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2024/2025 Executive Board

Co - Presidents
Lucy Thoms-Harrington
lh.terralink@gmail.com
Kay Duffy Taylor
kduffy5721@aol.com

VP Programs
Dinah Lockhart
dinahlockhart@icloud.com

VP Membership
Mischa Dalcerci
mischadalcerci@gmail.com

Secretary
Alice Down
rf.amdown@comcast.net

Co - Treasurers
Terry Forss
tforss@hotmail.com
Jan Keller
jkeller2002@msn.com

VP AAUW Funds
Marell Brooks
maryellenbrooks84@gmail.com

Branch Website:
<https://lompocvandenbergs-ca.aauw.net/>



Co-Presidents' Report

November marks an incredible time in our nation's history to use the power of our vote on November 5 (or before for those who vote early!).

"Voting is the only way to ensure that our values and priorities are represented in the halls of power. And it's not enough to just vote for president every four years. We all have to vote in every single election." *Michelle Obama*

For the last 60 years, since the chartering of our branch, AAUW conducted nonpartisan candidate forums as a service to the community. Through the forums the community gains vital access to candidates so that voters can make informed decisions when deciding pivotal local elections. This year was an exceptional one of expanding access for the entire community in the school board and city council/mayor forums. The forums included live interpretation and offered multiple platforms of participation, enabling community questions and engaging new and diverse voters. Read about the phenomenal impact in Dinah's program section of the newsletter. A big thank you to the Forum team: AAUW - Dinah Lockhart, Kay Duffy Taylor, Wynn Clevenger, Marell Brooks, Barbara Bolton, Terry Forss, Alice Down; our collaborators from the League of Women Voters North SB County: Pam Gates and Allison Wales and from Future for Lompoc Youth: Jenna, Alexa, Carmen, Karla, Michelle and Iwa and from the City of Lompoc: Stacey Haddon, James Mercer, Bill Smith and Alex. The Fund for SB for the Movement Building Grant provided key funding to AAUW for the forums.

Speaking of thanks, this Thanksgiving we are thankful for each person in our incredible branch for all that you have done, are doing and will do to make a positive impact on the lives of women and girls in our community, our state and our nation.

Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President

Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-President



Kay Duffy, Carmen Martinez, Karla Rodriguez Munoz, Alexa Noriega, Jennalyn Bellrose, Pam Gates, Alison Wales, Stacey Haddon, Lucy Thoms-Harrington, and Jose Farías



Programs

Great Community Participation at Sponsored Candidate Forums

Lompoc United School District (LUSD) Board (9/25/24) and City Council (10/3/24) candidate forums were attended or viewed by over 528 community attendees! This number does not include participants viewing on TAP TV or KPEG. The LUSD candidate forum had 230 viewers and attendees, with 71 persons in person (5 Spanish language users), 25 Zoom attendees, and 134

viewers post Forum (w/ 4 Spanish Language views). The Lompoc City Council forum had 298 viewers and attendees, including 65 in person (5 Spanish language users), 20 Zoom attendees, and 213 viewing post Forum. While attendance numbers reflect a small percentage of registered voters (there are 238,661 registered in the County), it is significant that these forums provided one of the few opportunities to see and hear the candidates share their views. Many thanks to The Fund for Santa Barbara, Future For Lompoc Youth, League of Women Voters of North Santa Barbara County, City of Lompoc for hosting and use of Council Chambers, and AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg branch members who dedicated numerous hours before, during, and after both events.

Holiday Get Together!

Put on your brightest holiday attire for **AAUW's Annual Holiday Party** Sunday, December 1, 2024 from 2- 4pm: 304 Burnham Court, Lompoc Please bring a potluck appetizer or dessert to share!



This year we would like to support our local Toys for Tots, which distributes toys to Lompoc children through local non-profit organizations. Please bring an unwrapped gift for a child aged 0-12 yrs, around \$15 in value, and make a child's holiday a little merrier!

Save the Date!

Women in the World Through a Feminist Lens Potluck Brunch

Saturday January 25, 2025 from 11am to 1:30pm

Location TBD (confirming availability).

Back by popular demand! Please bring a dish to share, as we learn from each other about places we've visited, how we were transformed, and how we contributed to those around us.



Dinah Lockhart: Programs VP



Membership

We had so many great additions and renewals to our membership!

But....we still have a **few members that need to renew membership**. It's easy to do, and we are counting on you to continue the great progress that was made in the past year and into the future!

If your renewal is up, you should have received an email from the [American Association of University Women](#) with the subject line: AAUW: It's Time to Renew Your Membership! You can renew at the links below - or in your AAUW renewal reminder email. You can also write a check and we will be happy to do the rest for you.

On line at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/>

By mail: By Check: As always, making a check payable to your AAUW branch and mailing it to: AAUW, Lompoc-Vandenberg, P.O. Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438

Have questions on renewing? Please call or email Mischa Dalcerci, Membership VP at 805.588.0645 or mischadalcerci@gmail.com.

We very much value your membership in AAUW!!!

We have 79 Total Members (+5 from State).

We have 3 Memberships that are Expired.

Mischa Dalcerci: Membership VP



GOV TREK

Gov Trek will be on hiatus for the current 2024-2025 AAUW California year. According to the AAUW California State President, Charmen Goehring, a member willing to take on chair or co-chair duties was not found. It was hoped that a Chair or Co-Chairs would be identified at the end of the summer, but that did not occur. It is hoped someone will step forward in the next few months to continue the program next year.

Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-President



AAUW Funds

If you plan to donate to the Fund before the end of the tax year, please go online to do so. If you prefer giving me a check to mail in, I will be sending in my last report with checks at the beginning of **December**. This will allow some time for National to deposit your checks. If you have questions, please call me. **So far, about 15% of our branch members have contributed.**

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



Marell Brooks: AAUW Funds VP

Speech Trek 2025:

2025 will be the last year of CA AAUW Speech Trek and the topic is powerful.

Read on.

If you'd like to be part of our branch Speech Trek team to recruit high school students, mentor them in the process of public speaking or select /participate in judging, please let Lucy know (lth.terralink@gmail.com). We are forming the team now. Recruitment and mentoring will occur in January with the contest being held in February (date TBD).



Students from our branch have gone on to win or place at AAUW CA competition after finishing first locally. One student, Erin McCallan (LHS), who placed third at the state level credits Speech Trek in giving her the tools to pursue political science at Berkley in preparation for a career in law.

Let's bring the thunder one last time supporting our students in gaining the critical skills they will need throughout their lives: the power to use their voice to advocate for important issues in their lives.

Speech Trek 2025

“Climate change is happening. The effects are widespread and touch upon almost all aspects of our life on this planet.”

TOPIC: Select one area of impact and explore the effect climate change is having on women in the USA and around the world.

BACKGROUND:

The adverse effects of climate change are well studied in relation to agriculture, ecosystems, water resources, human health, and industry, especially in geographical locations that are economically dependent on local natural resources.

Many studies also highlight climate change in terms of impact to economics.

But do any reports identify any disproportionate effects on women? Is women's health more vulnerable to environmental changes?

Many companies claim their bottom line is impacted by the cost of climate change legislation. Does this have an impact on women's career and leadership opportunities?

If there are disparities in any of these areas, how does that change the way you look at climate change, and what impact is climate change having on women in the USA and around the world?

Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Speech Trek



Local Scholarship

Winetasting Fundraiser Success!

We had a successful fundraiser on Sunday, October 27, for our local scholarships. Our wonderful hosts, Kate Griffith and Norm Yost, of Flying Goat Cellars, provided wonderful wines to taste (and for sale after folks got a taste!), a sparkling trio for the auction, their production facility as a venue and their knowledge of wines. CoastHills generously sponsored our event, effectively covering the remaining costs, allowing all ticket sales and member donations to go directly to scholarships.



We enjoyed the wines, charcuterie and snacks, a live auction, a little wine math trivia and wine chemistry trivia for prizes, and, of course, the company of those in attendance. We also had a toast to Joyce Barker, the chair of the local scholarship committee for many years, who sadly passed in September.

Our ticket sales were about 15 short of our goal, but generous donations from our members made up the difference, and we met our financial goals. Success! The final numbers are still being tallied, and will be reported later.

I want to say a special thank you to our Scholarship Committee members that made this event happen. It takes a committee! Kari transformed the winemaking space into a colorful fall foliage setting, leaving Kate and Norm impressed that their winery "...has never looked better!" Leslie (with a little help) procured all the food and donated an auction item. Leslie and Kay arranged everything beautifully. Lucy applied for the CoastHills sponsorship, wrote the program and donated an auction item. Samantha designed the flyer and the program. Terri managed ticket sales and the money. Finally, the remaining committee members that contributed ideas, time and support: Donna, Mary, Carol Ann, and Kathryn.

I have an Opportunity for you!

The second part of our local scholarship fundraising kicked off at the winetasting. We have an *Opportunity* drawing underway. For a suggested donation of \$30, you have an *Opportunity* to win 1 case of Santa Rita Hills Wine, where each bottle costs more than \$30. Only 100 tickets will be sold, and 15 are already gone. The drawing will be held at the Holiday Party on December 1st.

Please contact Julie Schneringer at 805-452-6135, julie.a.schneringer@gmail.com, to buy a ticket or for a stack of tickets to sell.

This is an *Opportunity* you should not pass up.



Julie Schneringer, Scholarship Chair

TECH TREK**WE ARE BACK AT UCSB IN 2025!**

There will be 1 session with 100 campers. I will request at least 4 camper slots. The new requirement for sending campers in 2025 will be that each branch has to send volunteers to work at camp. The good news is that the volunteers can include past campers. We usually have at least one member volunteer so I am hoping that we can continue to count on member participation. The camper fee has gone up to \$1,200.00



Because of your past support for TT, we will not need to fundraise this year. Past fundraisers will cover the cost for 2025. Thank you all for your continued support. TT has been a life changing experience for our Lompoc campers.

I will be contacting the teachers at each middle school to get recommendations for next year. We are fortunate to have supportive teachers and counselors helping with our selection process.

Wynn Clevenger, Tech Trek Chair

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion****Understanding The White Savior Complex In The United States**

In the United States, the white savior complex refers to actions where white individuals, often from privileged backgrounds, step into marginalized communities—especially Black, Latino, or Indigenous communities—with the intent to “save” or help. While these efforts might be rooted in good intentions, they can unintentionally reinforce harmful stereotypes, undermine local leadership, and perpetuate racial power imbalances.

A common example of this complex can be seen in educational initiatives like Teach for America, where young, often white, college graduates are placed in underfunded schools in predominantly Black or Latino communities. While these volunteers aim to make a positive difference, they can unintentionally overshadow the expertise of local teachers and administrators who have a better understanding of the students' needs. Similarly, media representations often show white individuals as the heroes in social justice movements, while diminishing the contributions and leadership of the marginalized groups most affected.

Impact on Communities

The white savior complex can have damaging effects. First, it portrays people of color as helpless or dependent on outside intervention, rather than highlighting their resilience and capacity for leadership. This reinforces stereotypes and undermines the idea that communities are capable of driving their own progress.

Second, by placing the focus on the white savior, these actions often take attention away from systemic issues like racism, underfunding, or economic injustice, focusing on short-term solutions rather than long-term, structural changes. This approach fails to challenge the root causes of inequality and can foster a sense of dependency on external aid.

Moving Beyond the White Savior Complex

To address this issue in the U.S., we must shift from a “rescue” mentality to one of solidarity. It is essential to listen to and support the leadership already present in marginalized communities rather than assuming they need to be saved. Working with communities rather than for them can ensure that efforts are community-driven and sustainable.

Furthermore, acknowledging power dynamics is key. White individuals must recognize their privilege and understand how their actions might reinforce racial hierarchies. Instead of centering their own contributions, they should focus on amplifying the voices of those most affected by systemic inequality.

Finally, addressing the white savior complex involves supporting systemic change. Rather than focusing on individual acts of charity, efforts should be made to challenge the systems that perpetuate racial and economic disparities. This means advocating for policy changes, equitable education funding, and racial justice reform, all of which can empower marginalized communities to thrive on their own terms.

By shifting the focus from saving to empowering, the U.S. can move toward a more just and equitable society where the voices and leadership of marginalized communities are centered, and real, lasting change can occur.

(Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion continued)



To learn more, click HERE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2qAbp-t_FY

Brenda Villa: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Public Policy

Do You Have A Voting Plan?

**MAKE A PLAN & TRACK
YOUR BALLOT!**
USE THE QR CODES BELOW TO HELP
YOU.

Find Your Polling Place



Track Your Ballot



Important Dates & Times

November 5. Election Day! VBM ballots must be postmarked by today or dropped off at a polling location before 8pm, when polls close.

November 12. VBM ballots must be received to be counted.



Hello AAUW California voters!

Make a voting plan so that your vote is counted! Be sure to know in advance where you can go to vote or drop off your ballot on or before November 5 at 8pm. Find your voting location at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/voters-choice-act/> After you vote, you can track your ballot to make sure that it is counted by signing up at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-status/wheres-my-ballot/>

Ballots must be received by November 12 to be counted.

Hashtags: #election #aauw #aauwca #votingmatters #gotv #getoutthevote



Mary Schaefer, Public Policy Chair



Interest Groups

Mission Walkers Group (Weekdays)

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

Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group

Dine-out meets the **third Thursday of every month at 12:30 p.m.** Anyone who would like to join us can simply go to the restaurant that day.

We will not be carpooling and reservations are not needed.

We have a list of the next 2 restaurants so you can calendar them ahead of time.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Billye Iverson or Leslie Sevier.



Interest Groups (continued)

November 21, 2024: Vega Vineyard and Farm

This restaurant is located at 9496 Santa Rosa Road in Buellton.

www.vegavineyardandfarm.com



December 19, 2024: Billye Iverson's home

4:00 p.m. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.

Billye Iverson and Leslie Sevier, Co-Chairs



Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

- November 4: Prequel (Rachel Maddow) Gail Meehan
- December 2: Last Devil to Die (Richard Osman) Janet Shiers
- January 8: Reader's Choice



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





Communications

Phone Tree

We are looking for a few additional volunteers to join the mighty Phone Tree Committee which makes calls 3 or 4 times a year to members to remind them of upcoming programs/events. Have a few minutes to spare? Please email Samantha (Scroggins) at syale82@gmail.com or text (805)

Samantha Scroggins: Communications



Calendar of Events

- Dec 1 Holiday Party: 2- 4pm: Kari Rosson’s Home: 304 Burnham Court, Lompoc
- Jan 25 Where in the World Brunch: Through a Feminist Lens: 11am-1:30pm: Location TBA
- Feb 8 IBC Brunch: Craft House at Corque: 420 Alisal Rd, Solvang



Spotlight!



Jan Keller: November 29th



In Memoriam

This lovely lady will be missed by all of the members of AAUW. Joyce was a long-time member of our branch and we honor her for her long-time support of the scholarship program and so much more! She passed peacefully on September 12, 2024; she was 101.

Joyce M. (Crumpton) Barker
Women's Royal Australian Navy (WRAN)



Joyce Barker has been an involved citizen in the Lompoc community since moving to Vandenberg Village in 1985. Active in the American Association of University Women and Republican Women, anyone who has worked with Joyce will attest to her willingness to get things done. Much of her positive attitude about work and the role of women and her philosophy about active citizen participation stems from her experiences during World War II.

Joyce Crumpton was born in Melbourne, Australia on May 17, 1923. After she finished her early schooling in 1940, she went to work in an accounting office. Joyce remembers that as early as 1922, Australia knew that the Japanese might invade their country. After Pearl Harbor, the citizens of Australia realized it was only a matter of time before the Japanese set their sights on the Land Down Under.

As a single woman of 19, Joyce, in her typical fashion, decided she was not going to wait around for the Japanese to attack. In 1942, she enlisted in the Women's Royal Australian Navy where she received early training as a telegraphist. After three months with this all-female group, she was sent to an Australian naval base to work as a radio operator. Shortly after, she and another WRAN members were drafted to serve at the American naval base in Melbourne.

Barker's U.S. Navy communication station intercepted messages from the Japanese Imperial Navy in Japanese Morse Code. Much of the information about her job was classified until the 50-year moratorium expired a few years ago, so today she feels more comfortable talking about her wartime responsibilities. Her job was to get information about the "who, where, and when" of the messages. The text of the messages was written in a numeric code that was deciphered by machines housed in the U.S. Navy office in Melbourne.

It was at the American base that the young Australian radio operator met an American naval officer who had just been evacuated from Corrigador. Ken Barker, who had studied Japanese in D.C. after his enlistment in 1937, worked as a code breaker and traffic analyst in her office.

They courted for approximately 18 months before they were married. Because Joyce felt it was not appropriate for them to be working in the same office and dating, she requested and was granted a transfer to a remote base in Victoria which housed a huge communication center. Here she used Royal typewriters that utilized the Japanese Kanji language.

The highlight of Ms. Barker's work as a telegraphist came one evening when she and her duty section intercepted a message about Admiral Yamamoto, the Commander of the Imperial Fleet of Japan. The message provided information about an upcoming inspection visit to the Japanese fleet at Guadalcanal. Ms. Barker later learned that two American B-38s shot down Yamamoto's plane as it neared its destination.



Recipe Corner

Butternut Squash Soup

Ingredients

1 large butternut squash, peeled and cubed into 1" pieces (seeds removed)
 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped into 1" pieces
 3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 Kosher salt
 Freshly ground black pepper
 1 Tbsp. butter
 1 onion, chopped
 1 stalk celery, thinly sliced
 1 large carrot, chopped
 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme, plus more for garnish
 1 qt. low-sodium chicken broth
 Cream, for serving (optional)



Directions

Step 1: Preheat oven to 400°. On a large baking sheet, toss butternut squash and potatoes with 2 tablespoons olive oil and season generously with salt and pepper. Roast until tender, 30-35 minutes.

Step 2: Meanwhile, in a large pot over medium heat, melt butter and remaining tablespoon olive oil. Add onion, celery, and carrot and cook until softened, 7 to 10 minutes. Season generously with salt, pepper, and thyme.

Step 3 Add roasted squash and potatoes and pour over chicken broth. Simmer 10 minutes, then using an immersion blender, blend soup until creamy. (Alternately, carefully transfer batches of the hot soup to a blender.)

Step 4: Serve garnished with thyme.



[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: Kari Rosson

