

Adelante



AAUW Poway-Penasquitos Branch

IN THIS ISSUE

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

- May 9: Hike Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve with Happy Healthy Hikers
- May 17: Cover to Cover Authors Luncheon
- May 23: Visit Sunshine Mountain Wines with Grape Expectations
- May 30: Enjoy Lunch at Cuscatlan Salvadorian Cuisine with the Travel Group

President's Message by Harriet Gerza

Leadership is sometimes a "loaded" word to describe someone who you expect to be a hero/heroine like a Marvel character. Our presenter on April 9, Dr. Vicki Halsey, reframed that description to show how small gestures and acts can also make a leader. We all want to make a difference in the world, and it starts with simple but meaningful ways that can bring about change in your relationship to others. I hope you found it insightful and helpful in your daily life. Next up is our annual Cover to Cover (C2C) lunch on May 17. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there and please bring friends, family, colleagues, and all who might be interested in hearing from two exciting authors and enjoying a delightful and delicious lunch with awesome ladies.

Talking about change and learning new things to make a difference, my new skill is creating succulent gardens for our C2C centerpieces, and what a surprise that I, the old dog, can learn new tricks. Thanks to all who donated pots, cuttings, shells, stones, and their time to create these beauties, and I hope you will enjoy them too. AAUW is a gift that keeps on giving, challenging you to learn new things such as educating oneself in all varieties of succulents! Just when you think you can't fit a new thing in your brain, life surprises you that you can make a difference, even a small one, by creating a beautiful table setting.

I also want to say thanks to those who attended the movie, Lilly, last month. (pictures below) It was a truly inspiring story of one woman who did make a huge difference. It was pretty cool that we were able to Zoom with one of the producers of the film for a Q & A, just like a real film festival! It took a village to put this film showing together. What I thought would be an easy task turned into a much more complicated project, so I want to thank Sheila and Stewart Walker for their tech support, Janice Heather for publicizing everywhere (we had a great turnout from the public) and all the board members who helped set up and break down the room. It was an chance to showcase our branch and organization to the community and hopefully we will create more opportunities as they come up.

That's it for this month, I'll see you soon.

Still Time to Register for Cover to Cover (C2C) Authors Luncheon on May 17 by

Cathy Burciaga, Cover to Cover 2025 Chair

Our festive Authors Luncheon is Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m., and be sure to register before May 7! We are very excited about this year's event at The Heights Golf Club in Rancho Bernardo 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 fantastic San Diego authors, Linda Moore and Sandra Bonura.

Linda is a world traveler, speaker, art historian, recovering gallery owner, and brilliant newer author in the mystery genre. Her two recent novels are **Attribution** and the riveting **Five Days in Bogotá**. Sandee is an award-winning author, historian and researcher, and educator for over twenty years. Her many works include her two latest books **Empire Builder: John D. Spreckels and the Making of San Diego** and **The Sugar King of California: The Life of Claus Spreckels**. Her other published works focus on notable pioneers of San Diego and Hawaii that she will talk about, including Belle Benchley, San Diego's "zoo mother."

Cover to Cover is one of our most important fundraisers for re-entry scholarships and it is always a fun and lively event for our members and guests! Details can be found in the flyer and registration form at the end of this newsletter or visit our website <https://powayarea-ca.aauw.net/>.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Moore

Operating Account

Thanks to a strong team effort, we are approaching the end of our fiscal year on budget. Even in a time of rising costs, we are keeping our expenses to a minimum while providing quality programs for our members and our community. We appreciate our interest groups providing treats for our monthly meetings, and with their support we are able to provide hospitality to our members and guests.

Operating Account Balance 4/1/2025 is \$4,052.

Fundraising Account

Our fundraising account supports our Speech Trek competition and our Scholarship program. Only with your generosity can we fund these amazing programs. Our May Cover to Cover luncheon is upcoming, and with your contributions, we can continue these programs into the future.

Fundraising Account Balance as of 4/1/2025 is \$11,900.

Speech Trek Update by Karen

McGurk

Good Luck Aditya! Our Speech Trek Competition winner, Aditya Kumar, is one of three semi-finalists who will compete in the AAUW State Finals virtual competition. The winner's name will be announced and their video will be showcased at the Saturday, April 26, 2025, California Annual Event.



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

- Camper interviews were completed, and 12 girls were selected. We wish we could send them all!
- 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.

TTAG Update (Tech Trek Alumnae Group) by Debbie Lewis

Our spring TTAG meeting began with a guided tour on the Scripps Pier of Oceanography led by Loren Clark, a maritime archaeologist and PhD Candidate at UC San Diego. Loren’s research combines a love of science, cultural heritage, and history which led her to study archaeology. Although she grew up on a farm in the middle of Indiana, marine sciences always felt like home. Loren has worked on many archaeological projects (above and below water) all around the world. Her current research focuses on paleo landscapes in the submerged cave systems on the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. For a follow up to our tour we were invited into a lab on the UCSD campus. The alumnae as well as the adults came away with a renewed appreciation for the history of our world as well as visual impacts of climate change.

As a woman in a field that trends male dominated, Loren was happy to encourage our girls to follow their passions, wherever it may take them. Another unforgettable day for our Tech Trek alumnae!

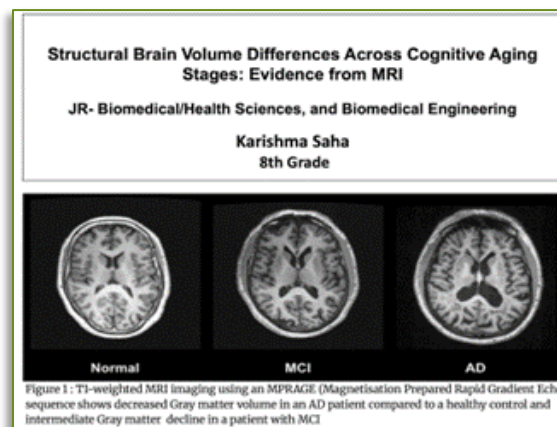


TTAG Alumnae Spotlight by Debbie Lewis

We are celebrating one of our amazing Tech Trek alumni who entered her 8th grade project in the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair 2025. Her project was titled “Structural Brain Volume Differences Across Cognitive Aging Stages.”

Karishma won 1st prize in her category, Biomedical/Health Sciences and Biomedical Engineering, in addition to the Grand Prize. She also won 2nd prize from the San Diego Psychological Association. Karishma is competing at the state level on April 12 and 13. She was also nominated for the Junior Innovators Challenge 2025.

From her parents: *Thank you for choosing Karishma last year for TechTrek camp. That was a pivotal moment in her life, and she is forever grateful.*



Public Policy Committee Sets AAUW California 2025 Legislative Agenda by Missy Maceyko and Amy Hom, Co-chairs Public Policy Committee (shared by Marie Dye)

The Public Policy Committee met over a weekend in mid-March for our most important meeting of the year, to set the Legislative Agenda for 2025. Prior to the meeting, our committee collectively evaluated over 60 bills related to AAUW's mission and Public Policy Priorities. During our two-day marathon session, we carefully considered each bill. We then voted to select and prioritize the top 25 bills, leaving room to add a few more bills that we know will be coming to us in the next few weeks.

Our three "A" priority bills are SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians," AB 579 "Yaeli's Law," and SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All." All three of the "A" priority bills this year fall under the Social Justice pillar of our Public Policy Priorities.

- The first "A" bill, SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians," is authored by Senator Henry Stern and is sponsored by AAUW California. SB 771 clarifies that a social media platform may be liable for civil penalty under existing law if and when its algorithms or AI aid or abet individual users who are engaging in already unlawful intimidation of others in online spaces. While hateful speech is problematic, it is not illegal. However, it can cross the line into illegal action. When hate speech is "brought to the doorstep" of marginalized communities, for example if someone maliciously posts anti-immigrant messages on the virtual Facebook wall of an immigrant family, they are engaging in unlawful intimidation, terrorism, and threat. While social media platforms are not responsible for the speech of individual users, aspects of their platform such as algorithms or AI can be complicit in the targeting of marginalized groups, which is unlawful. Social media companies have recently intentionally turned away from providing safeguards that they previously provided for targeted vulnerable communities. They should be held accountable for that decision, in light of the real-world impacts of proliferation of online hate and their complicity in unlawful intimidation.
- The second "A" bill, to which we are taking an opposition position, is AB 579 "Yaeli's Law" authored by Assemblymember Leticia Castillo. This bill rests on the premise that denial of support for youth self-identity, including refusal to use a child's name and pronouns, or refusal to provide or allow their gender-affirming care, is not harmful and therefore should not be considered child abuse under the law, and, accordingly, not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions. This is problematic. Research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity. We oppose this bill because every child deserves to be protected from emotional and physical abuse, including the right to be removed from a harmful household to a more healthy environment.
- The third "A" bill is SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All" authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar. This bill would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. Access to gender-affirming care is a fundamental aspect of health equity and human rights. SB 418 will protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, while also sending a powerful message of support to the LGBTQ+ community, affirming that their needs matter. Creating an environment where all individuals can express their identities without fear is foundational to a strong democracy.

To see the full 2025 Legislative Agenda, please go to the [Bill Tracking Report](#). This report is a living document that will be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.

For online outreach to CA representatives on A-bills, follow AAUW California's Petitions Page on [Resistbot](#).

Take Action to Help Kids Feel Safe at School by Kathi Harper, Chair, Public Policy School Board Project (shared by Marie Dye)

Many of our members have expressed concerns about the potential for ICE raids in our local schools. These intrusions on school grounds are already happening in some places and are having a significant detrimental impact on these families, especially for their children. Some of the ramifications have included:

- Parents not showing up at school events fearing agents might be there.
- Students don't want to come to school, fearing their parents will be taken while they're gone.
- Children not learning, consumed by fear of agents coming on campus to take them away.

Here are some things you should know:

- Current law (Plyler v Doe 1982) held that all children, even undocumented, have a constitutional right to free public education.
- In 2011, DHS issued the "Sensitive Locations" policy, which prohibited raids from certain places including schools.
- Although the President has attempted to revoke the order, Executive Orders and Actions cannot change statutes or regulations.
- There are currently four lawsuits challenging the attempted revocation; three from churches have been successful so far, and one from a school in Denver has resulted in a denial of a request for a temporary injunction.
- Current law also prohibits ICE entry on campuses without a warrant.
- Even if they have a warrant to enter, that does not entitle them to have access to private/protected student records.

Here are two things you can do:

- Urge your school boards/districts to issue a "Safe Zone" Resolution – the template can be found here: [Guidance on Immigration Issues | NEA](#).
- Engage your branch members in a postcard-writing campaign to their school boards with the following message: WE STAND WITH IMMIGRANT STUDENTS AND LGBTQ+ YOUTH



Women in History Inspirational Quotes by Joie Nolasco

Dr. Vicki Halsey, VP of Applied Learning for the Ken Blanchard Company, and our April speaker: "Leadership is an influence relationship among leaders and followers who achieve real positive change."

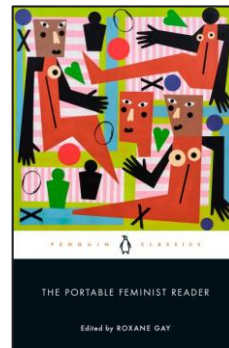
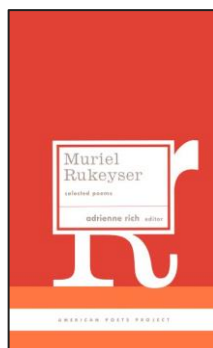
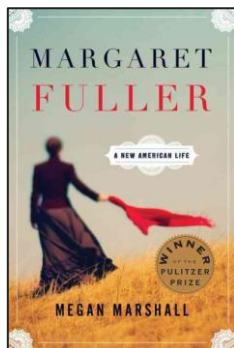
Sheryl Crow regarding Know Thyself: "Empowering yourself and clinging to the things that are sacred about being a woman are what gives you power as a female. I think you shouldn't have to change who you are to compete or to be treated equally."

Anne Rice: "Today, what we share is more important than what sets us apart from one another. What we have in common is infinitely more important than what divided us."

Muriel Rukeyser: "The universe is made up of stories, not atoms."

Margaret Fuller: "Nature provides exceptions to every rule."

Curious to learn more about these and other exceptional women? Click on the pictures to check out these titles:



Lilly Movie Screening

by Janice Heather

On March 24, our branch hosted a screening of the new movie, "Lilly," at the Rancho Bernardo Library. Over 100 people attended the film, which is based on the life of pay equity activist Lilly Ledbetter. We also enjoyed a Q&A afterward with one of the movie's producers.

Ledbetter worked at Goodyear Tires and was paid less than her male counterparts for decades. She sued, won, and then lost when the company appealed. She lost at the Supreme Court, but finally got Congress to approve pay equity legislation that was signed by President Obama and was named after her.

She never stopped fighting, even though corporate America put many obstacles in her way. The film, starring award-winning actress Patricia Clarkson, will be shown soon in select theaters across the nation.



Grape Expectations at 3rd Corner in March by Janice Heather

Grape Expectations members and guest had a great time checking out Third Corner wine shop/wine bar/restaurant in Encinitas on March 21. 🍷

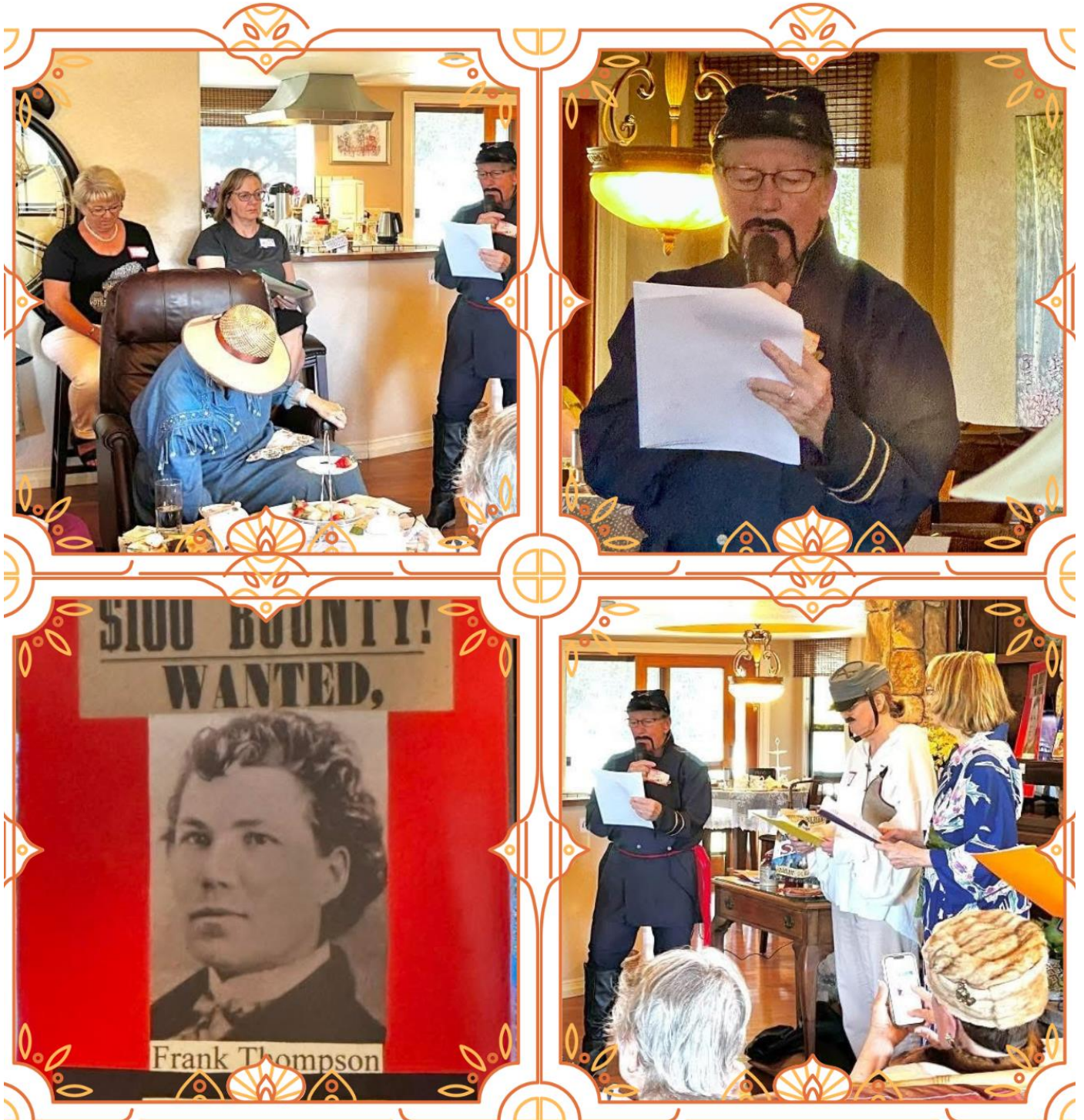


Happy Healthy Hikers at Old Town by Mary Alice Rudelich



Traveling Theatre Troupe by Joie Nolasco

On Saturday, March 22, Joie Nolasco, dressed as General George McClellan, along with actresses Marie Dye, Marycay Densmore, and Harriet Gerza entertained the AAUW La Mesa-EI Cajon branch's Women in History Tea with a production just like the old television show What's My Line, but titled To Test the Truth. Panelists Caroline Cochran and Kathy Moore, along with tea guests, tried to discover who was telling the truth about Civil War veteran Sarah Emma Edmonds who had served as a Union soldier named Frank Thompson.



**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: 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 to Visit Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve by Mary Alice Rudelich

Did you know that the Native Americans living in Old Town State Park used the Cochineal Scale insect, which lives on the Prickly Pear cactus, to dye their clothes red and for trade? Yes, that is just one amazing thing that the Happy Healthy Hikers learned on our April 1 hike!

Please join us on Friday, May 9 at 9 a.m. for the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve hike. Carpools will be available. If you have a parking pass for the reserve, please let me know. Fun fact: The Torrey Pine is the oldest pine in the United States and only grows naturally in two places; Torrey Pines and Santa Rosa Island. We hope that you can join us.

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

Ciao,
Mary Alice and Jo

Grape Expectations Plans an Afternoon in the Sunshine! by Janice Heather

On Friday, May 23, from 3-5 p.m., Grape Expectations will check out another new San Diego County winery, Sunshine Mountain Wines in San Marcos. Located on the beautiful hills overlooking San Marcos, they offer a wide variety of wines as well as charcuterie boards, a variety of pizzas, and desserts.

The winery is located at 2286 Sunshine Mountain Rd, in San Marcos. For more information on their wines and grounds, check out their website: <https://www.sunshinemountainwines.com/>.

If you'd like to join us, RSVP to janiceheather@hotmail.com. Carpools will leave from the Rancho Bernardo Library parking lot at 2:30 p.m. Cheers! 🍷

Travel Group to Sample Salvadorian Cuisine by Pam Ames

Join the Travel Group on Friday, May 30 at 1 p.m. for lunch at Cuscatlan Salvadorian Cuisine & More in Escondido. Cuscatlan offers weekday lunch specials including pupusas. Everyone is welcome! The restaurant is located at 221 E. Grand with parking in the back. A carpool from Rancho Bernardo will be organized. The photo below is of our March lunch at Boto Sushi.



AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2025

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
May 8	Great Decisions	India:Between China, The West and the Global South	Sally Jacobson, jacobs@san.rr.com Marie Dye, mdye@san.rr.com	Meeting hosted by Karen McGurk, 14905 Derringer Road in Poway. Please RSVP to Karen at kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net . 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 .
May 9	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, mary.rudelich@aol.com	This month we will hike Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. Carpools will be available and if you have a Parks Pass, please let Mary Alice know. 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.
May 13	Page Turners	The Women, by Kristin Hannah	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Georgia Chagala, 12857 Rockwell Court in Poway. Please RSVP to Georgia at gchagala@cox.net if you are planning to 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.
May 17	Cover to Cover	Authors Sandra Bonura and Linda Moore are the speakers.	Cathy Burciaga, cburciaga@san.rr.com	Our annual authors luncheon and fundraiser. The location is the Heights Golf Club, 16066 Bernardo Heights Parkway. The program is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and check in starts at 10 a.m. Check our branch website https://powayarea-ca.aauw.net/ for the registration form (also below in the newsletter).	Bring friends and family!
May 22	Thursday Book Group	The Overstory, by Richard Powers	Ann Morgan, annmmorgansd@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.
May 23	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, janiceheather@gmail.com	This month from 3-5 p.m., we will visit Sunshine Mountain Vineyard, 2286 Sunshine Mountain Road in San Marcos. 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.

May 26	Monday Mysteries Book Group	Desperation Reef , by T. Jefferson Parker	Pam Meyer, pamela.me4@gmail.com	Meeting is at the home of Cathe Gigstad, 18655 W Bernardo Drive, #404. Please RSVP to Cathe at cathegigstad3@gmail.com .	Meets the fourth Monday of every month. Please email Pam Meyer to be added to the distribution list.
May 28	Games Group	N/A	Aresa Toukdarian, atoukdar@gmail.com Harriet Gerza, harriet.gerza@gmail.com	We will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Harriet Gerza, 17888 Avenida Cordillera in Rancho Bernardo. Please RSVP to Harriet at harriet.gerza@gmail.com if you plan to attend.	Please contact Aresa or Harriet with any questions.
May 30	Travel Group	N/A	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	This month we will visit Cuscatlan Salvadorian Cuisine and More in Escondido. We will meet for lunch at 1 p.m., and a carpool from Rancho Bernardo will be organized. Please RSVP to Pam Ames at pamames123@gmail.com .	Meets monthly at various local restaurants. Contact Pam Ames to be added to the distribution list. Everyone is welcome!

AAUW Poway-Penasquitos Branch

COVER TO COVER AUTHORS LUNCHEON

A Fundraiser for Re-entry Women Scholarships

**Bernardo Heights
Golf Club**



May 17



10:00AM



Meet Dr. Sandra Bonura, gifted historian, educator and award winning author. Her passion: digging out the stories of San Diego and Hawaiian pioneers.



Meet Linda Moore, world traveler, art historian, recovering gallery owner and brilliant new author in the mystery and intrigue genre.

25th Annual Cover to Cover Authors Luncheon

Saturday, May 17, 2025 10AM–2PM



The Heights Golf Club, 16066 Bernardo Heights Pkwy, San Diego 92128

Check-In: 10:00-10:45 a.m. **Program:** 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Reservation deadline is Wednesday, May 7! 📧 **\$75 Includes Luncheon & Program**
**** \$85 After May 7 ****

Fill out this form & either email as an attachment to aauboard@gmail.com with "C2C" in the subject line;
 or, mail to Pamela Meyer-C2C, 18755 W. Bernardo Drive, Apt. 1107, San Diego 92127

Payment options: Zelle or check

Zelle to: aauboardC2C@gmail.com using the optional QR code (above)

Mail **checks**, payable to "AAUW/PP", to Pamela Meyer.

Tables of 10 will be guaranteed seating at the same table. (One check for the whole table would be most appreciated!)

ENTREE CHOICES

- *Chicken with Citrus Beurre Blanc Sauce, Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables*
- *Pan Seared Salmon with Chardonnay Mushroom Sauce, Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables*
- *Vegetarian Option: Penne Pasta Primavera*
- *Dessert: The Heights Seasonal Berry Cobbler*

Name	Chicken	Salmon	Vegetarian
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Questions? Email aauboard@gmail.com, or call/text Pam (619) 855-4071 or Cathy (858) 449-5096

PRINT CLEARLY the contact information for table confirmation:

Name _____ Email: _____

Any special needs (dietary, wheelchair)? _____

I am unable to attend but am making a \$_____ donation for Re-Entry Women Scholarships

****PLEASE SEND IN THIS ENTIRE PAGE TO HELP US WITH OUR RECORD KEEPING****