



Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley (CA) Branch

Santa Barbara—Goleta Valley
AAUW

Coast Connections
The SB-GV AAUW Monthly Newsletter

Volume 4
Number 7

April 2014

Teaching the Next Generation

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

7 pm

Roosevelt School Library

1990 Laguna Street, Santa Barbara

Laurel Phelps, a sixth grade teacher at Roosevelt School, who received the 2013 Dr. Lynne Cavazos Fellowship from our branch, will be providing her insight into what this award has meant for her career. As an advocate for women and girls, Laurel wrote in her scholarship application:

“I see now that the best way to spread the word about these issues is by teaching the next generation of female scholars from a young age. By building their confidence and providing them with knowledge and options for their future I will help them see that what was once unattainable for women is now within their reach.”

About how she came to teaching, Laurel says, *“Having grown up in a family of physicians, I attended UCSB with the goal of becoming a doctor, though quickly realized that my interests focused more on the restoration of the planet as a whole. I graduated with a degree in ecology and spent a year teaching students about how to value themselves while also valuing the environment. My mentor, Dr. Jennifer Thorsch, helped me see my potential as a teacher, and I quickly enrolled in the UCSB Teacher Education Program. This has enabled me to help students realize their own potential as well as their potential to affect change for good in the world.”*

There will be a brief business meeting before Laurel’s presentation. We will be presenting our slate of candidates for branch leadership for 2014-2015.



Acting Co-Presidents' Message

Hello Friends and Hello Spring!

March was a very busy month for our branch! We were pleased with the turnout at our March event, *Bridges Out of Poverty* presented by Dianne Owens. It was an illuminating conversation about the culture of poverty. Jill Dunlap was responsible for a successful Tech Savvy event at UCSB for 6th through 9th grade girls. This summer's Tech Trek girls have been selected for camp by our dedicated team of Barbara Levi, Claire VanBlaricum, Karen Bunker, Mary Howe-Grant, Irene Stone and Pat Jones. Carol Thompson, as our Assistant Treasurer, Irene Stone, Erin Neil, and Kathy Crevier have spent long hours as our Investment Committee. They

wrote and the Steering Committee has now approved the Policy Guidelines for these funds. There is now a process in place to request funds for specific Branch programs and projects. Next, we turn our attention to elementary education. We are eager to learn about our 2013 scholarship winner Laurel Phelps's use of her research in her classroom at Roosevelt School on April 8th. Please join us! April means membership renewal time, nominations to our Steering Committee, State AAUW convention, and State elections. We'll keep you informed about all these opportunities to have your say and vote. It has been a fun, full and productive year. To end it we have an exciting

program planned for our Annual Meeting set for May 24th. Watch for details. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to make our Branch vibrant and progressive.

We will have a special opportunity on Saturday May 31 to attend a Leadership Day in Santa Maria. Please join us for a time of friendship in addition to training as we continue to further the AAUW Mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. As always, thank you for being a part of our wonderful branch, Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley AAUW!

Claire VanBlaricum 967-7523

Jane Honikman 967-9757

A Word From Our New Membership Chair

Hi AAUW Members. My name is Ginny Capra and I have been an AAUW member for 3 years. I have enjoyed meeting new women in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area. I have become involved in the Bookends Book Club, lunch bunch and have now become a member of the Steering Committee. I have taken over the Membership Chair mid-year from Dorie Kirtman who has moved to Nevada. Dorie did an excellent job in recruiting and retaining members and I hope I can do the same.

A new membership brochure has been created with the help of Claire and Jane and we are hoping to have it ready for our Spring Membership Drive. It would be great if each of you can obtain a few brochures to give to prospective members.

April 1 marks the beginning of our AAUW renewal season, so be watching your mailbox (Yes, the actual US Postal service kind!) for a renewal form and envelope. We are happy to report that dues for the coming 2014-2015 year will remain at the same \$80 level. I also want to share a timely reminder that \$46 of your \$49 national AAUW dues is actually tax deductible as a charitable donation since AAUW reorganized a few years ago. That makes membership an even better bargain!

We are also trying to form a committee to host coffee/tea gatherings for prospective/new members, phone prospective/new members, and invite and encourage them to attend AAUW events and activities. Please send me names and contact information for anyone you think

might be interested in joining so we can include them in our outreach efforts.

This past year, the following women have joined or rejoined our local branch of AAUW:

Bonnie Lassen
Martha Royer
Colette Hadley
Suzanne McBride
Deborah Winant
Suzi Schomer
Joanie Jones
Kathy Piasecki
Joan Tuma

WELCOME ALL AND WE HOPE
YOU WILL ALL BECOME VERY
ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE
SANTA BARBARA -GOLETA VALLEY
AAUW!

AAUW CA Elections Coming Soon!

On April 12 a notice will be sent to every member providing personal voting codes and instructions on online voting and how to request a paper ballot if needed. The notices will be emailed to all members who have current email addresses listed in the National AAUW files, and by postcard to all others.

The three-week voting period runs from April 12 through May 2. Computers will be available at the AAUW CA Convention for attendees' voting purposes.

In 2014 we will elect a secretary and five directors, and consider a proposed annual dues increase of \$4. Here is information on the candidates (one for Secretary, four for Director) followed by information on the dues increase proposal.

Candidate for Secretary

Tracey Clark

Goal Statement: As Secretary, I will work with the Board of AAUW California

- To provide minutes of the board of directors, executive committee, and annual membership meetings within four weeks as dictated by the AAUW CA Policies and Procedures.
- To work with the AAUW CA President to ensure that all motions made, minutes taken and action lists are stored, maintained, administered and distributed as required by the AAUW CA Policy and Procedures.

To be an active and engaged voting member of the State Board.

About me: Please click [HERE](#) for my *Candidate Information Form*. It is in Forms & Documents in the State Leadership category.



Candidates for Director



Sharon Westafer

Goal Statement: As a Director, I will continue to work diligently with the AAUW CA board of directors to promote involvement and communications between branches and State leadership. I am very interested in assisting members in effectively utilizing their resources to move forward the mission of AAUW, and fostering new leaders to continue the mission of AAUW to promote equity for all women and girls.

About Me: Please click [HERE](#) for my *Candidate Information Form*. It is in Forms & Documents in the State Leadership category.

Virginia Beck

Goal Statement: As a Director, I bring 30 years of communication and leadership development and implementation experience. Over the last two years I have worked with individual branches to ascertain their training needs and then utilized this information to design and implement leadership days. I look forward to continuing this work to facilitate branch leadership development efforts so the resources can be easily available and user-friendly to branches and their leaders – both present and future

About Me: Please click [HERE](#) for my *Candidate Information Form*. It is in Forms & Documents in the State Leadership category.



Jane Niemeier

Goal Statement: I will work with the AAUW CA Board of Directors and President to accomplish our mission of breaking through barriers for women and girls. I believe that this mission should take place not only in our local branches, in our state and in our nation, but that it should be applied internationally. Women and girls of the world need the help of an organization such as ours.

About Me: Please click [HERE](#) for my *Candidate Information Form*. It is in Forms & Documents in the State Leadership category.

Susan Negrete

Goal Statement: If elected to AAUW's California Board as Director-at-Large, my primary goal is to ensure the legacy and mission of AAUW continues to be carried forward to girls and young women throughout the state, using networking and social media resources that will resonate with new membership prospects. I will serve the branches as a conduit of state information and resources, and ensure their activities and efforts receive support and affirmation.

About me: Please click [HERE](#) for my Candidate Information Form. It is in Forms Documents in the State Leadership category.



AAUW CA Dues Increase Proposal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) ON THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE DUES

What is the proposal?

To increase the state dues by \$4, from \$16 to \$20, effective July 1, 2015.

When was the last state dues increase?

The last time state dues were increased was in 2004 (ten years ago). At that time, dues were increased \$6.

How are my state dues spent and what value do I get for them?

There are several excellent resources posted on the website to give you detailed answers. Please click on these links to get more information about:

Value for State Dues ([HERE](#))

State Expenses and Income pie charts ([HERE](#))

How did we end up in a deficit?

As you read the Income pie chart (see previous question), you'll see that 97% of our income comes from dues. Over the past eight years, our membership has declined, reducing our income, while expenses (particularly travel costs) have increased.

What is being considered for additional sources of income?

We are in the process of creating a Development and Marketing Committee to explore strategies for additional income. We are also in the process of writing a new investment policy to increase our investment earnings potential without adding significant risk to our portfolio. However, we cannot assume those would result in a large enough impact on our budget in the near future to help us balance the budget without a dues increase.

What has been done to reduce expenses?

Recently, the state office was moved to a new location in a center for non-profits, resulting in a significant savings on the monthly lease.

In 2013, you approved a reduction in the number of state directors from 16 to 12. This will result in a savings of \$4,000 per year in travel expenses.

What happens if this dues increase is not approved by membership vote?

We can sustain our current level of spending for approximately 5-6 years by continuing to dip into our reserves. Balancing the budget from reserves is unsustainable in the long run and leaves the organization vulnerable to unexpected expenses that might occur (which is the true purpose of reserves).

The board could also consider meeting fewer times each year, or conducting some of the quarterly meetings by conference call. However, experience has shown that quarterly in-person meetings provide the best governance oversight.

Created: 03/05/2014 Updated: 03/05/2014

April 2014 Calendar

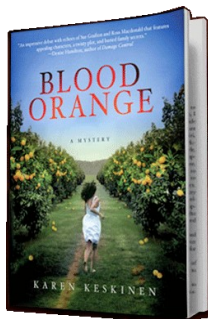
*April 8 is Equal Pay Day!
Thank you, Lilly Ledbetter, for
leading the charge on this issue!*



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|---------------|--------------------|--|
| April 8 | Tuesday
12 noon | Lunch Bunch - Pizza Mizza in La Cumbre Plaza mall (near Sears). Pizzas, sandwiches, salads and more. Lots of parking and a lovely outdoor space if the weather permits. Call Claire VanBlaricum at 967-7523 by Monday afternoon for reservations. |
| April 8 | Tuesday
7 pm | Laurel Phelps - Our 2013 scholarship winner and 6th grade teacher will share how her research has impacted her teaching. Roosevelt School Library, Please see page one for details! |
| April 11 - 13 | Friday - Sunday | AAUW CA Convention - Los Angeles Marriott at LAX |
| April 15 | Tuesday
7 pm | Book Ends - "Lottery" by Patricia Wood, which is available in paperback. At Ginny Capra's, 6020 Paseo Palmilla, Goleta, Our May book will be "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion. This book is not yet in paperback, but is cheap on Kindle, and the library has multiple copies. |
| April 22 | Tuesday | Movie Night - Please watch your email the weekend before for information on the film, time and place. |

Looking Ahead

May 24 Saturday
11:30 am -
2:00 pm



Annual Meeting and End-of-the-Year Luncheon

We are excited to present local author Karen Keskinen as our speaker for our end-of-the-year celebration luncheon. Karen is the author of *Blood Orange*, a wonderful mystery novel set here in the real Santa Barbara. We will be having lunch at the La Cumbre Country Club. Since this is our official annual meeting, we will be electing our branch leaders for 2014-2015.

Details on price, and menu will come to you soon!

Meanwhile, get a copy of Karen's book (available at the library, Chaucer's, Granada Books, and Amazon) and enjoy a good read!

Santa Barbara -
Goleta Valley AAUW

P.O. Box 802
Goleta, CA 93116-0802
<http://sbgv-ca.aauw.net/>

2013-2014 OFFICERS

President:

Carol Hershey
(on medical leave)

Acting Co-Presidents:

Claire VanBlaricum
Jane Honikman

Treasurer:

Cathy Black

Asst. Treasurer:

Carol Thompson

Steering Committee:

Ginny Capra
Jill Dunlap
Beverly Kowalsky-Ching
Barbara Levi
Bette Perelli
Janice Rorick

Newsletter Editor:

Claire VanBlaricum

Scholarship Chair:

Ann Lippincott

Directory:

Ginny Capra



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

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a 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.



Dear AAUW members and volunteer leaders,

We can't imagine empowering women and girls without you. After all, for the last 132 years, AAUW members, supporters, and volunteers have changed history by actively improving the lives of women and girls. Your local programs, fundraisers, and advocacy efforts have led to countless past victories — and will lead to countless more.

It takes so many tasks to keep an organization like AAUW working all over the world. Yet you do them every day, and the results are powerful. For your work, your passion, and your commitment to AAUW, there are no words but "thank you."

With our deepest gratitude,
The AAUW Staff