



From Pam...

Welcome 2021! Welcome COVID vaccines! Welcome to the upcoming January 20 Inauguration Day! Regarding this historic Inauguration, on the next page I'm attaching the official statement from AAUW CEO Kim Churches. We will celebrate the inauguration of Kamala Harris, the first woman Vice-President! Also, to celebrate this month, our Branch has been selected as one of the nominees for the eleventh Valley of the Flowers Peace Prize! The annual Peace Prize ceremony will be held virtually on January 31, 2021. The nomination was in recognition of the bilingual virtual forums we held as a community service in October.

Regarding the COVID vaccines, I'm hopeful that all of us will be vaccinated over the next few months. Realistically, we know that this will not bring an immediate end to the pandemic — and we will continue to meet safely via Zoom. It is a useful tool that allows many who can't physically make it to a meeting or program to participate, and it will be a good thing to continue so that people have the option. I would like to hear from our members regarding whether or not there is any interest in Zoom training sessions. We have some members who are willing to facilitate/coordinate some training, perhaps in February. In addition to using Zoom for meetings and interest groups, we could utilize this by adding discussion groups regarding the webinars that AAUW National and CA AAUW are providing. Members can sign up to participate in viewing live webinars or the recorded versions. We can schedule discussion groups for follow-up. The top 5 webinars for members in 2020 were: "Holding Space: How to Start and Continue Conversations on Race, Equity and Inclusion"; "Interview with Diane Rehm"; "Archeology of the Self: Sustaining Racial Literacy in the Movement for Change"; "Is Your Perspective Inclusive?"; and "Perspectives from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund: Justice Ginsburg's Legacy and the Future of the Court."

From Pam...(Continued)

Our Zoom package can be used by all members for AAUW-related interest groups and communication. Please contact me for the password if you would like to use it, have training or participate in Zoom discussion groups.

Thank you to the anonymous Santa's Helper who provided gifts to the winners and runners-up in the "Ugly Sweater" contest in December!

Happy New Year 2021!

Pam, President

**AAUW Statement on the Election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris****The following is a statement from AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:**

The nation's voters have spoken, and a historic election is over: Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, Americans cast their ballots in record numbers and elected Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to lead our nation forward.

All of us at AAUW are honored to have witnessed — and participated in — the power of our democracy, with impressive numbers of women, people of color and young Americans joining in with their voices and their votes.

AAUW is particularly heartened and inspired by the election of so many women to positions of power. Most notably, we celebrate the fact that Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has shattered barriers, becoming the first Black American, Indian and South Asian American to assume the second highest office in the land. The daughter of immigrants and a graduate of Howard University, she gives us hope for a future where women can reach the highest heights.

We are also encouraged by President-elect Biden's promise to unite our sorely divided country and to find common ground and common good. Yet we are mindful of the challenges and the work that lie ahead. In 2021, AAUW will turn 140 years old, and as we have in every year prior, we will work tirelessly on behalf of women and girls to advance laws, policies and practices that ensure equity in education, employment and economic security — and equal justice for all.

Programs

2020 Send Off and a Welcome New Year!

We put a bow on the crazy year that was 2020 with our annual holiday get together on 12/5 via Zoom which had all the fun with no driving required! There was the ugly Christmas Sweater contest with fierce competition. The famous Kari brought home the gold as the clear winner with the live polling from the crowd. Kari enhanced her own ugly sweater by adding a 3-dimensional snow globe complete with snowman and snow on the front (3rd row first picture on the screen shot). Kari (in her sweater!) then led us in a memory game (where'd I leave my keys??!!). We then walked down 2020's AAUW memory lane with a slide show recap of our programs: Speech Trek in January with our winner going on to win at State, the IBC luncheon, the virtual induction of officers, a community conversation about Implicit Bias with Eric Abrams, Chief Inclusion Officer at the Stanford Graduate School of Education, the two simulcast bilingual Zoom webinar Candidate Forums: City Council and City Mayor and the LUSD School Board. Closing it out with a bang was a surprise live performance from our 2018 Flower Festival Queen (and future Mariah Carey!), Kaitlyn Chui, who sang two classic Christmas favorites: the sentimental "I'll be Home for Christmas" (yes, we certainly will!) and the upbeat "All I want for Christmas is You". Kaitlyn is studying voice and music at Pepperdine University (Class of 2022 and future AAUW member???!).

Hello 2021: January 28 - Living Well, Healthy Foods and Cooking with Cannabis

Join us virtually as we kick off the new year with a much-anticipated program on Healthy Foods with our own AAUW members Emily and Dulcie (thank you to you both!). Emily will be joined by the Route 1 Farmers' Market Manager. Emily and Shelby will lead us in a discussion on Healthy Foods and Living and Dulcie will show us something we've all been curious about... how to cook with cannabis! We will even get to hear tips on how to live a long and happy life from our branch's Centenarian, Teney, who celebrated her 100th birthday in November 2020. This program will be both fun and informative. Many thanks to Julie for organizing this terrific program. There may even be a prize or two drawn from those attending.

Speaking of opportunities to win: thanks to Julie (again!) and to the generous donations by wineries and members, AAUW will be selling a limited number of opportunity tickets to the community for a drawing of a big wonderful and spectacular case of fine wine to replenish your cellar after 2020. Only 100 tickets @ \$20 each will be sold for each case. I've seen the growing list of premium wines in the drawing and they are nothing less than terrific! Get your tickets to sell (and buy?) from Julie. Building the drama, the lucky winner's name will be drawn at the end of the program. Got excellent wine which you'd like to donate to the drawing? Contact

Julie. Proceeds will be donated to future AAUW scholarships for high school seniors and future programs.

The program will be held on Thursday 1/28 @ 6:00pm via Zoom. Register now by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcOGvrjssH9E6P4Fc5FmdSvbuq-mBzt-w>

Our **March program, The Changemakers - A celebration of Women leaders making change in honor of Women's History Month**, will feature key notes from Changemakers including our newest State Senator, Monique Limón, and the iconic leader of change, Dolores Huerta. The next generation of change makers, the Simmons Sisters, will be performing their original score "Remember the Women". The objective of the program is to inspire the community (across SB and SLO counties... and beyond!) to make change and to celebrate the accomplishments of Changemakers, particularly women of color. The community will be invited and will be able to pose questions at registration to be addressed by Senator Limón and Ms. Huerta. We've received great response from organizations excited to join us by sponsoring the event.

To date, our sponsors include: The Fund for Santa Barbara, The Santa Barbara County Commission for Women and the Pillar of Change Sponsor - Allan Hancock Foundation, with a few invitations still under consideration. These sponsorships will help underwrite the costs of Zoom webinar upgrade, live interpretation, publicity and honorariums. **Want to help us make this event successful? Join our planning team!**

Lucy, Program VP



Public Policy

In the middle of this terrible Covid-19 pandemic, it is reassuring to know that on January 20, 2021, a new administration will take office. For the very first time in the nearly 250 years since our country was founded, a **woman, who is also a woman of color, has been elected and so will become the Vice-President of the United States of America!**

President-elect Biden has also put forward several women as cabinet and cabinet-level nominees, some of whom will require confirmation from the Senate. These are undeniably important firsts for our country and for all the women and little girls who live here. But we have a lot of work to do

in our public schools to ensure that girls and women have equity in all areas of education, a goal long sought by AAUW.

An interesting article from our national organization outlines the problems that still exist and explains how “gender tracking” works against females.

The Trouble with Tracking

From preschool through high school, most children encounter some degree of “gender tracking”—stereotypes and expectations that can set them on a lifelong path. Tracking in early education helps account for why so many professions are still highly gendered, with women disproportionately in lower-paying fields. For example, 75% of public-school teachers are women. Generally, girl and boy students are treated [differently](#) and expected to behave in distinct ways. Subtle messages like “be a good girl” (which reinforces compliant behavior) and “boys will be boys” (which tolerates aggressive behavior) signal to children that there’s an appropriate way for each gender to act.

In addition to inhibiting all students from being their authentic self, these stereotypes are even more [challenging](#) for transgender and gender-nonconforming students, as many schools are ill-equipped to accommodate students outside the gender binary. The notion that girls are “good at” certain subjects and boys are “good at” others also takes hold early on. Consider: Though girls are [on par](#) with boys in math and science throughout most of their education, girls still tend to be steered away from these fields from as early as the elementary school years.

Consider the following examples that still hold true in 2020:

Girls are: expected to be well-behaved, compliant and polite and are pressured to conform to feminized behavior, appearance, traditions and norms

Boys are: expected to be tough, physical and athletic and are exposed to damaging “boys will be boys” messaging around misbehavior and violence

Girls are: more likely to believe that only boys can be “really, really smart”

Boys are: more likely to believe that doing well in school is “for girls”

Girls are: more often discouraged from math despite no evidence of innate performance differences

Boys are: more often discouraged from reading and writing despite no evidence of innate performance differences

Girls are: exposed to same gender role models like elementary school teachers, most of whom are women

Boys are: exposed to same gender role models like scientists and mathematicians, most of whom are men

An example of these stereotypes persisting is illustrated by the fact that: *Parents are more than twice as likely to google “Is my son gifted?” than “is my daughter gifted?”*

It is also true that women hold the majority of student debt, a detriment to their economic well-being for years after college graduation. Combined with depressed earning power as compared to men, and the inability of women in many states to make their own healthcare decisions in regard to family planning, it is easy to see that we have a long way to go to achieve equity for women in the workplace. The work of AAUW is more important than ever!

Janet, Public Policy Chair



Interest Groups

Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group (2nd 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 (3rd Wednesday of each month)

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

We usually meet the 3rd 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 Gail for further information.

Gail, Chair



Roaming Readers (1st 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 and Cathy, Co-Chairs

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 4	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
January 6	Branch Board Meeting via Zoom, 5:00 pm
January 20	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers
January 28	Branch Program: Living Well, Healthy Foods and Cooking with Cannabis
February 1	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
February 17	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers
March 18	Branch Program: The Changemakers – for Women's History Month



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

Facebook: [Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW](#)

Instagram: [@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