

***From Pat...***

As I am writing this, the year 2021 is coming to an end. I am often saddened at the end of the year as newscasters review the lives of many notable people we have lost and the events that have made headlines in the last year. It makes me reflect on the changes that we have seen in our lifetime and the people who have influenced those changes, some of whom I remembered and some of whom I just did not know or recognize for what they had done. Politicians such as Bob Dole and Walter Mondale were well known to me. Colin Powell, the first black person to head the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State, impressed me with his strong leadership style and ability to express his opinion, whether popular or not. Authors Ann Rice and Beverly Cleary were better known to me than Joan Didion or Bell Hooks, perhaps because of where I was raised. I did not know of Sara Weddington, who as a young Texas attorney argued the Roe V Wade case successfully before the Supreme Court, but what a change she made to the lives of many women. Actresses Cicely Tyson, Olivia Dukakis, and Cloris Leachman left their impressions on me. I am also saddened by the loss of Desmond Tutu for his contribution to helping end apartheid, Prince Philip for his role in the life of a very strong women, Queen Elizabeth, and for composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim for adding beautiful words and music to our lives. There are so many more that left us that made outstanding contributions to our society.

Perhaps the biggest loss we have had in 2021 are all those that have died from COVID-19. As the year ends, over 800 thousand have died in the United States and over 5.4 million worldwide. It is mind boggling to me that this disease has spread so widely and so quickly and also that the greatest death toll has been in the United States. In a country that has the ability to offer protection to the majority of the population we still have suffered the most deaths because of what I view as the political controversy of vaccination. We will never know the impact of those who have died—many did not have a chance to fulfill their potential.

From Pat...(continued)

As we enter a new year, I also have hope. I've used the definition of hope as "a desire of some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it." I hope for an end to the pandemic. I hope that our medical workers and teachers have the stamina and strength to continue their work and that brilliant minds will offer more solutions to the pandemic. I hope for good leadership in our country, not just the president, but others who must do what is best for our nation. I also hope that we all continue to support AAUW and its objectives.

Best wishes to all of you for an amazing and marvelous 2022!

Pat Grijalva, President

**Tech Trek**

I hope everyone remains safe and healthy over this holiday season. I don't have any up-to-date information on the 2022 Tech Trek camp at UCSB. We are still waiting to see if campers will be allowed to attend an on campus program. Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Happy New Year,

Wynn Clevenger

**AAUW Fund**

Lompoc Vandenberg branch members continued their generous support of AAUW Fund during the past year. As we enter 2022, National will be doing solicitations for their various programs. I know I receive notices almost daily! if you choose to support via the online programs, just remember to include your membership number and our branch number 0130. You might want to keep a copy of this 'giving chart' so you know the different programs that need support.

Mary Ellen Brooks, AAUW Fund Chair

Branch # CA0130



AAUW Fund (Continued)

How to Support AAUW's Mission

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting AAUW's critical work! When supporting the following funds, you give AAUW the ability to carry out its bold, strategic vision for the future.



AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)

Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.



Education and Training Fund (4450)

Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

**STEM
Title IX
Pathways to Jobs**

*Examples of programs include:
Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives
Fellowships and Grants
Public Policy
Research*



Economic Security Fund (4449)

Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

**Pay Equity
Title VII
Retirement Security**

*Examples of programs include:
Start Smart
Work Smart
Work Smart Online
Legal Advocacy Fund*



Leadership Fund (4452)

Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

**Career
Workplace
Training**

*Examples of programs include:
Campus Action Projects
Empower
NCCWSL*

Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible and can be sent to the address below or made online at www.aauw.org/contribute.

P.O. Box 98045
Washington, DC 20090-8045
800.326.2289 | connect@aauw.org
www.aauw.org



Membership Matters

Dear Fellow Members:

Happy New Year! May our members find themselves safe and healthy for this upcoming new year! Currently our membership stands at 58 members.

We are halfway into our membership year and if you have not renewed your membership, please do so right away either online at **AAUW.org** or by check to:

AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg
P.O. Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438

Membership fees are: \$102.00 (\$20 branch, \$20 AAUW California, \$62 AAUW National).

If any of your contact information has recently changed, or if you need assistance, please contact us. We are here to help!

For all NEW members who join, there is a pro-rated membership rate and will only have to pay half a year. If you recommend a new member to join, you also will be rewarded. Thank you for supporting our organization AAUW!

2022 marks 58 years of our branch advocating for equal rights and helping to improve the lives of women and their families, while networking and having fun. Another opportunity that AAUW gives us is to showcase our talent by entering the Annual Art Contest. This year, members can submit their entries with the theme of AAUW's "mission and values" from January 5 to January 30, 2022. After that, AAUW members will be invited to vote for up to 10 entries from February 2 to February 16, 2022. The six winning entries will be announced in the spring and be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members. For more information and to submit your artwork, go to <https://www.aauw.org/contests/>. Let us know if you have entered the competition, so we can rally for you!

**Kari Rosson,
Membership VP**



AAUW Program Committee Report

Holiday Program Recap

The AAUW holiday program hosted at the beautiful, and beautifully decorated, home of Kari Rosson and held on Zoom was a wonderful start to our holiday season and a nice conclusion to yet another crazy year. Delicious food, drink and stories were shared along with Kari's famous passing game for cute baking inspired prizes. Holiday poinsettias were also fun prizes for members (fully boosted) who were able to attend. It was so very nice to connect in person after such a long time!

Feedback from members indicate that many prefer in person programs which are challenging to conduct within the safety protocols and the surge with Omnicron variant of the COVID 19. Programs offered both in person and on Zoom are a great option. In 2020 attendance at AAUW programs, all held on Zoom due to the pandemic, totaled over 750 people. The in person listening programs held in November to gather input and to explore topics and upcoming leadership opportunities in the branch were lightly attended. No doubt these are challenging times!! The program team will continue to adjust based on safety protocols.

Its 2022!! What? How'd that happen??

On Saturday January 22 from 11am-1pm, we'll be bringing back the popular international program but with a twist. Since there has been precious little travel permitted over the last 2 years, everyone is invited to bring their favorite souvenir from prior travels (either domestic or international) and to bring a dish to share. Prizes will be awarded for the funniest souvenir, the farthest souvenir and the most fantastic souvenir. So bring your souvenir, your souvenir story and your dish to share! The program will be held at the Events Mission Valley at 138 North B in Lompoc (the old DMV location). Many thanks to Pat and to the EMV owners, the Grants, for arranging for this venue for the program!

Our plan, at this time, is to hold the event in person for those fully boosted and on Zoom for those who prefer to attend remotely. There is ample space to spread out and enjoy the company and the stories.

On Thursday January 27 at 7pm, AAUW has been invited to partner with the North County Rape Crisis Center, SB County Sheriffs and SB County Prosecutor to bring awareness to the community about to the issue of human trafficking in the northern SB County. The event will be held by Zoom webinar in dual languages and will include a panel of subject matter experts on this important topic. The program will be recorded in case you miss it live. **This will be our program for February.**

Dulcie Sinn and Lucy Thoms-Harrington, Co- Program VPs

Public Policy

Women's Reproductive Rights - Where Are We Now?

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy

By January 22, 2022, the 49th anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision, SCOTUS (the Supreme Court of the United States) will have heard arguments on Texas SB 8 legislation banning pregnancy termination after six (6) weeks and Mississippi's legislation (Whole Women's Health Organization v Dobbs) to ban abortion after fifteen (15) weeks.

What are the issues? For Texas, it isn't about the constitutionality of the legislation, i.e. the fundamental right decided by Roe v Wade. Instead, a decision will be made on the tactics used by the Texas legislature - delegating their enforcement duties to citizens - to preclude lawsuits against the State.

The decision on the Mississippi legislation will be straightforward. One, SCOTUS could overturn Roe v Wade. Two, the court could limit legal standing to challenges on state law, e.g. doctors wouldn't be able to challenge on behalf of patients. Three, new legal standards for the evaluation of abortion regulations may be created so states aren't required to show that the benefits of an abortion ban outweigh the undue burden to patients – reversing Planned Parenthood v Casey. (*Women's Health Policy*, 11/21/2021)

One hundred six (106) state laws have been passed to restrict abortion in 2021. Activists, like AAUW, are bringing lawsuits before the Supreme Court. AAUW has submitted an amicus brief for Whole Women's Health v Dobbs as to the constitutionality of the Mississippi law.

In addition, the ACLU and others have brought lawsuits against other Mississippi abortion-related legislation like regulations for informed consent, a waiting period before the procedure, and ban on telemedicine visits.

Surveys show that 60-70% of Americans approve of abortion in all or most circumstances. Only 20% think abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. (*New York Times, Upshot* (5/19/2021). AAUW and AAUW California stand with the majority, and the time to act is now. We must pressure the Senate to pass the [Women's Health Protection Act](#). The legislation must become law in this session. Unfair changes in representation have occurred with redistricting. Votes in the 2022 mid-term elections that would elect representatives who would vote for this bill could be suppressed. Detailed information on the current position for women's reproductive health is available from the [Guttmacher Institute](#).

Interest Groups

Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group (3rd Thursday of the month)

The Dine Out group will be going to the new Floriano's restaurant on Thursday, January 20th at 12:30 p.m.

Please contact Billye Iverson or Leslie Sevier for reservations.

Leslie Sevier & Billye Iverson, 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 Meehan for further information.

Gail Meehan, Chair

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

Please contact Roaming Readers members for future books and locations.

We meet in person or via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. the first Monday of each month, unless that's a holiday, in which case we meet the following Monday. Contact Cathy Rudolph for details. Guests or new members from AAUW are always welcome. Questions can be directed to the co-chairs.

Carol Ann Johnson and Cathy Rudolph, Co-Chairs

Writing Group

Carol Ann Johnson would like to form a writing group. Members could meet once a month and discuss their creative writings for positive and constructive comments only. Contact Carol Ann if you are interested.

Interest Groups (Continued)**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 Brooks. If you are interested in walking on the weekends, please let the group know.

**Calendar of Events**

January 3	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
January 12	Branch Board Meeting (Tentative)
January 19	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers
January 20	Dine Out Group: Floriano's
January 22	Program: Where in the World??? Potluck Brunch
January 27	Program: Human Trafficking
February 7	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
February 9	Branch Board Meeting (Tentative)
February 16	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers
February 17	Dine Out Group: 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
 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 Schneringer