



Santa Barbara—Goleta Valley  
AAUW

Volume 5  
Number 6

Coast Connections

February 2015

Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley (CA) Branch

The SB-GV AAUW Monthly Newsletter

*Celebrating 100 years of empowering women in the Santa Barbara area.*

## A Visit to the Santa Barbara Historical Museum

136 East De La Guerra Street, Santa Barbara

Thursday, February 26, 1:15 pm

Join fellow branch members for a docent-led tour of this local gem, featuring the special exhibit about an iconic local woman architect:

**“Under the Umbrella: Lulah Maria Riggs & Her Santa Barbara Style.”**

Gather for lunch first at 12 noon at Sojourner Café, 134 East Canon Perdido if you like!

Please let Jane Honikman (967-9757 or [jane@janehonikman.com](mailto:jane@janehonikman.com)) know if you wish to come along on this branch Outing so we can let the Museum know how many of us to expect.

## Coming in March!

In Honor of Women's History Month:

## Gender and Mathematics in 19th-Century America

Pat Cohen, Ph.D.

Research Professor Emeritus, History Department, UCSB

Author of *A Calculating People: The Spread of Numeracy in Early America*

University Club, 1332 Santa Barbara St.

Thursday, March 5, 2015

7 pm

In the early decades of the New Republic, political and economic change placed intensified value on arithmetic and mathematics as important practical skills needed by boys and young men. But what of their sisters, also increasingly attending schools and academies? Patricia Cohen examines the 19th-century origins of the stereotype that girls can't do (or struggle more with) math, a stereotype ironically at odds with the trend to feminize the teaching force as public schooling expanded.

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## President's Message

February already? Well, it may be the shortest month, but lots of good things are packed into it. Besides Gounthog Day, Valentine's Day, and Presidents' Day, there are also some great AAUW events going on.

First, on Saturday, February 7 several of us are going up to Santa Maria for the Central Coast Fellows luncheon, which is being co-sponsored by the branches of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties together. Our AAUW CA President, Kathleen Doty, will be attending, along with Sharon Westafer, our AAUW Funds Chair for California. We will be hearing from two fellows, a member of AAUW's National Student Leadership Council, and the head of Tech Trek t UCSB, Susan Pease. You'll be sorry you missed it if you are not coming!

On Sunday, February 15, TechSavvy is being held at UCSB for 6th - 9th grade girls for the second year! We were thrilled when Jill Dunlap, our UCSB liaison and Steering Commit-

tee member, received a second grant from AAUW National for a follow-up to last year's TechSavvy conference, one of only 10 in the country!

If you know of any families with girls in that age range, please refer them to our branch website, <http://sbgv-ca.aauw.net/> where they can click through to register for this wonderful opportunity. It is \$10 per participant, and scholarships are available thanks to a donation from the branch.

I hope you will join us for the Outing to the Santa Barbara Historical Museum on Thursday, February 26. I hate to admit it, but I have lived in the Santa Barbara area since 1969 and have never actually visited this museum. Thanks to Jane Honikman for making the arrangements!

If you have never participated in any of our other ongoing interest groups, consider giving one a try this month. Check the Calendar and join us for lunch, a book discussion, or an interesting film! And if you have an idea for another

interest group, please email someone on the Steering Committee and we can give it a try as long as the day of the month does not conflict with an existing group. Music, Current Events, Travel, or ????

I want to thank our Nominating Committee, made up of Jane Honikman, Ginny Capra, and Jane DeSelm for being willing to take on this responsibility. They are hard at work putting together a leadership team for our 2015-2016 AAUW year. If you are called, please consider sharing your talents with the branch, whether as a member of the Steering Committee or taking on a limited commitment for a particular program or event. Our branch is only as strong as our members make it

As always, thank you for being a part of the Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley AAUW branch.

*Claire VanBlaricum*  
967-7523

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## Remembering Lois Oates

Lois Oates, a member of the local branch of AAUW since about 1962, passed away peacefully on January 16, 2015, at Cottage Hospital, at the age of 90. She graduated in 1945 from Texas State College for Women, which is now called Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. She enjoyed new AAUW friends in cities around the country in which she and her husband, Roger, lived in the 1950's. She and Roger, who passed away in 1988, enjoyed couples bridge groups in their early days in Santa Barbara and Lois continued to be active in the organization until a few years ago, always enjoying the women she met and the programs offered locally for members, as well as AAUW bridge games. She is survived by four children and their spouses, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great granddaughters. Her eldest daughter, Charlotte Smith is a member of this branch. Gifts in her memory may be given to our Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley AAUW Scholarship Fund. Contributions in memory of Lois should be by check made out to SB-GV AAUW Scholarship Fund and should be mailed to SB-GV AAUW, PO Box 802, Goleta CA, 93116.

# Getting to Know Our Members

## MICHELLE LA - NEW MEMBER

My name is Michelle Radeke, but socially I go by Michelle La, my married name. I was born July 12 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Before I was aware of the big city, we moved up north to the small town of Carlton. I had an idyllic childhood building treehouses in the woods, catching fireflies in cat-tails around a country lake, and ice skating under the stars.

When I was growing up, I wanted to be President and then a CIA agent. My parents helpfully suggested that I should be a secret agent before becoming President so as not to blow my cover. My family moved to Boise, Idaho when I was in junior high because my father had always wanted to live out West. From Boise, I went a little farther west to the University of Washington, Seattle. I met my husband there. He came all the way from Vietnam.

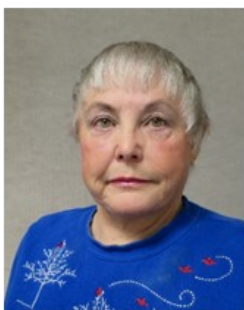
I planned to study biology, but I loved the required chemistry classes so much that I earned a PhD in chemistry from UCLA. We moved back to the Pacific Northwest to raise our three children. In 2009, we moved to Santa Barbara.

I've been a science and technology writer, analyst, and researcher. I work as the business manager for a business e-commerce software company I co-founded with my husband. Recently I've finished writing my first book, *Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands: A Boy from the Mekong Delta*, the story of my husband growing up in the midst of the Vietnam War and his struggle for freedom after the Communist takeover.

I love to travel and go off-the-beaten track. When my mom and I went to Australia and New Zealand last year, we stayed with local families and had adventures like walking on an active marine volcano. My husband and I took our children to Vietnam to see where he grew-up, as well as places he had never visited.

My favorite type of food is Vietnamese which is fortunate since my husband is a great cook. I tend to like quirky movies like *The Princess Bride* and *Monty Python's The Holy Grail* because I love to laugh. I choose books that teach me something or transport me to a different land. A recent nonfiction favorite was Katherine Boo's *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*.

My daughters playing piano is the best music to my ears. One daughter has recently begun playing cello, and it has a beautiful, warm sound. I try to combine daily exercise with walking with friends and tennis. When I get a chance, I have fun with photography. My favorite color has always been and still is blue. I joined AAUW because it has a great mission and is well-organized to make a difference. I hope to help out with Tech Trek. I've been impressed by the women I've met through AAUW and am looking forward to getting to know them better.



## CATHERINE BLACK---FUNDS COORDINATOR/PAST TREASURER

Catherine Elizabeth Spaulding Black was born in Missoula, Montana on July 19<sup>th</sup>. When she was 6 weeks old her family moved to Gettysburg, PA where her father was working on the War Mapping Program. The following year they moved to Lawrence, Kansas where her father taught at the University of Kansas and from there they moved to Ann Arbor, MI again so her father could teach at the University of Michigan. At the age of 15 Cathy moved to Alexandria, VA. She attended FC Hammond High School (the "white" school depicted in the Denzel Washington movie 'Remember the Titans'.) Cathy says that while she attended the school and long before the movie, the school was integrated by the mother of a class mate who was a civil rights lawyer. The family moved from Alexandria on the day of the march on Washington. Cathy says "I went to school with some interesting and now well-known people. Who knew?"

As a child, Cathy had no idea what she wanted to be when she grew up but she loved science and art. She was unable to continue taking art classes due to the heavy academic load at Hammond. She says, "if I had stayed in Ann Arbor, I think I could have pursued both, as my school there was run by the University of Michigan and we (the student body) had voted to have 7 periods."

[Continued on Page 4](#)

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## Getting to Know Our Members (Continued from Page 3)

Cathy attended the University of Colorado for a year and a half and then The University of Texas at Austin. Her undergraduate degree was in experimental psychology with minors in math and English. She also took classes in Quantum mechanics and computer science. Her Master's degree is in Library Science with an emphasis in Information Science which is a multi-disciplinary degree combining library science, computer science and business. She says, "I always liked the science classes but never had time to take them all."

When Cathy was in Austin, she worked for the IRS. In Santa Barbara, she worked for H & R Block during the tax season. She also worked for the old General Hospital in medical records and then as a Principal Clerk at the Health Department, County Schools, Abacus Accounting. She passed the Enrolled Agents Exam and worked for Alex Dodds & Associates (taxes) as well as being self-employed with her own tax practice. She also was the acting Controller for Digital Instruments, an External Auditor for the Tri-Counties Regional Center and Legal Aide Director of Finance and finally retirement.

Cathy was married but her ex-husband died in 2012. She has one son, 2 grandsons, a granddaughter who was given up for adoption, a step grandson, a step granddaughter, a step great granddaughter, a step great grandson and a step great granddaughter on the way.

Cathy loves to travel. In the United States she usually travels alone but when she goes overseas, she goes with small group tours. She is not wild about cruises on the large ships but thinks she would enjoy the small sailing ships like Star Cruises. Her favorite place in the USA is Glacier National Park which she says is "her park—another story here." China and southern France are her favorites overseas but would love to explore other places as well. Her desire now is to go to Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands and she asks "Does anyone want to go with me?"

Cathy doesn't have a favorite food but enjoys trying new foods and new cuisine with friends. Her favorite book or movie is usually what she has just read or seen. She enjoyed reading Fanny Flagg's "The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion". She likes Helen Mirren movies and enjoyed the movie "Reds". As for music, Cathy likes classical especially baroque chamber music.

Cathy's hobbies are arts and crafts and volunteers at the Botanic Gardens where she makes things for the shop. Her favorite color is any kind of blue.

At first, Cathy joined AAUW because of Beverly Kowalsky-Ching and Michel Nellis and then because of the activities and mission. She hopes that someday Tech Trek will be a nation-wide or possibly world-wide program.

## SB - GV AAUW Will Host International Scholar/Researcher

Dr. Asuncion Lara, a researcher at the Ramon de la Fuente Institute of Psychiatry in Mexico City will be visiting Santa Barbara in March. Dr. Lara is the head of the Intervention Models Department of the Institute and will be conducting several seminars in the Santa Barbara area during her visit. On Thursday, March 19, Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley AAUW and PEP (Postpartum Education for Parents) will be cosponsors with Antioch University for a free day-long seminar on postpartum depression in the Latino community. Dr. Lara will present the morning session on "Strengthening the Postpartum Bond in Latino Families" and will present a short training session in Spanish at the close of the seminar in the afternoon. Mariela Marin, MA, from Antioch will speak on "Relevant Issues in Postpartum Parenting Within the Latino Community" in the afternoon, along with a student panel from Antioch discussing their applied experiences in the community. On Friday, Dr. Lara will be presenting a similar seminar and training in Spanish in the North County.

**On Friday evening, March 20, from 5 to 7 pm, Jane Honikman will host a private reception for AAUW members at her home to give us all an opportunity to meet and talk with Dr. Lara. Put this on your calendar now so you don't miss this opportunity to get to know this renowned international scholar. There will be more information in the March newsletter.**

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## Women's Economic Concerns Take Center Stage in State of the Union

Here is an analysis of President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech from AAUW's top policy advisor, Lisa Maatz:

**January 21, 2015**

The annual State of the Union address creates Super-Bowl-like buzz and Vegas-worthy forecasting in our nation's capital. This year's speech was no different when it came to anticipation and prognostications, but it also featured one added spice: It was President Barack Obama's first speech before the newly minted, Republican-controlled Congress.

The annual address provides every president with a chance to boast about progress made and goals met, as well as to highlight next steps and advocate for upcoming budget proposals. Rather than offer granular plans, President Obama gave a more optimistic, sweeping address — a speech some pundits are [calling](#) one of his most confident since 2008. This year, the president decided to go big.

America, for all that we've endured, for all the grit and hard work required to come back, for all the tasks that lie ahead, know this: The shadow of crisis has passed, and the state of the Union is strong. At this moment, with a growing economy, shrinking deficits, bustling industry, booming energy production, we have risen from recession freer to write our own future than any other nation on Earth. It's now up to us to choose who we want to be over the next 15 years and for decades to come. ... So tonight, I want to focus less on a checklist of proposals and focus more on the values at stake in the choices before us.

The White House not only went big, but it also approached the whole speech and the SOTU frenzy quite differently. In an effort to stir pre-game anticipation, as well as to demonstrate his relevancy amongst lame-duck speculation, President Obama gave [sneak peeks](#) through a weeklong, rapid-fire rollout of proposals. Thus, a lot of the big highlights were revealed before the speech — which itself was released 15 minutes before he actually delivered it. The deeper details won't be revealed until the release of the administration's February 2 budget proposal.

Over the past week and during the speech itself, the president urged Congress to support reforms that will provide concrete economic benefits to women and their families — working toward equal pay, expanding care tax credits, establishing paid sick days and paid family leave, making college more accessible and affordable, improving retirement savings, raising the minimum wage, and making investments in education. These kinds of so-called “kitchen table” economic concerns, in fact, composed the lion's share of the State of the Union and were seen by many as a foreshadowing of the 2016 presidential election.

So the verdict is clear. Middle-class economics works, expanding opportunity works, and these policies will continue to work as long as politics don't get in the way. We can't slow down businesses or put our economy at risk with government shutdowns or fiscal showdowns. We can't put the security of families at risk by taking away their health insurance or unraveling the new rules on Wall Street or refighting past battles on immigration when we've got to fix a broken system. And if a bill comes to my desk that tries to do any of these things, I will veto it. It will have earned my veto.

During last year's State of the Union, President Obama made it clear that if Congress didn't start legislating, he would put pen to paper and take executive and regulatory action — not to mention using his bully pulpit — wherever he could. He made good on that promise, productively addressing many AAUW priorities, such as [equal pay](#), Title IX, [campus sexual assault](#), marriage equality, and other issues. Last night, the president doubled down on the idea of taking unilateral action if congressional intransigence continues and upped the ante via state-based pilot programs with alliances outside Washington. This outside-the-Beltway focus is smart; the 2014 election saw the same public that sent new Republican majorities to Congress also [vote in favor](#) of paid sick days, raising the minimum wage, gun control measures, and other issues antithetical to many members of the new congressional majority.

While making an impassioned case for bipartisanship and real collaboration on big-ticket problems such as tax reform and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure, President Obama also drew some lines in the sand by metaphorically waving his veto pen. This will be a delicate balance to maintain, especially in the last two years of a presidency that has seen his party's [congressional numbers seriously erode](#). However, in many respects, while the speech certainly showed a roadmap for where this president would like to take the country, it also was very much a pitch to the Republicans — and the nation — that President Obama is ready to make a deal if they are. With both the president and the new Republican majorities clearly articulating the need to get back to the business of governing, should they actually embrace that mantra, there is the potential ahead for two very interesting years.

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# AAUW STEM NEWS

AAUW is at the forefront of the effort to get more women and girls involved in STEM. Read the latest news from AAUW's national office below, and find more information on the [AAUW website](#).

## New STEM Research from AAUW Coming Soon

Women remain dramatically underrepresented in the engineering and computing workforce, which accounts for more than 80 percent of STEM jobs. *Solving the Equation: Women in Engineering and Computing*, AAUW's upcoming research report, will feature the latest data on girls' achievement in subjects related to engineering and computing, how few women are working in these fields, and what can be done. [Sign up to be the first to know about the findings in \*Solving the Equation\*](#), scheduled for release in March 2015, and stay tuned for additional information about organizing watch parties in your neighborhood or on a local campus.

## Lockheed Martin Supports AAUW and Tech Trek

Lockheed Martin has awarded AAUW a grant to support our successful national [Tech Trek program](#), which encourages girls' engagement with STEM. The grant will help more than 1,600 rising eighth-grade girls attend the 21 Tech Trek camps to be held in 2015 at college campuses throughout the nation. As a part of the collaboration, Lockheed Martin employees will volunteer at three Tech Trek sites. [Read more on the AAUW website](#).



A Note to all AAUW Members From Lilly Ledbetter:

January 30, 2015

I really wish yesterday wasn't such a big deal.

Yesterday – January 29 – was the sixth anniversary of when President Barack Obama signed my name-sake law, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Don't get me wrong: The day I stood next to the president as he signed my bill was one of the proudest moments of my life. I was surrounded by fair pay champions like Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Rep. Rosa DeLauro and I felt this very real, strong sense that we were making a difference for working women and their families.

As you know, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was an important first step in our fight for pay equity, but it was just that – a first step. While the Ledbetter Act righted the wrong-headed decision the Supreme Court made in my case, we still need the Paycheck Fairness Act and other legislation to give employees and employers the concrete tools they need to make real progress in closing the stubborn gender pay gap.

And that's why I wish yesterday's anniversary wasn't such a big deal – because what we really need is another, more recent anniversary to celebrate. What we really need is bipartisan action on equal pay – see [Lisa Maatz's and my op-ed in \*Huffington Post\*](#) – so that we have an actual shot at closing the gender pay gap at some point in our lifetime ([as of now, it's not looking good](#)). I want to live in a country where 2009 wasn't the last time our members of Congress took legislative action that impacts equal pay.

I'm grateful to you and all my AAUW friends for standing with me as we continue our push for equality and fairness. I hope you'll take the two actions listed in the right-hand column – [contacting your members of Congress about the Paycheck Fairness Act](#) and [writing a letter to the editor](#) about equal pay – so that next year we have a new equal pay anniversary to celebrate.

*Lilly Ledbetter*

Honorary AAUW of Alabama public policy chair

# February 2015 Calendar

"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next"

~ Abraham Lincoln



February 7	Saturday 1:30 am - 2 pm	<b>Central Coast Fellows Luncheon</b> , Santa Maria Country Club, 505 West Waller Lane, Santa Maria.
February 10	Thursday 12 noon	<b>Lunch Bunch</b> - Crocodile Restaurant, in the Lemon Tree Inn at 2819 State Street , SB. A wide variety of salads, sandwiches, pastas and pizzas. Please call Claire VanBlaricum at 967-7523 by Monday afternoon for a reservation.
February 15	Sunday All day!	<b>TechSavvy Conference for 6th - 9th Grade Girls.</b> At UCSB. See our branch website for details.
February 17	Tuesday 7 pm	<b>Book Ends</b> - <i>Under the Wide and Starry Sky</i> by Nancy Horan. At Jane Honikman's home, 927 North Kellogg, SB. Our March book will be <i>The Boys in the Boat</i> by Daniel James Brown. Both books are available in paperback.
February 24	Tuesday	<b>Movie Night</b> - Please watch your email the weekend before for the film, time, and place. Plan to dine together following the film!
February 26	Thursday 1:15 pm	<b>Branch Outing</b> - Santa Barbara Historical Museum, 136 East De La Guerra Street , SB. Join us for a docent-led tour of this local gem, highlighting the current exhibit about Lulah Maria Riggs, a Santa Barbara woman architect, and the designer of the Lobero Theater. Those who want to have lunch together first will meet at Sojourner Café, 134 East Canon Perdido, at 12 noon.
February 26	6 pm	<b>Steering Committee Meeting</b> - Brown bag dinner if you want to eat during the meeting. at Jane Honikman's home, 927 North Kellogg, SB. All branch members are welcome!

## Looking Ahead - Save the Dates!

### Gender and Mathematics in 19th-Century America

Pat Cohen, Ph.D., Research Professor Emeritus, History Department, UCSB

University Club, 1332 Santa Barbara St.

Thursday, March 5, 2015 7 pm

Please see Page 1 for details.

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### Private Reception with Dr. Ascuncion Lara

Friday, March 20, 2015 5 to 7 pm

At the home of Jane Honikman.

Please see Page 4 for details.

Santa Barbara -  
Goleta Valley AAUW

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**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.**

**By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.**

Membership in AAUW is open to people who hold an associate degree or higher. Branch membership offers friendship with like-minded people and an arena for making a positive contribution to your community. Benefits include a subscription to **California PERSPECTIVE**, our quarterly publication. You can join our e-mail lists and attend our annual convention. Membership dues at the branch level include California and National dues.

If you know of someone who you believe would appreciate the opportunity to join our branch, please send them the link to our website (<http://sbgv-ca.aauw.net/>) and give their name and contact information to Ginny Capra at [ginnycapra@cox.net](mailto:ginnycapra@cox.net).

## 2015: See You in San Diego!

We can't wait to find new ways to empower women and girls at our 2015 AAUW national convention, June 18–21, 2015, at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego. We're excited to build on the success of the 2013 convention and look forward to planning an even more engaging and more valuable program for you. Register today at <http://convention.aauw.org/register/>

We'll see you there!

Let's get a group together from our Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley branch and take the train!

