

# Adelante



AAUW Poway-Penasquitos Branch

## IN THIS ISSUE

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

- January 11: Visit Speckle Rock Vineyards with Grape Expectations
- January 21: Head to Balboa Park with Happy, Healthy Hikers
- January 22: Fun & Games with the Games Group
- January 25: San Diego All-Branch Luncheon at Lomas Santa Fe Country Club

## President's Message by Harriet Gerza

Holiday Greetings to all! I hope your season is merry and bright. We have much to be thankful for this past year. I was reading an article about ageing gracefully and was gratified to learn that AAUW fulfills many of the requisite needs to living a full and healthy life: staying positive, interacting with friends, belonging to a community, knowing your purpose in life, exercising, stimulating your brain by learning new things, exploring new ideas, and helping others. It's no wonder we have a vibrant group of amazing women who will live long and prosper!

We have more adventures to look forward to in the coming year. We start by gathering with our San Diego sister branches on January 25 at the Lomas Santa Fe Country Club to hear about the good works of the North County Family Justice Center. I hope you can join us. The registration form is attached. We will try to organize carpools to help transport members, just let us know if you are interested.

SpeechTrek, our high school speech contest, will be held on February 8 at the PQ library. Come listen to amazing students compete by presenting their speeches on the topic of how the effects of climate change are impacting women here and around the world. March is Women's History month and our meeting will feature a special performance by Annette Hubbell who will introduce us to three

remarkable women in history. April presents us a fantastic opportunity to ponder "Leadership for the 21st Century," presented by Dr. Vicki Halsey, VP Applied Learning, Blanchard. And in May, our annual fundraising event Cover to Cover returns with an exceptional panel of authors.

We can't wait to see you at these exciting events! Be sure to bring your friends and family along so they can join in on the fun. Don't forget to introduce them to one of our monthly interest groups, too!

Once again, I want to thank all the members who generously donated to fund TechTrek, Scholarships, and Speech Trek during our fall campaign. There is still time to send in donations before the end of the year and we appreciate your support in helping fund these worthwhile programs for our branch.

Happy New Year and see you in 2025!

## Annual All-Branch Luncheon January 25 by Cathy Burciaga

It's time once again to gather with 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 what other branches have been up to. This year's special guest is staff from the North County Family Justice Center's One Safe Place. The 2025 San Diego County InterBranch Council (SDC-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, with check-in at 10:30 a.m. The Poway-Peñasquitos Branch plans to fill at least 1-2 tables! For more details and to RSVP, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

## Membership Matters by Pam Ames

Since our Membership Directory was printed, we have added four new members. There is a page at the end of the newsletter that you can print and put into your directory. We are always welcoming new members. Did you know

that AAUW offers a special discount on membership fees for all new members? Remember, guests are welcome at Interest Group gatherings and to all General Meetings of our branch. Bringing a friend to one of these events is a good way to introduce them to our organization.

### **Public Policy Updates** shared by Marie Dye

**Virtual Program:** “2024 Revisions to Title IX: How they Impact AAUW Values and Public Policy Priorities” will be presented by Kathi Harper, member of the Public Policy Committee and chair of the School Board Project. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9 at 3-4 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Register here: [Meeting Registration – Zoom](#)

### **Lobby Days 2025** by Rhonda Skipper, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an in-person meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8, and a virtual meeting day over Zoom on Wednesday, April 9. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

Starting in January, the Public Policy Committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. In mid-March, the committee will meet to select 30-35 bills to make up AAUW California’s 2025 Legislative Agenda, including the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31 at 7 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marie Dye at [mdye@san.rr.com](mailto:mdye@san.rr.com).

### **Finance Report and Fundraising** by Kathy Moore

Our Fall Campaign is wrapping up and we are so very grateful to all who have donated. 36 of our members have donated \$5,425 to the Scholarship and Speech Trek funds that are managed by our branch. Our commitment for these projects totals \$10,000 annually.

35 of our members have donated \$6,350 to the Tech Trek Fund. This fund, managed by the State officers, allows us to send 7th grade students to Tech Trek summer camps. This year, it will cost us \$1,200 for each student we select to send to camp.

Please continue to give generously so that we can honor our commitments to the projects we love to support. There is a donation form attached to the newsletter.

### **FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT**

The Fundraising Account Balance on November 30, 2024 was \$15,141.

### **OPERATING ACCOUNT**

We are continuing our excellent programs while reducing our costs wherever possible. Many thanks to our Programs Committee for their ongoing, creative efforts and to our interest groups for providing wonderful food at our meetings so we can keep our monthly expenses as low as possible.

We now have 120 annual members and six Honorary Members. This increase in membership helps to keep us in a sustainable position financially.

The Operating Account Balance on November 30, 2024 was \$4,771.

### **AAUW 2024 Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients** by Pam Meyer

Want to know where your money for AAUW Funds goes? Check out this website to learn more about the 31 inspiring California fellow and grant recipients who are studying in California this year and are available to share nuggets of their fascinating studies. Soon you will be able to watch short video introductions by each recipient to better understand what, and who, your AAUW Fund dollars support. Learn about immigration, reproductive healthcare, gender, race & ethnicity, inequality and social policy, incarcerated women, kinship, activism, and other topics. Click on this link to see who they are! [AAUW Fund recipients](#)

So far this year, January to December 2024, you, the members, have donated \$1,539.00. Thank you so much!

## Speech Trek Prepares for February 8 Competition by Karen McGurk

The Speech Trek competition returns on Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m., at the Rancho Peñasquitos Public Library. This year's public policy 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.***



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. Friends and family members are welcome to attend.

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). Wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season and a happy, healthy 2025!

## Happy Healthy Hikers Visited Hotel Del Coronado by Mary Alice Rudelich

On December 6, ten Happy, Healthy Hikers made their way from the ferry landing on Coronado Island to the Hotel Del Coronado. The day was warm and lovely. Afterwards, we ate a seafood lunch at Peohe's and enjoyed each other's company. Photo courtesy of Michelle Blasberg.





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

[m](mailto:m)

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's first meeting of the year will be Wednesday, January 22 at 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Harriet's house, 17888 Avenida Cordillera, San Diego, CA 92128. We play all sorts of board games, charades, cards, trivia, and nonsense games. Join us to strengthen your memory, develop new skills, and have a lot of laughs.

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)

**Happy Healthy Hikers Visit Balboa Park** by Mary Alice Rudelich

On January 21, the group will be venturing to Balboa Park to visit the Mingei Museum and the newly opened Botanical Building and Gardens. These visits will be free. Carpools will leave from Yanni's Bar and Grill at 9:30 a.m., and we will meet at Balboa Park at 10 a.m. We hope to see you on January 21!

Cheers,  
Mary Alice and Jo

Historic Botanical Building in Balboa Park Reopens in Time for December Nights

<https://www.insidesandiego.org/historic-botanical-building-balboa-park-reopens-time-december-nights>



**Grape Expectations Starts the New Year with an Old**

**Favorite** by Janice Heather

On Saturday, January 11, Grape Expectations will head to Speckle Rock Vineyards, a winery with spectacular views amid the speckled granite boulders on the property. The property located at 16138 Highland Valley Road had been an avocado ranch until it was wiped out by the 2007 Witch Creek fire. The Perrins, who own the property, decided to go in a new direction with grapes and pursue their lifelong love of wine. For more information visit: <https://www.specklerockvineyards.com/>.

As always, we'll meet to carpool at the former RB Souplantation at 2:30 p.m., 17120 Bernardo Center Dr, San Diego, CA 92128. We'll be at the winery from 3-5 p.m. If you plan to join us, RSVP to [janiceheather@hotmail.com](mailto:janiceheather@hotmail.com).

Hope to see you there to toast the new year!

# AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## January 2025

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
Jan. 11	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, <a href="mailto:janiceheather@gmail.com">janiceheather@gmail.com</a>	This month we will visit Speckle Rock Vineyards, 16138 Highland Valley Road from 3-5 p.m. 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.
Jan. 14	Page Turners	<b>The Indigo Girl</b> , by Natasha Boyd	Pam Ames, <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Jan Rightmer, 18617 Lancashire Way in Rancho Bernardo. RSVP to Jan at <a href="mailto:janrightmer@hotmail.com">janrightmer@hotmail.com</a> .	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.
Jan. 21	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, <a href="mailto:mary.rudelich@aol.com">mary.rudelich@aol.com</a>	Let's go to Balboa Park! We will visit the Mingei Museum and the newly reopened Botanical Building & Gardens. Carpool will leave from the Park and Ride next to Yanni's Bar and Grill at 9:30 a.m. or meet us at Balboa Park at 10:00 a.m. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:mary.rudelich@aol.com">mary.rudelich@aol.com</a> if you are carpooling.	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels. Contact Mary Alice to be added to the distribution list.
Jan. 22	Games Group	N/A	Aresa Toukdarian, <a href="mailto:atoukdar@gmail.com">atoukdar@gmail.com</a> Harriet Gerza, <a href="mailto:harriet.gerza@gmail.com">harriet.gerza@gmail.com</a>	Games to be played from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the home of Harriet Gerza, 17888 Avenida Cordillera in Rancho Bernardo. Please RSVP to Harriet or Aresa. Light refreshments will be offered.	Please contact Aresa or Harriet with any questions.
Jan. 23	Thursday Book Group	<b>The Three-Year Swim Club</b> , by Julie Checkoway	Ann Morgan, <a href="mailto:annmmorgansd@yahoo.com">annmmorgansd@yahoo.com</a> ; Marilyn Scheininger, <a href="mailto:marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com">marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com</a>	Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Sheila Walker, 13381 Calle Colina in Poway. Please RSVP to Sheila at <a href="mailto:sekw@san.rr.com">sekw@san.rr.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.
Jan. 25	Annual All-Branch Luncheon	Staff from One Safe Place will describe the services they provide.	Cathy Burciaga, <a href="mailto:cburciaga@san.rr.com">cburciaga@san.rr.com</a>	The luncheon will take place at the Lomas Santa Fe Country club, 1505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach. Check in and silent auction starts at 10:30 a.m. RSVP by Jan. 14 and see the attached flyer for more information.	The Del Mar - Leucadia and the Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista branches are hosting this event.
Jan. 27	Monday Mysteries Book Group	<b>The River We Remember</b> , by William Kent Krueger	Pam Meyer, <a href="mailto:pamela.me4@gmail.com">pamela.me4@gmail.com</a>	The meeting is at the home of Georgia Chagala, 12857 Rockwell Court in Poway. Please RSVP to Georgia at <a href="mailto:gchagala@cox.net">gchagala@cox.net</a> .	Meets the fourth Monday of every month. Please email Pam Meyer to be added to the distribution list.

<b>No meeting in Jan.</b>	<b>Travel Group</b>	N/A	Pam Ames, <a href="mailto:pamames123@gmail.com">pamames123@gmail.com</a>		Meets monthly at various local restaurants. Contact Pam Ames to be added to the distribution list.
<b>No meeting in Jan.</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> .

**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



AAUW MEMBER DIRECTORY - **ADDITIONS** AS OF 1/1/2025

**Diana Glod**

12442 Pomerado Ct  
San Diego, CA 92128  
403-994-7111 (cell)  
glod2cu@gmail.com  
Hunter College, BS-Accounting  
Fordham University, MBA-Business

**Charlotte Flowerree**

7145 Park Village Rd  
San Diego, CA 92129  
858-395-8028  
cflowerr@gmail.com  
Union Institute, BA-Computer Science  
University of Redlands, MBA

**Sunny Strong**

17796 Sintonte Dr  
San Diego, CA 92128  
425-772-7240  
sunnystrong@me.com  
Gonzaga University, BA-English  
University of Maryland, MLS-Library Science

**Kathy Widelski**

18755 W Bernardo Dr #1355  
San Diego, CA 92127  
kcdw1942@gmail.com  
Skidmore College, BS-Nursing  
Boston University, MS-Nursing





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support our local Re-entry Scholarship and Speech Trek programs. I understand that this donation is NOT tax-deductible.

Please make your check payable to AAUW PP with Scholarship/Speech Trek in the memo line.

\$250 \_\_\_\_\_

\$150 \_\_\_\_\_

\$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support the Tech Trek program. I understand this donation is tax-deductible.

Please make your check payable to AAUW CASPF with TTSD-PP in the memo line.

\$250 \_\_\_\_\_

\$150 \_\_\_\_\_

\$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this form with your check/sand mail it the Branch Treasurer:

Kathy Moore  
17695 Belle Helene  
San Diego, CA 92128

Thank you for your contribution to our programs.

Any questions? Email [aauwboard@gmail.com](mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com)

# 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.

