

AAUW Poway-Penasquitos Branch

IN THIS ISSUE

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

- April 1: Walk to the Presidio with Happy Healthy Hikers
- April 9: General Meeting featuring Dr. Vicki Halsey
- April 11: Visit Castelli & Pizarro Winery and Vineyard at the Merge with Grape Expectations
- April 26: Enjoy Lunch at Tony's Jacal with the Travel Group

President's Message by Harriet Gerza

What a great way to celebrate Women's History Month with two outstanding programs in March! Our general meeting on March 12 was a huge success with an at-capacity crowd of members and guests. Annette Hubbell was outstanding in her portrayal of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mary Macleod Bethune, and Gladys May Aylward. I was familiar with the names of the first two women, but I learned a lot about all three women and their fights to make a difference and change their worlds. What one woman can accomplish inspires us all!

Also, we are looking forward to the Lilly Ledbetter film which will be shown on Monday, March 24 at the Rancho Bernardo Library. I hope everyone will come and bring friends and family too. This is the first and (so far) only showing in San Diego. The film has been featured at the Palm Springs, Denver, and Santa Barbara Film Festivals and many others, making it a major event for our branch to show it here. The general release worldwide will be in May, so this is your chance to get a jump on the crowd. Make sure you RSVP because the room only holds 126 people!

Our year is already winding down, but we still have Cover to Cover to look forward to on May 17. Flyers will be coming out soon. We'll also be announcing our new slate of officers, as well as our Tech Trekkers and

Scholarship Winners, at the end of the year. Exciting stuff coming your way!

I want to take the opportunity to recognize and thank the hard-working board for all the efforts they have put into this amazing year. Please take the time to thank every one of them when you can. Only you and all the volunteers make this branch so successful and strong. See you all soon at one or all of these amazing upcoming events.

General Meeting April 9 – Leadership for the 21st Century by

Joie Nolasco and Karen McGurk

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. -C.L. Lewis

There is a crisis in leadership today. We need a new definition of leadership, one that has the ability to rally people to achieve needed change to create a world that works for all.

Our speaker, Dr. Vicki Halsey, is currently the VP of Applied Learning with the Ken Blanchard Companies. Vicki travels the country as an inspirational speaker, trainer, author, and instructional designer whose unique blend of energy, intellect, and passion engages people's hearts and minds and motivates them to unleash their greatness. So as C.L. Lewis's quote encourages, hopefully this meeting will inspire us to come away with a renewed conviction to tackle some key issues or problems with the goal of creating a better world for everyone.

The meeting will be on Wednesday, April 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Eastview RB Community Center, 17520 Drayton Hall Way, San Diego 92128. See you there!



2025-2026 Proposed Slate of Officers by Joan Thompson and the Nominating Committee

Voting for the 2025-2026 Elected Board of Officers will be held at the April 9 meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor in April.

The proposed slate of officers is:

- Presidents - Karen McGurk and Honorine Nocon
- Programs/1st Vice Presidents - Ellen Dillon and Kathy Moore
- Membership/2nd Vice President - Pam Ames
- Secretary - Deborah Dutilly
- Treasurer - Michelle Blasberg

Thank you to those who agreed to run for office and to the very hard-working Nominating Committee.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Moore

Operating Account

Our operating account is on budget for the year. With the generosity of our Interest Groups, and the use of the Eastview Community Center, we are continuing to offer excellent programs, even while limiting our expenses. Operating Account balance as of 3/12/2025 is \$4,139.

Fundraising Account

Our Fall Campaign drive is over (although we do accept donations throughout the year). Plans are under way for our May fundraising luncheon, Cover to Cover, at the Bernardo Heights Country Club on May 17. With our community's support, this luncheon will add to our ability to continue our Speech Trek and Scholarship Programs. Fundraising Account Balance as of 3/12/2025 is \$11,183.

Website Updates by Louise McDevitt

If you have been on our [website](#) in the last couple of months, you will note the new AAUW theme and the new layout with the large logo banner across the top of each page. Each branch may customize this banner to fit their preferences and personality. Unfortunately, the banner size may not be changed. So, I would like to solicit suggestions from our membership for photos or graphics we might use to update ours. Due to its size and the possibility of headings being placed over it, close-up photos of individuals probably won't work but semi-distant perspectives might be possible. The photo or graphic should also blend with the new official site colors. All photos must be high resolution files in JPG format. (Up to 15 MB files are okay!) I can crop and adjust to fit a larger item but cannot unblur something enlarged too much.

If you have any suggestions, photos, or graphics, please send them to Louise McDevitt at mlmcdevitt@pacbell.net.

Tech Trek by Heidi Dalvie, Ellen Dillon, and Debbie Lewis

- Camper interviews will be in mid-March.
- We will send 12 girls to camp this year, comprising two girls from six PUSD middle schools.
- Camper cost is \$1200/student.
- In-person camp will be at USD (not UCSD) from June 22-28, 2025.
- Virtual camp will be from July 20-25, 2025.



Want to get involved? Consider volunteering for:

- Check-in/Registration team at USD on the first day of in-person camp.
- Build Coach.
- Social Coach.
- Workshop Coach.
- Dorm Moms.
- Morning Volunteers to help during staff meetings.
- Stay tuned for details!

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

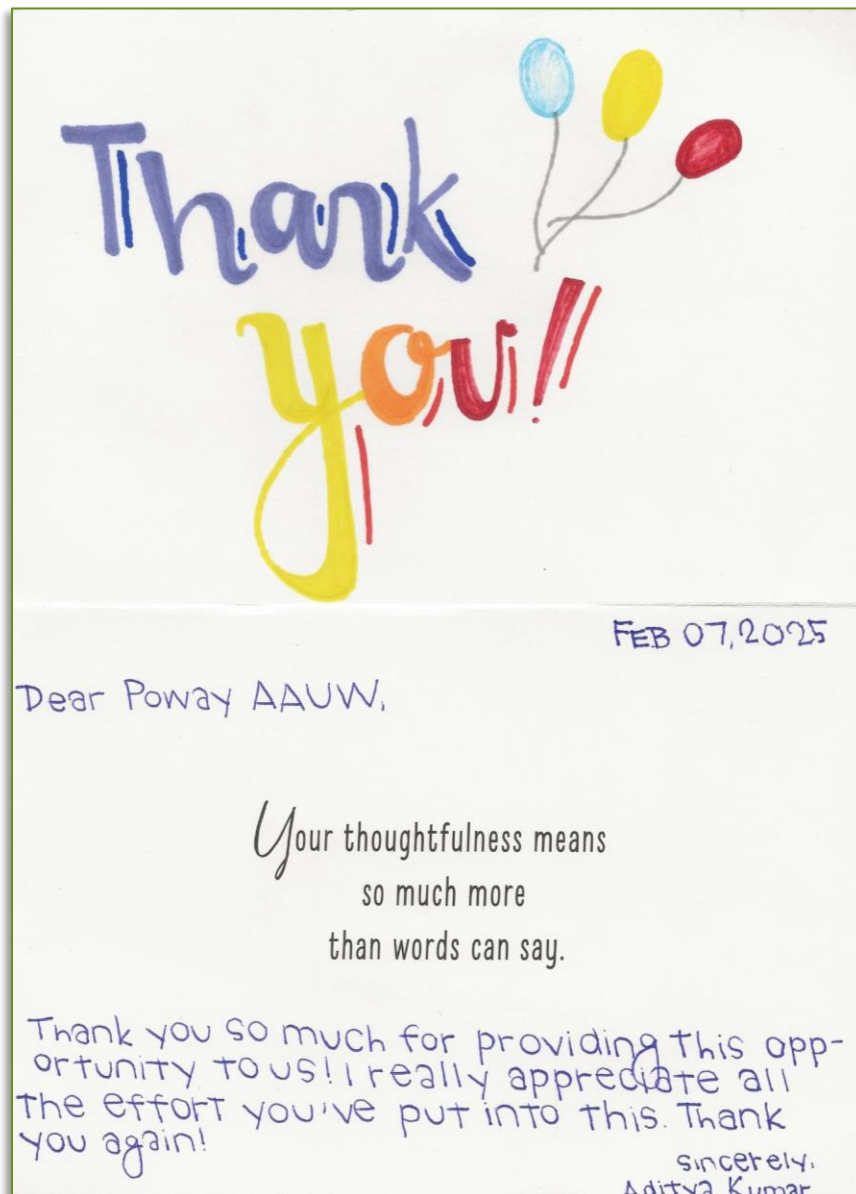
<https://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek-volunteer/>. If you want to help with the camp this year, please contact one of us right away to find out what fits your schedule.

Visit www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek for all sorts of good Tech Trek information.

Speech Trek by Karen McGurk

We received a lovely thank you cards from Aditya Kumar who won first place in our branch competition (below). It is apparent from his words that your support makes quite a difference for him.

I am grateful for your donations that help provide this opportunity for our high school students. This year we had freshmen through senior year participants from multiple high schools. With your help, we continue to reach more students and encourage their ability to be effective communicators.



Prepare for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee (shared by Marie Dye)

Sexual assault violence prevention calls for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multipronged approach, including improving street and housing conditions, providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities. Official channels for raising awareness about sexual assault violence and creating and implementing the policies needed for prevention has a long history in the United States; however, given the current administration's attack on "DEI," much of this work is now under threat of being dismantled.

Violence awareness began officially when the [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act](#) (FVPSA) became law in 1984, providing the primary federal funding for domestic violence victims and their children via emergency shelters and related assistance. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), [passed by Congress in 1994](#), is comprehensive federal legislation to end violence against women. In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first national [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#) (SAAM), building on years of advocacy and awareness-building. In 2009, President Barack Obama officially [declared April](#) to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which presidents have proclaimed by every year since then.

As part of this wider federal push, awareness-raising and prevention efforts around sexual assault violence have been more firmly embedded in core policies and practices. For instance, the Department of Defense has been trying to create a culture to eliminate sexual assault, requiring a personal commitment from all Service members. Educational institutions have benefitted as well: the final Title IX revisions in April 2024 by President Joe Biden reflected the stronger shift to prevent assault actions on school campuses. These revisions also sought to protect more people, expanding the definition of "sex-based harassment" to include harassment based on sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, and pregnancy. At the state level, In September 2024 Governor Newsom signed eight bills on domestic violence. The legislation created a new victims' services fund using penalties from white-collar crimes and expanded the ability of victims to access restraining orders.

While all of this movement has been positive, by the second week of President Donald Trump's current administration, the Office of Management and Budget had ordered a freeze of all federal financial assistance in all agencies including those that oversee government programs and funding for organizations that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services, such as Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, and the Department of Justice. [Multiple court orders have blocked the freezes from taking effect](#), but in some cases funds haven't been received for programs aimed at preventing sexual violence.

In addition, the current Administration has attacked the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and the Office on Violence Against Women, who must now disclose information that may further eliminate funding and resources, such as whether grants are being used to support "removable or illegal aliens or immigrants," to "promote gender ideology," or to advance "illegal DEI" programs—although at the time of writing, early challenges have signaled that enforcement of these provisions and [denial of funding may be unconstitutional](#).

As individuals and non-profit organizations, we can contact our Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence. We can also act in our local communities to reduce sexual assault violence. We can ask to improve lighting to make streets and other public spaces safer. We can make sure our city, county, and public health officials promote policies for families and children, address economic security, and provide access to safe, stable housing. We can collaborate with community-led organizations that coordinate resources and services that help with trauma, mental health, and substance use, all of which lead to sexual abuse. (from [CDC-Violence Prevention](#))

Overall, we can all work to [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence. [Click here](#) for downloadable free materials to share from the Domestic Violence Awareness Project.

What can you do?

- Contact Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence.

- [Act in our local communities](#) to reduce sexual assault violence through improving lighting, promoting policies for families and children, addressing economic security, and helping coordinate trauma resources.
- [Support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence.
- Share resources from the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#).

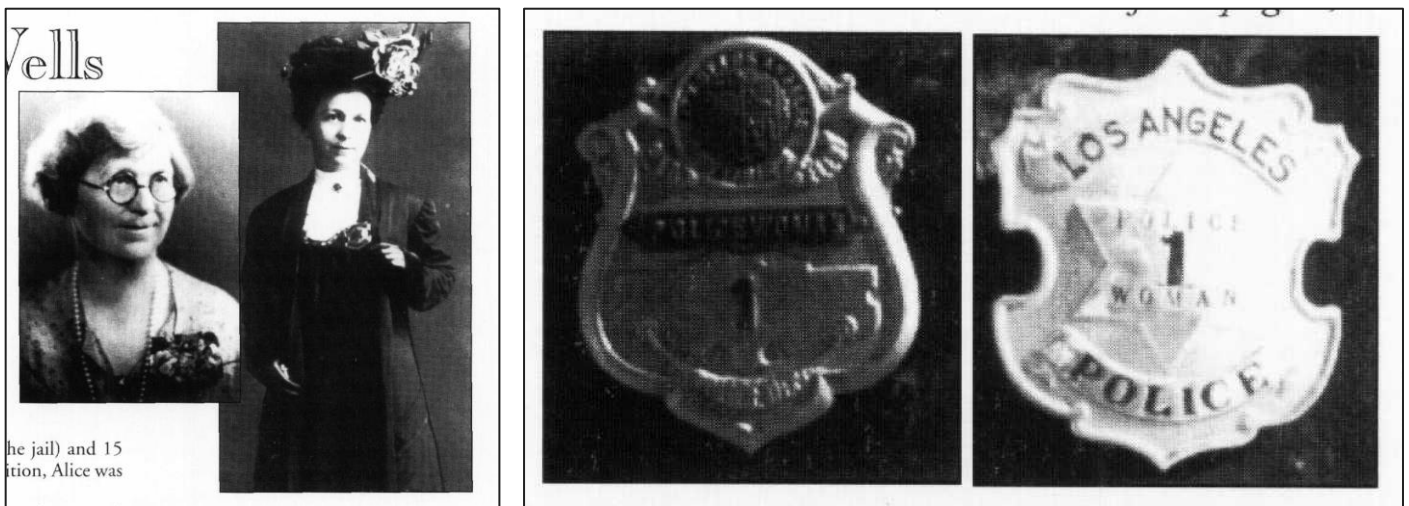
First Female Police Officer by Joie Nolasco

Few people know that Southern California was the first to hire a female police officer! Alice Stebbins Wells was a graduate of Oberlin College and Hartford Theological Seminary. Wells was a social worker, and before moving to California, she had served as a minister in Kansas and a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Wells pressed Los Angeles to establish a new city ordinance allowing female policewomen, and with the support of some influential people, Alice was hired on September 12, 1910, by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). She was equipped with a telephone call box key, a police rule book, a first aid book, and the "Policewoman's Badge Number One." Although not allowed to carry a gun, she was the nation's first female policewoman with arrest powers. Wells even designed and sewed some of her own policewoman uniforms.

Prior to her employment, most women in law enforcement served as prison workers taking care of female inmates. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) assigned Wells to patrol public recreation places where women and children frequented, such as skating rinks, dance halls, and movie theaters.

["The Early Years of American Law." Crime and Punishment in America Reference Library, edited by Richard C. Hanes, et al., vol. 1: Almanac, Volume 1, UXL, 2005, pp. 21-38. Gale In Context: U.S. History, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3441000012/UHIC?u=sddp_main&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=a05bc5e9. Accessed 12 Mar. 2025.]



Photos: Alice Stebbins Wells. (2002). WomenPolice, 36(4), 4-4,10. Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/trade-journals/alice-stebbins-wells/docview/199369685/se-2>

Upcoming Women's Marches by Marie Dye, Public Policy Chair

Many marches are occurring throughout San Diego County, and you can find a list of events at this site [Events — WMSD](#).

If you are interested in participating in future marches, contact me at mdye@san.rr.com. I will create a list of those who want to go and notify you of future events.

March General Meeting – Performance by Annette Hubbell

Annette Hubbell was outstanding in her portrayal of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mary Macleod Bethune, and Gladys May Aylward in honor of Women’s History Month.



**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: Harriet Gerza

Programs/1st Vice

Presidents: Karen

McGurk, Joie Nolasco

Membership/2nd Vice

Presidents: Pam Ames,

Miriam Lauff

Secretary: Debby

Dutilly

Treasurer: Kathy Moore

Happy Healthy Hikers Visit the Presidio & Old Town by Mary

Alice Rudelich

On April 1 we will meet at the Robinson Rose House Visitor Center at 4002 Wallace St, San Diego 92110 and start walking to the Presidio at 9 a.m. When we return, a docent will take us on a tour of the Old Town State Park. This should afford us some beautiful views as well as provide us with a history of San Diego. For those who are interested, we will enjoy lunch at Casa Guadalajara at 11:30 a.m. The carpool will meet at Gianni's Bar and Grill at 8:30 a.m.

Please RSVP to mary.rudelich@aol.com if you will be joining us.

Ciao,

Mary Alice and Jo

Grape Expectations Tries Something New! by Janice Heather

Grape Expectations will try a new combination wine bar & coffee cafe on Friday, April 11 from 3-5 p.m. The winery, Castelli and Pizarro, has a vineyard and tasting room in Ramona, and they recently opened a new combination winery/coffee cafe in Sorrento Mesa in the new Merge 56 development. The new place is called Castelli & Pizarro Family-Merge and offers the family's wines and various snacks for purchase including charcuterie, nuts, and pastries. There may even be a food truck!

The Winery/Cafe is at 8220 Merge Ave, San Diego.

<https://www.cpfwinery.com/locations>

Those who wish to carpool can meet at 2:30 p.m. at the RB Library/old Souplantation parking lot.

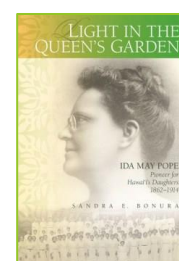
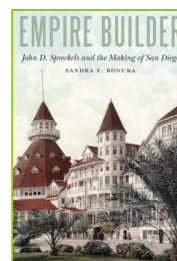
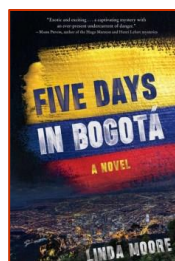
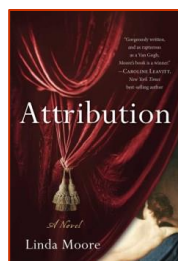
Please rsvp to janiceheather@hotmail.com if you'd like to join us. It'll be fun! ☺

Save the Date for Cover to Cover on May 17 by Cathy Burciaga,
2025 Cover to Cover Chair

Don't forget to mark your calendars for another spectacular Authors Luncheon on Saturday, May 17! We are very excited about this year's Cover to Cover event, because in addition to a delicious lunch, book signings, and a chance to bid on wonderful silent auction items, you will meet in person two very hot San Diego authors, Sandra Bonura and Linda Moore.

Sandee is an award-winning author, historian and researcher, and educator for over twenty years. Her many works include Light in the Queen's Garden: Ida May Pope, Empire Builder: John D. Spreckels and the Making of San Diego, The Sugar King of California: The Life of Claus Spreckels, and San Diego's Zoo Mother: The Life of Belle Benchley. You'll also meet Linda Moore, world traveler, speaker, art historian, recovering gallery owner, and brilliant new author in the mystery genre. Her two recent novels are Attribution and the riveting Five Days in Bogotá (I couldn't put it down...!).

Cover to Cover is one of our most important fundraisers for re-entry scholarships and it is always a fun and festive event for our members and guests!



AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2025

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
Apr. 1	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, mary.rudelich@aol.com	This month we will start at the Robinson Rose Visitor Center located at 4002 Wallace and walk to the Presidio at 9 a.m. The carpool will meet at Yanni's Bar and Grill parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Mary Alice at mary.rudelich@aol.com .	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels. Contact Mary Alice to be added to the distribution list.
Apr. 3	Great Decisions	U.S. – China Relations	Sally Jacobson, jacobs@san.rr.com Marie Dye, mdye@san.rr.com	Meeting hosted by Terry Humphrey, 13195 Bavarian Drive in Penasquitos. RSVP to Terry at thumphrey@palomar.edu if you are planning to attend. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.	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 mdye@san.rr.com .
Apr. 8	Page Turners	Tom Lake, by Ann Patchett	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Honorine Nocon, 9587 Paseo Montril in Penasquitos. RSVP to Honorine if you are planning to attend: honorinenocon@gmail.com .	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.
Apr. 9	General Meeting	Leadership for the 21 st Century, presented by Dr. Vicki Halsey	Joie Nolasco joienolasco@gmail.com Karen McGurk kmcgurkm@sbcglobal.net	The meeting is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the RB Eastview Community Center, 17520 Drayton Hall Way in Rancho Bernardo. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com .	Bring friends and family! Be ready to define your definition of leadership!
Apr. 11	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, janiceheather@gmail.com	This month from 3-5 p.m., we will visit Castelli & Pizarro Winery and Vineyard at the Merge, located at 8220 Merge Avenue. Please RSVP to Janice at janiceheather@hotmail.com .	We meet monthly for either wine or beer tasting. Please contact Janice to be added to the distribution list.
Apr. 23	Games Group	N/A	Aresa Toukdarian, atoukdar@gmail.com Harriet Gerza, harriet.gerza@gmail.com	Games to be played from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the home of Aresa Toukdarian, 8492 Florissant Ct in Penasquitos. Please RSVP to Aresa at atoukdar@gmail.com .	Please contact Aresa or Harriet with any questions.
Apr. 24	Thursday Book Group	Remarkably Bright Creatures, by Kristen Hannah	Ann Morgan, annmorgansd@yahoo.com ; Marilyn Scheininger, marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com	Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lyn Johnston, 9330 Chabola Road. Please RSVP to Lyn if you are planning to attend at lynjohn@san.rr.com .	Meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn.

<p>Apr. 26</p>	<p>Travel Group</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com</p>	<p>Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Tony's Jacal, 621 Valley Ave in Solana Beach. The carpool will meet at 11 a.m. at the Freeport Park and Ride located at 9941 Carmel Mountain Road (next to 24 Hour Fitness). RSVP to Pam at pamames123@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Meets monthly at various local restaurants. Contact Pam Ames to be added to the distribution list.</p>
<p>Apr. 28</p>	<p>Monday Mysteries Book Group</p>	<p>Leaving Time, by Jodi Picoult</p>	<p>Pam Meyer, pamela.me4@gmail.com</p>	<p>Meeting is at the home of Desiree Louis- Maubert, 17705 Devereux Road in Rancho Bernardo. RSVP to Desiree at louis.desiree@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Meets the fourth Monday of every month. Please email Pam Meyer to be added to the distribution list.</p>



YOU ARE INVITED TO A **FREE** SCREENING OF

LILLY



Monday, March 24, 2025

Ranch Bernardo Branch Library
17110 Bernardo Ctr Dr, San Diego CA 92128

Doors open: 4:15 pm | Screening begins: 4:30pm
Q & A to immediately follow

Based on the remarkable true story of equal pay activist Lilly Ledbetter, LILLY chronicles how an aggrieved tire factory worker tenaciously fought monolithic patriarchies for employment justice for women.

Directed by Rachel Feldman | Staring Patricia Clarkson | 93 min



Presented by AAUW Poway-Penasquitos
RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com

APRIL 2025 MEETING



**WEDNESDAY,
April 9 at 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Learn about a new definition of leadership, one that has the ability to rally people to achieve needed change to create a world that works for all. Our speaker, Dr. Vicki Halsey, is currently the VP of Applied Learning with the Ken Blanchard Companies and an inspirational speaker, trainer, author, and instructional designer whose unique blend of energy, intellect, and passion engages people's hearts and minds and motivates them to unleash their greatness.

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

RB Eastview Community Center
17520 Drayton Hall Way, San Diego 92128

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPowayPO>
<https://powayarea-ca.aauw.net/>



POWAY-PENASQUITOS
COVER TO COVER
AUTHORS LUNCHEON

*Save
the
Date!*

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

10:00AM

THE HEIGHTS GOLF CLUB

**FASCINATING
AUTHORS &
BOOK
SIGNING**

**FABULOUS
SILENT
AUCTION
ITEMS**