



AAUW
Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

President's Report

It was great to see many of you at our "Where in the World" program last month. So many fascinating stories and the accompanying souvenirs from around the world along with some great fellowship and snacks. We had an important branch discussion about participation in Tech Trek 2024 (see Tech Trek article) and the focus of our collective energies towards a central coast Tech Trek 2025 offering for our campers.

It's an exciting start to 2024 with 2 Nonpartisan Dual Language (English/Spanish) Candidate Forums -2 forums in one night hosted in collaboration with the League of Women Voters North County. This will mark an important milestone of AAUW continuing its legacy of offering Forums, now with dual language, as a service to our whole community. The Forums will be held on Thursday February 1st with 4 methods to participate: live at 100 Civic Center Plaza with live interpretation, via TAP TV Channel 23, via KPEG radio 100.9 FM and via Zoom webinar with live interpretation. Many thanks to the hard-working forums team from the branch: Marell (Brooks), Janet (Blevins), Virginia (Souza, who also is the President of the League), Kay (Duffy Taylor), Brenda (Villa), Dulcie (Sinn) and Ann (McCarty) along with the Alison Wales and Joyce Lippman from the League.

It's never too early to volunteer as a board member or on a committee. Have one or two hours? We can use a hand in with Assistant to Treasurer and Communications (phone tree lead). We also welcome participation in planning the 60th anniversary celebration of the founding of the branch in April. Can you lend a hand? Text Lucy (Thoms-Harrington) 805-729-7951 or email lth.terralink@gmail.com

Lucy Thoms-Harrington, President

Programs & Events



Jacket Drive and Immunization Clinic




1:00-3:00 pm

Saturday, February 17, 2024

1111 E Ocean Ave Ste. 2, Lompoc

Free jackets and COVID/flu/mpox vaccinations for Savie Health patients and other uninsured or newly insured community members in need.







Programs & Events (continued)

Celebrating Black History Month!

Join AAUW on Feb 4, 2024, at 3:00 Pacific to learn about Black activist Mary Church Terrell, her work for women's suffrage and racial equality, and her role in the integration of AAUW. A co-founder of the NAACP, Terrell became the first Black member of AAUW after winning an anti-discrimination lawsuit. We will hear from Dr. Alison Parker, author of *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, as she recounts stories and major successes in the life of this extraordinary woman. Here's the link to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uPSQIn_SSS1x6fFgirPWw_-_/registration



Coat Drive!!

Savie Health is having a coat drive for distribution to community members in need! Have a gently worn or new coat or two (women, men and/or youth) which can go to a wonderful cause? Drop them off **before Friday 2/16** at SAVIE Health (**1111 E. Ocean Ave. Suite 2**) anytime **Wednesday – Saturday 9-4**. See the flyer!



Lompoc-Vandenberg, Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley, and Santa Maria Interbranch Council lunch!

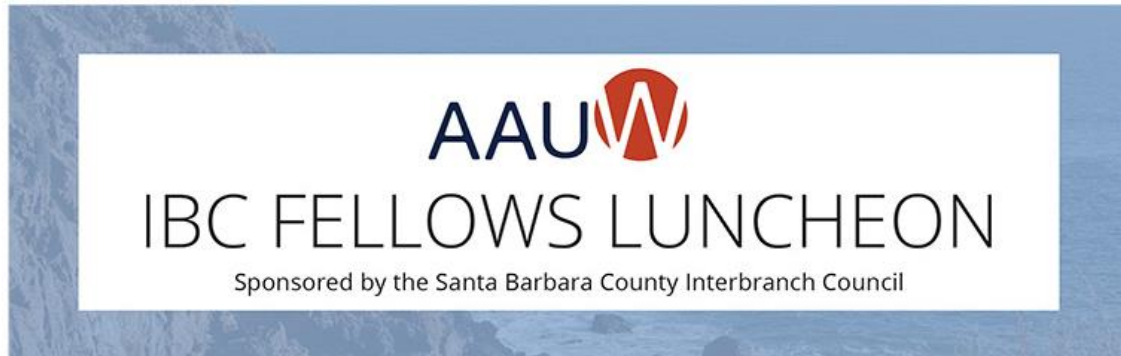
Get the hottest ticket in town. It's at Craft House at Corque (420 Alisal, Solvang) on Saturday February 24 from 11:30 – 2. The California brunch will be fabulous and includes

- A Selection of Freshly Squeezed and Chilled Fruit Juices, Coffee & Hot Tea Service
- Seasonal Veggie Scramble
- Avocado Toast with Cherry Tomato, Red Onion, Frisee,
- Bocconcini with Balsamic Glaze
- Basil Sweet Potato Hash with Chimichurri, Red Onion, and Cotija Cheese
- Seasonal Fruit & Berries

Following brunch we'll hear from not one, but two exciting speakers: reknown author and AAUW Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley member, Jane Honikman , <https://janehonikman.com> and one of our two Fellows from UCSB, Kathryn Maldonado, <https://www.soc.ucsb.edu/people/katherine-maldonado-fabela>.

All this for \$40 which includes tax and tip! Reservations by 2/16/24 and payment in advance is required for this one! Please contact Dianne (Owens) <http://dianneowens9@gmail.com> or Lucy (Thoms-Harrington) <http://lth.terralink@gmail.com> . Payment by check can be made out to AAUW with IBC lunch in the memo line and mailed to AAUW PO box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438. This would be a great event to invite a new potential member to join you! See flyer!

Programs & Events (continued)



Join fellow AAUW members from other branches for a lovely meal and hear inspiring speakers

Saturday, February 24, 2024

11:30 AM-2:00 PM

The Craft House at Corque, 420 Alisal Rd, Solvang

Speakers

Jane Honikman & Kathryn Maldando Fabela

Tickets: \$40

Please RSVP by February 15

to Lucy Thoms-Harrington at lth.terralink@gmail.com or (805) 729-7951 (phone/text).

Send check payable to AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg and mail to:
AAUW LV, PO Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438.



Jane Honikman, M.S., became a leader of the social movement to promote the emotional wellbeing of parents and their families through her work with Postpartum Education for Parents (PEP) in the 1970s and the founding of Postpartum

Support International (PSI) in 1987. In 1980, she was awarded an AAUW Member Project/Research grant to study postpartum support groups. She has written several books on the topic and continues to lecture and train internationally on the role of social support and the emotional health of families.



Katherine Maldonado Fabela is a mother scholar from South Central Los Angeles, and a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her research previously examined the experiences of gang-

affiliated mothers and the health effects of criminalization and violence, what she conceptualized as life course criminalization. Katherine is a Pre-Doctoral Ford Foundation Fellow, American Sociology Association Minority Fellow, and American Association of University Women Fellow, among others.

Programs & Events (continued)

Next Up in March:

AAUW Speech Trek Contest Thursday March 7 at 5pm at Lompoc City Hall (100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc) for high school aged students of any gender. Come support the students as each delivers an original 5-6min speech to the community and a panel of community leaders on this highly timely topic: *“How can we ensure a robust public-school curriculum that is accessible to all and teaches historically accurate information?”* Interested in mentoring a student contestant and/or helping with the Committee? Contact Jenelle (Osborne) orijenel@gmail.com

Virtual Gov Trek Student Campaign Simulation Competition March 16 from 10-12:30 pm

Interested in mentoring a student contestant and/or helping with the Committee? Contact Kay (Duffy Taylor) <http://kduffy5721@aol.com>



Public Policy

Ever feel like being in the room where it happens?

Consider participating in AAUW CA Lobby Days on 4/2 and 4/3 where we engage with our elected representatives to promote our legislative priorities. Register by 2/15 to be part of the action. What to know how? Here's the link <https://www.aauw-ca.org/learn-how-to-be-an-effective-lobby-days-advocate-2024/>



Public Policy (continued)

2023-2025

AAUW
OF CALIFORNIA

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The AAUW California Public Policy Program establishes policy directives that will guide our members, inform our legislative priorities, serve our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, and are consistent with our values of achieving fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society. Toward that end, AAUW California advocates policies that promote, enhance and ensure:

Economic Security for All Women, including:

- Equity in the workplace
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement
- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and caregiving leave

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, including:

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Removal of barriers for girls to access instruction in STEM fields
- Civics instruction in all CA high schools
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, including:

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence.
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures
- Protection and expansion of voting rights
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns

Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles, including:

- Proportional appointment to publicly held corporate boards
- Access to leadership skills training
- Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers

www.aauw-ca.org

Janet Blevins, Public Policy

Tech Trek

At our January 21 meeting the members voted to take a hiatus from the 2024 Tech Trek camp and put our efforts into reopening the UCSB camp for the future. The available 2024 camps are 3-4 hours away and would pose a hardship for many of our camper families. We will work with AAUW CA on a corrective action plan to reinstate a UCSB camp in 2025. Our TT funds will be kept with an AAUW CA camp treasurer and locally.

Many of the branches who sent campers to UCSB were as shocked as we were upon hearing about the closure. Letters were sent to express our frustration with the lack of transparency surrounding the decision...their response remained, decision final, no discussion.

We can be proud of our 25 years of participation in Tech Trek and the campers who have represented Lompoc. Whatever your contribution has been over the years, I appreciate your support and look forward to continuing our participation in 2025.

Wynn Clevenger



Gov Trek

In November and January, AAUW members Dinah Lockhart, Brenda Villa, Kay Duffy Taylor and Lucy Thoms-Harrington gave presentations at Lompoc High School, Maple High School, Cabrillo High School and the Lompoc Teen Center about Gov Trek, encouraging junior and senior girls to sign up for the program. Many girls expressed interest and so far, two local girls have officially registered for the program which begins on February 3, 2024 and continues for 7 successive Saturdays. Lucy has been working on securing a site for the girls to meet and participate in the virtual sessions together.

Kay Duffy



Speech Trek

Our branch Speech Trek 2024 competition is set for Thursday, March 7th at 5 pm. It will take place at the Lompoc Civic Center At City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza. We are currently seeking to fill several volunteer positions: mentors for the competitors, an event host to organize the refreshments/literature, etc., two time keepers, an individual to escort competitors between the holding room and council chambers, and a liaison for the judges. If you would like to volunteer for any of these roles, please contact Jenelle Osborne at orijenel@gmail.com or text/call at 805-452-7574.

Jenelle Osbourne

AAUW Fund Facts

- The AAUW Fund helps translate mission into action.
- The AAUW Fund has been named one of the best independent charities in America.
- The AAUW Fund remains the largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women.

AAUW CA members and branches generously donated \$494,000 to AAUW Fund in 2021.

AAUW awarded \$6 million in fellowships and grants to more than 320 outstanding women and community projects in the 2022-23 academic year.

For 2022-23, there are 39 AAUW Fund Fellowship and Grant recipients studying in California colleges and universities or doing projects in our communities. They represent a broad and diverse range of studies and interests and are an excellent example of the wonderful use of branch and member donations.

California fellow and grant recipients will share their fascinating studies at several fall AAUW Fund virtual events. Please register for these events on the [AAUW California website](#).

Marell Brooks, VP AAUWFunds



Leaves of our Branch

Welcome Eryn Parks!

Eryn lives in Lompoc and works as the Development and Volunteer Manager at Savie Health, which does such wonderful work for our community in serving those in need without insurance!!

Eryn has a Master's in public health from Baylor and her BS in Biology from UCI.

Please add Eryn to you branch directory: Her contact information is
 Email: erynparks@saviehealth.org
 Phone: 805-403-7638



Interest Groups

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

Dine-outs are planned for the third Thursday of each month, with the next dine-out on February 15. Locations are TBD. The regular attendees will be notified of the details. Contact Billye if you would like to join in the fun! Hope to see you there!

Billye Iverson



Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

February 5: *Wish You Were Here* (Jodi Picoult) Myra Wapner

March 4: *Abraham Lincoln: And Then There Was Light* (Jon Meacham) Gail Meehan

Roaming Readers is open to all AAUW members; we welcome anyone interested to visit a meeting. We meet at 9:00 a.m. on the first Monday of each month (on the second Monday if the first is a holiday). We meet in rotating members' homes in person and via ZOOM. For general information or to arrange a visit to a specific meeting, please call Cathy Rudolph.

Carol Ann Johnson and Cathy Rudolph, Co-Chairs



Mission Walkers Group (Weekdays)

Join the AAUW women who walk the La Purisima Mission every Monday through Friday at 8:15 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

February 1	AAUW & LWV County Supervisory Election Forum
February 3	Gov Trek begins
February 4	AAUW Celebrating Black History Month! Webinar
February 5	Roaming Readers: <i>Wish You Were Here</i> (Jodi Picoult)
February 7	Branch Board Meeting
February 15	Dine Out Group: TBD
February 15	Registration Deadline for AAUW CA Lobby Days
Through February 16	Savie Health Coat Drive
February 16	Registration Deadline for IBC Brunch
February 24	IBC Brunch
March 7	AAUW Speech Trek Contest
March 4	Roaming Readers: <i>Abraham Lincoln: And Then There Was Light</i> (Jon Meacham)
March 16	Virtual Gov Trek Student Campaign Simulation Competition
March 21	Dine Out Group: TBD
April 2-3	AAUW CA Lobby Days

**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 Schneringer

