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2024/2025 Executive Board**Co - Presidents**

Lucy Thoms-Harrington

lth.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

marvellenbrooks84@gmail.com**Branch Directory:**

Attached to this email.

Open and save to a file

Branch Website:<https://lompocvandenbergaauw.net/>

Presidents' Corner

Co-Presidents' Report**Women and Leadership**

As we move into our holiday season, we are reminded of how fortunate our branch is to have so many powerful female leaders as members. Jenelle Osborne, for example, was a city council member before being elected as a two-term mayor of our city. Janet Blevins was the District 2 representative to the School Board.

Clara Finneran is the superintendent of Lompoc Unified School District. Dinah Lockhart is the District 3 commissioner on the County Human Service Commission. Brenda Villa has been appointed as the District 4 representative to the School Board (see member spotlight!).

Many others hold or have held leadership positions on important and impactful boards/nonprofits. We are indeed lucky to have so many committed members and leaders. Through our programs like Speech Trek, Tech Trek, our local college scholarship programs, we are growing the next generation of leaders. Our policy work at the state and national level is vital as we move forward to elevating the futures of women and girls.

Thank you for all that you do and for being part of Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW. Our community relies on AAUW's integrity and leadership as was evidenced by the overwhelming appreciation expressed for hosting the two outstanding nonpartisan candidate forums this fall. Here's to a wonderful holiday!



Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President
Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-President

Programs

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!

Members are encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift for a child aged 0-12 yrs, around \$15 in value, and make a child's holiday a little merrier! Or a monetary donation to support our local **Toys for Tots**, which distributes toys to Lompoc children through local non-profit organizations.



AAUW Member to be sworn in as new LUSD Board member:

All AAUW members are cordially invited to attend Brenda Villa's swearing in ceremony as she assumes her new role as School Board member representing District 4.

Friday, December 13, 2024, 3:30pm, LUSD District Office, 1301 North A Street.

In addition to her responsibilities as program coordinator with the Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization (LVCHO), Ms. Villa is AAUW's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair. Congratulations Brenda and we look forward to supporting you in your new role.

Women in the World Through a Feminist Lens Potluck Brunch

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

St. Mary's Church: 2800 Harris Grade Road, Lompoc.

Please bring a dish or beverage to share. We could also use paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, etc. Travel the world vicariously as we learn from each other about places we've visited, how we were transformed, and how we contributed to those around us. Let me know if you plan to attend and/or would like to present on a trip you've taken.

Dinah ph: 805-588-0775, lockhartdinah@yahoo.com



Program Committee Members Needed for 2025!

This is a perfect time to get involved with AAUW and help plan and participate in upcoming events for 2025! Upcoming events include: Presentations on Reproductive Rights, Women in STEM, and Speech Trek 2025 (The Last Rodeo!) among others. Planning will be kicking into high gear in January, and we welcome your input. If you have a concept for an AAUW group activity, let me know.

Dinah Lockhart: Programs VP



Membership

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 **84 Total Members** (+5 from State).

We have 3 Memberships that are Expired and 1 membership in Grace period to renew.



Mischa Dalcerci: Membership

AAUW Funds

As we approach the end of the fiscal year for AAUW, I hope some of you will consider contributing to AAUW Funds **Greatest Need** campaign. There is a **dollar-for-dollar** match for donations to the **Greatest Need fund until the end of the year!** You can do so online via the AAUW website. I will collect donations at the annual holiday party and send them off to National. According to my most recent report, we have donated about half the amount we donated last year. Thank you to those who have already donated.



Marell Brooks: AAUW Funds VP

Speech Trek 2025:

The planning is underway for the last Speech Trek Program under AAUW CA. The topic is Climate Change and its Impact on Women in the US and globally. Speech Trek offers high school aged students, all genders, to learn how to use their voice and deliver a 5-6 minute original speech to a panel of community leader judges and the community itself. There will be prizes awarded for the top 3 local speeches; the video of the top speech goes on to compete at the state level for additional cash awards. There have been winners from our branch who have gone onto win and place at the state competition. There are students who have participated in our past Speech Treks who credit the experience as having informed their future career/education paths.

Look for more information in the January and February newsletter. Recruitment of student participants is underway!! Want to join the committee who'll make the magic happen?

Email me at lth.terralink@gmail.com

Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Acting Speech Trek Coordinator



Local Scholarship



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 July 13th – 19th, 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

Reading for Change: Unlocking DEI Through Awareness and Understanding

Reading books on racism and bias is essential for fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) because they provide critical insights into the lived experiences of marginalized communities, the historical and systemic roots of inequality, and the unconscious biases that shape our perceptions and actions. These books challenge readers to confront their assumptions, develop cultural competence, and adopt a more empathetic and inclusive perspective. By engaging with these works, individuals and organizations can better understand how to create equitable spaces that value diversity and ensure meaningful inclusion in every aspect of society.

Classics on Racism

- **"The Souls of Black Folk"** by W.E.B. Du Bois
 - A groundbreaking work on race relations in America, combining essays, memoir, and sociological analysis.
- **"Black Like Me"** by John Howard Griffin
 - Chronicles a white journalist's experiences traveling through the segregated South after darkening his skin to pose as a Black man.
- **"The Latino/a Condition: A Critical Reader"** edited by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic
 - A compilation of essays that explore issues of race, ethnicity, and identity within the context of Latino/a experiences, covering a wide range of topics from legal rights to cultural biases.
- **The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation"** by Leo R. Chavez
 - Explores how political and media discourses construct Latinos as a threat to American society, delving into issues like immigration, identity, and racial bias.
- **"Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot"** by Mikki Kendall
 - Examines the intersection of race, gender, and class, focusing on how white feminism often ignores the struggles of women of color and how this marginalization feeds into broader societal racism.
- **"Blending In: A Cultural History of the Asian American Community"** by Gary Y. Okihiro

This book delves into the history and culture of Asian American communities while also exploring the racism and biases that exist within these communities, including tensions with other people of color and colorism in their own ranks.

Modern Seminal Works

- **"How to Be an Antiracist"** by Ibram X. Kendi
 - A thought-provoking guide that redefines what it means to actively combat racism.
- **"White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism"** by Robin DiAngelo
 - Offers insights into how white people often avoid meaningful discussions about race and privilege.
- **"So You Want to Talk About Race"** by Ijeoma Oluo
 - Oluo provides a clear and accessible guide to understanding race, racism, and the lived experiences of marginalized communities. It addresses common questions and offers concrete advice on how to engage in conversations about race and inequality.
- **"The Person You Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias"** by Dolly Chugh
 - This book takes a psychology-based approach to understanding how bias works and how people can actively work to be more inclusive and combat their own unconscious biases in their personal and professional lives.
- **"Colorism: A Legacy of Skin Tone Discrimination"** by Sharon L. Jones

A comprehensive study on the phenomenon of colorism, particularly in the African American, Latino, and South Asian communities, this book delves into the ways in which skin tone affects social and economic opportunities, as well as personal relationships.

Deep Analysis of Systems of Oppression

- **"Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents"** by Isabel Wilkerson
 - Explores the caste system in America and its effects on society, comparing it to systems in India and Nazi Germany.
- **"Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America"** by Ibram X. Kendi
 - Chronicles the development and perpetuation of racist ideas in the U.S.

Quote of the day: **"Racism is not an individual problem; it is a systemic issue that permeates every aspect of society. Until we address the roots, we will only treat the symptoms."** — Ibram X. Kendi

Brenda Villa: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Public Policy

AAUW conducted a webinar for members analyzing the impact of Project 2025 “the presidential transition” project <https://www.project2025.org>, as it impacts the public policy priorities of AAUW. This is critical information to digest and understand as we move forward to protect the rights of and elevate the lives of women and girls. Attached is the link to the webinar, the presentation and the Q and A responses.

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/project-2025-and-how-it-would-impact-aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

Mary Schaefer: Public Policy Chair



AAUW Interbranch Brunch

When: February 8, 2025 from 11:30 - 1:30pm

Where: Craffhouse at Corque, 420 Alisal Rd, Solvang

Price: \$40 (includes beverage, tax and tip)

RSVP by January 31, 2025 and send your check made out to AAUW with IBC brunch in the memo line to AAUW, PO Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438

Hear from an AAUW fellow on ground breaking research funded by AAUW at the Interbranch Council (Lompoc-Vandenberg, Santa Maria and Santa Barbara-Goleta branches) brunch in February! Look for details about the speaker in our next newsletter. Did you know that AAUW is the largest funder of post graduate research in the country. **Wow!!** Join us at this inspiring and fun event!

Lucy, Kay, Dianne, Terry and Jan
(your representatives on the IBC council)



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. *(with the exception of December)*. 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. Listed are the next 2 Dine Outs so you can put them on your calendar ahead of time.

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

December 19, 2024: Billye Iverson's home
4:00 p.m. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.



January 16, 2025: Chef Ricks Ultimately Fine Foods
135 East Foster Road, Santa Maria
www.chefricks.com



Billye Iverson and Leslie Sevier: Co-Chairs

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

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**

- Jan 25** Where in the World Brunch: Through a Feminist Lens: 11am-1:30pm: Location St. Mary's Episcopal Church: 2800 Harris Grade Rd, Lompoc
Jan Women March and Tech Trek Recruit: Location TBD
Feb 8 IBC Brunch: 11:30-2:00pm: Craft House at Corque: 420 Alisal Rd, Solvang
March 6 Speech Trek 2025 Contest: 4:30-6:30: Lompoc Library Grossman Gallery
Mar TBA Women's Health (PP & Savie): Location TBD





Spotlight!

I'm incredibly honored to have won a seat on the Lompoc Unified School Board, and I'm excited to step into this role to better serve our entire community. I decided to run because I'm deeply committed to creating equitable opportunities—not only for students but for families, educators, and all community members involved in the education system. As a first-generation immigrant and first-generation college graduate, I've experienced firsthand the challenges families face when navigating the educational system. These challenges, whether related to language barriers, access to resources, or understanding how to engage with schools, are often the same struggles that underrepresented communities continue to face today. This is why I decided to run—to ensure that every member of our community feels supported and represented.



With my background in community leadership and program management, I've seen how powerful collaboration can be in overcoming barriers and driving positive change. I know that the best way to create meaningful impact is by fostering strong, connected relationships between schools, families, and local organizations. My focus will be on ensuring that everyone—students, educators, and families—has the resources, support, and opportunities they need to thrive. Whether it's advocating for policies that ensure equitable funding, creating more pathways for bilingual education, or making sure that every student has a safe, inclusive learning environment, I am committed to making sure that no one is left behind.

One of my top priorities will be to advocate for stronger community partnerships. I believe that when schools, families, and local organizations work together, we can create a robust support system for students that extends beyond the classroom. I'm also passionate about expanding bilingual education programs so that students can be fully prepared for a global society, which is especially important in a diverse state like California. Another key focus will be prioritizing mental health and wellness, ensuring that every student has access to the support they need to thrive academically and emotionally. This includes advocating for resources that support not just academic learning, but the overall well-being of students and educators alike.

Most importantly, I will work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our students. A safe and supportive learning environment is essential for students to feel empowered and confident. Whether it's advocating for stronger security measures, mental health resources, or creating safer spaces for all students, student safety will always be at the forefront of my agenda. I want to ensure that every student can go to school each day knowing they are in a place where they are valued, respected, and supported in reaching their fullest potential.

In the end, my goal is to create a school environment that values diversity, prioritizes student well-being, and fosters collaboration among all members of the community. Together, we can build a future where every student, educator, and family have the tools, opportunities, and support to succeed.

Brenda Villa



Brenda Villa December 1st
Terry Forss December 8th
Carolyn Malkow: December 28th



Recipe Corner

Cheesy Artichoke Crostini

Ingredients

- 9 DeLallo Crostino Antipasto Toasts
- 1 12oz jar DeLallo Marinated Artichoke Hearts, well drained and chopped
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup finely grated Pecorino cheese
- 1/3 cup grated mozzarella cheese
- 3 tablespoons minced shallots (about 1 large)



1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
2 teaspoons fresh squeezed lemon juice
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt, freshly ground
black pepper, to taste
DeLallo Sweet & Tangy Pepper Drops,
for topping

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Arrange toasts in a single layer on a baking sheet.
2. In a bowl, combine chopped artichoke hearts with mayonnaise, cheeses, shallots, parsley and lemon juice. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
3. Dollop a heaping tablespoon onto the top of each toast, spreading into an even layer. Top with a Pepper drop as desired.
4. Bake for 5 to 7 minutes or until filling is warmed through and starting to bubble. If desired, you can broil them for a minute or so at the very end until the topping is super bubbly. Just keep an eye on the toasts as the edges will go from golden brown to burnt in the blink of an eye.
5. Remove from oven and let cool slightly before serving warm.
6. Toasts can be assembled up to 4 hours ahead of time and refrigerated; bake just prior to serving.



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

