



COAST
CONNECTIONS
monthly newsletter

The event poster 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 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 capital letters. Underneath her name is the text 'Emmy Award-Winning KEYT Reporter and CBS's Amazing Race Winner'. At the bottom, a green banner 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 text.

\$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

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 or email sbgv-ca@aauw.net.

President's Message

It's not too late to get your tickets for the Empowered Woman Luncheon on March 8! See the flyer above for more details. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to SB-GV AAUW, PO Box 802, Goleta, CA 93116 or by going online [here](#).

Our speaker Kelsey Gerckens will share her interesting story being in the journalism field since her high school days. Plus she will share her experience in the monthlong competition racing around the world and winning CBS' "The Amazing Race" and taking home the \$1 million prize.

All proceeds from the lunch will go towards our branch Scholarship - the Lynn Cavazos Fellowship for master degree candidates in the Education program at UCSB. The scholarship helps cover last quarter expenses which are not funded by other grants, stipends, or awards.

It will be an afternoon you don't want to miss! And if you can't make it consider donating a ticket to empower a young woman or student in our community to attend.

On February 25 several of our branch members attended the Interbranch Luncheon held in Santa Maria this year. We heard LAF litigant Aileen Rizo's compelling talk about her equal pay case as it works its way through the court system. You can read more about her case [here](#) and see our group photo below.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Empowered Woman Luncheon next week!

Jill Kingdon

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Jill Kingdon

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IBC Fellows Luncheon, Santa Maria



Speaker and LAF litigant Aileen Rizo (center) with her daughters and members Jill Kingdon, Beverly Kowalsky Ching, Jane Honikman, Barbara Levi, Claire VanBlaricum, Elly Rumelt (left to right).

AAUW Member Pat Jones Receives Woman of Distinction Award

The award was presented at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Santa Barbara Associates, a professional women's organization, and was established in 1999 to honor members' dedication to excellence and service. Pat was a principle in the accounting firm Jones, Parent & Wheeler and retired as a CPA in 2014. She has been an active Santa Barbara volunteer and currently serves on the boards of the University Club and Santa Barbara Associates, and is on the advisory board of the Santa Barbara Village. Pat, a native of South Carolina, is married with two adult sons and holds an accounting degree from Duke University.



Member Directory & Neighborhood Groups

Download our member directory 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.



2017 Annual Tech Trek Appeal

Do not miss the opportunity of supporting this worthwhile project. So many of our campers and their parents have praised it highly. We have an Open House every year and you can see the program in action. Your continued support has helped make this a successful endeavor.

Checks should be made payable to **AAUW** and sent to me, Beverly Kowalsky Ching, 462 S. San Marcos Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93111.

Thank you,
Beverly Kowalsky Ching, Tech Trek Fundraising Chair

Tech Trek Coordinating Committee

The Tech Trek coordinating committee is very busy this month, visiting the five public junior high schools from Carpinteria to Goleta to tell girls there about Tech Trek. Girls who choose to apply must complete an application, write an essay and participate in an interview. By the end of March, our committee will have to make the difficult decision about which girls to send to camp out of the many qualified girls who typically apply. We plan to send a total of 26 this summer, thanks to the donations from many of our member and from many businesses in the community.

Barbara Levi, Tech Trek Coordinator

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER, CHOUX WINGERT



Choux was born in Chicago, IL on April 8th. She has also lived in Colorado, New York and Michigan. As a child, Choux wanted to be a criminal attorney.

However, she became a special education teacher. She graduated from the University of Colorado with a masters degree in English literature.

Choux is a widow and has two children and four grandchildren. When asked if she liked to travel she said, "Yes, have bag will travel." She prefers cruises to tours.

Her favorite type of food is seafood, especially Dungeness crab. Her favorite color is red and her favorite book is Rebecca by Daphne Demurer. She loved the movie, An Affair to Remember, with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr. Choux likes skiing, golf, reading and listening to easy listening music.

Choux joined AAUW to meet people and participate in the interest groups.

When asked what she hopes to get out of AAUW, she says she wants to make friends and learn new things.

THANKS, CHOUX, FOR JOINING AAUW!

March, 2017 Calendar

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." -Charles Dickens

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 if you can come.

March 8, Wednesday – 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Empowered Woman Luncheon with Kelsey Gerckens - Hyatt Santa Barbara, 1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

March 14, Tuesday – 12:00 noon

Lunch Bunch - We will meet at Szechuan Restaurant on the Mesa, 1994 Cliff Drive. Please R.S.V.P. by Monday morning to Dena Stein, denastein0@gmail.com or 650-269-3666.

March 15, Wednesday – 12:00–2:00 p.m.

League of Women Voters - Community Forum: Keeping People with Mental Illness Out of Jail. This forum will address the issues around people with mental illness and the jail from several different viewpoints. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Central Library, 40 E. Anapamu.

March 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.

March 21, Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.

Book Ends - We will meet at the home of Jane Honikman, 927 N. Kellogg Ave., SB, to discuss *Daughters-in-Law*, by Joanna Trollope. For our April 18 meeting, we are going to read author Luis A. Urrea's *Into the Beautiful North*, which is also the 2017 selection for Santa Barbara Reads. The author will give a talk at UCSB's Campbell Hall on Monday, April 24. For more information go to www.library.ucsb.edu/ucsbreads2017.

March 27, Monday – 7:00 p.m.

Smart Talk - Will be meet at the home of Jan Cooper, 400 E. Pedregosa, Unit C. The topic is "Male and Female Brains: Are they really different?" The April 10th meeting will be at the home of Elly Rumelt, 205 East Calle Laureles. The topic is "School Vouchers".

March 28, Tuesday

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

Need a ride to an event or want to carpool?

With our 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.

AAUW Builds Bipartisan Support in Congress

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in AAUW's Public Policy and Government Relations department? While AAUW members like you are busy advancing our mission in the field, we continue to make AAUW's presence known on Capitol Hill. Using our member-adopted Public Policy Program as a guide, our staff engages with the U.S. House and Senate each session of Congress by making countless lobby visits as well as sending letters, comments, and testimony about pending legislation.

When we see a bill that impacts our policy priorities, AAUW's voice takes many forms—collecting original cosponsors, sending formal statements of support or opposition, and signing on to coalition letters with like-minded groups. Now, we've published all of those documents on our website for you to reference. Check out our this critical paper trail on economic security, education, civil rights, and Title IX from the 114th and 115th Congresses! These materials can help you in your own advocacy efforts, as well. Use them as handouts during in-district meetings with policy makers at all levels, crib from them to write letters to the editor about priority issues, and so on.

We've been able to form productive working relationships with elected officials from both the Democratic and Republican parties, which means that AAUW will continue to be uniquely positioned to build bipartisan support for issues that empower women and girls.

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.