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2025/2026 Executive Board

President

Dinah Lockhart

VP Programs

All Board Members

VP Co-Membership

Kay Duffy Taylor
kduffy5721@aol.com
Leslie Sevier
bookstor@yerizon.ne

Secretary

Marell Brooks
marvellenbrooks84@gmail.con

Co - Treasurers

Terry Forss tlforss@hotmail.com Jan Keller jkeller2002@msn.com

VP AAUW Funds

Alice Down rf.amdown@comcast.ne

Branch Website:

https://lompocvandenbergca.aauw.net/

Branch Number: 0130



Presidents' Report

Sometimes to see things more clearly, you need to step back and get a perspective of the larger picture. I had this unique opportunity when I represented AAUW at the Central Coast Community Activist Retreat, Oct. 1-3 sponsored by the Fund for Santa Barbara in New Cuyama.

Gathered were over 28 nonprofit representatives, in addition to staff from The Fund, Quail Springs, and Blue-Sky Center. Activists in attendance were from across the Central Coast, from San Jose, Fresno, to Ventura County to the south. Accommodations were at the historic Buckhorn Motel and at the Blue-Sky Center. Day 1 was an Opening Circle with Maricela Morales, (CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy) and 805Undocufund), who led us through rituals of becoming aware of energy from Water, Air, Fire, and Earth. We toured the silk screening and embroidery workshops at the Blue-Sky Center. We created our own bandanas from a screen ("Rest is a Revolutionary Act") created especially for our retreat. Day 2 was a journey to Quail Springs, a high desert permaculture demonstration site, which offers farm tours & work residency programs Quail Spring Tours. We enjoyed a farm-to-table harvest lunch with food grown on-site. Later we enjoyed a Cottonwood Grove nature walk, viewed energy conserving residences, nature-based crafting, and a workshop on medicinal teas. Back at the Blue-Sky Center for live music (Jan Smith-Yellow Flowers Album), dancing, a ranch dinner, and bonfire! Day 3 was a Closing Circle led by Kathleen Knight, Capacity Building Manager with The Fund, where we wrote blessings and well wishes to a fellow activist on a piece of paper, folded it up and put in a basket, and then invited to pick out a blessing written by another activist to take with us. It was gratifying to represent AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg at such a gathering, sharing how our recent election and educational forums had changed the dialogue on what our

community could achieve. Many of my fellow attendees expressed ambivalence initially at attending because of their workload, leaving co-workers behind, albeit for just a couple of days, to respond to the challenges and great distress being experienced by many of the community members who they serve and represent. In our welcome to the retreat on Day 1, Ms. Morales, in turn, gave us permission to be present and recharge, as we were 'representing' for those on the front lines who were unable to attend. She encouraged us to seek out community, and to find opportunity every day to encourage others. Two of the attendees were moms who brought their babies with them! The attendance of these 'baby activists' kept us focused on the present struggle for justice and human rights, and future of what can be! What a shot of inspiration to encourage us to continue to fight for what matters. Thank you, Fund for Santa Barbara, for inviting me as AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg representative and thank you for the Movement Building Grant of \$10,000 awarded in 2024! There is an article summarizing our final report on the use of the Fund's grant in Lompoc later in this month's newsletter.



Dinner at the Buckhorn Motel



Liz Fish Creative Coordinator at for Blue Sky Center in front of Shelton Huts for 'glamping' under the stars!



Maricela Morales performing sacred hand washing ceremony

> Rest is a Revolutionary Act, theme of retreat





Dinah Lockhart: President

Programs

Attention all members! We are in need of a Programs Chair VP! Do you have ideas for fun and interesting activities that the members can participate with each month? Then you fit the job. We need someone to lead with not only community activities, but social activities to support friendship and community amongst our members. Please contact our President Dinah Lockhart if you are interested.

Kari Rosson: Newsletter Editor

Membership and Tech Trek Gathering

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Tech Trek/Member Tea on Sept. 21, 2025 at St. Mary's Church and brought decorations, food, and recognitions for our teen Tech Trekkers! Kudos to those who brought a guest and invited existing AAUW members to renew their membership. Membership co-chairs Kay and Leslie reported at least 5 new members, and they were going to reach out to existing members whose membership had lapsed. In unity and numbers there is strength.





Dinah Lockhart: President Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-Member

Future Leaders of America collaborate with AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg

As a result of the Town Hall in August, Future Leaders of America (FLA) director reached out to AAUW to explore potential future collaboration. On September 24, we met with the high school students of the newest branch of Future Leaders of American (FLA), Lompoc branch, to discuss a collaboration on the Prop 50 informational Webinar (October 7 @ 5:30) co-sponsored by the 3 branches of AAUW on the central coast and the 2 branches of League of Women Voters in Santa Barbara County. The FLA students are learning about civic engagement and will be registering voters on high school campuses. FLA learned about the nonpartisan work of AAUW locally and at the state and national level. The initial collaboration will involve students distributing the flyers about the informational webinar throughout the community.

https://futureleadersnow.org/ - close



Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Author



Membership

Membership Renewal & Annual Dues

Thank you for being a member of AAUW and making a positive impact on the lives of girls and women in our community, state and nation.



Many of us have paid our annual dues but those who have not, the time is now to pay your dues. AAUW National dues are \$74.00 and are 100% tax deductible. The CA State dues are \$30.00. Local branch dues remain at \$23.00. In summary, the total is \$127.00.

If dues become a hardship please reach out! We value and appreciate your membership!!

Honorary Lifetime members pay 0; lifetime members only pay state and branch dues **by check** (see below):

How to Pay:

Payment online is through the AAUW National Site at https://www.aauw.org/ where you will see a Renew Tab after logging in. For payment by check, please make it out to AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg, note "dues branch CA 130" in the memo line and please mail it to PO 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438.

Recruitment Discounts and Waivers - Coupon Codes

The <u>Shape the Future Campaign</u> discount of 50% off national dues for new members (those entirely new to AAUW or rejoining after two or more years) remains. Use the coupon code **STFFY26** at checkout. The <u>report</u> of free membership and redemption form is available through **October 31st!** The coupon codes for AAUW College/University member students are **CUStudentFY26** for Student Associates (undergraduates); **CUGradStudentFY26** for Graduate Students.

Don't let your membership laps as you will no longer get the newsletter!

Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-Membership VP Leslie Sevier: Co-Membership VP



Public Policy



GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)!

ALL the resources for voting and educating on Prop 50

Check out our new <u>Proposition 50 and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) 2025 Guide!</u> It is a comprehensive toolkit with over 25 resources to support GOTV efforts, including a Prop 50 Messaging Guide, Overview, FAQ, Flyer, Election Timeline, and more. We encourage you to use these resources to conduct GOTV outreach for the special election on November 4, 2025 and to educate voters on the positive impacts of <u>Proposition 50</u> with reliable, nonpartisan information. **See page 5 for more**.

LEG AGENDA UPDATE

Legislative session closes soon!

Of the 26 bills we supported on our Legislative Agenda, 13 are still on the Governor's desk. Scroll down to page 5 to learn more about these billsand how you can help us urge the Governor to sign them! See the bill tracker for status updates.

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars!



AAUW California Public Policy Webinar -Project 2025 Impacts on AAUW Values - One Year Later: How to Stop Ongoing Implementation. Oct 7, 2025 7:00-8:00pm. Register <u>HERE</u>

AAUW California Webinar - Harnessing the Power of Al. **Nov 1, 2025 10:00-11:30am.** Register <u>HERE</u>

AAUW Silicon Valley Branch Program on Higher Education at Risk - And How You Can Help Protect It - featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy. **Dec 3, 2025** 4:00-5:00pm. SAVE THE DATE - registration link coming soon.

AAUW California School Board Project Half Day Symposium - Saturday Jan 31, 2026 9:00am-12:00 noon via Zoom. SAVE THE DATE registration link coming soon.

BRANCH PUBLIC POLICY CHAIRS' MEETING

NEXT PEER GROUP MEETING
Friday Oct 10, 2025
at 1:30pm Pacific
ZOOM LINK HERE

Click <u>HERE</u> for meeting information.



Peer Group Meetings will be bi-monthly on Fridays at 1:30pm.

All are welcome!

2025-2026 Meetings: Fri Oct 10 at 1:30 pm Fri Dec 5 at 1:30 pm Fri Feb 6 at 1:30 pm Fri Apr 3 at 1:30 pm Fri Jun 5 at 1:30 pm

SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS HERE.

WHERE IS THAT?

Key links to your public policy resources:

- Google Workspace
- Contact us at <u>public policy@aauw-ca.org</u>
- Tell us about your branch public policy events by filling out this form.



Investing in Our Democratic Future: Non-Partisan Voter Education Around Proposition 50 in California

By Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Member

We are currently seeing and experiencing creeping authoritarian efforts to undermine fair representation, trusted information, and democratic norms in our country. This unprecedented condition, paired with overwhelming federal encroachment, presents a significant threat to many of the things that we care about, including AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls: although California continues to maintain strong protections for women and girls, marginalized peoples, free speech, accurate history, sound science, and democratic norms, we are still subject to the laws, rules, and enforcement actions of the federal government. As such, as part of this year's GOTV campaign, AAUW California will be providing information-centered messages on the potential benefits of Proposition 50 for all Californians.

The approval of Proposition 50 by California voters in November 2025 will approve redistricting efforts in California for the next election cycles (until maps are redrawn after the next census in 2030). With the passage of Proposition 50, we will experience a short-term loss of state democratic and people-centered control of an important aspect of democracy: redistricting. This effort will also seemingly have partisan benefits.

However, a short-term loss of people-centered redistricting can also be seen as an investment in a democratic future in the long term, one in which we can have more, not less, of the will of the people recognized - all of the people, regardless of who they are. Furthermore, partisanship may be seen as a reductive label when the choice has become one of supporting authoritarianism or preserving functional democracy.

Redistricting should be in the hands of the people. Gender equity should be a consistent priority so that the dreams of a pluralistic democracy are one step closer to being realized. None of this is possible if our state is operating in a federal system in which democracy is no longer functional, listing instead toward an authoritarian system that puts troops in our streets, that censors our speech, that erases historical facts, that does not rely on sound science in decision-making, that directly endangers the wellbeing of women and girls, and that dehumanizes important and valued members of our communities.

Our goal in this campaign is to provide reliable information as a trusted resource to voters in California, and the wider public, about the potential ramifications and potential benefits of Proposition 50's passage and dispel misinformation about partisanship and redistricting in this political moment. We will also encourage and assist voters to go to the polls for this special election to vote as individuals on whether the proposed redistricting should be approved. Providing this encouragement to get out and vote and information about Proposition 50, including about potential benefits, is acting in alignment with our mission and our nonpartisan commitments, as we are advancing a pro-democracy message: we seek to support any and all efforts to preserve and advance democracy and our public policy priorities in the face of a growing authoritarian threat.

Let's all join in working together to advance our public policy priorities in moving California forward.



Mary Schaefer: Public Policy Chair

AAUW Funds



Summary of Final Report on 2024 The Fund For Santa Barbara Grant

On September 26, 2025, AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg sent a Final Report to The Fund for Santa Barbara on the use of approximately \$3,303 (rounded to nearest dollar), the balance from an original \$10,000 '2024 Movement Building Grant' awarded by the Fund. Using these funds, AAUW helped sponsor 2 dual language nonpartisan candidate forums in 2024 as well as an August 2025 dual language nonpartisan community town hall focusing on education issues in Lompoc. "Let's Talk About Education in Lompoc" featured education leaders Dr. Clara Finneran, Superintendent of Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD) and Dr. Kevin Walthers, Superintendent/President of Allan Hancock College. The Fund also approved the use of the grant funds to print flyers to promote the nonpartisan information forum held on October 7, 2025 regarding the November 2025 Statewide Special election on Proposition 50. The Prop 50 forum was sponsored by the League of Women Voters Santa Barbara, Northern Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County chapters, and three (3) AAUW chapters (Santa Barbara-Goleta, Lompoc-Vandenberg, Santa Maria. The award of The Fund grant made unprecedented informational access through the variety of avenues: in-person, newspaper articles, yard signs and posters, social media, Zoom, Tap TV and post event viewing platforms resulted in broader participation and dissemination of information critical to students, parents, families, and the community. Lompoc's Education Town Hall also deployed first time use of paid promotional spots via radio in Spanish and Mixteco which increased access/participation. These spots were matched by the station (La Buena) given the nonprofit status of AAUW.

None of this could have been possible without the involvement of many nonprofits (including 805 UndocuFund, League of Women Voters, Future for Lompoc Youth, C4, NAACP Santa Maria-Lompoc), educational institutions, Lompoc Chamber of Commerce, and City of Lompoc. High school and college students were engaged in all phases of these events, which added to relevancy and gave an added opportunity for new voters to engage in civic discourse on issues important to the community. As a result of the town hall, new youth led organizations have reached out to AAUW to collaborate on future dual language nonpartisan forums/town halls including Future Leaders of America's new Lompoc chapter. Thank you, Tania M. Reyes, Grant Programs Manager with The Fund for Santa Barbara for prompt feedback and working with us!

Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-Membership VP



TECH TREK



On September 21st, the 2025 campers participated in our branch post camp program at St Mary's Episcopal Church. Our general meeting, Membership Tea, and Tech Trek campers drew a sizable audience interested in Lompoc-Vandenberg branch's various programs. The campers answered prepared questions and questions from the audience. They did a great job bringing the camp to life for the audience through sharing their personal activities and observations.

We can once again be proud of the campers representing Lompoc. Evianna Rounds also joined us as she was a Peer Counselor at the UCSB camp. It was interesting to hear about her perspective as a former camper and then being a Peer Counselor. Thanks to all who attended and everyone who continues to support our participation in Tech Trek.

Wynn Clevenger: Tech Trek 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 compan information, contact Marell Brooks. If you are interested in walking on the w group know.



Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group





Dine-out members last month at Dave's Place.

Oct. 16: Vega Vineyard. The dine-out group will meet at Vega Vineyards on the third Thursday this month, October 16th at 12:30 p.m.

Since the restaurant is in Buellton, we will carpool from St. Mary's church. Meet in their parking lot at 11:45 and we will arrange rides then. If you want to meet us at Vega, the address is 9496 Santa Rosa Road in Buellton - just past the onramp to the 101 South.

www.vegavineyardandfarm.com Hope to see you there!

Nov. 20: Old Town Bar and Grill

Billye Iverson and Leslie Sevier: Co-Chairs

Myra

Cathy

Janet

Kathryn

Eileen

Myra

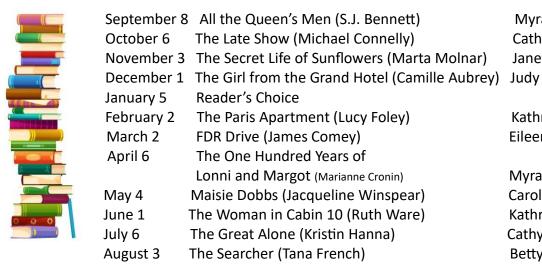
Carol Ann

Kathryn

Cathy

Betty

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)



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

Want to help? Contact our Chair: Leslie Sevier at bookstor@verizon.net.

Social Media Guru

Denise Robles is chairing the branch's social media accounts. Have something that would be great to post from the branch? Contact Denise at denilu29@icloud.com.



Directories!!

Many thanks to Dianne Owen for the latest hard copy of the branch directory. But she is now retiring from it. We need a volunteer to manage the files and update the directory for publication for this year.

Please add new member information:

Name: Angela Brooks

Address: 201 Somerset Pl, Lompoc, CA 93436

Email: angela@angela-brooks.com

Name: Sydney Brooks

201 Somerset Pl City, Lompoc, CA 93436

Email: crazybookgirl23@gmail.com

Please update member information:

Carolyn Malkow

Her new address will be:

Village Green Retirement Campus 35419

1st Avenue South Apt. G103 Federal Way, WA 98003

805-741-7111

Name: Alexandra Brooks

201 Somerset Pl, Lompoc, CA 93436 Email: 805softballgirl@gmail.com

Phone: (805) 588-2302

Name: Diane Logan

Address: 416 N W St., Lompoc, CA

93436-5005

Email: deeedeee@msn.com
Email: deeedeee@msn.com

Membership co-chairs Kay and Leslie reported at least 5 new members, and they are going to reach out to <u>existing members whose membership had lapsed</u>.

Keep Up to Date on the latest AAUW news!

Members Not Receiving Messages from AAUW

Share this resubscribe link with members who are NOT receiving AAUW emails: https://secure.everyaction.com/p/8fvkDOF_gkmwgUN5RDy1tw2

Are you getting AAUW National emails? Is your contact information up to date?

We're moving to a new mass email platform to better serve you! Access your AAUW personal snapshot and update your contact information and preferences.

Frequent users, click <u>LOG IN</u> as usual. Non-frequent users, click <u>LOG IN</u>, then below the blue log in button, click FORGOT PASSWORD. Enter your email address and click **RESET YOUR PASSWORD** to receive and confirm a new password to access your Personal Snapshot. Need help? Email <u>connect@aauw.org</u> and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.



Prop 50 Webinar!

Tuesday, October 7th at 5:30pm a webinar on Proposition 50 was held. Sponsored by the AAUW Santa Barbara Branch and the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara County, it gave a non-partisan overview of Proposition 50 on the ballot this November. If passed, there would be a temporarily redrawing of CA congressional district maps in response to gerrymandering efforts in other states. The Proposition has supporters and detractors on both sides of the aisle. The informational webinar was nonpartisan, and moderated by Claire VanBlaricum of the AAUW Santa Barbara branch and Shane Stark, retired legal counsel with Santa Barbara County District Attorney's office. *The webinar was recorded and translated into Spanish for publishing on YouTube*.

Calendar of Events

October 16: Fall Book Sale

October 22: Craft Club: 5-6:30pm: Grossman Gallery

November 2: Dia De Los Muertos: El Camino Community Center: 1-6pm



AAUW Participates at Dia De Los Muertos

Calling all Disney "Coco" fans and Katrina wannabes! AAUW will have a table 'altar' (display of traditional and/or educational objects/art) at the Sunday Nov. 2, 2025 Dia De Los Muertos celebration at the El Camino school from 1pm to 6pm. If you have ideas on a Dia DLM-themed AAUW display, please let me know. We will also need volunteers to help set up, staff, and break-down our AAUW table on Sunday. A planning meeting will be scheduled in October.

Dinah Lockhart: President



November 2, 2025 1:00-6:00PM

El Camino Community Center 320 N. J St

- · Altars
- · Student Altars
- · Entertainment
- · Face Painting
- · Catrina Contest
- · Arts & Crafts
- Pan de Muerto & Chocolate
- Information
 Booths & Food for
 Sale



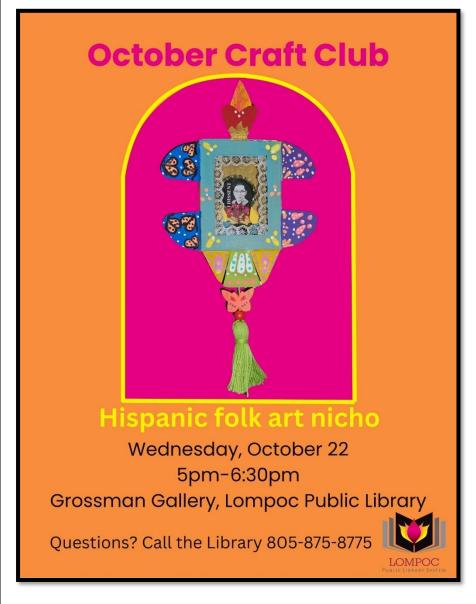
Sign up by 10/17 to participate by scanning the QR code.



shorturl.at/SG0cB





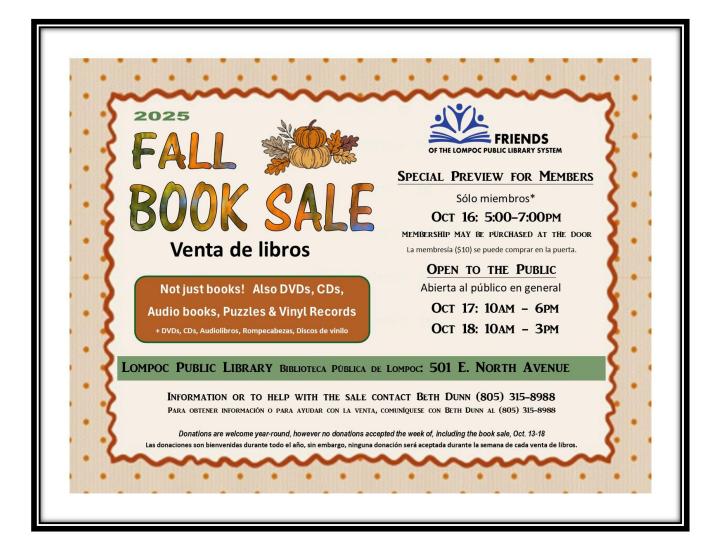


October Adult Craft Club Project For Dia De Los Muertos

Calling all crafters! On Wednesday Oct. 22, 2025 from 5pm-6:30pm, Lompoc Public Library will have a Hispanic folk art nicho project to make at the Grossman Gallery. No reservations needed. For more information, call the library at 805-875-8775. A nicho is a type of folk art popular throughout Central and South America. It began as an adaptation of the Catholic 'retablo' with a holy person or saint at the center. As it brings to remembrance an important person or object, it fits in well with Dia De Los Muertos, which is a day of remembrance and celebration. We may be able to incorporate nichos made by AAUW members into our display at the Lompoc community-wide Nov. 2, 2025, Dia De Los Muertos celebration at El Camino School! Here is a YouTube I found describing how to make a nicho: YouTube Nicho Tutorial If you attend and make a nicho, can you let me know?! I will be returning from travel on the 22nd, so I may see you there!

Dinah





Recipe Corner

<u>Soft Paleo Pumpkin Cookies with Salted Maple Frosting</u>

Healthy soft pumpkin cookies with an addicting salted maple frosting! These melt-in-your-mouth gluten free pumpkin cookies are grain free, easily dairy free and taste like a slice of your favorite pumpkin pie. The perfect dessert for fall and holidays! And they only take 10 minutes to prep!

Ingredients

For the cookie dough:

1/4 cup melted and cooled coconut oil (or sub melted butter)

- 1/3 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup organic cane sugar (regular sugar or coconut sugar will also work!)
- 1 tablespoon pure maple syrup
- 1 egg, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups packed fine almond flour (do not use almond meal)
- 3 tablespoons coconut flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice*
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Optional if not using frosting: Roll dough in cinnamon sugar (1/4 cup sugar + 2 teaspoons cinnamon)

For the Salted Maple Frosting:

½ cup powdered sugar

- 1 tablespoon pure maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon melted butter

1/2 tablespoon unsweetened almond milk, plus 1-2 teaspoons more too thin if necessary Pinch of sea salt, to taste



Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In a large bowl, add the coconut oil, pumpkin puree, sugar, maple syrup, egg and vanilla extract. Mix until well combined and smooth. Next add in almond flour, coconut flour, baking soda, spices and salt. Process until a dough forms. Allow dough to sit for 5 minutes.

Next use your hands to roll dough into golf sized balls. Roll in cinnamon-sugar if you'd like. Place on prepared cookie sheet then flatten each dough ball with the palm of your hand, but still keep the cookies nice and round. They should be about 1/4 inch thick before baking because we still want them to be nice, thick and fluffy. Bake for 8-11 minutes.

Remove from oven, transfer to a wire rack and allow cookies to cool completely before frosting. Makes about 12 cookies.

For the frosting: In a medium bowl, mix together the powdered sugar, pure maple syrup, melted butter and almond milk. Add a pinch of sea salt to taste. If frosting is too thick, you can add a teaspoon or two more milk to make it spreadable. Frost each cookie then enjoy! Sprinkle top of frosting with a little cinnamon for a gorgeous look. Cookies will get softer each day. Cookies can be stored in a container at room temp for a few days, then I recommend storing them in the fridge.





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: <u>Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW</u> Instagram: <u>@aauw_lompocvandenberg</u>

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



