

AAUW Poway Penasquitos Branch

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Don't miss these October events & announcements

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President's Message by Michelle Blasberg

Welcome to October. Let's hope for cooler weather as we enter Autumn. What a great celebration of our Branch and Women at the September Meeting. Celebrating the Tech Trek girls and the Scholarship recipients really shows how our Branch works towards the mission of AAUW.

Last month I mentioned there were two open positions, and I'm happy to report that both positions have been filled. Janice Heather has volunteered to be our Public Policy Chair and Cathy Burciaga has volunteered to be the Scholarship Committee Chair. Thank you both for your willingness to fill these positions. We are always looking for others to join committees, so if you would like to participate in any of the committees or special interest groups, please reach out to any of the Board members for information.

The Programs group is busy planning great programs for the rest of this year and into 2023. I'm sure we will continue to have important and interesting meetings and I look forward to seeing you at the meetings. October's meeting with guest speaker Jeanne Weidner might finally answer the question of what's the difference between Proposition 26 and Proposition 27 along with explaining the other five propositions on the November ballot.

October 12 General Meeting: Jeanne Weidner Discusses the November General Election by Jeanne Weidner, Harriet Gerza and Ellie Slade

AAUW Poway/Penasquitos Branch member Jeanne Weidner, representing the League of Women Voters of San Diego, will speak about the midterm elections and propositions. This is your opportunity to learn more about what's on the ballot during the November General Election. The League of Women Voters of San Diego (LWVSD) works with community organizations to better educate voters, and we are proud to share their well-researched positions and election information with the community at large. This service provides pros and cons on the ballot initiatives during this election season. Please see the flyer in the newsletter and invite friends or neighbors to join us.

The League of Women Voters was officially founded in Chicago in 1920, just six months before the 19th amendment was ratified and women won the vote. For over 100 years, it has been a nonpartisan, activist, grassroots organization that believes voters should play a critical role in democracy. The local San Diego League was established in 1936, and part of their mission has been to inform voters about issues they are facing, providing a nonpartisan perspective to allow for knowledgeable decision making. The organization never endorses, nor opposes, political parties or candidates, but may take a stand on certain issues, if they coincide with positions the League has adopted in keeping with their mission.

We are honored to have Jeanne Weidner speak on these vital ballot issues that will affect our communities and state. She has been a member of the League of Women Voters of San Diego since 2018, became chair of the Speakers Bureau in 2020, and was elected to the Board of Directors as Voter Empowerment Chair last year. In her professional career, Jeanne worked as a clinical microbiologist and was on the faculty at several universities



throughout the country, most recently at San Diego State University and CSU-San Marcos. She received her PhD in Science Education at UC Berkeley, and in her position in the biology department, she was responsible for teaching several courses, from general introductory biology to microbiology for the health sciences. She fully retired from academia in 2015 after the birth of her twin grandsons, Zachary and Chase.

Public Policy: When Women Vote, They Change the Conversation! by Janice Heather

AAUW California supports the passage of two Propositions, 1 and 28, on the November ballot in California.

Proposition 1. The decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn Roe v. Wade dealt a serious blow to the rights of women to make their own decisions about their bodies. This spurred many state legislatures to act to ban abortion, some with no exceptions for rape, incest, or endangering the life of the mother. Abortion bans in other states have already taken effect, yet polls in many states show a majority in support of protecting the rights of women to choose to have abortions.

Currently women are coming from other states to obtain abortions in California, and an Abortion Access website is being formed in our state to enable and assist out-of-state women with travel arrangements, housing, medical appointments, and other matters.

California Legislators, recognizing the remote possibility that at some future time, state legislation could ban abortions, took timely action in June to pass SCR 10. This put Proposition 1, the Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom, on the November ballot. Passage of Prop 1 will amend the California Constitution, stating "Section 1.1 is added to Article I thereof, to read: SEC. 1.1. The state shall not deny or interfere with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. This section is intended to further the constitutional right to privacy guaranteed by Section 1, and the constitutional right to not be denied equal protection guaranteed by Section 7. Nothing herein narrows or limits the right to privacy or equal protection."

AAUW CA has also begun a social media campaign to educate and encourage voters to support Prop 1 with weekly messages containing important facts. If you don't use social media, we urge you to mail the messages to others who do!

Proposition 28. In the context of AAUW CA's Public Policy Priorities in support of Education, AAUW CA supports Proposition 28, The Arts and Music in Schools – Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. Studies on educational achievement prove that arts and music education improve student learning. Music education has been shown to improve cognitive development and spatial reasoning while the dramatic arts improve reading comprehension. Arts and music education has also been shown to improve school attendance and individual self-confidence and motivation to learn, particularly among poor and other at-risk students. Yet these programs are usually the first cut when school budgets are reduced.

Prop 28 would provide a minimum source of annual funding coming from the state General Fund to K-12 public schools to supplement arts education programs. School districts would be held accountable to use the funds for hiring certificated employees and purchasing supplies and materials.

Read the full propositions on the Secretary of State website, www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures

Become informed, and Vote on November 8, 2022!!

PLEASE NOTE: There was an error in the AAUW California September Newsletter article. The article provided a link to National's Get Out the Vote Toolkit, however the link was to their old site. The site has been updated and the new and correct link is: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/>

Communications Update by Marie Dye

Our branch is now on Facebook! Thanks to Debbie Lewis and her daughter, who created our new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPowayPQ>.

Both our Facebook page and website <https://powayarea-ca.aauw.net/> help in spreading the word about AAUW and our branch to the community.

Our new Facebook page will not replace our internal branch communications. Newsletters, emails, and the members-only section of our website (this section is password protected; the password is adelante) will continue to be the primary sources of information to members.

Pictures of branch events will be posted on our Facebook page and website without the names of the people shown in the event pictures. If you don't want your picture taken and posted on any of the above, please don't pose for a picture at our events.

If you have a Facebook page, please like us and share with your friends and family!

Thanks to **Adrienne Peterson**, our newsletter editor, and **Louise McDevitt**, our webmaster, for doing a great job on the newsletter and website. Thank you, **Debbie Boyd**, for taking pictures of our events and to **Pam Ames, Janice Heather, Miriam Lauff, and Joan Thompson** for posting our branch events on Next Door.

Honorary Lifetime Member, Jan Rightmer by Harriet Gerza

Congratulations to our newest Honorary Lifetime Member, Jan Rightmer. Yep, she's been in AAUW 50 years! Here is a bit of her story.

50 years; how can that be! That's how long ago my relationship and love of AAUW began. It was in the early days of married life with two toddlers and a move to Poway. My neighbor, who was a local schoolteacher, asked me if I would like to get out one night a month and meet other like-minded women. There was a new group starting up called "American Association of University Women." I jumped at the chance to visit with adults, perhaps have a glass of wine, and get out of the house.

I learned so much about AAUW that first year. The values of supporting women in their educational pursuits, learning about public policy and equity, and being active in our communities, aligned with my values and gave me a venue to grow.

One of our first fundraising events to support scholarships was to sponsor a tennis tournament. That was a lot of work and, in committee meetings, we formed deeper relationships with each other, many of which have carried onto this day. The ongoing book groups have been my special love/obsession. We discuss, relate experiences, support each other, and look forward to our next book. One of the early book groups discussed the "The Grey Itch". We were definitely into the women's revolution of self-awareness and self-actualization!

Those toddlers that were driving me out of the house one night a month became young women, college grads, married, and now we have six beautiful grandchildren. You can be sure they all know about AAUW.

My career as an educator was a place for me to encourage hundreds of women and men to value and pursue education and become contributing community members. Throughout the years AAUW has always promoted those values. I am so proud to have been a member all these years.



**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)

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

President: Michelle Blasberg

Programs/1st Vice

Presidents: Karen McGurk, Joie Nolasco, Ellie Slade

Membership/2nd Vice

Presidents: Harriet Gerza, Linda Johnston

Secretary: Joan Natoli

Treasurer: Sheila Walker

Speech Trek Returns February 4, 2023 by Karen McGurk

Local 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 a 5-6 minute speeches on the following public policy topic:

How can communities, organizations and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?

Look for additional information in upcoming editions of the Adelante. Questions? Contact Karen McGurk at aauwboard@gmail.com, and please add Speech Trek to the Subject Line.

Gov Trek by Janice Heather

AAUW members across the state continue to work on our organization's newest Trek Program, GovTrek, an innovative program that will teach high school juniors and seniors how government really works and encourage them to run for office.

The GovTrek team and AAUW California plan to introduce this program statewide next year, first as a virtual statewide program, then eventually offering the template to interested branches to run locally.

Planning for speakers, topics and workshop exercises is underway. But we can always use help. If you know women in office we could contact as resources or speakers or you'd like to help shape this exciting new program, contact Marie Dye (mdye@san.rr.com) or Janice Heather (janiceheather@hotmail.com).

Gardens and More at Torrey Pines State Beach by Joan Natoli,

Coordinator

Join us for a beautiful morning walk at Torrey Pines State Beach. We will walk on the beach in front of the cliffs to the south, and if possible, in a northerly direction, as well. Lunch will be casual TBD. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Bernardo Center parking lot in front of the American Cancer Society Shop to carpool. (If you like.) RSVP to Joan at itolanj@sbcglobal.net or 559-303-2382.

Grape Expectations by Janice Heather

On Friday, October 21, our intrepid Grape Expectations group will visit Espinosa Winery on Bandy Canyon Road in nearby San Pasqual Valley.

<https://www.espinosavineyards.com/>

We'll be there from 3-5 p.m. If you'd like to join us, and especially if you'd like to carpool, please rsvp to Janice Heather at janiceheather@hotmail.com by October 18.

We've visited a number of local wineries since we started this interest group in January 2022, and we have more planned for the fall and new year. So, please join us. These are also great events for bringing friends along with you!

Please Note: The SEPTEMBER Grape Expectations gathering is Friday, September 30. We're visiting the Monserate Winery <https://monseratewinery.com/> in Fallbrook from 3-5 p.m. To carpool, meet at the old RB Souplantation at 2 p.m. and rsvp to janiceheather@hotmail.com.

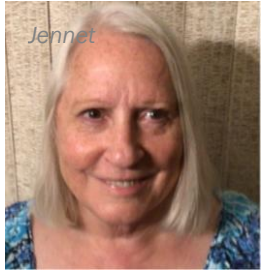
Travel Group by Pam Ames

We'll be celebrating Greece this month with lunch at Cafe Athena in Pacific Beach. This is a good opportunity to share your travel tips, plans, and experiences. Our lunch date is Friday, October 21 at 11:30 a.m. Cafe Athena is located at 1846 Garnet Ave, San Diego, CA 92109. <https://www.cafeathena.com/> Carpool will meet at 11 a.m. at the Scripps Poway Pkwy Park & Ride (next to Yanni's).

Meet Our New Members! by Harriet Gerza



Karen Gibbs. Longtime resident of Poway. Former owner and finance officer of a video company that did corporate productions. Also worked as a computer programmer and educator. She has three children: a daughter and two sons. Interested in joining our reading groups.



Jennet Liljenquist. Jennet actually joined us in April and has been to several events so you might have met her already. Here is some information about her. Grew up in Tacoma, WA. Took ballet and jazz lessons starting in junior high through college and danced with a local company. Graduated from University of Washington in 1975 with a BA in psychology. Joined VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and worked as a paralegal. Attended UCLA and received a MA in Dance with a specialization in Dance Therapy. Worked as a Child Development Specialist at UCLA Hospital and as a Recreational Therapist at Seattle Children's Hospital for a total of 10 years. Then went back to school for a teaching certificate in 1990 and was an elementary school teacher for 29 years until retirement in 2020. Moved to San Diego in summer 2021.



Patricia Chenet. Lived in San Diego before coming back recently. She was a speech pathologist. She enjoys gardening, computer projects, and photo editing, and loves sports, golf, tennis and learning pickleball. She also loves to read. She spends part of her time in Colorado where her 100-yr old mom lives. She is a recent divorcee with 2 daughters (one lives in Del Mar) and one son. She is a proud grandma of 3!

Membership Counts! by Harriet Gerza

Linda Johnston and I are kicking off a new member drive to add more active women into our branch! Watch for details to enlist our membership in our campaign to increase, diversify, and expand our reach into the community! In the meantime, here are the mission statements for National, State and our Branch so you can remember to tell your friends, acquaintances and those interested in joining us.

AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. www.AAUW.org

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education, and resources. www.aauw-ca.org

The Poway-Penasquitos branch of AAUW acts to promote equity and educate members and the community about significant issues affecting women and girls. <https://powayarea-ca.aauw.net/>

Tech Trek 2022 by Heidi Dalvie, Ellen Dillon, Debbie Lewis, Co-Coordinators

We invited all seven of this year's Tech Trek girls (and a parent) to come to our September 10 branch meeting, and three girls were able to attend.

The girls had not met each other, since this year's camp was online only, so they came early to meet each other and for a group photo. The girls were the main speakers at the event and each girl gave a short presentation to our club about their camp experience and demonstrated their final "Wearable Tech" project.

This year we also invited Madeline Campbell to our September 10 meeting. She previously attended Tech Trek camp and is currently a young Mechanical Engineer working at Element Biosciences. Maddie told us briefly about how influential the Tech Trek camp was to her and explained her responsibilities now working in a STEM-related profession. Maddie was extremely well-spoken and most certainly an inspiration to the girls.

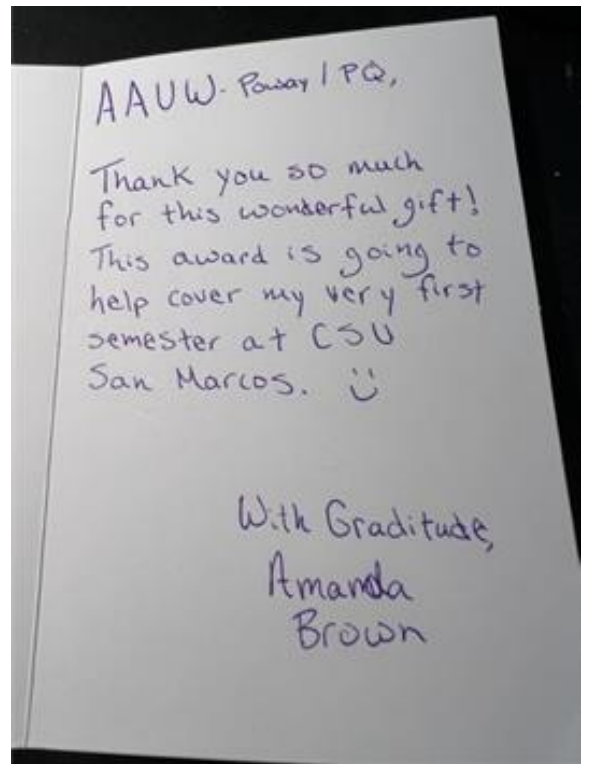


While at camp, the Tech Trek girls each prepared a short video presentation of their “Wearable Tech” project. These videos are now posted on our branch website, so if you were unable to attend the September 10 meeting, you can watch the videos virtually.

After the Tech Trek girls gave their presentations, they all stayed for the distribution of this year's Scholarship awards. We're sure it was helpful to them to hear the compelling stories of the scholarship women.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



AAUW FUND HONOREES



AAUW fund honorees Janice and Sheila with Pam and Cathy



Michelle introducing Adrienne as AAUW Fund Honoree

AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2022

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
Sep 30	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather , janiceheather@hotmail.com	Monserate Winery, Gird Road in Fallbrook https://monseratewinery.com/ at 3-5 p.m. Meet to carpool at 2 p.m. RSVP to Janice for details.	Meets monthly at a local winery or maybe even a brewery!
Oct 6	Great Decisions	Industrial Policy	Sally Jacobson, sjacobs4@san.rr.com	6:30 p.m. Meet at the home of Ann Morgan, 9185 Oviedo Street. RSVP to Ann at annmorgansd@yahoo.com or 858-484-5290 if you plan to attend. Zoom option also available.	Meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. except no meeting in January, August, or December.
Oct 7	Gardens and More	N/A	Joan Natoli, itolani@sbcglobal.net	Join us for a beautiful morning walk at Torrey Pines State Beach. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Bernardo Center parking lot in front of the American Cancer Society Shop to carpool. (If you like.) We will walk on the beach in front of the cliffs, and if possible, in a northerly direction, as well. Lunch will be casual TBD. RSVP to Joan at itolani@sbcglobal.net or 559-303-2382.	Put on your calendar Friday, November 4 th for Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes. The 63-minute video features the first American woman garden architect/designer. Vintage footage and current film of her amazing gardens, many in public spaces both in New York and California. At Joan Natoli's home. 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Yummies provided.)
Oct 11	Page Turners	"Norwegian by Night" by Derek Miller	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	1:30 p.m. Host is Pam Coon. RSVP to Pam at prcoon1@sbcglobal.net	Meets monthly the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, email Pam Ames.
Oct 12	General Meeting	League of Women Voters discussing the November ballot propositions	Ellie Slade, Joie Nolasco and Karen McGurk	6:30 p.m. social time; 7:00-8:30 p.m. program. Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com .	Branch general meetings are usually the second Wednesday of the month in the evening with a few Saturday programs. Open to the public so invite your friends and family, all are welcome!
Oct 15	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, mary.rudelich@aol.com	8:30 a.m. Blue Sky and part way to Lake Poway (and back). Meet at Blue Sky Ecological Reserve 16275 Espola Road. Easy to moderate hike. RSVP to Mary Alice.	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels.

Oct 17	Games Group	N/A	Debbie Boyd, travelstardebbie@yahoo.com	Meeting Location and Time TBD, contact Debbie for details.	Play board games once a month at a member's home.
Oct 21	Travel Group	N/A	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	11:00 a.m. meet at Yanni's Park and Ride off Scripps Poway Parkway to carpool to lunch at Cafe Athena located in Pacific Beach. Lunch at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Pam Ames.	Meets monthly at various local restaurants.
Oct 21	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, janiceheather@hotmail.com	Espinosa Winery on Bandy Canyon Road in nearby San Pasqual Valley from 3-5 p.m. https://www.espinosavineyards.com/ RSVP to Janice and let her know if would like to carpool.	We've visited a number of local wineries since we started this interest group in January of 2022 and we have more planned for the fall and new year. So please join us. These are also great events to bring friends to.
Oct 24	Mystery Book Group	"Peace Seekers" by Judith Hand	Pam Meyer, Pamela.me4@gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Georgia Chagala. RSVP to Georgia at gchagala@cox.net .	Meets fourth Monday of every month. Want to join the discussion? Email Pam Meyer.
Oct 27	Evening Book Group	"This Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger	Ann Morgan, annmmorgansd@yahoo.com ; Marilyn Scheininger, marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com	7:00 p.m. meet at the home of Sally Jacobson, 13433 Appalachian Way. RSVP to Sally at sjacobs4@san.rr.com .	Group meets the fourth Thursday of every month. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn.

OCTOBER MEETING



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

6:30 p.m. Social Time

7-8:30 p.m. Program

October's program will feature Jeanne Weidner, PhD, from the League of Women Voters - San Diego, who will discuss the California mid-term ballot elections and propositions.

Jeanne is an AAUW Poway/Penasquitos Branch member and represents LWV-San Diego on the Board of Directors as Voter Empowerment Chair.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com
This is an open meeting, please invite friends and family to join us.

Rancho Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club

16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive

