

# Adelante



AAUW Poway-Penasquitos Branch

## IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss these  
**December events &  
announcements:**

- December 6: Happy Healthy Hikers Coronado
- December 8: Visit Rancho Guejito Vineyard & Holiday Market with Grape Expectations
- December 11: Holiday Meeting
- December 27: Visit T&T Tacos & Tequila with the Travel Group

## President's Message by Harriet Gerza

Happy Fall! With Halloween and the elections over (Or was that the same thing? Both were definitely scary) and Thanksgiving in weeks, many holidays across religions will be upon us soon. It's a time to reflect, enjoy our family and friends, and cherish the time we have together.

I want to acknowledge the passing of one of our heroes, Lilly Ledbetter, who died on October 12, 2024. Lilly worked courageously with former AAUW Public Policy Director Lisa Maatz to get legislation passed through Congress to ensure fair and equal pay for women. In January 2009, President Obama signed his first bill into law with Lilly and Lisa by his side; the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. AAUW had a long-lasting, strong, and productive relationship with Lilly, and she never stopped advocating for gender pay equity. In her honor, AAUW vows to continue the fight. I had the honor of meeting Ms. Ledbetter at the last AAUW national convention and she was an inspiration to us all.

Our year is half over and it's already time to think about the next fiscal year, so I've appointed a nominating committee of Michele Blasberg, Sheila Walker, Karen McGurk, and Marie Dye to help develop a slate of new officers for FY2025-26. If you are interested in joining the board or chairing a project, please let them know you are interested. Anyone is welcome to attend a board meeting to find out what we do. The next

board meeting is November 16, and just let me know if you'd like to attend.

The rest of our year is chock full of activity as Speech Trek and Cover to Cover are getting underway, and Scholarships and Tech Trek will be starting their recruiting processes soon. And as always, our programs committee has lined up a terrific slate of presentations, and I hope to see you at the next meetings. Please feel free to invite your family, friends, and colleagues to join us. Also, if you meet any of our newest members, Diana Glod, Charlotte Floweree, and Sunny Strong, please welcome them and show them around.

This December, we wish everyone a happy Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. I hope to see you at our annual holiday party to celebrate all!

## December 11 Holiday Meeting by Karen McGurk and Joie Nolasco

Celebrate the holiday season at our annual AAUW members only festive potluck gathering! Get to know other members better, have fun with a homely holiday sweater contest, and possibly obtain some new recipes! We'll be meeting on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30-8:30 p.m. at RB Eastview Community Center, 17520 Drayton Hall Way, San Diego 92128. Potluck dinner will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m, with the reindeer games and sweater contest from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

For the potluck, please bring a dish to share according to the letter of your last name: A-D salads, soups, or sandwiches; E-K desserts; L-P drinks; R-Z appetizers. We will have a special icebreaker in order to work on one of our branch's goals which is to get to know each other better.

Since this is the season of "giving," and in case you missed coming to our November meeting, WE ARE STILL COLLECTING for the Women's Resource Center:

- Dry Pasta and Pasta Sauce • Cereal or Instant Oatmeal • Peanut Butter • Jelly Canned Soup • Canned Vegetables • Canned Fruit • Rice • Dried or Canned Beans • Canned Tuna or Chicken • Tuna Helper • Crackers • Granola Bars •

Boxed Juices • Non-perishable Items appealing to young kids • Shampoo • Conditioner • Soap or Bath Gel • Toothpaste • Toothbrush • Deodorant • Shaving Cream • Razors • Tampons/Pads • Hair Brush • Washcloth or Wipes •

This is a members only event. Please RSVP to [aauwboard@gmail.com](mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

### **Upcoming Programs!** by Karen McGurk and Joie Nolasco

Mark your calendars for captivating programs to round out our fiscal year!

#### **Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1-3 p.m.**

Topic: Antisemitism

Speaker: Rob Hicks with the Anti-Defamation League

Theme: Blue & White

#### **Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 1-3 p.m.**

Topic: Woman Warriors in Honor of Women's History Month

Speaker: Annette Hubbell will portray the following "warriors":

- Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Mary McLeod Bethune
- Gladys May Aylward

Theme: Dress as or bring a prop representing a woman you admire.

#### **Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Topic: Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Speaker: Dr. Vicki Halsey, VP Applied Learning, Blanchard

Theme: Be prepared to share your definition of leadership



### **Tech Trek Alumni Group (TTAG)** by Heidi Dalvie, Ellen Dillon, and Debbie Lewis

We are so happy to share that the speaker for our fall alumni meeting was Grace Bohn, a NATO AGS Deputy Chief Engineer for Northrop Grumman. In college, Grace decided she wanted to work on something fun like an airplane, and wanted to stay close to her home, so she was thrilled when she learned that a lot of the unmanned aircraft in the USA are designed in Rancho Bernardo and Poway. Luckily, she was able to get a position at Northrop Grumman where she has been working for the past 16 years. Her favorite part of the job is mentoring engineers and figuring out the hard problems.

Alumni campers, as well as parents, learned so much about the construction, safety, and operation of unmanned aircraft (drones). After the presentation the alumni constructed airplanes and went outside to fly them. Much was learned about weight distribution and airlift for a successful flight.

A fun and educational afternoon for all!



## Speech Trek by Karen McGurk

The Speech Trek competition returns on Saturday, February 8, 2025. The topic is: *Climate Change is happening. The effects are widespread and touch upon almost all aspects of our life on this planet. Select one area of impact and explore the effect climate change is having on women in the USA, and around the world.*



Attached to the newsletter is a flyer with information about the contest. Please share this information on social media and through your other distribution channels. We hope to attract students from a variety of local high schools for the contest this year, so please help spread the word!

## Public Policy: A Successful 2024 Legislative Agenda by Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy (shared by Marie Dye)

2024 has been an exciting year for AAUW California's Legislative Agenda. There were many excellent bills that were introduced in the legislature early in the year. The Public Policy Committee evaluated over 60 of these bills that were most closely aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. Our committee met virtually over a weekend in March to discuss and vote on the best bills to include in our 2024 Legislative Agenda, prioritizing them into A, B, C, and Watch categories. We selected 41 bills for our Legislative Agenda, not including the Watch bills, and from March through September we worked to educate about and advocate for these bills.

Thanks to the many AAUW members who participated in Lobby Days, to those who called or wrote to their legislators and the Governor through our Action Alert Network, and thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of Kathy Van Osten, our Legislative Advocate, 29 of the 41 bills on our Legislative Agenda made it to the Governor's desk, and 25 of them have been signed into law!

Excitingly, all three of our A priority bills were signed by the Governor:

- Our signature bill AB 2843 was authored and sponsored by AAUW California. The bill eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. The bill was inspired when Kathi Harper, Public Policy Director, read an OpEd piece in the Los Angeles Times by Dr. Samuel Dickman, Chief Medical Officer at Planned Parenthood of Montana, describing the plight of countless rape survivors who do not seek medical care following their assault because of prohibitive costs. AB 2843 removes the cost barrier, ensuring that survivors can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.
- AB 2326, also sponsored by AAUW California, requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and the State Universities, and the President of the University of California, to provide an annual report of their schools' compliance with Title IX. The report will be publicly, orally presented to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Education Finance.
- AB 2099 makes it possible for the District Attorney to pursue felony charges for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers if the posting and subsequent actions result in bodily injury.

Two of our B priority bills were signed into law:

- AB 1790 requires the CSU system to report on the implementation of recommendations provided in the California State Auditor report, to ensure Title IX compliance and protections against sexual harassment.
- AB 1831 expands the law prohibiting the possession and distribution of material depicting minors performing sexual activities to include AI and computer-generated images.
- And very significantly, AB 1955 was signed into law. This was a C priority bill only because it was added to our Legislative Agenda later in the process. AB 1955 prohibits public schools from notifying parents if their child uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than assigned at birth. California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outing of transgender students.

For additional details on all the bills on the 2024 Legislative Agenda, see our bill tracking report [HERE](#). And if you have not yet signed up for Action Alerts, and would like to be notified about opportunities to advocate for AAUW California's priority legislation in 2025, please sign up [HERE](#).

## Finance Report and Fundraising by Kathy Moore

Our AAUW Branch is funded by our membership fees and your ongoing generosity. Our operating budget funds our expenses as an organization. We are currently on budget for the year.

Our amazing programs are made possible through the donations of members during our fall fundraising campaign and our spring Cover to Cover luncheon. We are halfway to meeting our goal to fund our Scholarships and Speech Trek. However, we still have a way to go to meet our goal of \$6,000, so if you've been meaning to send in a check to help us meet this important goal, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Currently our Tech Trek funding is approaching our goal, but with increasing costs, your donation will help us to continue the incredible opportunity we provide for middle school girls. Please remember that Tech Trek donations are tax deductible.

If you've misplaced your form, you can either contact me for a duplicate, or just enclose your check with a note. You can combine donations for Scholarships and Speech Trek on one check, and we appreciate a separate check for our Tech Trek program.

Thank you, again. Together we can continue our mission of empowering girls and women.

## Notable Women in History - Trivia by Joie Nolasco

The island nation of Saint Lucia is part of the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean and is geographically included in Central America. It is the only country with a woman's name. Legend states that French sailors were shipwrecked on the island on December 13, which is the feast day of Saint Lucy in Europe, and therefore named the island in her honor. Saint Lucia was initially called Louanalao (meaning "Island of the Iguanas") by the Indigenous Arawak people as early as 200 CE, and then as Hewanorra, in 800 AD, meaning "there where iguanas are found," when the Carib Indians arrived and assimilated their culture into Saint Lucia.

Learn more about Saint Lucia the island: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Lucia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lucia) Learn more about Lucia of Syracuse (283–304AD), also called Saint Lucia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Lucy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lucy).



<https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/saint-lucia>

## IBC Luncheon – An Invitation from our Sister Branches by Cathy Burciaga

It's time once again to gather with all our sister branches in San Diego County to share a scrumptious lunch, catch up with old friendships, meet new friends, shop and bid on enticing prizes and goods to take home, and hear from an exciting speaker or two. This year, the InterBranch Council (IBC) Luncheon will be hosted by the Del Mar-Leucadia and Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista branches at the gorgeous Lomas Santa Fe Country Club in Solana Beach, on Saturday, January 25, check-in at 10:30 a.m. The Poway-Peñasquitos Branch plans to fill at least 1-2 tables! For more details, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

**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)

[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:** Harriet Gerza  
**Programs/1<sup>st</sup> Vice**

**Presidents:** Karen McGurk, Joie Nolasco

**Membership/2<sup>nd</sup> Vice**

**Presidents:** Pam Ames, Miriam Lauff

**Secretary:** Debby Dutilly

**Treasurer:** Kathy Moore

**Games, Games, Games** by Aresa Toukdarian and Harriet Gerza

The games group is resurrecting itself in January. We hope to restart our merry band of gamers by kicking off Wednesday, January 22 at 5:30-7:30pm at Harriet's house, 17888 Avenida Cordillera, San Diego, CA 92128. We play all sorts of board games, charades, cards, trivia, and nonsense games. Strengthen your memory, develop new skills, and have a lot of laughs.

Please let us know if you'd be interested in attending such a merriment. Light refreshments and BYOB snacks will be offered. Any questions or interest, please contact Aresa [atoukdar@gmail.com](mailto:atoukdar@gmail.com) or Harriet [Harriet.gerza@gmail.com](mailto:Harriet.gerza@gmail.com)

**Travel Group Lunch at T&T Tacos & Tequila** by Pam Ames

Let's take a break from all the holiday activities and meet for a fun Mexican lunch at T&T Tacos & Tequila on Friday, December 27. Our restaurant will be close by so no need for a carpool this time. Come share your travel tips or past and future travels. Everyone is welcome!

T&T Tacos & Tequila located at the corner of Pomerado and Scripps Poway Pkwy (12205 Scripps Poway Pkwy) in the space that was formerly Tio Leo's, near Starbucks. Meeting time is 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Pam Ames at [pamames123@gmail.com](mailto:pamames123@gmail.com).

**Happy Healthy Hikers Visit Coronado** by Mary Alice Rudelich

The Happy, Healthy Hikers will take their annual Coronado Island hike on Friday, December 6. We will meet at the Coronado ferry landing at 9 a.m. The carpool will leave from Yanni's Bar and Grill at 8 a.m. We will walk to the Hotel Del Coronado and then return to Peohe's Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. for a wonderful oceanside lunch.

Please RSVP to [mary.rudelich@aol.com](mailto:mary.rudelich@aol.com) if you are carpooling and having lunch with the group.

Cheers,  
Mary Alice and Jo

**Grape Expectations Visits Winery + Holiday Market** by Janice Heather

Mark your calendars because in December, Grape Expectations is going to visit a new (to us) winery called Rancho Guejito. The winery also hosts a holiday market, and to visit the market, we must go on Sunday afternoon, which is a bit different for us. So, we'll head to Rancho Guejito Vineyard on Sunday, December 8 from 1-4 p.m. It's at 17224 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027

For more information on the vineyard, click here:

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

For more information on the Makers & Shakers Market, click here:

<https://www.ranchoquejitovineyard.com/events/makers-shakers-holiday-market-2/?occurrence=2024-12-08>

As always, please contact [janiceheather@hotmail.com](mailto:janiceheather@hotmail.com) with your RSVP and any questions. And remember, you don't have to drink wine to participate. Other beverages are available. So, join us for the festivities and maybe find a nice wine for your holiday dinners!

I hope you'll join us! You may find a wine that would be a perfect addition to your upcoming holiday festivities. 🍷

# AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December 2024

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
Dec. 6	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, <a href="mailto:mary.rudelich@aol.com">mary.rudelich@aol.com</a>	Join us for the annual Coronado walk! We will meet at the Coronado Ferry Landing at 9 a.m. The carpool will leave from the Park and Ride next to Yanni's at 8 a.m. We will walk to the Hotel Del and then return to Peohe's Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. for a wonderful oceanside lunch. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:mary.rudelich@aol.com">mary.rudelich@aol.com</a> if you are carpooling and having lunch with the group.	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels. Contact Mary Alice to be added to the distribution list.
Dec. 8	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, <a href="mailto:janiceheather@gmail.com">janiceheather@gmail.com</a>	This month we will go to Rancho Guejito Vineyard from 1-4 p.m. at 17224 San Pasqual Valley Road <a href="https://www.ranchoguejitovineyard.com/events/makers-shakers-holiday-market-2/?occurrence=2024-12-08">https://www.ranchoguejitovineyard.com/events/makers-shakers-holiday-market-2/?occurrence=2024-12-08</a> . Please RSVP to Janice at <a href="mailto:janiceheather@gmail.com">janiceheather@gmail.com</a> .	We meet monthly for either wine or beer tasting. Please contact Janice to be added to the distribution list.
Dec. 10	Page Turners	Little Liar, by Mitch Albom	Pam Ames, <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Pam Coon, 16521 Corte Paulina in Poway. RSVP to Pam at <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a> if you can attend.	Meets the second Tuesday of every month at a member's home at 1:30 p.m. Contact Pam Ames if you wish to be added to the distribution list.
Dec. 11	Branch General Meeting	Holiday Party!	Joie Nolasco, <a href="mailto:joienolasco@gmail.com">joienolasco@gmail.com</a> Karen McGurk, <a href="mailto:kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net">kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net</a>	Celebrate the holidays with a potluck from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Eastview Community Center, 17520 Drayton Hall Way, Rancho Bernardo. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com">aauwboard@gmail.com</a> .	This party is for members only.
Dec. 12	Thursday Book Group	Holiday Potluck	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>	Meet at 6 p.m. at the home of Michelle Blasberg, 12509 Montero Court in Rancho Bernardo. RSVP to Michelle at <a href="mailto:michblas09@gmail.com">michblas09@gmail.com</a> .	Meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn.
Dec. 27	Travel Group	N/A	Pam Ames, <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>	Lunch will be at T&T Tacos & Tequila located at the corner of Pomerado and Scripps Poway Parkway, 12205 Scripps Poway Parkway. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Pam at <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a> if you can attend.	Meets monthly at various local restaurants. Contact Pam Ames to be added to the distribution list.

<b>No meeting in Dec.</b>	<b>Great Decisions</b>		Sally Jacobson, <a href="mailto:jacobs@san.rr.com">jacobs@san.rr.com</a> Marie Dye, <a href="mailto:mdye@san.rr.com">mdye@san.rr.com</a>		Meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. No meeting in Dec., Jan., July, and Aug. Interested in joining? Please email Marie Dye at <a href="mailto:mdye@san.rr.com">mdye@san.rr.com</a> .
<b>No meeting in Dec.</b>	<b>Monday Mysteries Book Group</b>		Pam Meyer, <a href="mailto:pamela.me4@gmail.com">pamela.me4@gmail.com</a>		Meets the fourth Monday of every month. Please email Pam Meyer to be added to the distribution list.

**San Diego County InterBranch Council (SDC-IBC)**

**Annual All-Branch Luncheon**

**Saturday, January 25, 2025, 10:30 am**



**Lomas Santa Fe Country Club**  
1505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive  
Solana Beach 92075

Cabrillo-Diego  
Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista  
Del Mar-Leucadia  
Fallbrook  
La Mesa-El Cajon  
Poway-Peñasquitos  
San Diego

The **Del Mar-Leucadia and Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista Branches** cordially invite you to

**Our Special Guest Speakers: One Safe Place Staff**



*One Safe Place - the North County Family Justice Center - provides comprehensive help in a safe and judgment-free environment that empowers people to move forward with their lives. They provide free support services all under one roof to anyone who has experienced child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, hate crime, elder abuse, human trafficking, violent loss, family violence, or other abuse or victimization.*

join us for lunch and a good time together renewing old friendships, meeting new friends, bidding on enticing silent auction items to take home, and hearing what the other members have been up to. See you at the Club!

- 10:30 am Check-in & Silent Auction
- 11:00 am Welcome Address
- 11:30 am Lunch
- 12:15 pm Speaker

Questions? Call or text Cathy at (858) 449-5096, or e-mail [cburciaga@san.rr.com](mailto:cburciaga@san.rr.com)

**RSVPs are a Must - by January 14<sup>th</sup> please!!**

Yes, (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (branch) \_\_\_\_\_ will be there.

And, I am bringing \_\_\_\_\_ guests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select Your Entrée(s):**    Seared Salmon    Wine Country Salad with Chicken  
 Vegetarian Roasted Vegetable Wrap

**Cost: \$45. Enclosed is my check payable to "SDC-IBC".**

**Tear off this reply & mail to: AAUW IBC Luncheon, PO Box 262012, San Diego, CA 92196**



# SPEECH TREK COMPETITION

## February 8, 2025

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:

*Climate Change is happening. The effects are widespread and touch upon almost all aspects of our life on this planet. Select one area of impact and explore the effect climate change is having on women in the USA, and around the world.*

**INTERESTED?** Contact AAUW Poway-Peñasquitos Branch at [aauwboard@gmail.com](mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com) for more information and to register for the event. Please include Speech Trek in the subject line. **The application deadline is January 24, 2025.\*** The contest will be held in-person at Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library.

### LOCAL PRIZES

First Place - \$750.00  
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.

