



COAST  
CONNECTIONS  
*monthly newsletter*

The banner features a background of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of teal, blue, and yellow. At the top center is the AAUW logo. Below it, the text 'Celebrate International Women's Day' is written in a cursive font. The main title 'EMPOWERED WOMAN' is in large, bold, blue, sans-serif capital letters, underlined. Below that, 'LUNCHEON' is in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, followed by 'with' in a cursive font, and 'KELSEY GERCKENS' in large, bold, blue, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath her name is the text 'Emmy Award-Winning KEYT Reporter and CBS's Amazing Race Winner'. At the bottom, a green bar contains the date and time 'MARCH 8, 2017 • 11:30 AM-1:30 PM' and the location 'HYATT SANTA BARBARA, 1111 E Cabrillo Blvd' in white, sans-serif font.

**\$90 AAUW members, \$100 non-members**  
Proceeds benefit AAUW grants for women in higher education



**KELSEY GERCKENS** is a TV News Reporter and Anchor at KEYT-TV, the ABC station in Santa Barbara, California. She has received an Emmy and Golden Mike award for her breaking news coverage. She and her Fiancé Joey Buttitta won the hit show on CBS, The Amazing Race. When she is not chasing down the day's top stories, she loves traveling the world and spending time outdoors.

**The Empowered Woman Luncheon celebrates strong, independent women of integrity who are role models in our community.**

Hosted by AAUW Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley—dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls.

**Purchase tickets today at: [BIT.LY/AAUWEMPOWER](http://BIT.LY/AAUWEMPOWER)**

Or mail check with order details to SB-GV AAUW, PO Box 802, Goleta, CA 93116

For more information, visit [www.sbgv-ca.aauw.net](http://www.sbgv-ca.aauw.net) or email [sbgv-ca@aauw.net](mailto:sbgv-ca@aauw.net).

---

# President's Message

We had many branch members attend the Women's March on January 21 in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles and I'm sure other cities as well. Check out the photos below!

AAUW is encouraging all members to continue to take action on important equity issues that are now under threat in the current administration. Here are two simple steps to stay involved:

- **Stay informed:** Use the AAUW website to educate yourself on issues. AAUW staff is closely monitoring actions contemplated by the incoming administration and Congress, and posting information on the website.

[Visit website](#)

- **Join the AAUW Two-Minute Activist network:** Sign up for AAUW Action Alerts. AAUW will notify us when it is time to make contact with our elected officials and make ourselves heard. [Sign up now](#)

Women's rights are human rights!

Jill Kingdon

[jill@dowitcherdesigns.com](mailto:jill@dowitcherdesigns.com)

(805) 455-7890



## 2016-17 OFFICERS

**President:**

Jill Kingdon

**Secretary:**

Diane Green

**Treasurer:**

Carol Thompson

**Asst. Treasurer:**

Irene Stone

**Membership:**

Ginny Capra

**Parliamentarian:**

Claire Van Blaricum

**Tech Trek:**

Barbara Levi

Beverly

Kowalsky-Ching

**Members-at-Large:**

Jane Honikman

Martha Lannan

Elly Rumelt

Dot Salogga

**Newsletter Editor:**

Susan Engles

**Scholarship Chair:**

Ann Lippincott

**Directory:**

Ginny Capra

# Women's March Santa Barbara and Los Angeles



Members Beverly Kowalsky Ching and Janice Rorick in Santa Barbara



Member Elly Rumelt (right) with friend Dr. Shirah Vollmer in LA



Member Kathy Mintzer (right) with daughter Ally and husband Roy at the LA march.



Member Diane Green (left) with husband Gil, daughter and member Nicole and daughter Lisa.



Former Tech Trekker, Ally Mintzer

---

## Member Directory & Neighborhood Groups

Our newly updated member directory is now available! Please download it by [clicking here](#). It can also be accessed on the website by clicking on the [members only tab](#) - the password for this section is **connections**.

Do you know which neighborhood group you are in? If not, you can download the lists and check: [click here](#). The leader for each group is noted in red. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Neighborhood Group coordinator, Barbara Siegel at [barbarasiegel1@mac.com](mailto:barbarasiegel1@mac.com).

---



## Fund Raising Appeal

A reminder that the 2017 Tech Trek Fund Raising Campaign has started. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated to support this worthwhile project. Also, referrals will be pursued by me.

Please make checks **payable to AAUW**. Donations are fully tax deductible. Checks should be mailed to:

Beverly Kowalsky Ching, Fundraising Chair  
462 So San Marcos Rd  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Camp Fees are due at CA AAUW by March 15, 2017, so please send in your check as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
Beverly Kowalsky Ching, Tech Trek Fundraising Chair

---

## MEET OUR MEMBER, BEVERLY (BEV) FORD

### A member since 1972



Bev Ford was born in Oxnard, CA on September 6th. She grew up in Port Hueneme. She has also lived in San Jose and Whittier, CA.

As a child, Bev wanted to be a teacher. She received her B.A. degree from Whittier College where she majored in history and psychology. Bev fulfilled her dream of being a teacher as she taught third grade and was a substitute in the Santa Barbara school district. She also worked at UCSB for 15 years in Academic Personnel before retiring.

Bev has two children and two grandchildren. Her son Todd and his wife Trissa live in Mandan, ND. Todd received his B.S. degree from UCSB. They have two daughters who live in Fargo, ND. Amanda is a teacher and is married to Mike de Greef. Rachel is a junior at North Dakota State. Bev's daughter Cheryl lives in Fresno and received her D.V.M. from UC Davis and is a veterinarian.

Bev likes to travel and has a very long 'bucket list'. She has traveled to places in the USA and Canada. Most of her travels have been to visit friends and relatives. Her last trip was to her granddaughter's wedding.

Her favorite type of food is Mexican and "American comfort food". Bev is in three book groups and says that many times whatever they are reading becomes a favorite, but high on her list are historical novels and mysteries. She enjoyed Kristin Hannah's book, *The Nightingale*, about two sisters living in France during World War II. Bev's favorite type of music are classical and Broadway musicals. Her favorite color is blue. Bev's hobbies include reading, needlepoint and volunteering.

Bev states that she joined AAUW to be part of a group whose issues she supports and to have friends with the same beliefs. She also enjoys the events and various interest groups.

**THANKS, BEV, FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF 45 YEARS!**

## Please Welcome our Newest Members!

Molly Boyd  
Mary Ann Kaestner  
Vikki Keosian  
Marie Parker  
Wilma Seelye  
Choux Wingert

---

### February, 2017 Calendar

*"The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints the buds and swells the leaves within."* -William C. Bryant

#### **February 13, Monday – 7:00 p.m.**

**Smart Talk** - Will be held at the home of Erin Neil, 1339 Crestline, Santa Barbara. The topic will be "Intimacy".

#### **February 14, Tuesday – 12:00 noon**

**Lunch Bunch** - Blaze Pizza, 3925 State St. in the Five Points Shopping Center, 805-681-7002. Please R.S.V.P. by Monday morning to Dena Stein, [denastein0@gmail.com](mailto:denastein0@gmail.com) or 650-269-3666.

#### **February 15, Wednesday – 12:00–2:00 p.m.**

**League of Women Voters** - Topic: Average Unit Density Growth in the City of Santa Barbara. Louise Lowry Davis Rec Center, 1232 De La Vina St., Santa Barbara.

#### **February 20, Monday – 10:00 a.m.**

**Craft Group** - The group meets the third Monday of every month at Beverly Kowalsky-Ching's home, 462 S. San Marcos Rd., Santa Barbara. Call Beverly at 964-5411 for more information.

#### **February 21, Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.**

**Book Ends** - We will meet at the home of Joanie Jones, 1035 May Court, Santa Barbara, to discuss *Rebecca*, by Daphne du Maurier. For March our book selection will be *Daughters-in-Law*, by Joanna Trollope.

## **February 25, Saturday – 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**IBC Fellows Luncheon** - Leadership for Women, by Women with keynote speaker Aileen Rizo, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Case, 2015. Santa Maria Country Club, 505 W. Waller Lane. [View the flyer for more details and to RSVP](#)

## **February 27, Monday – 7:00 p.m.**

**Smart Talk** - We will meet at the home of Jane Honikman, 927 Kellogg, Goleta. The topic will be "What the election means for activist organizations."

## **February 28, Tuesday**

**Movie Night** - Please watch for an email the weekend before with information on the film, time and theater location.

## **March 1, Wednesday – 11:00 a.m.**

**Outings - Tour of the Clock Room at the Courthouse** - We will meet at the Courthouse information desk at 11:00 a.m. We can get together for lunch in the area afterwards. Please contact Tanda Jacobs at 805-896-7873 or [tandaj21@gmail.com](mailto:tandaj21@gmail.com) if you can come.

### **Need a ride to an event or want to carpool?**

With the formation of our new Neighborhood groups carpooling to events is even easier! Just contact your neighborhood coordinator and she will let you know who else is going nearby.

Not sure who your coordinator is? Contact Barbara Siegel at [barbarasiegel1@mac.com](mailto:barbarasiegel1@mac.com).



## **Six States Pass Equal Pay Legislation**

During the 2016 legislative session, six states — California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Utah — passed bills to address gender pay inequality. These bills employ a wide range of tactics to attempt to close the gap.

The California and Massachusetts bills work to stop employers from using a current or prospective employee's salary history to determine current wages. Specifically, the [Massachusetts bill](#) includes a provision [banning employers from using salary history](#) when screening and hiring workers. Last year, when California passed its outstanding [equal pay bill](#), the state also passed its own version of a bill banning salary history similar to the Massachusetts provision. Unfortunately, it was vetoed by

Gov. Jerry Brown (D). This year, [California tried again to pass the bill, with updated language and further input from businesses](#).

Thanks to some amazing work by AAUW of California and other activists, the [new bill](#) was [signed into law by the governor](#). In this version, if an employer uses discriminatory pay practices, an employee's salary history cannot be used to justify said discrimination.

## Our Coalitions

Coalition Against Gun Violence, Pro Choice Coalition,  
League of Women Voters

**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](#) and give her name and contact information to Ginny Capra at [ginnycapra@cox.net](mailto:ginnycapra@cox.net).