

The logo for AAUW (American Association of University Women) features the letters 'AAUW' in a dark blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the letters is a stylized orange and white emblem consisting of a semi-circle at the top, a white 'W' shape in the center, and two orange curved shapes on the sides.

AAUW

Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

President's Report

Welcome to March and it is indeed coming in like a lion*!

March is Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Women who advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion" which is in direct alignment with the AAUW mission: "Equity for All". There has been incredible work by our branch in this space over the last 60 years of the branch's founding. While we recognize that much has been accomplished, we are incredibly being mindful of the work yet to do. A favorite quote of mine on Women's History Month comes from a hero, former first lady Michelle Obama, who said "Don't be afraid. Be focused. Be determined. Be hopeful. Be empowered."

Speaking of work to do, did you know that according to the latest census females earn only 84 cents for every dollar earned by a male? At this rate, it will take us until **2088** to achieve equity. The gap for women of color is even larger. To bring awareness of the work to be done to eliminate this gap, Equal Pay Day is also recognized in March. The date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year

How will we commemorate Women's History Month and Equal Pay Day this year? The City of Lompoc will be recognizing these milestones and the work done by AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg with city proclamations on Tuesday March 19, 2024 at the city council meeting (100 Civic Center Plaza). AAUW will host a modest community reception at 6:00pm in advance of the meeting which starts at 6:30pm. We have invited the female student athletes from the three high schools to join us for both the reception and the proclamation in recognition of

President's Report (continued)

the work done by AAUW and others in Title IX. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.

Please come out on March 19 to City Hall at 6pm (or earlier to help set up!) to show our commitment. Bring your partner, bring your neighbor, bring your family, bring your friend to the event and the city proclamation ceremony recognizing AAUW, Women's History Month and Equal Pay Day.

Thank you to Samantha Scoggins who has stepped up to lead our Communications team which includes heading up the phone tree committee (thank you to committee members!)

Can you lend a hand? We have an opening for **Assistant to the Treasurer** and a couple of openings on the **Nominating Committee** for the 2024-2025 board. We also welcome participation in planning the **60th anniversary celebration** of the founding of the branch in April. Please text me 805-729-7951 or email lth.terralink@gmail.com if you are interested in helping the cause!

On a personal note, many of you may know I am in New Haven, CT for the time being. Our daughter was hospitalized with an adverse reaction to an anti-anxiety medication she was prescribed. She was released and is recovering. I appreciate all the positive thoughts sent her way on her rapid recovery.



*Lion Dance from the Lunar New Year celebration in New Haven, CT 2/24/24 on a cold wintery day

Lucy Thoms-Harrington, President

Programs & Events

It's an exciting start to 2024 with 2 Nonpartisan Dual Language (English/Spanish) Candidate Forums. Two forums in one night hosted in collaboration with the League of Women Voters North County. The Forums were 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. Over 80 people attended in person, many on TAP TV, 80 via Zoom or AAUW UTube (forum recording views). 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. Thanks to Brenda and Kay, here are a couple of photos from the forums.



SB County 3rd District Supervisor
Candidate Forum 2/1/24



SB County 4th District Supervisor
Candidate Forum 2/1/24

Programs & Events (continued)



2024 Forum Team (missing Janet Blevins and Brenda Villa)



Marell staff the AAUW table at the candidate Meet and Greet

Programs & Events (continued)

Lompoc-Vandenberg, Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley, and Santa Maria Interbranch Council lunch brunch on 2/24/24!

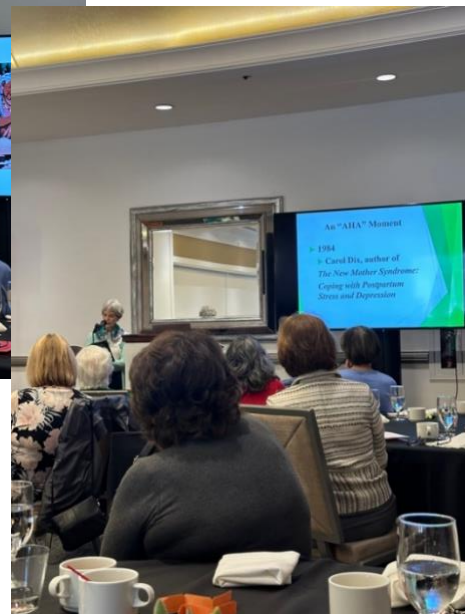
Thanks to all that were able to participate in the fabulous IBC brunch last Saturday. We enjoyed getting together with the the AAUW members from SLO, SM and SB-Goleta Valley and hearing a fantastic program featuring two exciting speakers: reknown author and AAUW Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley member, Jane Honikman , <https://janehonikman.com> and one of our two Fellows from UCSB, Kathryn Maldonado, <https://www.soc.ucsb.edu/people/katherine-maldonado-fabela>.

Many thanks to Dianne Owens who did some heavy lifting to make the event a success! Here are a few photos compliments of Brenda (Villa).

Wynn and Emily catch up at IBC!



AAUW fellow at UCSB, Kathryn Maldonado



Author and AAUW member Jane Honikman

Programs & Events (continued)

AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg supports Allan Hancock and Cuesta Colleges UnitED Initiative

AAUW is a recognized opinion leader in the community on the importance of accessible education. As such, we lent our voice in a written letter of support dated 2/22/24 for Alan Hancock and Cuesta Colleges' UnitED initiative. The initiative would expand accessible education to the communities by offering 4 year degree programs on their respective campuses. Thanks to Barbara (Bolton) for her continued work as the chair of the college relations committee and a valued partner to AHC.



AAUW receives donations from the Alpha Literary and Improvement Club to support future Tech Trek camps

AAUW received two donations from the Alpha club totaling \$250 to support future Tech Trek campers. The donations were received following a presentation to the Alpha Literary and Improvement club by Pat Grijalva late last year.



AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg receives 3 star recognition

AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg has received recognition from AAUW national as a 3 star branch for its outstanding work in 2023. Only 82 branches nation wide has received a 3 star, 4 star or 5 star recognition!





SAVIEHEALTH

Your well-being matters

February 16, 2024

Lucy Thoms-Harrington
1305 North H Street
Suite A, #216
Lompoc, CA 93436

Dear Lucy,

On behalf of Savie Health, I would like to thank you and AAUW for your recent donation to the Savie Health Clinic jacket drive and spreading the word. We greatly appreciate your generosity and support.

Our mission is to provide preventative and acute healthcare those in our community who do not have health insurance, to reduce their likelihood of experiencing chronic conditions and hospitalization. Your contribution will be used to support patient care expenses. We are incredibly grateful for this donation.

Sincerely,

Eryn Shugart, PhD
Executive Director

SavieHealth.org
Tax Id # 86-1668790

Savie Health
1111 E. Ocean Ave
Lompoc, CA 93436

Programs & Events (continued)

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

Contact Kay (Duffy Taylor) <http://kduffy5721@aol.com>



SpeechTrek 2024 Cancelled

Unfortunately, even after all the youth organizations, clubs, campuses, and school board meetings AAUW attended to promote the SpeechTrek 2024 event, we did not have any students apply though 50 had expressed interest. When asked why, many teens said there were just too many things going on and/or over they were committed already. Recovering from attending school during a pandemic, I can respect a student recognizing when their plate is full and not just saying yes to one more thing. I also know the timing is difficult for recruitment, speech writing, and the competition and a longer run up would potentially help. Having heard that feedback, stay tuned for a solution that will address the concerns from the students and set the stage for SpeechTrek 2025 to be a successful event.

I want to thank Katie Brenna, Dinah Lockhart, Kay Duffy, Samantha Scroggin, Janet Blevins, and Lucy Thoms-Harrington, for volunteering and working on this year's event. Until next year - find your voice and use it!

Jenelle Osbourne, SpeechTrek Organizer

**AAUWFunds Named Gift Honoree Recipients**

Being designated as a branch Named Gift Honoree is a very special honor in AAUW. The award is reserved for members who have made extraordinary gifts of time and hard work to the branch and AAUW. And the award signifies that branch members contributed a total of at least \$750 to AAUW Fund. At this time, our branch will probably be able to have two Named Gift Honorees. You can find a list of our past Named Gift recipients on our website and soon will be added to the yearly directory. If you have a suggestion for this year's Named Gift honorees, please contact me. Thanks.
Marell Brooks, AAUW Fund VP

Marell Brooks, VP AAUWFunds

**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 March 21. 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)

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

- March 4 Roaming Readers: *Abraham Lincoln: And Then There Was Light* (Jon Meacham)
- March 6 Branch Board Meeting
- March 7 ~~AAUW Speech-Trek Contest~~ **Cancelled**
- March 16 Virtual Gov Trek Student Campaign Simulation Competition
- March 19 Women’s History Month and Equal Pay Day Proclamations at Lompoc City Council
- March 21 Dine Out Group: TBD
- April 1 Roaming Readers: *TBD*
- April 2-3 AAUW CA Lobby Days
- April 3 Branch Board Meeting
- April 18 Dine Out Group: TBD



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

