

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Don't miss these February events & announcements

- February 9: Monthly Membership Meeting
- February 19: Travel Chat visits Santorini Island Grill
- February 19: Happy Healthy Hikers visits Blue Sky Ecological Reserve
- Check the calendar for information on our three book clubs!

## Monthly Membership Meeting on February 9 by Janice Heather

Our February 9 Monthly Membership Meeting will be an informal happy hour at The Veranda restaurant at the Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive in Rancho Bernardo.

<http://www.ranchobernardoinn.com/dine/veranda-fireside-lounge>

Given the uncertainty about COVID and omicron, we want to stay connected while still staying safe. So those who wish to will gather outdoors on The Veranda patio for happy hour, from 3:30-5:00 pm. During happy hour, The Veranda offers small plate foods for \$5 and house wine & beer for \$5. Of course, one can order off the regular menu as well. The patio has heaters but, since it is outdoors, bringing a sweater or jacket is recommended.

Due to new restaurant policies and fees regarding large groups, we will not have a reserved space or large table. But we can sit together in small groups of 4-6 and catch up with AAUW friends. Our tables will be scattered across the patio but there's nothing to stop us from walking to another table to say hi or chat with a friend.

Since we do not have a reservation, no rsvp is necessary. Those who choose to come can assemble into the small groups they wish to sit with

at the hostess stand. For questions, please email Janice Heather at [janiceheather@hotmail.com](mailto:janiceheather@hotmail.com).

## Membership Matters by Pam Ames

At the January branch board meeting it was decided that an increase in branch dues will be necessary. The members attending the April meeting will be voting on a proposal to raise the branch dues from \$17 to \$27. The good news is that the increase (if approved by the membership) will not be billed until Fiscal Year 23-24. There will be NO increase in the next renewal period of July 2022-2023. The branch dues have not increased in over ten years. Unfortunately, our expenses have increased and our membership has not increased to cover them. We regret having to raise the branch dues, but it is necessary to keep our branch fiscally sound. We hope that a \$10 annual increase will not create a hardship that would keep any member from renewing. Your support and understanding are very much appreciated. As a reminder, the annual dues we pay each year consists of three parts, National, State and branch. Contact me with any questions at [pamames123@gmail.com](mailto:pamames123@gmail.com).

## Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment by Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield, AAUW CA Public Policy

"It's past time that we treat childcare as what it is – an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy...and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades," says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of child caring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it. Here are some sobering statistics:

- 56% of married families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work

- The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it's 83% for single fathers who maintain custody
- The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare
- Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding
- 50% of Americans live in childcare "deserts" or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening
- In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent
- 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! The Build Back Better Act, now awaiting action by the Senate would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation's future. AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

To find out more or to contact your senators, [CLICK Here](#).

## 2022 Re-entry Women's Scholarships by Jeanni Harrison, Scholarship Chair

Our 2022 Re-entry Women's Scholarship program begins this month. This year the Board has decided to provide three \$2,000 scholarships that will be awarded in the fall to non-traditional students. By February 1, the flyer will be posted on our website along with a link to the application.

Our scholarship information will be sent to the San Diego Community College District (Miramar, Mesa, & City), Palomar, Mira Costa, CSU San Marcos, SDSU, USD, and UCSD. We will also post our scholarship offering on [www.iGrad.com](http://www.iGrad.com), which provides a scholarship search engine for students. If you know of other colleges/universities in northern San Diego County or City that might be interested in our scholarships, please email me at [Jeanni.Harrison@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeanni.Harrison@yahoo.com).

Thank you to all who have donated to this very worthwhile program. These scholarships make a tremendous difference in the lives of women who have overcome significant challenges to continue their education. A special thanks to Cathy Burciaga, Joan Thompson, and our newest committee member, Michelle Blasberg, who evaluate all the applications and choose the winners.

## Travel Group *Travel Chat In-person!* by Pam Ames

Photo of the Travel Group in December at Bombay Coast. Delicious Indian food and a sunny day! Our February lunch will be on Saturday, February 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Santorini Island Grill, 10545 Scripps Poway Parkway. They have a nice covered patio for outdoor dining. Enjoy some Greek food and share your travel tips. RSVP to Pam Ames by noon on February 18. [pamames123@gmail.com](mailto:pamames123@gmail.com).



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](http://www.aauw.org)

**California AAUW**

[www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)

**PowayPenasquitos  
AAUW**

[www.powayarea-](http://www.powayarea-)

[ca.aauw.net](http://ca.aauw.net)

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

[m](mailto: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

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**Gardens and More** by Joan Natoli

Glad to see the refreshing and somewhat drenching rain a few weeks ago! Hope your garden enjoyed it as much as the golf course! However, we are getting a flood of omicron COVID cases this month and these new infections may well extend into February, so we are postponing events until March. Thank you all for your patience with me, and the challenges of the fall, and possibly spring, and for safe events! Take Care!

**Upcoming Events:**

Friday, February 4: Event postponed to March. The Japanese Friendship Garden could not recruit a docent for our visit and the COVID virus makes it questionable to share rides down to Balboa Park.

Friday, March 4; time and lunch TBA: Japanese Friendship Garden, Balboa Park: With or without a docent, this will be worthwhile. The annual Cherry Blossom Festival is the following week. We may be lucky and get to see some wonderful blooms!

Friday, April 1: Possible Spring Succulent Pot Planting Party. A member volunteered to host - WHO??? Please call or email Joan Natoli, 559-303-2382, [itolanj@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:itolanj@sbcbglobal.net).

**Happy Healthy Hikers Visit Blue Sky Ecological Reserve** by

Mary Alice Rudelich

The Happy Healthy Hikers will visit Blue Sky Ecological Reserve on Saturday, February 19 at 8:00 a.m. We will hike to the bench at Lake Poway and return on the same trail.

This is an easy hike with an overlook of the lake. RSVP to Mary Alice Rudelich, 801-440-2601, [Mary.rudelich@aol.com](mailto:Mary.rudelich@aol.com)

**Speech Trek Update** by Karen McGurk

Due to a number of unanticipated circumstances, including the surging COVID-19 virus, the Poway-Peñasquitos branch is rescheduling the Speech Trek competition previously planned for February 5, 2022. The new date is **Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** The application deadline has been extended until February 12, 2022. The competition will now be held virtually.

We are seeking high school students who are interested in discussing diversity, equity, and inclusion. This year's topic is: *Has the US lived up to its pledge of liberty and justice for all? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all?*

Please share the attached flyer with friends and family and help us spread the word!



## AAUW POWAY PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## February



February 3rd 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 6.30 pm	<b>Great Decisions</b> Marie Dye 858-733-2850 <a href="mailto:mdye@san.rr.com">mdye@san.rr.com</a>	<b><i>"Changing Demographics"</i></b> Leader: Michelle Blasberg	Contact Marie Dye for more information and the Zoom link.
February 4th 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	<b>Gardens and More</b> Joan Natoli <a href="mailto:itolanj@sbcglobal.net">itolanj@sbcglobal.net</a> 559-303-2382	<b>Postponed!</b> Japanese Friendship Garden  <b>See Adelante for more info.</b>	<b>Gardens &amp; More:</b> See Adelante for more info. Contact Joan Natali for more information.
February 9 <sup>th</sup> <b>3:30-5 pm</b> <b>(Note different time)</b>	<b>General Meeting</b> Program Co-chairs  Janice Heather <a href="mailto:janiceheather@hotmail.com">janiceheather@hotmail.com</a> Sheila Walker <a href="mailto:sekw@san.rr.com">sekw@san.rr.com</a>	<b>Happy hour at</b> <b>The Veranda, RB Inn,</b> <b><u>17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive</u></b> No speaker or agenda. No reserved space. We will sit in small groups and have fun!	<b>For more information email:</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com">aauwboard@gmail.com</a></u></b>  <b>No RSVP needed this month</b>
February 15 <sup>th</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1:30 p.m.	<b>Page Turners</b> Pam Ames 619-889-6229 (cell) <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>	<b>World of Wonders by Aimee Nezhukumatathil - in Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments</b> <i>This charmingly illustrated collection of nature essays is more than it might appear to be at first glance. At its simplest, it is about 20 different natural phenomena ranging from peacocks to narwhals, corpse flowers to flamingos, dragon fruit to fireflies. The illustrations and title bring to mind those books many of us had as children that sought to capture the whole of creation ambitiously between two covers. Nonfiction: Leader: Pam Ames</i>	<b>RSVP to:</b> Pam Ames 619-889-6229 (cell) <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a> <b>To get the Zoom Link</b>
February 19 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. Different Saturdays	<b>Happy, Healthy Hikers</b> Mary Alice Rudelich <a href="mailto:Mary.rudelich@aol.com">Mary.rudelich@aol.com</a> 801-440-2601	We will meet at <b>Blue Sky Ecological Reserve</b> at 8:00 a.m. We will hike to the bench at Lake Poway and return on the same trail. This is an easy hike with an overlook of the lake	<b>RSVP to:</b> Mary Alice Rudelich <a href="mailto:Mary.rudelich@aol.com">Mary.rudelich@aol.com</a> 801-440-2601
February 19 <sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m.	<b>Travel Group</b> Pam Ames 619-889-6229 (cell) <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>	<b>Santorini Island Grill</b> 10545 Scripps Poway Parkway 11:30 a.m.	<b>RSVP to:</b> Pam Ames 619-889-6229 (cell) <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>

<b>February 21<sup>st</sup></b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays</b> <b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Games Group</b> Debbie Boyd <a href="mailto:travelstardebbie@yahoo.com">travelstardebbie@yahoo.com</a> 858-486-4390	Contact Debbie Boyd for more information.	<b>RSVP to:</b> Debbie Boyd <a href="mailto:traveldebbie@yahoo.com">traveldebbie@yahoo.com</a> 858-486-4390
<b>February 24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Thursday</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Thursday Book Club</b> Ann Morgan 858-484-5290 <a href="mailto:annmmorgansd@yahoo.com">annmmorgansd@yahoo.com</a> Marilyn Scheininger 858-232-0678 <a href="mailto:marilynrs@att.net">marilynrs@att.net</a>	<b>Anxious People by Fredrik Backman</b> <i>from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of A Man Called Ove and "writer of astonishing depth" (The Washington Times) comes a poignant comedy about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they ever imagined.</i> <b>Leader: Lyn Johnston</b>	<b>RSVP to:</b> Ann Morgan 858-484-5290 <a href="mailto:annmmorgansd@yahoo.com">annmmorgansd@yahoo.com</a> <b>To get the Zoom Link</b>
<b>February 28<sup>th</sup></b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Monday</b> <b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Mystery Mondays</b> Pamela Meyer 619-855-4071 <a href="mailto:Pamela.me4@gmail.com">Pamela.me4@gmail.com</a>	<b>Black Widows by Kate Quinn</b> <i>Blake's dead. They say his wife killed him. If so... which one? Polygamist Blake Nelson built a homestead on a hidden stretch of land—a raw paradise in the wilds of Utah—where he lived with his three wives: Rachel, the first wife, obedient and doting to a fault, with a past she'd prefer to keep quiet. Tina, the rebel wife, everything Rachel isn't, straight from rehab and the Vegas strip. And Emily, the young wife, naïve and scared, estranged from her Catholic family. The only thing that they had in common was Blake. Until all three are accused of his murder.</i> <b>Leader: Debby Dutilly</b>	<b>RSVP to:</b> Pamela Meyer 619-855-4071 <a href="mailto:Pamela.me4@gmail.com">Pamela.me4@gmail.com</a> <b>To get the Zoom link</b>



## **SPEECH TREK**

### **March 12, 2022**



California high school students are invited to compete in Speech Trek, a speech competition sponsored by the American Association of University Women of California. All contestants create 5-6 minute speeches on the following public policy topic:

**Has the US lived up to its pledge of *liberty and justice for all*? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure *liberty and justice for all*?**

**INTERESTED?** Contact AAUW Poway-Peñasquitos Branch at [aauwboard@gmail.com](mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com) for more information and to register for the event. Application deadline is February 12, 2022. The contest will be held virtually.

#### **LOCAL PRIZES**

First Place - \$1,000.00  
Second Place - \$500.00  
Third Place - \$250.00

Winner of the local contest participates in state semi-finals, and the top three state semi-finalists compete for more cash prizes.

Speeches from previous years can be viewed on YouTube by searching "Speech Trek."