



From Pam...

So, we say goodbye to January 2021, but not really, as it is seared in our minds, and recorded forever in history — the good, the bad, and the ugly!

The days following the New Year brought the grim statistic of over 400,000 people dead in the United States from Covid-19. A few of those people were my friends: Shirley and her husband Paul died four days apart. Shirley was an amazing nurse, so loving, cheerful and kind. She retired just a few years ago and loved spending time with her family. So please, get the vaccine as soon as possible, keep wearing those masks and continue to physically distance. If you need assistance with deciphering how/when/where to get the vaccine, give me a call and I'll help track the information. February and the coming months will bring increased availability of the vaccine.

On January 6, we witnessed domestic terrorism at the Capitol and the attack on our democratic process of certifying the electoral votes. AAUW National and AAUW CA have released strong statements "in condemnation of January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol". Democracy prevailed, the votes were certified and, on January 20, we witnessed the Inauguration of President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. Couldn't you almost hear the sound of the glass ceiling shattering as she was sworn in to office? From AAUW National's website: A New Day

"On January 20, Joe Biden was sworn in as the next president of the United States alongside vice president Kamala Harris. AAUW celebrates the rich diversity of the new Administration and Congress, and pledges to work with these leaders to make equity a top priority in 2021."

From Pam...(Continued)

Take a moment to visit the updated website and review: AAUW's Equity Wish List for the Biden-Harris Administration; The Historic Diversity of 2021's Incoming Leadership; and AAUW Statement on Creation of Gender Policy Council. Also, take a look at "Tools for Change: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources".

Please note that the AAUW election comment period for all members is open now until February 5 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time. Voting opens on April 7 and online voting is encouraged. Mailed ballots must be requested by April 16 and returned with post mark by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on April 30. Online voting ends on May 17 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time. Vote results will be announced online on May 19.

Comments from AAUW National: "It's your AAUW, and your voice counts. It's time to comment and propose changes to the AAUW bylaws and Public Policy Priorities." Regarding membership, there is an Open Membership Toolkit: "This spring AAUW members will vote on a long-standing membership requirement, which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today."

Locally, thank you to those who attended the January 28 program and to all who supported our branch's High School Scholarship Fund. Special thanks to Julie, Emily, Shelby, Dulcie and Lucy for presenting: "Hello 2021! Living Long, Healthy Foods and Cooking with Cannabis". Thank you, Leslie, for helping out by having the opportunity drawing tickets available at The Bookstore. Congratulations to the Wine Opportunity Drawing's winners Kathy and Kellie.

Mark your calendars for these spectacular virtual events:

- February 27, 12 noon: IBC event — see attached flyer
- March 3, 5:00 pm: General Meeting preceding the Board Meeting, email link will be sent to members
- March 18, 7 pm: "The ChangeMakers" - and the non-stoppable Lucy will be giving you the details! Bravo!

Lastly, it is time for nominations for Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch Board members. We need another of our members to join Wynn and Alice on the nominating committee - a minimum of three is required. Please consider being on the committee and/or serving on the Board.

Pam Buchanan, President



AAUW IBC FELLOWS LUNCHEON

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara County Interbranch Council

Focus for the Future

Saturday, February 27, 2021 ~ 12 Noon

Live Webinar on Zoom

Must register in advance ~ minimum \$10 donation requested

To receive the Zoom link, register and make your donation (separately) at the AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch website: <https://lompocvandenberg-ca.aauw.net/>
Or mail your registration and donation to: AAUW LV Branch, PO Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438

Keynote Speakers

Claire Breining
2020-2021 AAUW
Career Development Grant Recipient

Rachel Zhuojun Huang
2020-2021 AAUW
& International Fellowship Recipient



Claire Breining is pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing, specializing in nurse midwifery and women's health at the University of California, San Francisco. After 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 sponsored by several AAUW branches including Lompoc-Vandenberg and Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley.

Rachel Zhuojun Huang received her Bachelor of Science in materials science and engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2014. She is currently a Ph.D. student in materials science and engineering at Stanford University and works with Zhenan Bao and Yi Cui on polymeric materials for next-generation energy-storage devices. Her goal is to become a professor at a research university and is sponsored by State President Dianne Owens and others.



Programs

Happy New Year!

Hello 2021! We rang in the new year this month with a fantastic program on 1/28/21. Hello 2021! included AAUW's own and Lompoc Valley Healthy Coalition Director, who spoke on Healthy Eating along with the Route 1 Farmers' Market Manager. We also got to hear from Dulcie who spoke on Cooking with Cannabis. Thanks to our wonderful moderator, Julie, for facilitating the discussion. It was capped off with the drawing of door prizes along with the much-anticipated wine opportunity drawing, proceeds from which will benefit future scholarships and programs.

The ChangeMakers: What's next? The ChangeMakers! A virtual celebration of women leaders making change in honor of Women's History Month. We have a star-studded celebration lined up to inspire our members and the entire community. Keynote iconic changemaker Dolores Huerta will be with us along with our newest CA Senator Monique Limón. The Simmons Sisters, singers/songwriters from Lompoc, of the Good Morning America fame and our youngest changemakers in the celebration, will perform their original scores. The celebration will include live interpretation in Spanish so that all can share in the inspiration.

When is the celebration? **Thursday, March 18 from 7 to 8 pm.** Invite your friends, invite your family, invite your colleagues, invite your neighbors to celebrate with us as we honor women, particularly women of color, making positive change in our nation, our state and our town. My attire of choice for the event will be pearls and sneakers!!! Look for the Zoom link on our branch's website to register in February.

Want to be part of the magic? Join the program team to help make the ChangeMakers a smashing success! Email me or call me 😊.

The celebration is made possible by AAUW's generous collaborators: Allan Hancock Foundation, the Fund for Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara Commission for Women and CoastHills Federal Credit Union.

Lucy, Program VP

Membership Matters

This has been a difficult year to stay in contact with members and to encourage new membership. Right now, I am showing that we have 80 branch members and 8 national members who live in the Lompoc area. With COVID-19 still keeping us at home and out of groups, it has been hard to maintain that sense of community that comes with membership. While many of us have enjoyed our Zoom programs, there are others who are not comfortable with that setting or the technology. Hopefully we will soon begin to see the impact of vaccinations and the other precautions that we all have to take. I think we will be hearing “wear a mask, socially distance and wash your hands” for some time to come, but just maybe we will be able to begin to gather sometime in the next year. Perhaps at that time we can all think of a person or two who would like to join us for the social aspect of our organization and/or because they support the causes and ideals of AAUW. An invite to a program or to join is the best way to add to our strength and increase our membership. One area of consideration is the vote that will take place this spring at the national level on a long-standing membership requirement, which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. Some of the considerations to eliminating the degree requirement are:

- By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today.
- There are many paths to education beyond colleges and universities. As important as the P-12 and four-year college system is, education comes in many forms, including Career Technical Education, on-the-job training and similar education routes.
- We are an organization that promotes equity, yet we do not treat non-degree individuals as equal.
- Times have changed. Younger feminists care about our mission but don't join us because they see us as an exclusionary or elitist organization, one that hasn't evolved into modern thinking about equity and inclusion.
- Those who do not have degrees can be strong advocates for our mission.

Members can comment on the proposed amendment from January 11, 2021 through February 5, 2021 5:00 pm ET. Voting will open on April 7, 2021 and close on May 17, 2021, 5:00 pm ET. Go to the AAUW.org website for more information on this topic.

Pat, Membership Chair



Public Policy

Women's Community Statement on President Trump's Removal

January 10, 2021

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, we watched as the President of the United States incited a mob to march on the Capitol to attempt to overturn the results of an election he lost eight weeks ago. We watched in horror as that mob of white nationalists stormed the U.S. Capitol building. And we watched as they tried, and failed, to subvert our democracy, leaving a trail of wreckage and terror in their wake.

This was not the beginning. This was an inflection point in years of hate and division incited by a President who does not care about our country or its people, but only about himself. He has stoked racism, sexism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, ableism, xenophobia, toxic masculinity and more — allowing those who share his beliefs to come out in the open and act without fear of repercussions and wreak havoc on the seat of democracy. The failed insurrection at the Capitol this week was shocking, but not without warning.

We come together today as a community of multi-racial, multi-generational, differently-classed gender justice leaders, who represent women, girls and gender nonconforming people from every corner of this nation, united in condemnation of these unconscionable actions. Together, we demand that our country's leaders uphold their Constitutional responsibilities and remove President Trump from office immediately. He must be held accountable. He has shown that he is an imminent threat to all of our communities, our nation and our very democracy. We cannot risk one more day under this President.

Now is the time for our leaders to do what is right and fulfill your obligation to the American people who elected you. The House of Representatives has committed to beginning impeachment proceedings, and the Senate must show up with a unified voice to swiftly do the same. If you fail to condemn white nationalists' violent extremism and hold the President accountable for his actions, you are neglecting your basic responsibility to serve the American people. Vice President Pence, members of the Cabinet, and Members of Congress, you each swore to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States." This is the moment for which that oath was written. And if you fail to protect this country, women and girls across this country will not forget.

American Association of University Women (AAUW), Feminist Majority, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, Institute for Women's Policy and Research, Jewish Women International (JWI), MomsRising, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Council of Jewish Women, National Crittenton, National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Partnership for

Public Policy (Continued)

Women & Families, National Women's Law Center, Paid Leave for All, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, SEIU, She the People, Supermajority, TIME'S UP Now, United State of Women, Women's March, and YWCA USA.

The above came from the AAUW website. I believe, as does AAUW National, that the impeachment of Donald Trump must move forward. We cannot heal without accountability. **NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!**

Janet, 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 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 (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

Interest Groups (Continued)**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 me for further information at 805-588-6533.

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.

Carol Ann and Cathy, Co-Chairs



Calendar of Events

February 1	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
February 3	Branch Board Meeting via Zoom, 5:00 pm
February 17	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers
February 27	IBC Program
March 1	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
March 3	Branch General Meeting and Board Meeting via Zoom, 5:00 pm
March 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](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

