



Santa Barbara—Goleta Valley  
AAUW

Volume 5  
Number 4

Coast Connections

The SB-GV AAUW Monthly Newsletter

December 2014

Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley (CA) Branch

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

# Holiday Party!



**Thursday, December 4**  
**6 to 9 pm**



At Bea Hamlin's home,  
1082 Via Los Padres, SB



Dinner, libations, fun and friendship!

Significant others and friends are welcome!

\$20 per person



**Call Carol Thompson**  
**at 967-5291 for reservations.**  
**Deadline: Monday, December 1.**



Please mail a check, made out to SB-GV AAUW,  
to PO Box 802, Goleta CA 93116 or bring your  
payment to the party!



# President's Message

I hope that all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with feasting, fun, and family. As the holiday season continues, we will be celebrating at our annual branch Holiday Party. I encourage all of you to come and bring your significant other for a evening of friendship and good cheer.

At our last Steering Committee meeting we voted to send at least \$2500 as our branch contribution to AAUW Funds, based on your generous contributions to that date, and to add whatever more came to us before the December 1 deadline. We designated our contribution to help compete a Research and Projects endowment named in honor of former Santa Maria branch member Harriett Tower, now retired to San Jose. Harriett was very active with our Santa Barbara County Interbranch Council, and has served in several capacities for AAAU CA as a member of the Board of Directors and head of communications. Since so many of us in the branch know Harriett, it seemed like the most logical use of our funds. We hope the endowment will be completed this year so that it can begin to generate grants next year. On Thursday, November 20, several of us from the Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley branch attended the program on Human Trafficking held at Alan Hancock college in Santa Maria. The program was co-sponsored by the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County Interbranch Councils, the Santa Barbara County Commis-

sion for Women, and the college. The program was primarily planned by the Santa Maria and Lompoc-Vandenberg branches, and kudos to them for a job well done.

The capacity audience heard a riveting and frightening overview of the human trafficking going on right here in our local area with young teens being seduced or coerced into prostitution.

Opal Singleton of Million Kids told how social media is being used by traffickers to lure unsuspecting teens, both girls and boys, into meeting up with men who have been misrepresenting themselves as other teens or as sympathetic, romantic twentysomethings. Frequently the youngsters are then threatened with harm to themselves or their families if they do not cooperate. Slightly older girls who are already involved in the sex trade may be sent into schools by traffickers to recruit younger girls with promises of money, glamour, or a chance to get away from controlling parents. These so-called "bottom girls" have quotas to meet or they are forced to go back out on the streets themselves. Teens from foster homes are particularly targeted because they are often very susceptible to promises of love and acceptance.

Megan Rheinschild Director of the Victim-Witness Assistance Program of the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office spoke about the changing approaches of law enforcement to deal with the young men and women as victims rather than

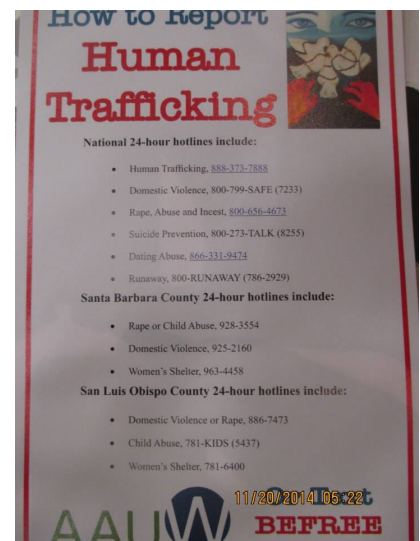
criminals when they are apprehended for prostitution. She talked about how difficult it is to keep up with what the traffickers are doing because they frequently move around from city to city and hide behind false identities. They are often part of large criminal gangs.

Combating Human Trafficking is an AAUW Public Policy priority. Both speakers at the program agreed that the best prevention for the trafficking of teens in this country is making both teens and their parents aware of the dangers, letting the teens and their parents know what red flags to look for in on-line communications, and trying to build trust between teens, parents and law enforcement around this issue.

On a lighter note, I hope all of you and yours have a wonderful Holiday Season and come into the New Year with renewed energy, enthusiasm, and optimism.

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

*Claire VanBlaricum*  
967-7523



# Getting to Know Our Members

## MEET OUR TREASURER- CAROL THOMPSON



Carol was born on May 11th in Minot, North Dakota. She has lived in Nevada, Missouri, San Francisco, Gainesville and Melbourne, Florida and has lived in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area for the last 40 years.

As a child, Carol wanted to be a ballet dancer. She attended Cotey College where she received her AA degree and UCSB where she received her BA. She then went to UC Berkeley for her Masters in History.

She has been married to J. Michael Thompson, a dentist, for 46 years and they have two children, Chris (age 40) and Cynthia (age 37) who both live in San Diego. Carol works as an accountant for her husband's dental practice.

Her hobby is ballroom dancing and she likes to travel to the South Pacific via cruises that offer ballroom dancing as an activity. Her favorite kind of music is 'danceable music' and her favorite type of food is seafood. Carol's favorite colors are blue and green.

In past years, Carol was active in Postpartum Support International and the Santa Barbara Public Education Fund, serving both organizations as Treasurer.

Carol joined AAUW to make new friends and hopes through AAUW she can receive satisfaction by helping young women to get a good education.

## AAUW Gift Guide for Girls!

With the holidays quickly approaching, AAUW has [released](#) our 2014 edition of the Holiday Gift Guide for Girls. Check out our suggestions for gifts that help you avoid the "pink aisle" this holiday season and give the gift of empowerment instead!

You can share this Holiday Gift Guide on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)!

## NEW MEMBER - NICOLE GREEN KATZ



Nicole was born on November 4 in Pasadena, and raised in San Diego. She received her B.A. in International Relations from Pomona College, and her J.D. from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, where she met her husband, Jared. She is fluent in Spanish, having lived and studied in Colombia, Spain, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. She practiced law in Orange and Los Angeles County for more than 7 years, before having kids, but has been lucky enough to stay home since the birth of her oldest.

Nicole moved to Santa Barbara 8 years ago, when her husband joined the law firm of Mullen and Henzell. Nicole and Jared have been married for 18 years, and have 3 children, Owen, a freshman at Dos Pueblos, Trevor, a 6th grader at Kellogg, and Justine, a 3rd grader at Kellogg. She was active on the Board of Postpartum Education for Parents for 3 years (where she got to know AAUW Secretary Jane Honikman), and now keeps busy on the Board of the Kellogg School PTA.

Nicole loves to travel, especially to warm and tropical locales. Belize and Turkey are two of her favorites. She loves to go to the movies, and attends the Santa Barbara International Film Festival every year. She has taken up surfing in the last couple years, and loves to do hip hop cardio dance. In fact, she met our Membership Chair, Ginny, in a dance class at Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club.

She joined AAUW because she grew up with the organization. Her mom, Diane Green (also a new branch member), served as President of the La Mesa-El Cajon branch, and has been involved in every aspect of the organization over the last few decades, from Tech Trek to EF, and more. Nicole is excited to be part of all that AAUW has to offer, and to continue its work in the education and empowerment of all women in the Santa Barbara area.



# Our December Outing

Thanks to Jaen Honikman for arranging the perfect outing for this holiday season!

On Wednesday, December 17 at 10:30 am we will be visiting a hidden treasure of Santa Barbara, the Susan Quinlan Doll and Teddy Bear Museum and Library at 122 West Canon Perdido, SB. We will have tea or coffee in the museum tearoom, included in the \$5 admission price.

We are fortunate to have Susan herself as our docent as we explore this amazing artistic, nostalgic and historical collection. The museum has one of the largest collections of dolls and teddy bears in the world, with a special emphasis on dolls and teddy bears of California artists and manufacturers as well as dolls and teddy bears representing literary characters.



The Museum also has a store where you can do some Holiday shopping for unique gifts.

Here is a link to the Museum's website if you would like to learn more about it before you come.

<http://www.quinlanmuseum.com/>

Following our tour of the Museum, those who wish to will have lunch together at a nearby restaurant.

Please let Jane Honikman know if you wish to come - call her at 967-9757 or email at

[Jane@janehonikman.com](mailto:Jane@janehonikman.com). Hope to see you on our outing!

Meanwhile, please enjoy a few photos of our well attended November outing to the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park!





## U.S. Appeals Court Denies Religious Groups' Objection to Contraception Coverage Requirement

On Friday November 14 the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals—often referred to as the second-highest court in the land, behind the U.S. Supreme Court—upheld the Obama administration's accommodation for non-profit religious groups opposed to the contraception coverage requirement under the Affordable Care Act. The accommodation allows for insurance companies to pay for the contraceptive coverage if religious groups fill out a form certifying their objection to the requirement. The three-judge panel of the DC Circuit unanimously rejected the Catholic groups' argument that the accommodation imposed a substantial burden on their religious liberty and violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (the law at issue in the Hobby Lobby case earlier this year).

## Department of Education Investigates K-12 School Districts for Title IX Violations

In addition to the greatly publicized list of 87 colleges and universities under investigation for Title IX violations, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights is also [investigating](#) 24 elementary and secondary schools for potential mishandling sexual assault cases. Under Title IX, any K-12 public and private school that receives federal funding is required to respond effectively to sexual harassment or assault incidents. This an-

## It's On Us Campaign Continues

The White House's It's On Us campaign launched a "National Week of Action" (November 16-22) to encourage students to join the movement to prevent sexual assault. Colleges and universities hosted more than 130 events that week to spread awareness, and more than 40 schools even created their own It's On Us PSAs!

Locally, UCSB joined the Week of Action by asking students to sign the It's On Us pledge and place it on large posters around campus. Our Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley branch participated by sponsoring the cost of one of the posters.

Here is the pledge that college students (and others) are being asked to take to combat sexual assault:

### I Pledge;

To recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault.

To identify situations in which sexual assault may occur.

To intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given.

To create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

Even though the Week of Action is over, the It's On Us campaign is ongoing. Although there is a focus on schools, the initiative is really about our culture as a whole. "It's On Us" aims to fundamentally shift the way we think about sexual assault, by inspiring everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent it. For more information go to: <http://itsonus.org/>

# December 2014 Calendar

"We are nearer to Spring / Than we were in September.  
I heard a bird sing / In the dark of December."  
- Oliver Herford, "I Heard a Bird Sing"



December 4	Thursday 6 pm - 9 pm	<b>Holiday Party! See page one for details. Deadline extended to Tuesday, December 2!</b>
December 9	Tuesday 12:00 noon	<b>Lunch Bunch</b> - The Wine Cask, 813 Anacapa St., SB. (In El Paseo.) Something a little special for the holiday season. Call Claire VanBlaricum at 967-7523 by <b>Sunday</b> afternoon for a reservation.
December 16	Tuesday 7 pm	<b>Book Ends</b> - As we look forward to a New Year, please come prepared to tell everyone about a book that has been influential in your life. We will meet at Pam Holst's home, 4548 Via Clarice, SB. For January, we will read <i>The All-Girls Filling Station's Last Reunion</i> by Fannie Flagg. The book is available in paperback.
December 17	Wednesday 10:30 am	<b>Outing to the Susan Quinlan Doll and Teddy Bear Museum</b> , 122 W. Canon Perdido, SB. See page 4 for details!

## Looking Ahead

**Epidemics to Earthquakes:  
How Prepared is Santa Barbara County?  
With Jan Koegler, MPH  
Program Manager  
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program  
Wednesday, January 14  
5:30 pm  
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Auditorium  
345 Camino del Remedio, Santa Barbara  
(off Calle Real near Turnpike)**

Santa Barbara -  
Goleta Valley AAUW

P.O. Box 802  
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<http://sbgv-ca.aauw.net/>

**2014-2015 OFFICERS**

**President:**

Claire VanBlaricum

**Secretary:**

Jane Honikman

**Treasurer:**

Carol Thompson

**Asst. Treasurer:**

Vacant

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Cathy Black

Ginny Capra

Jill Dunlap

Diane Green

Colette Hadley

Beverly Kowalsky-Ching

Barbara Levi

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, 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!**

