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**Branch Website:**

<https://lompocvandenbergaauw.net/>

**Branch Number: 0130**

**Presidents' Report**

Thankfulness and remembrance. Is that what you think of as we turn the page on our calendar and enter November? On 11/2/25 AAUW celebrated Dia De Los Muertos at a community event in the Lompoc High School gym. The event brought many of our AAUW members together to plan and assemble our 'altar' which remembers great women in history: Katherine Johnson, Marie Curie, Selena Quintanilla-Perez, Maya Angelou, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Helen Rodriguez Trijas and Mary (mother of Jesus who is traditionally remembered in Dia De Los Muertos altars and ofrendas). Our altar won a Certificate of Commendation, and many community members stopped by and learned about AAUW. Lucy has a great story and pictures of AAUW's display later in the newsletter. Another thing I hope we remembered to do was vote in the 11/4/25 California special election. And while there are passionate and persuasive arguments for both sides of this issue, we can all agree that we have a right to choose! Let's remember that a woman's right to vote didn't become part of the Constitution, although Congress had approved the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1919, until the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in 8/18/20 by the 36<sup>th</sup> state legislature, Tennessee. <https://www.brennancenter.org/19th-amendment-explained>

And while we are remembering, November 11th is Veterans Day, which Lompoc will commemorate with a ceremony at the Lompoc Vets Memorial Building at 11:00 am, sponsored by the Lompoc Rotary Club. And while events around us can be distracting, we should not forget our local heroes, in public safety, health care, federal employees and servicemembers, even our local food pantry. We can make a difference!

***Dinah Lockhart: President***



## Programs

### **Dia de Los Muertos Community Celebration and AAUW is there!**

Thanks to the vision and artistic direction of our talented member, Bridgette Angulo, and the contributions of many folks, AAUW built an altar honoring famous women in Science (tribute to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Marie Curie), the Arts (tribute to Maya Angelo and Selena) and the Law (tribute to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Dr. Helen Rodriguez Trijas) in its "Remember the Women" ofrenda at the Lompoc Unified School District Dia de Los Muertos community celebration on 11/2 at Lompoc High School. Thanks to Dinah, Wynn, Pam, Barbara B., Kari, Denise and Brenda for the contributions to the event and especially Bridgette for everything she did to have our alter "come to life"! Thanks to Shay for handing out tickets to the crowd to win gift cards from AAUW (big hit!) and to Jan for stopping by to enjoy the festivities. Along the way, many of us learned a lot about the significance of each element of the altar. The event was well attended by the community. One person who stopped by was the AAUW scholarship winner from 2014, Sarah Castillo, who now works as a counselor for LVMS (yes, she is considering joining!). Check out the video taken live at the event on our face book page and Instagram (thanks to Denise!) to hear Bridgette describe the altar. Here's a few photos from the day.

***-Lucy Thoms-Harrington***



An admirer in her regalia!



The "Remember the Women" Altar



The set-up crew (missing Wynn!).



Beautiful middle school dancers in front of our "Remember the Women Altar"

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**

### Holiday AAUW Party

Mark your calendar as our holiday party will be at Kari Rosson's home on Sunday December 14, 2025. As you may remember, last year we supported Toys for Tots and asked everyone to bring a toy or financial donations for the organization to the Christmas party. **This year, we are supporting the Lompoc Food Pantry** and are asking for donations of non-perishable food items or a financial donation (checks should be made out to Lompoc Food Pantry) which we will collect at the Christmas Party. This is always a tough time of year for many of our neighbors and every little bit helps.



### 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.

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



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



## Treasurer Report

ATTENTION

HELP NEEDED

ATTENTION

Are you good with numbers, organized, and would like to get involved with a Board Position next year? Jan Keller and Terry Forss have been serving as co-Treasurers for a year and a half and their term expires at the end of June. Both Jan and Terry would like to start training one or two other members on the ins and outs of the Treasurer's job. Therefore, they are making this request to our members to step up and volunteer to learn what this very important position entails. Please contact Jan at (805) 291-9777 or Terry at (651) 247-3885 to volunteer. *Thank you in advance.*



***Terry Forss, Jan Keller: Co-Treasurers***



## Public Policy

Please click [HERE](#) for Public Policy articles: (1) "2025 Legislative Session Ends with Some Big Wins and Tough Losses" (page 4) and (2) "Supporting Public Education: Community-Based Coalitions" (page 6)- the third installment in a series focused on the AAUW California School Board Project. The issue also includes the 2025 AAUW California Priority Legislation Scorecard.

We are grateful for everything you are doing to advance gender equity for women and girls.

***Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko***

Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

## School Boards - The Overlooked Frontline of Democracy

*By Kathi Harper, Chair, Public Policy School Board Project*

Last month, Seena Trigas from the Public Policy School Board Project team, submitted an excellent article reminding members of the crucial role that public education plays in our democracy. The current – and seemingly never-ending – assaults on that institution gave rise to the School Board Project, which is now entering its third year.

When we started this project, our main focus initially was to encourage members to actively participate in identifying, recruiting and supporting candidates to run for school boards whose education values were in line with ours at AAUW California. For a number of reasons, our focus shifted to an emphasis on encouraging and



training members to attend school board meetings and let us know what they are seeing in their districts. We had a remarkable response, and we want to thank all our members who have answered that call.

As we enter our 3rd iteration of the project, we want to continue that momentum, but narrow the scope to watching for and speaking out against violations of California's protective laws; add a new component of learning how to make a greater impact by working in coalition with other public education supportive organizations; and swing back to where we started with re-engaging and increasing our efforts to ensure district board majorities that support all students and the free flow of ideas. In this last regard, we have recently discovered an organization called the School Board Integrity Project, and I can't say it better than their Executive Director, Kyrstin Schuette, as stated in an Op-Ed she wrote on September 3, 2025 in *The Courier*:

"The redistricting battle is important and we shouldn't minimize it, but it's equally important that we pursue local pathways to power to protect our families and our neighbors from the extremism sweeping our country. The solution lies in recruiting, training, and electing school board members who will practice good governance, pursue academic freedom and excellence, and foster schools where every student belongs."

You can read Kyrstin's full article here: [Kyrstin Schuette: The Overlooked Frontline of Democracy](#), and learn more about her organization here: [School Board Integrity Project](#). **"The future we choose for our public schools is the future we choose for our country."**

**Mary Schaefer: Public Policy Chair**



DONATE

### AAUW Funds

(Liberally quoted from the excellent post on Oct. 28 from Tremayne Parquet of the AAUW staff):

Here's the hard truth: There is no gender equity without pay equity. Women are paid 81 cents for every dollar paid to men. That drops to 76 cents when including all earners. The gap is even worse for women of color. Women are falling behind while the costs for groceries, gas and health care soar.

AAUW is tackling this issue from multiple angles:

- Offering salary negotiation, financial literacy and advocacy training.
- Updating "The Simple Truth", the signature report on the gender pay gap to reflect the most current data.
- Removing barriers to success. We advocate for a full range of policies to close the persistent gender and racial pay gaps and to address the unequal burden of caregiving that limits women's economic security.

We may have missed the Pay Equity Flash Campaign, but the campaign continues. Please consider donating to AAUW Funds this year to support this and all of AAUW's priorities.



**Alice Down: AAUW Funds VP**

## 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**

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>: **Old Town Kitchen and Bar**, 316 E. Ocean, Lompoc

We will meet at 12:30pm. Be aware you may have to park on a side street as their parking lot is small.

Click this link for the menu: <https://www.oldtownkitchenlompoc.com/>



***Billye Iverson and Leslie Sevier: Co-Chairs***

### **Roaming Readers (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month)**



November 3	The Secret Life of Sunflowers (Marta Molnar)	Janet
December 1	The Girl from the Grand Hotel (Camille Aubrey)	Judy
January 5	Reader's Choice	
February 2	The Paris Apartment (Lucy Foley)	Kathryn
March 2	FDR Drive (James Comey)	Eileen
April 6	The One Hundred Years of Lonni and Margot (Marianne Cronin)	Myra
May 4	Maisie Dobbs (Jacqueline Winspear)	Carol Ann
June 1	The Woman in Cabin 10 (Ruth Ware)	Kathryn
July 6	The Great Alone (Kristin Hanna)	Cathy
August 3	The Searcher (Tana French)	Betty

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## ***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/8fvykDOF\\_gkmwgUN5RDy1tw2](https://secure.everyaction.com/p/8fvykDOF_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 [LOG IN](#) as usual. Non-frequent users, click [LOG IN](#), 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 [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.

## **Calendar of Events**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** AAUW Branch Holiday Party: 304 Burnham Court, Lompoc  
Please join us from 2:00pm- 4:00pm for good cheer. Please bring a small appetizer or drink to share.





Jan Keller: 11-29



### Recipe Corner

#### **Creamy Roasted Garlic Soup with Kale**

##### **Ingredients**

- 4 heads garlic
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium russet potato, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 6 ounces pancetta or guanciale, cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 1 medium sweet or yellow onion, finely chopped
- 5 cups low-sodium chicken stock or vegetable stock
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 1 bunch lacinato kale, ribs removed and discarded, torn into small pieces
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- ½ cup shredded Gruyère
- sliced bread, to serve

##### **Preparation**

Preheat your oven to 350 F.



2. Cut the tops of the stem ends of the garlic heads, exposing just the very tops of the cloves. Place each head on a square of foil, large enough to cover the head entirely, and sprinkle the exposed cloves with olive oil. Wrap the heads in the foil and place on a half sheet pan. Roast for 45 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool in the foil.
3. Line a microwave-safe plate with a damp paper towel. Arrange the potato cubes in a single layer on the paper towel and cover with a second damp paper towel. Microwave for 3 minutes, or until they



just begin to soften. Alternatively, arrange the potato cubes in a single, even layer on a parchment lined sheet pan and bake for 10 to 12 minutes in a 350 F oven to soften. Set aside.

4. Place the pancetta or guanciale in a Dutch oven and cook over medium heat until crisp and rendered. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the pancetta or guanciale to a paper towel-lined plate. Remove all but 1 tablespoon of the pork fat in the Dutch oven, reserving the rest in a small jar for another use. Add the onion to the Dutch oven and sauté over medium heat until translucent and just starting to caramelize, about 10 minutes.

5. Squeeze the roasted garlic cloves out of their skins and into the Dutch oven. Stir in the stock and potatoes. Simmer over medium heat until the potatoes have completely softened, 10 to 15 minutes. Using an immersion blender, process the soup until smooth. Alternatively, carefully pour the contents of the Dutch oven into a blender and blend until smooth, then return the mixture to the Dutch oven. Add the cream and kale, stirring to combine. Simmer for 4 to 5 minutes to allow the kale to wilt. Season with salt and pepper.

6. Serve topped with reserved crispy pancetta or guanciale, a sprinkling of Gruyère and a generous slice of bread.



### [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](mailto: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**

