

AAUW Poway Penasquitos Branch

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss these February Events & Announcements

- February 10: General Meeting with STEM Speaker, Melody Rocco
- Donations Sought for Re-entry Scholarship Funding
- Teck Trek Volunteers Needed in June and July
- Check the February calendar for virtual meetings of the Book Clubs and Great Decisions

February Meeting to Feature Local STEM Speaker

by Janice Heather

Please join us on Zoom, Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m., as we start our monthly membership meetings for 2021.

Given our organization's interest in STEM education and careers for women and girls, we've invited Melody Rocco, who heads the City of Poway's Engineering Department, to speak to us. It'll be a great opportunity for us to learn how she developed her career and to hear her suggestions on how organizations like ours can help more girls follow this path.

We're also planning a fun Valentine's Day-themed quiz – with prizes, of course! You'll receive a message a few days before the meeting, with the Zoom link and a list of movies about love. Keep that list handy for the meeting. After our speaker finishes, we'll read a list of quotes and you can match the quotes to the movies they're from. Whoever gets the most matches correctly wins! ♥ Hope to see you all on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Membership Matters by Pam Ames, Membership Chair

Introducing our newest member, Mary Jo Beneke! Thank you, Mary Alice, for sharing our AAUW mission with Jo. We all look forward to meeting her in person when it is safe.

Mary Jo Beneke, "Jo" to family and friends, was raised in a large military family. As such, they lived in many places, including four years in Paris, France, which fostered her love of travel and new experiences.

Jo graduated with a BS degree from the University of Maryland in 1968, and subsequently lived in Washington D.C., Chicago, Denver, and L.A. before deciding to return to school to pursue a nursing degree in 1992. After earning her BSN, she found her niche in wound and ostomy care, and worked as a CWOCN in Fayetteville, AR and Yuma, AZ until retirement in 2011.

Two years ago, Jo moved to San Diego (Poway) to be closer to family, including two sisters in Rancho Bernardo, one in Long Beach, and one in Redondo Beach.

While volunteering at the Discovery Store in RB, Jo became friends with May Alice Rudelich who introduced her to AAUW and its mission and wonderful programs. Jo looks forward to becoming more active in the organization once COVID is behind us.



When Will the Gender Pay Gap be Closed? by Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

How long will it take? What can we do to make it happen sooner rather than later? These are questions that AAUW has been grappling with for decades. As we mark Equal Pay Day on March 31st, perhaps there is hope that we can make progress in decreasing the gender pay gap in 2021, given a new administration that is committed to social justice and leveling the growing disparity between the haves and have not. We also now have women in the highest echelons of national leadership; and as we all know, when women are in charge, things get done!

According to the 2020 update to AAUW's The Simple Truth, it will take white women until the year 2069 to achieve parity with men based on the projected earnings ratio compiled between 1988-2019. For women of color the numbers are even worse. Black women will have to wait until the year 2369 – 350 years – as their earnings ratio has only advanced a mere 7% from 1988-2019. And Latinas find themselves in the worse scenario as their earnings ratio has only increased 4% from 51% to 55% during this period of time, projecting their year of parity to 2451! (AAUW, The Simple Truth 2020 update)

The reasons for these disparities in the gender wage gap are known – and understanding what's causing the problem is the first step to meeting it head on. Members are urged to read the summary of The Simple Truth update on our National website which lays out the problem, its causes and solutions.

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/10/SimpleTruth_1.8.pdf

AAUW is leading the charge to effectuate change and you are part of the solution with the work your branches undertake on behalf of women and girls. The more we educate ourselves and others about the scope of this gender wage gap with programs like Start Smart, Work Smart, NCCWSL, etc., the more we chip away at the disparity. What is your branch doing to make a difference in the Gender Pay Gap? Let us know what creative ideas you have come up with to spread the word in these days of social distancing and we'll share them on the web (send to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

Re-entry Scholarships: Applicant Search in Full Swing! by Jeanni Harrison & Joan Natoli, Co-Chairs of the Scholarship Committee

Our AAUW branch is proud to provide college scholarships to women who have reentered college after a break in their education. Scholars must be at least 23 years of age and have completed certain requirements contained in the application on our website. April 1st is the deadline to submit applications, with transcripts provided by June. We give three \$2000 awards in September, either virtually or at an awards luncheon!

We are very grateful for those of you who have already contributed to this fund. We have raised approximately \$4800 so far. We could go with \$1500 each scholarship, but \$2000 is just somehow, exponentially better! So we are asking again, those of you who can, to send another or your first contribution to our Treasurer, Michelle Blasberg, and mark "Re-entry Scholarships" on the info line. Address: 12509 Montero Ct., San Diego, CA 92128.

Update on 2020 Scholarship Winner Aryal Jardines

Aryal was born and raised on Molokai in the Hawaiian Islands. She moved to San Diego to live with her aunt and uncle. Through nursing her uncle through an illness she became interested in nursing as a career, earning an A.A. degree and then working as a CNA-Certified Nursing Assistant. During this COVID epidemic, Aryal is working in the COVID Unit at Sharp Healthcare. She is also working towards a B.A. in nursing. We applaud Aryal's courage and determination in providing care and seeking to increase her skills.

Going back to school is a worthy, but difficult, endeavor. All of our awardees have been very grateful, many of them in tears when they hear of our support. This is a difficult time for everyone, but far worse for those without funds. Please consider a first or second donation for 2021!

**AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN
POWAY PENASQUITOS
BRANCH**

Diversity Statement

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization based on gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, leadership, and research.

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

National AAUW

www.aauw.org

California AAUW

www.aauw-ca.org

**PowayPenasquitos
AAUW**

www.powayarea-

ca.aauw.net

[aauwboard@gmail.co](mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com)

m

AAUW Poway Penasquitos Branch is a 501(c)3 corporation

President: Cathy Burciaga

Programs/1st Vice

Presidents: Janice Heather & Sheila Walker

Membership: Pam Ames

Secretary: Karen McGurk

Treasurer: Michelle Blasberg

Tech Trek – We're Looking for Volunteers by Ellen Dillon

Do you want to get involved with Tech Trek this year? In 2021, there will be three virtual Tech Trek camps – one in June and two in July. The camp director, Mary Isaac, is recruiting volunteers to help conduct the camps. They will need AAUW members to help with various roles, both in advance planning for the camp and during the camp itself. Volunteer positions during the camp will all be online. Prior to camp, volunteers will be needed to pick up and deliver camp kits to the girls. You can volunteer for one camp session or for more than one session. Here is additional information about the camp: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2021-virtual-tech-trek-internal/>

Do you want to get involved as a Mentor for our Tech Trek girls? Our branch is exploring how we can assist our Tech Trek girls through a Mentoring Program. We will match AAUW members one-on-one with Tech Trek girls who have already completed the camp. We will be able to counsel and guide the girls through high school and through the college application process. You can do this on your own schedule, answer their questions along the way and eventually, maybe they'll join us as AAUW members!

We will give a presentation at the March AAUW General Meeting with more details. If you have questions prior to that, please contact Aresa Toukdarian, Heidi Dalvie or Ellen Dillon, our Tech Trek Branch Coordinators.

AAUW POWAY PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February



<p>February 4th 1st Thursday 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Great Decisions – Leader: Marie Dye 858-538-1689 mdye@san.rr.com</p>	<p>Great Decisions Topic: <i>Global Supply Chains and National Security</i> <u>The discussion is open to all branch members.</u> If not already on the group distribution list for Great Decisions, please email Marie Dye to receive an invite to the discussion. Discussion leader: Michelle Blasberg</p>	<p>RSVP: for Zoom link Marie Dye 858-733-2850 mdye@san.rr.com</p> <p>Email Marie Dye by Feb. 2nd to receive an invite to the discussion.</p>
<p>February 10th Wednesday 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>General Meeting – Program Co-chairs Janice Heather 360-982-9719 janiceheather@hotmail.com Sheila Walker 858-722-3761 sekw@san.rr.com</p>	<p>GENERAL MEETING Speaker: Melody Rocco Poway City Engineer Program: Women in STEM careers Plus: A Valentine’s Day movie trivia quiz!!</p>	<p>RSVP: The ZOOM link invitation will be sent to the whole membership a few days before the February 10th meeting. Look for it!</p> <p>For more information email: aauwboard@gmail.com</p>
<p>February 16th 3rd Tuesday 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3rd Tuesdays with Books Leader: Pam Ames 858-578-4283 619-889-6229 (cell) pamames123@gmail.com</p>	<p><i>American Dirt</i> by Jeanine Cummins <i>Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, comfortable... American Dirt will leave readers utterly changed. It is a literary achievement filled with poignancy, drama, and humanity on every page.</i> Discussion Leader: Barbara Fisher</p>	<p>RSVP: Pam Ames will send the ZOOM invitation. You want to read the book and join the group? Email Pam Ames by February 14th</p>
<p>February 22nd 4th Monday 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Mystery Book Group Leader: Pamela Meyer 619-855-4071 Pamela.me4@gmail.com</p>	<p><i>A Stranger Here Below</i> by Charles Fergus <i>A Gideon Stoltz Mystery, this is an historical mystery set in 1835 Western Pennsylvania. The hero is a small-town sheriff. The story is described as a police procedural. Author Geraldine Brooks calls it "Deeply imagined and intricately plotted . . . [and] marries richly textured historical fiction with the urgency of a mystery novel."</i> Discussion Leader: Sarah Gross</p>	<p>RSVP to: Pamela Meyer will send the ZOOM invitation. You have read the book and want to join the group? Email Pam by February 20th</p>

<p>February 25th 4th Thursday 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Thursday Evening Book Grp Leaders: Ann Morgan 858-484-5290 annmorgansd@yahoo.com Berina Pennington 858-484-3603 berina@san.rr.com</p>	<p>The Patriots by Sana Krasikov <i>The Patriots is a riveting evocation of the Cold War years, told with brilliant insight and extraordinary skill. Alternating between Florence's and Julian's perspectives, it is at once a mother-son story and a tale of two countries bound in a dialectic dance; a love story and a spy story; both a grand, old-fashioned epic and a contemporary novel of ideas.</i> Discussion Leader: Sally Jacobson</p>	<p>RSVP: Ann Morgan will send the ZOOM invitation. You have read the book and want to join the group? Email Ann by February 23rd</p>
<p>Different Saturdays</p>	<p>Hikers Gayle Ziaskas 858-484-7596619-855-4071 gzia@aol.com</p>	<p>Happy Hikers <i>We hope the hikers are continuing to walk either on their own or with family members or close friends.</i></p>	<p>Gayle Ziaskas <i>Right now, the Happy Hikers are continuing to follow COVID-19 restrictions related to group gatherings.</i></p>
<p>Mondays 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Games Group Lyn Johnston 858-831-0052 lynjohn@san.rr.com</p>	<p>Games Group <i>Hopefully, you are playing games with your family and friends.</i></p>	<p>Lyn Johnston <i>Right now, the Games interest group is continuing to follow COVID-19 restrictions related to group gatherings.</i></p>
<p>1st Friday (alternate months) 9-11:30 am</p>	<p>Garden Gals Jeanene Cook (Acting) 858-487-9215 Jeanenec@san.rr.com</p>	<p>Garden Gals <i>We hope the garden group is enjoying virtual garden tours or locally when allowed to be open.</i></p>	<p>Jeanene Cook <i>Right now the Garden interest group is continuing to follow COVID-19 restrictions related to group gatherings.</i></p>
<p>Fridays 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Travel Group Pam Ames 619-889-6229 (cell) pamames123@gmail.com</p>	<p>Travel Group <i>Right now, the Travel interest group is continuing to follow COVID-19 restrictions related to group gatherings.</i></p>	<p>Pam Ames <i>At this time, the Travel group is taking a vacation from meeting at local, ethnic restaurants.</i></p>



Poway – Penasquitos Branch



**Join us to hear from
Poway City Engineer**

Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30 pm

Join us for a Valentine's Day movie quiz after the speaker

This will be a Zoom meeting.

Watch for an email with the link to the meeting
