

AAUW Poway Penasquitos Branch

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President's Message by Michelle Blasberg

Welcome to **Black History Month**

Did you know? The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing "Negro History Week." By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society, from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks, to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

Black History Month 2023 Theme Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. The Black History Month 2023 theme, "Black Resistance," explores how "African Americans have resisted historic and

ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings," since the nation's earliest days. (Excerpted from: Black History Month 2023: Facts, Origins & More

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>)

Here are the important happenings for our Branch this month:

- Fall Campaign: To those of you who have already sent in your Fall Campaign donations, thank you. For those of you who have not yet sent in your donation, it's not too late. If you need the form, please let me or Sheila Walker know and we can get a copy to you.
- Speech Trek: The competition is set to be in person on February 4. If you'd like to help, or just to attend, please reach out to Karen McGurk.
- Cover to Cover 2023:
 - Mark your calendar for Sunday May 21 at Maderas Country Club.
 - Things are moving forward for this year's event. Contact me if you'd like to help.
 - The committee met in January and have decided on the theme of "Reach for the Stars."
 - We are still actively collecting gift cards and bottles of wine to sell at Cover to Cover. If you have points from your credit card rewards program, it's a great way to order gift cards to donate for the branch to sell at Cover to Cover.

February General Meeting by Joie Nolasco

Please welcome Precious Jackson-Hubbard, principal of Bell Middle School in Paradise Hills, to our meeting on February 8. She is the 2022 recipient of the Geri Warren Humanitarian Award, as well as being selected in 2021 as ASCA Region 18 Administrator of the Year.

Hubbard is a San Diego native, born and raised in the Southeastern community. She is a graduate of Lincoln High School, Howard and San Diego State Universities, and a firm believer in the proverb that “it takes a village to raise a child.”

She is a lifelong learner and a believer in an equitable education and she is truly motivated by giving back to her community. When asked why she works so hard, she responds with a quote from Frederick Douglass, “It’s easier to build strong children than repair broken men.”

The meeting will be held at Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive. Social time is 6:30-7 p.m., followed by the program. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com.



“What I experienced as a child, no child should ever have to experience – but they do,” Jackson-Hubbard said. “I got through it because of the support of other people. Now I want to be a part of that change for them.” Photo and quote from SDSU Newscenter https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/sdsu_newscenter/news_story.aspx?sid=78348

AAUW California Celebrates Black Women in History for Black History Month, February 2023 by Nancy Major, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Many Black women have made significant contributions to history, thought, society, innovation, science, government, civil rights, women’s rights, and much more. For Black History month we celebrate the achievements of but a few:

- Sojourner Truth, a former slave, became an outspoken advocate for abolition, temperance, and civil and women’s rights (1797-1883).
- Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin (age 15) helped initiate the Civil Rights movement by refusing to give up their seats to white men on Montgomery, Alabama buses. Their actions inspired resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that bus segregation was unconstitutional.
- Dorothy Jean Dandridge was an actress, singer and dancer, and the first African American film star to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in Carmen Jones (1954).
- Katherine Johnson, a brilliant mathematician, was one of three Black students to integrate West Virginia’s graduate schools. Her greatest contribution was to space exploration through her calculations synching Apollo’s Lunar Module with the lunar-orbiting Module. She also worked on the Space Shuttle. (1958-1986)
- Madam C.J. Walker was considered the wealthiest African-American businesswoman in America (1911-1919), by developing and marketing a line of cosmetics and hair care products for Black women. She hired 40,000 “ambassadors” to sell her products.
- Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1968. She served as a representative from New York for 14 years, was the first Black candidate to run for president in the 1972 race and founded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971 and the Congressional Women’s Caucus in 1977.
- Mae Jemison became the first Black woman to fly to space on the space shuttle Endeavour. She was also the first Black woman admitted to the astronaut training program, in 1987.
- Toni Morrison released her novel Beloved in 1987, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, based on the true story of an African American enslaved woman. In 1993, Morrison became the first Black woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Oprah Winfrey, born into poverty in rural Mississippi to a single teenage mother, molested as a child and pregnant at 14, became the most influential woman in the world by many accounts. An American talk show host, television producer, actress, author, and philanthropist, she was the richest African-American of the 20th century and was once the world’s only black billionaire.

Cover to Cover: Wine Bottles and Gift Cards Needed by Pamela Meyer

Would you like to buy a nice bottle of wine or purchase a gift card for 80% of the value to give away as a gift to someone else? At this year's Cover to Cover you will be able to do just that! However, we need help from our members. We need you to donate bottles of wine and gift cards, so we have a good supply on hand to sell at the C2C event in May. I will be collecting gift cards worth \$25 or more and bottles of wine, red or white, valued at \$20 or more, at each of our general meetings in February, March, April, and May.

You can use bank points or credit card points to get gift cards for free – I did! It was so much fun to pick them out and not have to pay for them since they were free to me! You can buy wine at “BEVMO” when they have a “buy one bottle, get the next one for 5 cents” sale. Or you could go to “TOTAL WINE and MORE” to purchase a nice bottle of wine for a price lower than its actual value.

We sell the gift cards for 80% of their value and we sell the wine “hidden” inside a wine bag for \$20 each. These will be the only extra fundraisers at Cover to Cover. We will be taking cash or checks. No credit cards. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the general meeting and finally at Cover to Cover. It is going to be great fun!

P.S. If you cannot get to a meeting, I can come to your house to pick up the wine or gift cards. Just give me a call at 619-855-4071.



Lobby Days March 21st and March 22nd by Janice Heather

Sign up to participate by January 18! Get involved! Make your voice heard by lobbying local elected officials about the issues AAUW members care about. Lobbying can be done over zoom or in person at officials' district offices. A mandatory training session will be held on March 20 where participants will be briefed on the priority issues AAUW is working & lobbying on. For questions, contact janiceheather@hotmail.com.

From AAUW California Public Policy Committee

AAUW California will hold our 2023 Lobby Days on March 21 and March 22. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your legislators, inform them about AAUW and what your branch is doing for their constituents, and advocate for their support of our priority bills.

We have scheduled Lobby Days to take place while the Legislature is in session. There are three possible meeting scenarios, and we will do our best to match AAUW teams with their districts and their preferences:

- 1) In-person meeting at the Capitol (ideal for branches in and around Sacramento)
- 2) In-person meeting with staffers in the district office
- 3) Virtual meeting

Please complete the signup form by January 18 so that we can learn your preferences and make plans for a successful, impactful AAUW California Lobby Days. Your voices are needed to bring about the changes AAUW is committed to. You MUST complete the signup form in order to participate. Click [HERE](#) to sign up for Lobby Days.

A mandatory webinar training session will be held via Zoom on March 20 at 7-9 p.m. Participants will receive training materials prior to the webinar. You MUST attend the webinar in order to participate. Click [HERE](#) to register for the training webinar.

Thank you for helping share AAUW's voice on the issues you care about.

Membership by Michelle Blasberg

Branch Dues Increase and Renewal

A reminder to the membership that we will be raising the branch dues by \$10.00 for 2023-2024 year, beginning July 1, 2023. Due to a decrease in members and ever increasing costs for meeting locations and insurance, our branch has been operating at a deficit for the last 2 years and we feel this is required to ensure the success of our branch. The branch has not raised branch dues in over 20 years, and unfortunately, we feel that we can no longer continue to operate at a deficit. What this will mean is that the combined dues for AAUW membership at renewal time will be \$114.00 with the dues are split as follows: \$67.00 National, \$20.00 state, and \$27.00 branch.

The renewal time, for most of our members, begins in mid-April through June. In the past AAUW members all renewed at the same time, however last year AAUW National changed the renewal dates for new members to be on a member's anniversary of joining AAUW, so our new members who joined this year and future new members will renew 12 months after their original joining date. More information will be provided in the coming months on the renewal process.

Tech Trek by Heidi Dalvie, Ellen Dillon, Debbie Lewis,
Poway-Penasquitos Branch Tech Trek Co-Coordinators

We are looking forward to **Tech Trek Camp** being *in person* at UCSD in 2023. There will be two different camp sessions, one in person and one virtual, with each camper applicant choosing her camp preference.

Our branch president, Michelle Blasberg, has completed and submitted the MOU requesting eight camper slots for this year. We have reached out to our school liaisons with this information and they are eager to work with us again to support Tech Trek. The application process will begin this month and we will soon begin to recruit, interview, and select girls from Meadowbrook, Black Mountain, and Mesa Verde Middle Schools.



We are very excited to share that our first official **Tech Trek Alumni Group** (TTAG) meeting was well attended. Making the decision to start with a small group, we invited former virtual campers from grades 8-10 along with their parents. After introductions, the girls, working with an unknown partner, were asked to create "something that moves" from a bucket of Legos. Following 15 minutes of chatter and lots of laughter, the girls presented their creations. While the girls were creating, we met with their parents who were very appreciative of our efforts to continue to provide STEM opportunities for their daughters.

TTAG branches are collaborating and sharing invitations to events in the San Diego area. Alumni were invited to a Society of Women Engineers event at SDSU including touring the engineering labs and attending a panel discussion with women engineers. Our TTAG members were also invited to join San Diego Air and Space Museum for a live coverage viewing event of Artemis heading back to Earth and splashing down off the coast of San Diego.

Our goal for TTAG is to meet with our former campers twice a year, possibly fall and winter. If you have any contact with women in STEM careers that would be willing either to speak with our girls or provide a tour of a facility, please email us at powaypqtechtrek@gmail.com

FYI, TTAG will soon be known as Tech Trek Alumni Community (TTAC).



**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-](http://www.powayarea-ca.aauw.net)

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

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

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

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 Takes Place on February 4 by Karen McGurk

The Speech Trek competition will be held on Saturday, February 4 at 10 a.m. at Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library. This year's topic is: *How can communities, organizations, and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?* It is sure to be an exciting competition. Please join us and listen to the well-articulated thoughts and ideas of our local high school students. This is an open meeting and friends and family members are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Karen McGurk at aauwboard@gmail.com, and please add Speech Trek to the Subject Line.

Happy Healthy Hikers to visit Annie's Canyon by Mary Alice Rudelich

Healthy Happy Hikers will be hiking Annie's Canyon in Solana Beach on Friday, February 17 at 9 a.m. This is an easy hike with two options; one is a slot canyon and the other is a climb to the view outlook. There is a short walk to a coffee shop, if the group would like to take advantage of it following the hike. More information will be coming about carpool options. Please join us for this fun outing. RSVP to mary.rudelich@aol.com.

Travel Group by Pam Ames

We'll be celebrating Greece this month with lunch at Cafe Athena in Pacific Beach, as our visit to this restaurant was postponed last fall. This is a good opportunity to share your travel tips, plans, and experiences. Our lunch date is Saturday, February 25 at 11:30 a.m. Cafe Athena is located at 1846 Garnet Ave, San Diego, CA 92109. <https://www.cafeathena.com> The carpool will meet at 11 a.m. at the Scripps Poway Pkwy Park & Ride (next to Yanni's). RSVP to Pam Ames at pamames123@gmail.com.

AAUW Fund by Karen Vanderwerken, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair,

aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

CHEERS TO ALL CALIFORNIA BRANCH FUND CHAIRS!

Because of you and your efforts, AAUW Fund exceeded our targeted goal of \$525,000 by an additional \$4,4682 through the end of November. And this exceeded last year's Fund donations by \$51,000! These figures did not even include December's donations, so there will be more! Yay!!! Check back next month.

Speaking of Fund, the Honorary Dianne Owens Fund was completed with total donations of \$5,845. These donations were designated for the Greatest Needs Fund.

Please be sure to submit your Branch Named Gift Honoree nomination by March 1st.

AAUW-PP Fund Honoree Nominations by Pamela Meyer

I do not have the final numbers from National AAUW yet, but every year we have enough money to name four AAUW Fund honorees. (One name for every \$750 donated by the branch). If you know someone in our branch who deserves to be recognized, please let me know. We will award her certificate at the June general meeting.

pamela.me4@gmail.com

AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2023

February 2	Great Decisions	Energy Geopolitics	Joan Natoli, itolanj@sbcglobal.net	Meet at the home of Karen McGurk, 14905 Derringer Road in Poway at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Karen at kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net	Meets the first Thursday of every month except December, January, July, and August
February 4	Speech Trek	"How can communities, organizations, and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?"	Karen McGurk	The contest will be held at the Rancho Penasquitos Branch Library community room, 13330 Salmon River Road. Contest starts at 10 a.m. Members welcome to attend but no entry allowed once the contest starts. RSVP to Karen McGurk at aauwboard@gmail.com	Our annual speech contest! The winner goes on to represent our branch at state semifinals.
February 8	General Meeting	Precious Jackson-Hubbard, an award-winning educator and Bell Middle School Principal, will describe her return to her neighborhood to inspire students.	Karen McGurk, kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net ; Ellie Slade, elliehs10.4.1582@gmail.com Joie Nolasco, joienolasco@gmail.com	Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive. 6:30-7 p.m. is social time followed by the program. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com	This is an open meeting. Bring your friends!
February 14	Page Turners	"West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Morgan, 9185 Oviedo Street in Rancho Penasquitos. RSVP to Pam Ames at pamames23@gmail.com	Meets monthly the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, email Pam Ames.
February 17	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, mary.rudelich@aol.com	The hike is at Annie's Canyon in Solana Beach. This is an easy hike with two options, one is a slot canyon and the other is a climb to the view outlook. There is a short walk to a coffee shop after if interested. RSVP to Mary Alice at mary.rudelich@aol.com	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels.
February 20	Games Group	N/A	Debbie Boyd, travelstardebbie@yahoo.com	Meet at 1 p.m. at the home of Joie Nolasco, 13083 Old West Ave, 92129. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Debbie Boyd at travelstardebbie@yahoo.com	Play board games once a month at a members' home
February 23	Evening Book Group	"Lessons from the Edge" by Marie Yovanovitch	Ann Morgan, annmorgansd@yahoo.com ; Marilyn Scheininger, marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com	Meet at 7 p.m. at the home of Ann Morgan, 9185 Oviedo St in Rancho Penasquitos. RSVP to Ann at annmorgansd@yahoo.com	Group meets the fourth Thursday of every month. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn

February 25	Travel Group	N/A	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	Cafe Athena is this month's restaurant located at 1846 Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. and if you wish to carpool, meet at the Park and Ride off Scripps Poway Parkway (next to Yannis restaurant) at 11 a.m. RSVP to Pam Ames at pamames123@gmail.com	Meets monthly at various local restaurants.
February 27	Mystery Book Group	"Falling" by T.J. Newman	Pam Meyer, Pamela.me4@ gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 at the home of Pam Coon, 16521 Corte Paulina in Poway. RSVP to Pam at prcoon1@sbcglobal.net	Meets fourth Monday of every month. Want to join the discussion? Email Pam Meyer
No meeting in February	Gardens and More	N/A	Joan Natoli, itolanj@sbcglobal.net		Meets monthly at various locations. If you have suggestions for future events, please contact Joan
No meeting in February	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, janiceheather@hotmail.com		See you in March!

Poway Penasquitos Branch
is proud to announce
our next host speaker

Precious Jackson-Hubbard

An award winning educator and Bell Middle School Principal who will describe her return to her neighborhood to inspire students as her high school principal inspired her.

Wednesday, February 8th
6:30 – 7:00 Social
7:00 – 8:30 Program

LOCATION:

Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club
16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Ranch Bernardo

Light snacks and refreshments will be served

This is an open meeting, all are welcome.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to auwboard@gmail.com



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What I experienced as a child, no child should ever have to experience – but they do. I got through it because of the support of other people. Now I want to be a part of that change for them.

PRECIOUS JACKSON-HUBBARD

PRINCIPAL, BELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
SDSU ED.D. STUDENT

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 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.