

# Adelante



AAUW Poway Penasquitos Branch

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

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- December 14: Annual Holiday Party

## President's Message by Michelle Blasberg

Welcome to December. Wow, the last month of the year is here.

**Membership** – Please continue to bring friends, neighbors and family to our branch meetings. So far, this year we have already had four new members join our branch. Let's all reach out and welcome these new members.

**Fall Campaign** – Please remember to send in your reply to the Fall Campaign letter. The branch has always been very generous and I'm sure this year will be no different. Your donations can go to:

- Tech Trek: Supports sending 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls to STEM camp.
- AAUW Funds: National program to support grants, research, legal and leadership development programs.
- Branch Fundraising: Supports Branch Re-entry scholarships and Speech Trek prizes for High School participants.

**Holiday Party** - The programs committee is planning a wonderful get together to celebrate the end of the year. Please plan to attend. Looking forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party.

**IBC Luncheon** – Mark your calendar for the annual IBC All-Branch Luncheon, Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at The Old Spaghetti Factory in San Marcos. The speaker will be Guadalupe Corona, Director of the Office of Student Equity Programs & Services at Southwestern

Community College District

**Cover to Cover 2023** - It's true we are actively planning Cover to Cover 2023. We are still looking for committee volunteers so let Pam Meyer or me know if you'd like to help with the planning or help on the day of the event. If you have leads on local authors let us know. More details to come but mark your calendars.

Save the Date for Cover to Cover 2023  
SUNDAY, May 21, 2023  
Maderas Country Club

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

## Holiday Party December 14 by Joie Nolasco

Get to know other members better and possibly obtain some new recipes during our festive holiday potluck gathering! We'll be meeting at Rancho Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share according to the letter of your last name:

A-C	Appetizers
D-K	Salads
L-R	Desserts
S-Z	Wine

We'll have activities and entertainment, which is optional for you, however they will certainly get you in the spirit of giving and receiving.

**Silent Auction:** Michelle Blasberg has donated a 36 x 36 Holiday Table Topper, and the money raised will go to scholarship fund.

**Door Prize:** You must attend the party to win this special prize.



**White Elephant Gift Exchange:** To paraphrase the idiom, one woman's trash is another woman's treasure! At the holiday party this year, our program committee will sponsor a white elephant gift exchange at the party. If you would like to participate, bring a (wrapped) gently used object or a new purchase of no more than \$20 to exchange. DO NOT put your name on your gift. Be prepared for a night of laughs as we swap and steal and enjoy great company and refreshments. Any questions, please contact Joie Nolasco at (858) 829-8936. Rancho Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club is located at 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr, San Diego, CA 92128.

### **Lobby Days are Here Again** by Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee Member

Save the Dates .... March 21<sup>st</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> are the AAUW CA scheduled Lobby Days, so mark your calendars and be sure to sign up to participate when our Lobby Day registration arrives in your January mailbox.

Advocating for our top 3 priority bills is fundamental to achieving our legislative priorities by addressing economic security for all women, providing equal access to public education, and insuring social and racial justice for all members of society. We need all members on board and will be counting on you to reach out to our elected officials in the CA legislature.

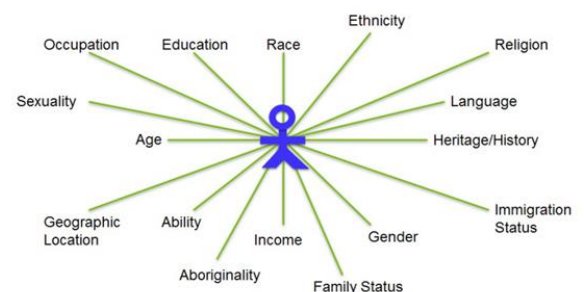
Our Public Policy Committee will make it easy for you to do so. This year instead of a full week, Lobby Day will consist of two days and will occur while the legislature is in session, not on break. Hopefully, this will provide more opportunity to actually speak with a member in lieu of a staffer. Our plans are to make it hybrid – virtual and in-person. Those branches in and around Sacramento would have the option of in-person meetings at the Capitol with the remaining branches meeting virtually or in-person with staffers in the district. So, a bit more flexibility this year as the committee feels it's beneficial to establish relationships with our elected leaders' local staff.

Our AAUW legislative Advocate will be scheduling meetings with the member offices willing to participate, and once you return your Lobby Day survey, the committee will begin to assemble branch participants and match them with Assembly and Senate districts in order to assign teams. We will provide you with material on the bills we are supporting and have scheduled a mandatory training webinar for March 20<sup>th</sup>, so you'll have the information at your fingertips. If you have participated in Lobby Day in the past, we would love to hear from you on what worked and what didn't, please send your comments to [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

Lobby Day is our chance to make a concerted impact on the priorities and values we, as AAUW members, hold dear. It brings out the "advocates" in all us for improving the economic and educational lives of women and girls. And goodness knows, we need that commitment now more than ever. So, mark those calendars and join us on Lobby Day/s.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)** by Harriet Gerza **Diversity means variety and is all about what makes us unique.**

What are some of the dimension of diversity? They can be anything that has been historically used to differentiate groups, such as ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs, or socio-economic status. Some of these dimensions are more visible than others, and some are more salient in the United States than in other parts of the world, given our history of discrimination and exclusion. Dimensions of diversity can be broken down into two categories – **primary dimensions**, which can't be changed, and **secondary dimensions**, which we have some control over.



The AAUW.org website explores in more detail the Dimensions of Diversity and Identity. For more in-depth information visit: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/dimensions-of-diversity/> I'll be excerpting some articles for your consideration and discussion in each newsletter.

### **Happy Healthy Hikers Celebrate the Holidays with Annual Coronado Walk** by Mary Alice Rudelich

The Happy, Healthy Hikers group will make their annual visit to Coronado on Friday, December 2. We will walk across the island from the Coronado ferry landing to the Hotel Del Coronado, where we will see the holiday decorations and the beach. We will then walk back to Peohe's restaurant for lunch.

Please RSVP to [mary.rudulich@aol.com](mailto:mary.rudulich@aol.com) to be included in the carpool and lunch reservations. We plan to meet at 8 a.m. at Yanni's to form carpools, then meet at the Coronado Landing at 9 a.m.

We hope to see you all there on December 2.

Buone Feste,  
Mary Alice and Jo

### **Membership Counts!** by Harriet Gerza and Linda Johnston

Great news, thanks to our membership recruiters (that's you!) we have added four new members already this year! Thank you for inviting your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers to our meetings and interest groups. That means we are almost half-way to our goal of adding 10 new members so keep up the good work and keep on talking about AAUW to everyone!



Remember our elevator speech: **"Our mission is to advance equity of women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."**

I've assigned "buddies" to each new member during their first year to help acclimate them so help them out and roll out the welcome wagon when you see them. Make it a point to introduce yourselves and get to know our new members to welcome them into our branch.

### **New Members** by Harriet Gerza



LaVonne Misner is a returning member. She earned her MA and MS from the University of Minnesota where she taught nutrition for fifteen years. During her sabbatical she sailed from Lake Superior, through the Great Lakes, up the Saint Lawrence Seaway down the East Coast and to the Caribbean with her husband on their own sailboat. She enjoyed the adventure so much that she resigned her teaching position and continued sailing through the Panama Canal and across the South Pacific for a total of six plus years. After which, she wrote about the adventure in "No More Mondays-a nautical odyssey," available at our San Diego Public Library (<https://sandiego.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S161C1024451>) as well as on Amazon. After moving to San Diego, she worked in a tax office for a few years, but resigned to write her next book called, "Miss Birdie," a novel set during the second wave of feminism. She hopes it will be out sometime this winter.

She lives with her husband of 47 years and their two standard poodles. She has six children, seven grandchildren, four great grandchildren who are scattered all over the US.



Karen Mikolic heard about AAUW through her mother, Pat Mikolic, who is a member in San Jose, CA, and was the first generation to graduate from college. I am the second generation to complete my degree but the first to complete my PhD. I worked as a high school English teacher prior to becoming a psychologist. I have just moved back to the west coast after living in Massachusetts where I completed my Internship; Washington DC where I lived while completing my 2 year postdoctoral fellowship; spent 10 years living in Florida; stopped in at Boulder, CO for some great hiking during the first 18 months of COVID-19, before arriving to San Diego. I am married with a 9-year-old son. My family and I feel lucky to have settled in beautiful San Diego!

**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.com](mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com)

[m](http://m)

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 Prepares for February 4, 2023** by Karen McGurk

The Speech Trek Committee met in November in preparation for our upcoming competition. Many thanks to the committee members: Miriam Lauff, Jeanni Harrison, Rene Harrison, Cathy Burciaga, Honorine Nocon, Michelle Blasberg, and Marie Dye for their suggestions and advice. We have decided to limit the program to 10 participants. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for updated information. Please continue to help us spread the word! Questions? Contact Karen McGurk at [aauwboard@gmail.com](mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com), and please add Speech Trek to the Subject Line.

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season and a happy, healthy 2023!

**Gardens and More** by Joan Natoli, Coordinator

On Friday, December 2, we will tour Lightscapes at San Diego Botanical Gardens, which is an amazing walkthrough light display with music. Drive on your own or come with the group and leave the driving to us! Buy your own tickets online for the 6:30 p.m. time. If you can't join us, get tickets for another night! <https://sdbg.org/LIGHTSCAPE/> Contact Joan with any questions at [itolanj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:itolanj@sbcglobal.net) or 559-303-2382

Tickets / Reservations | Become A Member | Donate

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

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There is no time limit. Lightscapes closes at 10 pm.

Each day, the Garden will close at 4 pm for daytime guests and re-open for Lightscapes guests at 5 pm.

### Tickets

**Member**  
General: \$26 / \$24  
Children (3-12): \$15 / \$13

**Non-Member**  
General: \$29 / \$27  
Children (3-12): \$18 / \$16

**Military (active, combat-disabled) & family with ID**  
General: \$26 / \$24  
Children (3-12): \$15 / \$13

One discount applied only. No refunds. Exchanges accepted through November 1, 2022, for \$10 per transaction. Ages 2 and under free.

**PURCHASE**

**Grape Expectations Plans November & December Outings** by Janice Heather

Our branch's wine lovers and wine tasters will head to Ramona on Friday, November 18 to visit Grant James Winery. Ramona is one of our country's fastest-growing wine regions and Travel & Leisure has rated Grant James the #2 winery to visit in the US. <https://www.vineyardgrantjames.com/>

To join us, please rsvp to [janiceheather@hotmail.com](mailto:janiceheather@hotmail.com). We plan to gather in the Poway Brigantine parking lot at 2 p.m., arrive at the winery by 3 p.m., and leave by 5 p.m.

Also, mark your calendars for our December wine tasting outing on Friday afternoon, December 16 at Bernardo Winery. The winery grounds will be decorated for the holidays so it will be a festive and merry gathering.

Grape Expectations outings are a great opportunity to bring friends to learn more about our branch, too, so join us and bring a friend.

## Travel Group by Pam Ames

Take a break between Christmas and New Year holidays and have lunch at Bud's Louisiana Cafe (4320 Viewridge Ave, 92123) on Wednesday, December 28. We'll carpool from Scripps Poway Pkwy/Yanni's at 11 a.m. and plan for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Bud's Louisiana Cafe menu includes red beans and rice, Cajun, and Creole dishes. Their menu is posted on their website [www.budscafe.com](http://www.budscafe.com). All are welcome. Contact Pam Ames at [pamames123@gmail.com](mailto:pamames123@gmail.com) for more information.



# AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December 2022

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
Dec 2	Gardens and More		Joan Natoli, <a href="mailto:itolanj@sbcglobal.net">itolanj@sbcglobal.net</a>	Friday Dec 2, we will tour Lightscapes at San Diego Botanical Gardens. This is an amazing walkthrough light display with music. Drive on your own, or come by yourself, and leave the driving to us! Buy your own tickets online for the 6:30 time. If you can't join us, get tickets for another night! Joan Natoli, <a href="mailto:itolanj@sbcglobal.net">itolanj@sbcglobal.net</a> , 559-303-2382	Meets monthly at various locations
Dec 2	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, <a href="mailto:mary.rudelich@aol.com">mary.rudelich@aol.com</a>	The Happy, Healthy Hikers group will make their annual visit to Coronado on Saturday, December 3rd. We will walk across the island from the Coronado ferry landing to the Hotel Del Coronado, where we will see the holiday decorations and the beach. We will then walk back to Peohe's restaurant for lunch. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:mary.rudelich@aol.com">mary.rudelich@aol.com</a> to be included in the carpool and lunch reservations. We plan to meet <u>at 8:00 a.m.</u> at Yanni's to form carpools, then meet at the Coronado Landing <u>at 9:00 a.m.</u> .	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels.
Dec 13	Page Turners	"Story of A Goat" by Perumal Murufan	Pam Ames, <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>	1:30 p.m. meeting. Host is Georgia Chagala. RSVP to Pam Ames.	Meets monthly the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, email Pam Ames.
Dec 14	Holiday Party	N/A	Karen McGurk, <a href="mailto:kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net">kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net</a> Ellie Slade, <a href="mailto:elliehsv10.4.1582@gmail.com">elliehsv10.4.1582@gmail.com</a> Joie Nolasco, <a href="mailto:joienolasco@gmail.com">joienolasco@gmail.com</a>	Come celebrate the holidays at the RB Swim and Tennis Club from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. This will be a potluck. Members whose last names begins with the following: A-C      Appetizers D-K      Salads L-R      Desserts S-Z      Wine	There will also be a white elephant gift exchange. Feel free to bring a (wrapped) gently used object or a new purchase of no more than \$20 to exchange. DO NOT put your name on your gift. Be prepared for a night of laughs as we swap and steal and enjoy great company and refreshments.
Dec 15	Evening Book Group	N/A	Ann Morgan, <a href="mailto:annmorgansd@yahoo.com">annmorgansd@yahoo.com</a> ; Marilyn Scheininger, <a href="mailto:marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com">marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com</a>	TBD	Group meets the fourth Thursday every month. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn

Dec 16	<b>Grape Expectations</b>	N/A	Janice Heather, <a href="mailto:janiceheather@hotmail.com">janiceheather@hotmail.com</a>	3-5 p.m. at Bernardo Winery, 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte, Rancho Bernardo <a href="https://www.bernardowinery.com/">https://www.bernardowinery.com/</a> RSVP to Janice	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 new year. So please join us. These are also great events to bring friends to.
Dec 28	<b>Travel Group</b>	N/A	Pam Ames, <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>	11:30 a.m. lunch at Bud's Louisiana Cafe, 4320 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego. Carpool meets at 11:00 a.m. at the Scripps Poway Park and Ride next to Yannis. RSVP to Pam Ames	Meets monthly at various local restaurants.
No meeting in Dec	<b>Great Decisions</b>		Joan Natoli, <a href="mailto:itolanj@sbcglobal.net">itolanj@sbcglobal.net</a>		Meets the first Thursday of every month except December, January and August.
No meeting in Dec	<b>Mystery Book Group</b>	No Meeting in Dec	Pam Meyer, Pamela.me4@ <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">gmail.com</a>		Meets fourth Monday of every month. Want to join the discussion? Email Pam Meyer
No meeting in Dec	<b>Games Group</b>	N/A	Debbie Boyd, <a href="mailto:travelstardebbie@yahoo.com">travelstardebbie@yahoo.com</a>		Play board games once a month at a member's home.

# SPEECH TREK COMPETITION

## February 4, 2023

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:



AAUW California  
Speech Trek

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

**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 January 21, 2023.\* The contest will be held in-person at Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library.

### **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.

The top three state semi-finalists compete for more cash prizes.

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

\*Please note: The competition will be limited to the first 10 applicants.