



Presidents' Message

It isn't easy to accept change. A vivid memory surfaced this month of a superintendent announcing a coming shift in the district's paradigm. Our country has witnessed a historic change with the inauguration of Barack Obama. AAUW is experiencing a change in its paradigm, including new bylaws and organizational restructuring at the national and state levels. Understanding and accepting change results from excellent communication.



Visibility and viability of AAUW have depended on communication. The organization was recently featured in the widely distributed and read Parade Magazine, largely due to publicity surrounding Lily Ledbetter. The Lily Ledbetter Fair Play Act passed the Senate and is expected to be one of the first bills President Obama signs into law. However, the Senate also needs to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R.12), which would provide additional tools to deter wage discrimination. Please go to the national website, click on the "Take Action" link in the upper right corner and follow the simple directions to edit letter segments provided for you. Send your letters to our Senators urging them to play an active role in the passage of this act. It will take less than five minutes, and help fulfill your role in the Value Promise of assuring all women a fair and equal chance.

Our California Co-Presidents' theme this year is "Communication and Connection". After you have communicated with our Senators, strengthen AAUW's connection to the community by bringing a guest to our Bunco fundraiser on February 16th. The Silent Auction promises to be better than ever, including items provided by local merchants, so bring your checkbooks with you. This is also a change of paradigm; not all fundraisers require hours and hours of hard work by the majority of members. Thank Linda and Kathy for shouldering this project once again.

Debbie Audet and Ann Sawyer, Co-Presidents

Calendar:

February

2	Board Meeting - 7:00 Arroyo Grande Hospital Annex
5	Lunch Bunch 11:30 am – Taco Loco, AG
10	Night Reader's Book Club 7:30pm – Sandra Ku
16	BUNCO 7:15 pm – AG Women's Center
19	Finessing Femmes Bridge 12:30 pm – Marianne Fairfield
20	5 Cities Supper Club 6:00 pm – Debbie Audet
21	IBC Brunch 10:00 am – Madonna Inn
23	Day Time Book Club 11:30 – Debbie Audet
23	Great Decisions 7:00pm – Mary Jo Aspinall

Happy February Birthdays!!



Erika Hirsch	02/01
Juliet Frantzen	02/02
Madelyn Koontz	02/06
Marilyn Corey	02/09
Sandra Ku	02/12

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

RENEE A. DAVID
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

129 N. HALCYON ROAD
ARROYO GRANDE, CA 93420
(805) 473-9274 FAX 473-9275

February 16th, 7:15 pm, Bunco Party at the Women's Center, A.G.

PROGRAM PARTICULARS

.....By Jan & Gaye

February brings us two fun activities to enjoy. Our annual "**Bunco Party**" and fundraiser on the 16th is going to be one in which many of our colleagues have been busy helping to obtain and collate donations for the "*Silent Auction*". We are fortunate to have our local businesses and private donators consideration and help to make this a successful year! We would like to thank each of you for your time and generous support and efforts. This fundraiser, like our book sale, is a cumulative team effort that makes it all happen. We've done a little extra advertising this year, so we are looking forward to a larger group of Bunco participants. Look for the flyer again in this month's newsletter and bring someone, age 12 yrs. or older, to join in on the beguilement.

On Saturday, February 21st we also have the annual Inter- Branch Council meeting (IBC). This year, all five branches from our county will brunch at the Madonna Inn in the Garden Room from 10 A.M to 1:00 P.M. The cost is \$20.00 per person and we are encouraged to bring a friend. The guest speaker is Dr. Roya Javadpour, Professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at Cal Poly. Included in her discussion, she will talk about her project "[Poly House](#)".

The deadline for reservations is February 6th as follows:

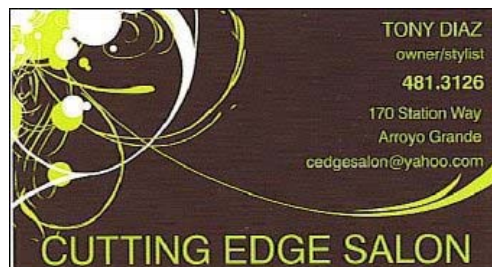
Name: _____ Guest: _____

Checks made out to: Five Cites-Pismo Beach A.A.U.W and mail to: Jan Kaiserman, 709 Avocet Way, Arroyo Grande

Jan Kaiserman, Programs



225 Short Street
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



Tech Trekker Letter



"Dear Five Cities/Pismo Beach, I have worked very hard to get to this point, and I would like to tell you I couldn't have done it without your help. I appreciate everything and I can finally accomplish my higher goals, which I first thought would take years to accomplish.

As my core class I had Microbiology, which was very interesting. We learned all about bacteria and what disinfectant cleaned it the most. The teacher was very kind and helped us when we needed it.

Through this whole camp I have expanded not only my intellect but also my companions. I am extraordinarily shy so it was difficult for me to get to know people. I had several friends from all over CA. The Dorm and Dorm Mom worked out perfectly.

This has been a wonderful experience. Thank you soo much!

Sincerely, Naomi Noel Warren"



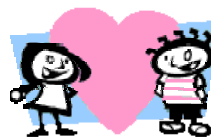
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL NEWS

The RIF committee has visited Grover Beach, Oceano, and Fairgrove Elementary Schools and given books to 300 third and fourth grade students. Since the RIF books are often the only books the children have ever owned, we are greeted with smiles of delight, and we feel privileged to be able to make so many students happy. We are now planning our February and March visits and will see the same students again in May. By the end of the year, each student will have three new books, and many tell us they read them over and over and also read them to their families.



One of the ways money is earned to support RIF and our other projects is our annual Baubles for Books jewelry sale at the SLO farmers' market in June. We have done this for the past five years and have earned \$400 - \$500 each time we have sold used jewelry. We appreciate all the donations we have received and welcome more. If you or anyone you know has old jewelry sitting around, please consider donating it for our baubles sale. Since we sell each item for \$2 and are usually able to buy books for \$2 each, you are donating a book every time you give us a piece of old jewelry. It's a win-win! Your jewelry box is cleaned out to make room for new baubles, and a child is enjoying reading a book, which we hope puts them on a path to a lifetime love of reading. Please call Margaret or me if you'd like us to pick up jewelry or bring it to any AAUW meeting. And, if you're interested in helping us give away books, let us know. Many thanks!

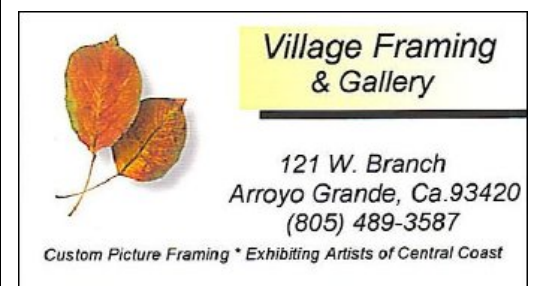
*Wendy Robinson 781-0903 and Margaret Quandt 489-6868
RIF co-chairs*



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Scholarship Committee is resting this month in anticipation of many activities in March, April, May and June. The Co-Chairs will be in contact with the high schools this month regarding applications, date for application deadline, interview schedules and Senior Nights. One member of our committee who works all year is Treasurer, Lisa Walker. She has served as treasurer for several years. Lisa does an outstanding job managing the donations, grant monies and all endowment investments. She prepares monthly financial statements, an annual report in June and pays all bills. Lisa keeps the committee updated regarding the status of investments, disburses the scholarship monies to the students in the fall, receives and deposits all member donations, receipts from the branch and any grant money. We are grateful for her expertise and careful accounting.

*Scholarship Co-Chairs:
Marilyn Corey and Rose Ann Steiner*



Diversity

Thanks to all who attended our January Branch meeting. We learned much regarding the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Development) programs in San Luis Obispo County schools. Our guest speaker Phil Britton, the Regional Director of AVID, discussed how the AVID program is addressing the gaps in student achievement due to economic background and ethnicity. Now we have an opportunity to provide support and assistance to these students and their teachers. You may participate at Judkins, Mesa, and Paulding Middle Schools and Nipomo and Arroyo Grande High Schools. Please call either Jean Slater (473-2113) or Patti Melsheimer (489-4811) to sign up to participate in any of these efforts: be an AVID Program Tutor, provide monetary support for School Site College Field Trips, be an On Call Helper by grading papers, editing essays, review college applications, practice interviews, or be a part of the Speakers Bureau: providing information to Students about Careers, Topics of Interest, etc.

Jean Slater and Patti Melsheimer
Co-chairs

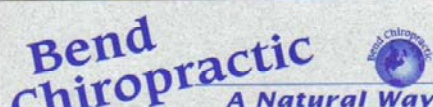
Supper Club

The Supper Club members met again on January 19 to work out a schedule for the remainder of the year agreeable to all. It was decided that those who had not yet hosted for the year would do so. Members who could accommodate more than 8, would. Those who need a smaller gathering would split the hosting assignment. Hostesses then selected dates suitable for most individuals. A drawing followed to determine who would attend each of the smaller gatherings. Thus the following schedule was developed:

Feb. 20, 6:00	Debbie Audet, hostess for the full group
Mar. 6	Pat Kastama, Jan Kaiserman – 2 small groups
Apr 19	Mary Jo Aspinal, Sherri Siegel – 2 small groups
May 2, 6:00	Linda Lidberg, hostess for the full group

In September others may wish to join the group, so a meeting will be held at that time for all interested to determine how to proceed.

Bette Kulp




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FINESSING FEMMES BRIDGE

Thursday, Feb. 19th held at the home of Marianne Fairfield.

Thursday, March 19th held at the home of Pat Muhlethaler.

Meet at **12:30 p.m.** Hostess will call members to confirm their attendance.

Chair: Elvera Hornung

Great Decisions 2009

The Great Decisions Group will be starting its 2009 Study Program on Monday, February 23rd. We will meet at 7 pm at the home of Mary Jo Aspinall, 330 Leeward Drive, Shell Beach. From the South, turn off 101 on Shell Beach Road and then, after going under the overpass, proceed North (right) to Leeward. Leeward is one street before you come to Alex's BBQ. 330 is the last house on the right of the street before you get to the ocean. We will be watching a DVD and discussing the first topic in the study guide. For more information or greater detail of directions, call Mary Jo at 556-0193.

Mary Jo Aspinall, Chair

COOKING TOGETHER GOES FRENCH!

Lisa and Jim Walker hosted our January cooking extravaganza, and we all enjoyed making and eating a variety of delicious French recipes, starting with hot cheesy spinach and artichoke dip and baby brie served with sourdough bread and crackers with an assortment of wines. Hors d'oeuvres were followed by French tomato soup, salade nicoise, chicken cordon bleu, potato casserole, and spiced carrots. Dessert was chocolate gateau with homemade vanilla ice cream. All dishes were unbelievably yummy!!! We laughed, we cooked, we chatted, we ate and drank, and we laughed some more! We welcomed Anna and Peter Zucker as new members to the group, and if this all sounds good to you, join us; couples and singles are welcome! All you have to do is call the hosts to let them know you are coming, bring a bottle of your favorite beverage to share, pay the hosts \$10 per person, and show up and have a great time. Following is the schedule for the remainder of the year:

Feb. 21	Wendy Robinson
Mar. 14	Linda Lidberg
Apr. 18	Judy Gabriel
May 16	Kathy Cohon
June 27	Ann Sawyer

Please call or email me if you have questions!

Wendy Robinson 781-0903, cwendywalk@aol.com



AAUW Lunch Bunch

Enjoy lunch and bring a guest the first Thursday of the month to a local restaurant at 11:30 am.

Feb. 5th --- El Taco Loco, 106 E Branch St. AG **March 5th** -- Del's Pizza, 401, Shell Beach, SB
April 2nd -- The Quarterdeck, 1500 W Branch, AG **May 7th** ---- Alex's BBQ, 1853 Shell Bch, SH
June 4th --- Old Port Inn, Port San Luis(on the pier), Avila Beach

Gaye will be out of town Feb. and March.
Please RSVP --Judy Zaretska, 481-7313

Gaye Peltzman, Judy Zaretska, co-chairs

Day Time Book Club

Our daytime book group will be meeting on Monday, February 23, at 11:30 a.m. (note date change!) at the home of Debbie Audet, 317 Old Ranch Road, Arroyo Grande. We are reading Ken Follett's book, *World Without End*. Bring a sack lunch and join in the discussion of the follow up to Follett's earlier book *Pillars of the Earth*. For March we will be participating in the San Luis Obispo County Library "Book Club in a Box" sharing program. We have chosen to read *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky. The books are provided by the San Luis Library and will be distributed at the February meeting.

Night Readers Book Club

Our February 10 meeting will be held at the home of Sandra Ku, for a discussion of Salman Rushdie's novel "Midnight's Children." It is a challenging book, at over 500 pages, but it has been highly honored around the world. It follows the lives of two children born at midnight in 1947, at the moment that India has won its independence. Through an unfortunate accident, the young baby boys are switched at birth and sent to the wrong family to be raised, one in squalor and the other in a privileged environment. One critic has said of the novel: "It is a masterpiece, brilliantly written, unpredictable, hilarious and heartbreaking in equal measure." Looking ahead, the book for March is Anne Enright's "The Gathering."

Sandra Ku, Chairperson

Senate Passes Ledbetter Bill; Will Likely Be First Bill Signed by New President

Over a year and a half after the Supreme Court virtually eliminated the chance for victims of discrimination to seek vindication, Congress finally righted the wrong. Thanks to the hard work of AAUW Action Network members and our coalition partners, the Senate passed (61-36) the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** (S. 181) on Thursday. See how your senators voted.

AAUW applauds Congress' passage of this bill, and we look forward to seeing President Obama sign it into law as soon as next week. But we must remember that the passage of the Ledbetter bill only regains ground we lost in May 2007; it is only a down payment on an election year promise to address pay equity vigorously. The Ledbetter bill fixes a past mistake; the **Paycheck Fairness Act** gives new teeth to the law to ensure that such a mistake won't happen again.

With the passage of both the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (H.R. 11) and the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 12), the U.S. House of Representatives demonstrated a firm, bipartisan resolve to attack wage discrimination on all fronts. Urge your senators to do the same.

Take Action!

Please write and thank the senators who supported the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and urge them to continue the fight against wage discrimination by acting swiftly on the Paycheck Fairness Act as well. Express your extreme disappointment to those senators who voted against the Ledbetter bill, and urge them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act in the future. Simply click on the "Take Action" link in the upper right corner or copy and paste the following URL into your Internet browser. Then follow the instructions to compose and send your message. <http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=12495756>

Spread the word and get others involved by sending a Keep the Change e-card to friends and family. AAUW also has Keep the Change posters and lapel stickers available for use at AAUW events, meetings, program, even protests that bear the slogan "Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change," and the penny graphic featured above. These are available at no charge, while supplies last, by filling out the online request form. Visit AAUW's Pay Equity webpage to learn more about AAUW's "Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change" campaign. You can also download AAUW's Pay Equity Resource Kit for ideas, tips, and resources to use in your community throughout the year.

Washington Update is AAUW's free, members-only weekly e-bulletin. It offers an insider's view on the legislative process, the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from the Public Policy and Government Relations Department. To stay up-to-date on all issues important to our mission, all AAUW members, including college and university partners, are encouraged to subscribe to *Washington Update* by emailing VoterEd@aauw.org.

The 2009 AAUW Convention is scheduled for June 26-28, 2009 in St. Louis, MO. Register by January 15 for the same price as the 2007 convention. Book your airfare with American Airlines and receive a 5 percent discount! Use coupon code A1269AS. Meet us in St. Louis and experience the excitement of the city - theater, museums, gardens, sports, and more!



AAUW **BUNCO PARTY**

FUN! PRIZES! FOOD!

**BID ON WONDERFUL SILENT AUCTION ITEMS
WHILE YOU PLAY!**

Come one! Come all! (minimum 12 yrs. of age)
AAUW members, spouses, and significant others; guests; friends; and
community members

First time players: game instruction will be given before play begins

Monday, February 16, 2009
7:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Arroyo Grande & Women's Club
Community Center
211 Vernon Street, Arroyo Grande**

\$10.00 per person at the door



PROCEEDS FROM THIS MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT

WILL BENEFIT AAUW PROJECTS: Tech Trek Scholarships for junior high school girls, college scholarships for local high school girls, Reading is Fundamental for local elementary schools, the Legal Advocacy Fund, and the Educational Foundation

- **The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a non-profit organization that supports equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Judy Gabriel jbarnesgabriel@yahoo.com, CO-PRESIDENTS: Debbie Audet pismodon@aol.com and Ann Sawyer teachreach@aol.com. MEMBERSHIP CO-VICE PRESIDENTS: Wendy Robinson cwendywalk@aol.com and Adele Beher adeleb@e-znet.com. AAUW-CA website <http://www.aauw-ca.org>, AAUW national website <http://www.aauw.org>.

The **American Association of University Women** promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.



AAUW 5 Cities Pismo Beach
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Pismo Beach, CA 93448-1604

Growing With the Promise