

AAUW Poway Penasquitos Branch

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss these March events & announcements

- March 8: General Meeting
"Women's History Month"
- March 17: Happy Healthy
Hikers to Lake Poway
- March 24: Grape
Expectations to visit
Charlie & Echo Urban
Winery
- So many Book Clubs!
Check the calendar for
details.

President's Message by Michelle Blasberg

Welcome to **Women's History Month**

Designated by joint resolutions of the United States House of Representatives and Senate and proclaimed by the American president, National Women's History Month is an opportunity to honor and celebrate women's lives and historic achievements. Each year, National Women's History Month employs a unifying theme and recognizes national honorees whose work and lives testify to that theme. For 2023, the theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories," a recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, television, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, news and social media. This theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art and news, pursuing truth, and reflecting society decade after decade.

Speech Trek

A big thank you to the Speech Trek committee, led by Karen McGurk, for another successful Speech Trek competition. There were nine participants this year, more than the previous four years. The winner is Cecilia Choy, and her video will compete in the semi-final round. The top three videos from the semi-finals will compete at the AAUW-CA annual meeting or convention.

Membership Renewals

The renewal process, for most of our members, will begin in April. For members who joined prior to 2022, the renewal period is July 1 through June 30. For the new members who joined after March of 2022, your renewal date is 12 months after your initial membership date. The dues amount includes membership to AAUW National, AAUW-CA, and Branch dues. This year the total amount will be \$115.00: AAUW National dues \$72.00, AAUW-CA \$20.00, and Poway Penasquitos Branch Dues \$23.00. Please note that the Poway Penasquitos Board had voted to raise the branch dues to \$27.00, but in light of the planned dues increase by National, we have reduced the branch dues increase to only \$23.00 (from the current \$17.00). More information will be provided in April's Adelante.

Upcoming Events

- **March Branch Meeting Celebrating Women's History Month**
 - Wednesday March 8th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **April Branch Meeting – Banned Books**
 - Wednesday April 12th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- **Cover to Cover 2023 – Supporting Women and Girls Reaching for the Stars**
 - Sunday May 21st at Maderas Country Club

March General Meeting by Joie Nolasco

TIME change for this month only! Social time is 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and lunch will be provided. The meeting and presentation is from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

SEANCE ANYONE?

Two guests from AAUW and two AAUW Poway-Peñasquitos members will join together Wednesday, March 8th from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. to portray four famous American Women. Come join us as history, or HERSTORY, comes alive during our salute to these courageous women!



Little known facts:

1. Sybil Ludington, 1761-1839: In 1777, at the age of 16, Ludington rode twice the distance as Paul Revere in almost an identical situation two years later. Some people think that if Sybil had not assembled her father's militia, Washington would have been captured and the Revolutionary War would have had a different ending.
2. Susan B. Anthony, 1820-1906: Susan B. Anthony fought for women to have the right to own property, not just the right to vote.
3. Kate Sessions, 1857-1940: Kate Sessions planted 100 trees and palms in San Diego.
4. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 1933-2020: Ruth Ginsburg's real name was Joan Ruth but there were several other girls named Joan in first grade so she decided to go by Ruth. Her older sister, Marilyn, called her "Kiki" because she kicked so much as a baby, she knew that Ruth would be a fighter!

The meeting will be held at Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive. Social time is 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., followed by the program. Lunch and snacks will be served. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com.

March is Women's History Month, a Fitting Time to Observe Transgender Day of Visibility

Melissa Maceyko, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Each year on March 31, the world observes Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) to raise awareness about transgender people. It is a day to celebrate the lives and contributions of trans people, while also drawing attention to the poverty, discrimination, and violence the community faces.

We understand how women's history tells the story of misogyny, which is the systemic mistreatment of women, girls, and feminine peoples through forms of physical and structural violence. But we rarely consider how it is linked to transmisogyny, which focuses on the complex intersections between transphobia and misogyny that are faced by trans women and girls, as well as transfeminine and gender non-conforming peoples. It is a term that attempts to capture multiple layers of gender-based marginalization and systemic mistreatment. If misogyny and transmisogyny are not combatted together, then the root of the problem will never truly be eradicated.

Although the past decade has seen a more vocal public push for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives around gender, the current sociopolitical climate in the United States is not supportive of, and is often openly hostile to, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Under this sphere of increased hostility is the explicit targeting of trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples with words, actions, and legislation. It is particularly important for women's organizations who seek to combat gender-based forms of oppression to build coalitions and take a stand against misogyny and transmisogyny in all its forms, because misogyny and transmisogyny come from the same place. They both describe gender-based oppression that results from the prioritization of masculinity alongside the degradation of femininity.

Targeted hostility against trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples can be seen not only in the alarming uptick in physical violence against this community, but also in the increasing persistence and intensity of public debates over whether or not trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples are "real women" that belong in "women's spaces," including gender-specific bathrooms, women's sports teams, and locker rooms. These debates prioritize misplaced and misunderstood claims of biological authenticity. They are dehumanizing and cannot be disconnected from other forms of violence as they normalize widespread and explicit marginalization and exclusion. As a women's organization, the increasingly hostile environment for trans women and girls and transfeminine people should be at the forefront of our collective education and activism - let's help ensure that history doesn't continue to repeat itself. Visit the Public Policy website to learn more: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/>.

Precious Jackson-Hubbard at February General Meeting by Debbie Boyd

Precious Jackson-Hubbard shared her powerful story of overcoming a childhood filled with drugs, domestic violence, and gangs. She credits educators and her “adopted Moms” to her success.



Cover to Cover: Supporting Women and Girls Reaching for the Stars by Michelle Blasberg

The 2023 Authors Luncheon is only twelve weeks away. It is shaping up to be a great event and should not be missed. Attached is the informational flyer so you can mark your calendar and reach out to friends to join us. Remember, if you have a group of ten you can reserve a table for your group.

- Sunday May 21 at Maderas Country Club
- Cost: \$65.00 Lunch and program
- Authors have been identified:
 - Liz Fenton & Lisa Steinke (writing team)
 - Cornelia Feye
 - Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs
- Please refer to the attached flyer for more information.
- Registration will begin April 3rd. The registration form will be included in the April Adelante

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.

Membership by Harriet Gerza and Linda Johnston

Hooray! We have 2 more new members. Their bios will be coming in the next newsletter. We have added six new members in 2022-2023 and we are nearing our goal of 10 new members for this year. Thanks to our current members who are bringing in their friends, neighbors and spreading the word. Keep up the good work! Remember that next month's March 8th meeting will be a great one to bring more friends to meet us.

As noted in Michelle's February message, this year is a bargain for joining as a new member as it's only \$70.50. Next year national and branch dues are going to increase so if you have friends who want to join, tell them to join before June 2023. Applications are on our website or they can contact me at aauwboard@gmail.com.

Communications Update by Marie Dye

Do you know our branch has a Facebook page? Posting on Facebook and Next Door, plus our website <https://powayarea-ca.aauw.net/>, are our primary methods of communicating to the public about our mission. If you are on Facebook, please follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPowayPQ> and invite your friends as well!

Gov Trek by Marie Dye

Gov Trek is off and running! AAUW California 2023 Gov Trek's inaugural session started with a video address from fellow Californian Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi. We were privileged to have the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives greet the students as they begin their journey to explore careers in public office and elected positions. You can watch her video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/szcsrAj0lr4>.

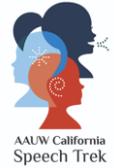
Five distinguished women leaders addressed Gov Trek participants during the Women in Leadership Panel. They covered topics on elective office and public service at different levels of government, including the skills and challenges involved with them, and other related career paths in leadership and political participation. The speakers were:

- Kathleen Van Osten, AAUW California Advocate and Lobbyist
- Ellen Montanari, Deputy Campaign Manager, California Representative Mike Levin
- Regina Luzincourt, Lobbyist and Former Press Secretary, New York Senator Kevin S. Parker
- Shana Hazan, Vice President San Diego Unified School Board
- Griselda Ramirez, Senior Director of Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Strategic Initiatives, Office of San Diego County Board of Supervisor Chair Nora Vargas

There are four more inspiring Gov Trek sessions including the Gov Trek Finale and Campaign Competition! The speaker sessions will be recorded and available to AAUW California members, and Session 1 can be accessed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJyqQJOrT8w>. Stay tuned for more updates!

Speech Trek: We Have a Winner! by Karen McGurk

Our branch awarded \$1000.00 to first place Speech Trek winner, Cecilia Choy from Mark Keppel High School. We had two students tied for second place, Yuvraj Anand from Francis Parker High School, and Khushi Patel from Rancho Bernardo High School, who were each awarded \$500.00.



The nine competitors created 5-6-minute speeches on the public policy topic: “How can communities, organizations, and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?” Cecilia will represent our branch in the state semi-final contest in April. The final top three videos will be showcased at the AAUW California Annual Event (virtual) on Saturday, April 22, and winners will be announced at this meeting. Stay tuned for the results!

Thanks to the Speech Trek judges who gave up their Saturday morning to participate in this contest: Darshana Patel PhD, elected trustee for the Poway Unified School District; Honorine Nocon, educator and AAUW Poway-Peñasquitos branch member; and Pamela Meyer, educator and AAUW Poway-Peñasquitos branch member.

Thanks to the following AAUW-PP team members for helping with this event: Jeanni Harrison and Rene de Charon for videotaping the program; Miriam Lauff for being the student coordinator and greeter; Cathy Burciaga, for being the speech contest timer; and Sheila Walker and Cathy Burciaga for tabulating the ballots. Special thanks to Marie Dye for her guidance and expertise. Thanks to our membership for supporting this event.





(LEFT) From left to right: Darshana Patel, judge; Yuvraj Anand, 2nd place winner; Cecilia Choy, 1st place winner; Khushi Patel, 2nd place winner; Pam Meyer, judge; Honorine Nocon, judge.

(BELOW) From left to right bottom row: Khushi Patel, Cecilia Choy, Allison Gonzalez, Nirja Trivedi
From left to right top row: Brooke Huppert, Elliot Husseman, Yuvraj Anand, Julia Smith, Lily Tuey

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

We are starting to get busy with Tech Trek 2023!

We have now received camper nominations from the liaisons and teachers at our three designated middle schools. Paperwork has been sent to parents for application permission for the campers. We will soon begin collecting applications from those girls and then will begin interviews in March. It's so good to realize the eagerness these girls have for Tech Trek!



Want to get involved? Volunteer Opportunities for YOU!

It may still be early, but keep in mind that we will likely need several volunteers this year, both for the residential camp and for the virtual camp. All coaches from last year will be contacted to see if they want to return to camp this year. In-person camp at UCSD: June 25 – 30, 2023. Virtual camp: July 23 – 28, 2023.

Volunteers will be needed for:

- Build Coach
- Social Coach
- Workshop Coach
- Dorm Moms
- Morning Volunteers to help during staff meetings
- Kit Assembly team at Heidi Dalvie's home
- Check-in/Registration team at UCSD first day of in-person camp

We will be reaching out to you with more information about volunteering as we get closer to the camp dates, but feel free to contact us if you'd like to learn more.

For volunteer job descriptions and to apply, please go to the volunteer interest form at:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek-volunteer/>

If this link isn't active yet, please check back frequently; it will be activated soon.

**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

Memberships/2nd Vice

Presidents: Harriet Gerza, Linda Johnston

Secretary: Joan Natoli

Treasurer: Sheila Walker

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by Harriet Gerza

Thanks to our program committee for presenting February's speaker, Precious Jackson-Hubbard, in honor of Black History month. The January joint IBC meeting speaker, Guadalupe Corona, highlighted another diverse perspective. In keeping with offerings about DEI, here is an article from AAUW-CA about being in touch with the mood of the country.

Centering in Solidarity by Stormy Miller Sabia, Director, DEI Committee Chair, diversity@aauw-ca.org

A time of year that is often met with hope, resolution, and intentions, has been met with sorrow and grief for many, particularly among Asian, Black, and African American communities. The mass killings in Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, and the shooting in Oakland, occurred in rapid succession in our state, and our trauma was intensified by the killing of Tyre Nichols. It's hard to know what to do or how to respond to these horrific experiences impacting communities of color.

What does this mean for our work in AAUW? What does this mean for an individual committed to equity and justice? And how might we mobilize and unite when things feel heavy and hard? There's an opportunity to explore these questions within our branches and in conversations and community that center on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Most importantly, let us explore how we can stand in solidarity and support our fellow AAUW members who are members of these communities. Below are a few resources you may wish to review or share, in an effort toward lifting up communities of color and providing mental health resources and support during this difficult time.

Wishing you all comfort and peace and wishing you a warm and joyous start to the celebration of Black History Month.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

BEAM: <https://beam.community/> Black Emotional and Mental Health Collaborative

Asian Mental Health Collective: <https://www.asianmhc.org/> Aspiring to make mental health easily available, approachable, and accessible to Asian communities worldwide.

Stop AAPI Hate: <https://stopaapihate.org/>

Grape Expectations to Visit Mira Mesa Winery by Janice Heather

On March 24, we're going to try something new! We'll visit Charlie & Echo Winery, an urban winery located at 8680 Miralani Dr, Suite 125 in Mira Mesa. They produce natural, craft wine from local vineyards, and their mission is to produce wines that exemplify San Diego in its terroir, its cuisine, culture, and lifestyle. They say they're small, independent, innovative, and care about everything they make.

To that end, they are a member of "1% for the Planet," and give 1% of sales back to the environment, whether or not they are profitable. With every vintage, they offset the complete carbon footprint of their wines, from grape growing to wine making, packaging, and transportation. Then, with every bottle or can bought, they use a portion of the sale to obtain even more carbon offsets. Simply put, every purchase you make from Charlie & Echo has a positive impact on our climate (not just neutral). To read more, go to their website at <https://charlieandecho.com/visit/>.

On Fridays, they open at 4 pm so we'll plan to be there from 4-6 p.m. Please let me know if you're coming so I can send you carpool information janiceheather@hotmail.com. Hope to see you on March 24!

AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2023

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
Mar 2	Great Decisions	War Crimes	Joan Natoli, itolanj@sbcglobal.net	Meet at the home of Marilyn Scheininger, 13041 Caminito Bautizo in Carmel Valley. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Marilyn at marilyn.scheininger1@gmail.com	Meets the first Thursday of every month except December, January, July, and August.
March 8	General Meeting	Celebrate Women's History Month! Several branch members will perform as famous women in history	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. 11:30 a.m.-12 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!
March 14	Page Turners	"The Marriage of Opposites" by Alice Hoffman	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	1:30 p.m. meeting. Host is TBD	Meets monthly the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, email Pam Ames.
March 17	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, mary.rudelich@aol.com	This month we will hike around Lake Poway starting at 8:30 a.m. This hike is bit longer with a few hills. RSVP to Mary Alice at mary.rudelich@aol.com	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels.
March 20	Games Group	N/A	Debbie Boyd, travelstardebbie@yahoo.com	We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Karen Mikolic. RSVP to Debbie if you plan to attend. 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.
March 23	Evening Book Group	"The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig	Ann Morgan, annmorgansd@yahoo.com Marilyn Scheininger, marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com	Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Barbara Fisher, 13217 Deron Avenue in Rancho Penasquitos. RSVP to Barbara if you are planning to attend. afisherjr@aol.com	Group meets the fourth Thursday of every month. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn.
March 24	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, janiceheather@hotmail.com	From 4-6 p.m. we will meet at Charlie & Echo winery, 8680 Miralani Drive, Suite 125 in Mira Mesa. https://charlieandecho.com/ RSVP to Janice at janiceheather@hotmail.com	Charlie and Echo winery is a member of "1% for the planet" and give 1% of their sales

					back to the environment.
March 27	Mystery Book Group	"A Killer's Wife" by Victor Methos	Pam Meyer, pamela.me4@gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Desiree Louis-Maubert, 17705 Devereaux Road. Please RSVP to Desiree at louis.desiree@gmail.com if you are planning to attend.	Meets the fourth Monday of every month. Want to join the discussion? Email Pam Meyer
No meeting	Travel Group	N/A	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	N/A	Meets monthly at various local restaurants.

MARCH MEETING



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Social Time
12:00-1:00 p.m. Program

HERSTORY comes alive during our salute to four courageous women!
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Kate Sessions, Sybil Ludington,
and Susan B. Anthony

Lunch and snacks will be provided

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

Rancho Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club
16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive



23rd Annual Cover to Cover Authors Luncheon

Our annual fundraiser supporting women and girls as they reach for the stars



Elizabeth Cobbs is a prize-winning historian, novelist, and documentary filmmaker. She is a Stanford PhD, a native San Diegan and currently holds the Melburn Glasscock Chair at Texas A&M in Humanities. She is the author of nine books including *The Hamilton Affair*, *The Hello Girls* and her new book just released on March 7, *Fearless Women: From Abigail Adams to Beyonce*.



With an M.A. in Art History and Anthropology, novelist and publisher Cornelia Feye combines her art history background with years of world travel to write her award-winning books including *Spring of Tears*, *Death of a Zen Master* and *Magic, Mystery and Murder*. In 2016 she founded Konstellation Press, for genre fiction to create a supportive community for local authors. Ms. Feye lives in Ocean Beach.



Liz Fenton and Lisa Steinke have been best friends for over thirty years and survived high school and college together. They've co-authored seven novels, including bestseller *The Good Widow*, *Girls Night Out* and *The Year We Turned Forty* (which is in development for a TV series). They also host the popular podcast "We Fight So You Don't Have To". Both reside in San Diego with their families and several rescue dogs.

*Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Maderas Golf Club, 17750 Old Coach Road, Poway 92064*

**RSVP starting April 3 with more details in the April Adelante
Gift Cards-Wine Bag Surprise-Author Book Signings-Barnes & Noble on site!
\$65 includes Luncheon & Program**

