice for EVERY PERSON? As I rewatched the documentary on RBG, I looked back at my life in 1976 when my nursing supervisor informed me that I shouldn't expect to make as much as the male nurses: they were the providers (What about me? I was my sole provider). And in 1980, as I was expecting my first child, a different nursing supervisor didn't approve my well-deserved raise because: "You are going to have a baby and probably won't come back to work." This quote from the September 21 AAUW Action Network email sums things up: "With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of over 200,000 Americans to COVID-19. Along with those lost to the pandemic, we also grieve the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We hold her memory as an inspiration to continue her life's work: fighting for gender equity and representation everywhere. For now, to honor her, the most important thing you can do is vote."

Our Branch continues the long-standing community service of sponsoring pre-election forums, this year with financial support from The Fund for Santa Barbara. Lucy Thoms-Harrington, Program VP, and committee have been working for many weeks preparing for the October 1 forum featuring the Mayor/City Council candidates, and for the October 8 forum with the LUSD candidates. These forums are 100% virtual in keeping with AAUW's COVID-19 guidelines, requiring mastering of the skills of Zoom, grant writing (Lucy), coordination with the many candidates, City Hall, TAP TV and a professional Spanish interpreter.

***From Pam...(Continued)***

Please go to our Branch website and register for both events: a virtual crowd of 500 would be amazing — so spread the word and thank you!

***Pam, President***

**Tech Trek**

I have just received this announcement from AAUW CA:

Yesterday, AAUW National announced that in the 2021 season, Tech Trek camps in all states must be delivered on a virtual platform.

This decision was made due to the many unknowns and changing regulations, which are happening so rapidly that in-person events cannot be advised this far in advance.

They also advised that all states should delay student recruitment until further into 2021.

As announced in prior communications, since the cancellation of our 2020 season, California Tech Trek has been working on alternative solutions, which include a fully tested virtual platform option designed and implemented by our UC San Diego camp director. In addition, our delay of the student selection process to January 2021 aligns with the National decision.

While this announcement is certainly a disappointment, but not a surprise given the pandemic still actively impacting our country, the California Tech Trek Program leaders are fully prepared to continue the Tech Trek tradition by providing selected campers with a stimulating, fun and rewarding STEM virtual experience.

Rest assured that when the time is right, our goal is a return to the residential Tech Trek camp model that, since 1998, has been AAUW California's premier STEM camp legacy.

Thanks to your support, our branch is ready to start the selection process in January 2021.

***Wynn, TT Coordinator***

## **Membership**

### **Membership Matters**

Our branch has lost a few members due to moves or personal circumstances, but we are still a strong presence in our community. Our group has not been able to meet in person for quite some time and it is hard to maintain that sense of cohesiveness if we don't see or hear from members. One advantage that being at home offers us is the ability to use some of our free time to stay in touch. Why not make it a goal to touch another member this month with a phone call or even a note in the mail?

Our current membership stands at 76 renewed members with a few who still need to take that step of mailing a check or going online to renew. If you need help renewing your membership, please feel free to give me a call. Also, if you know of someone whom you think could benefit from membership, I would be happy to give them a call or send an email explaining the organization and what we represent. Sometimes it just takes asking for someone to join. There are still many benefits including webinars and local Zoom programs. Eventually we will get back to being more social and our groups will start meeting again. Please invite and see if we can keep our membership strong and growing!

*Pat, Membership VP*

## **AAUW Fund**

### **AAUW Fund Virtual Lunch with the Fellows/Grant Recipients**

The 2020-21 Fund luncheons will be replaced by two webinars, which will be held on two dates at one location - your computer. While we will miss the social gathering aspect of the luncheons, the webinars may afford the opportunity for those hampered by distance or other physical constraints to participate. There will be different speakers at each event, so you are welcome to attend one or both webinars. Please note these dates in your branch calendars:

Saturday, October 10th and Saturday, October 24th. Both webinars will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The October 24th webinar will feature Claire B., a Career Development Grant recipient who is studying under our Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch Research & Projects Endowment (plus 24 other sponsors! It takes a number of Research and Project endowments to award one Grant). Claire is pursuing a master of science in nursing, specializing in nurse midwifery and women's health. After

### **AAUW Fund (Continued)**

years of working as a full-time project manager in tech and as a part-time birth doula, she looks forward to dedicating herself fully to increasing access to midwifery care for underserved populations with the goal of reducing racial disparities in birth outcomes. She is studying at the University of California, San Francisco.

Don't forget to register for the Zoom webinars at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/>.



### **Five-Star Status: Lompoc Vandenberg branch could do this!**

Provided by Charmen Goehring, Northern California Legacy Circle Liaison, [charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com)

Reminder! We have launched a statewide branch competition which started July 1st and ends November 30th that will help branches work towards Five-Star status, as well as help to ensure AAUW's future. We are encouraging members to become Legacy Circle members and the branch with the highest number of new members during the contest period will be deemed the winner. In addition to announcements across social media and on the state AND national websites, the winning branch will have a special Zoom video strategic update with AAUW California President Dianne O., AAUW Director of Development Heather M., and other special guests.

Becoming a Legacy Circle member is quick and easy and comes with perks, the most important of which is knowing AAUW will be here in the future. Let the competition continue!

***Marell, AAUW Fund VP***

### **Programs**

#### **Get Out the Vote!**

It's go time... for our nation, our state, our city and our schools. And AAUW is there!

Accordingly, we have 2 impactful non-partisan candidate forums planned for October.

## **Programs (Continued)**

The AAUW dual-language **City Council/City Mayor Candidate Forum** which will be held on Thursday, October 1st from 7 to 9pm via Zoom. Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WJEI87WsRTSLQPLzN-26PA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WJEI87WsRTSLQPLzN-26PA)

The AAUW dual-language **Lompoc School Board Candidate Forum** which will be held on Thursday, October 8th from 7 to 9pm via Zoom. Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MBjCnIWSriKJut5fjwclw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MBjCnIWSriKJut5fjwclw)

All candidates running for these offices have confirmed their participation. For the first time, these forums will be conducted in Spanish and English. Both will be recorded, live streamed and simulcast. There is no charge to attend. This was made possible by a grant from The Fund for Santa Barbara.

Along with hearing from the candidates running for office, key information will be shared at both forums on how to register and vote safely in this election. As a bonus, a super cool AAUW face mask or Vote face mask will be given away to the first 50 people who register for the forums. You read right: a free super cool face mask just for being among the first 50 to register! You could be the talk of Lompoc as you sport your mask about town. Winners will be notified by email and can pick up their mask at The Bookstore (many thanks to Leslie!).

Thank you to Dianne, who will serve as the City Forum Moderator, to Wynn and Tim who are timekeepers, along with Pam and Kari who will serve as technical co-hosts to make the Zoom magic happen. Mike (AAUW ally) will serve as the School Board Forum Moderator.

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated hard-working Forum Planning team who has been meeting weekly via Zoom for nearly three months to make these forums possible as a service to the community: Barbara B., Marell, Pam, Alice, Elena, Mike and Janet (City Forum only planning team member).

How can you help make these forums a success, you ask?

1. Promote the forums - share on social media, invite your friends and neighbors
2. Register and attend the forums and be informed
3. Vote early and safely.

*Lucy, 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.

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

Because of the restrictions that restaurants are under due to COVID-19, formal Dine Out is canceled for now.

But please support our local restaurants by ordering take-out. There are two places to find out who is serving and what you can order. The first is the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce and the other is the Lompoc Restaurants Facebook page.

Thanks everyone.

*Leslie & Billye, Co-Chairs*

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

Please contact P.M. Book Explorers members for future books and locations.

We usually meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 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. If you suggest a book, please check to see if it is in paperback or available through the library. Please feel free to contact me.

*Gail, Chair*

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

Please contact Roaming Readers members for the future books and locations.

Roaming Readers usually 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 Johnson and Cathy R.

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



### **Calendar of Events**

October 1	AAUW dual-language City Council/City Mayor Candidate Forum
October 5	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
October 8	AAUW dual-language Lompoc School Board Candidate Forum
October 10	AAUW Fund Virtual Lunch with the Fellows/Grant Recipients
October 14	Branch Board Meeting via Zoom
October 21	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers
October 24	AAUW Fund Virtual Lunch with the Fellows/Grant Recipients
November 2	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
November 18	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers

### **Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW Branch Information**

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

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

LV Branch e-mail address: [lompocvandenberg-ca@aauw.net](mailto:lompocvandenberg-ca@aauw.net)

Facebook: [Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW](https://www.facebook.com/Lompoc-Vandenberg-AAUW)

Instagram: [@aauw\\_lompocvandenberg](https://www.instagram.com/aauw_lompocvandenberg)

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 S.**

