



Fallbrook (CA) Branch

Advancing Equity for Women and Girls Through Advocacy,
Education, Philanthropy, and Research



Women with Vision
Celebrating Our 78th Year!

Vol. 41, Issue 5, November 2024



President's Message



I am very proud to be a member of our branch! We serve our community in so many ways! Our October meeting appealed to more than just our members. I saw several visitors who came to meet and hear two members of the League of Women Voters educate us on all of the propositions and bond measures that are on November's ballot. Also, we got to meet and listen to three of the candidates we are endorsing for positions on their school boards.

By the time you see this newsletter, you may have already submitted your ballot to determine the direction our country will be taking. But if you haven't, please heed this. AAUW California recently held a webinar (you can view it [here](#)) that explained the various proposals set forth in Project 2025. Although we were not advised on how to vote, it was made very clear how many ways its implementation would negatively impact many of AAUW's goals.

Regardless of the outcome, I want to encourage you to invite people you know to attend our meetings, get to know us, and consider joining us. There are so many ways we can make a difference in people's lives through our programs and activities.

Karen Langer Baker

President

AAUW Fallbrook Board Meetings

The executive board of AAUW Fallbrook will meet on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Agendas and minutes are available for members on the "Board Notes" page of the website, under "For Members."

[AAUW Fallbrook Board Notes](#)

Birthdays



Programs

The Fallbrook AAUW general meeting on Saturday, October 12 was very well-attended because our members and community always appreciate the traditional election cycle meeting during which the League of Women Voters provides us with an informed and unbiased overview of the current California ballot initiatives. Thank you to the League of Women Voters of North County San Diego, and specifically, Dotty Marron and Patrick Coony, for the informative presentation.

Thanks also to Ilsa Garza-Gonzalez and Larissa Anderson for helping us understand our local school bond measures and to the school board candidates who attended.

I have already submitted my ballot and confirmed online that it was received by the County Registrar of Voters. This presentation helped immensely with my process of making educated choices.

I know you have all voted or made a plan to vote. We will see you after the election!

Patty Carlson

President-elect, Programs Chair

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, November 9, 2024

General Meeting

Barriers to Women in STEM

Fallbrook High School Cafeteria

Doors open 10:00 am, meeting starts at 10:30 am

Member Dr. Karin Moore will share the presentation she made at AAUW National's NCCWSL Conference last spring. Her presentation focuses on the results of her doctoral dissertation on barriers to women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math).

Friday, December 6, 2024

Red Stocking Fundraiser and Holiday Party

Theme: It's a New Old Fashion

Community Room, Rolling Hills Estates

5:30 pm–8:30 pm

Thank you to Sharon Robinson for her support in procuring this venue.

This holiday event is our main fundraising activity. Start thinking about your year-end giving and about any business colleagues or others who may be interested in supporting our important mission.

Please share with [Karen Estes](#) your ideas on the fundraising part of this event.

Heard any great speakers that you think we should have for our meetings? Please send your ideas to [Patty Carlson](#).

Fallbrook Union High School District SPA DAY Conference

Kudos to Fallbrook Union High School superintendent Ilsa Garza-Gonzalez and trustee Eddie Jones for a wonderful first SPA DAY (Strengthening Positive Attitudes and Discovering an Amazing You) conference at Fallbrook High School on Saturday, September 28. This was a day dedicated to helping local girls gain confidence and find inspiration in the professional accomplishments of other women.

Career speakers included Detective Elizabeth Curtis with the SD Sheriff's Department; Dr. Karin Moore, engineer and consultant; Elizabeth Sabol, architect; Trish Rubalcaba, construction manager; Lilia Hargrove, CEO of Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce; and Lucy Goode, probationary

firefighter and paramedic. A question and answer period followed.

Superintendent Garza-Gonzalez also led a game of Over the Line to demonstrate how we and our experiences are more similar than different.

It was a very successful day. I only wish more Fallbrook girls had attended. This will be an annual event and AAUW Fallbrook plans to play a bigger role in the future.

Carolyn Thom

AAUW Fallbrook Mentorship Program Co-chair



SPA DAY Attendees, Organizers, and Speakers

Mentorship Program News

The Mentorship Program held its annual ice cream social at Fallbrook High School to kick off the new year. We were thrilled to welcome 24 new and returning mentees and several new mentors. We have a great group this year and hope to get lots of participation. Here is our schedule this year so far.

Mentee Holiday Party – Saturday, December 14

Cookie Baking Parties (for Holiday Party) – Saturday, December 14

Special Event Trip – March (TBD)

Speech Competition – April 5

Graduation – June 7



**Mentors and Mentees at the Mentorship Program
Annual Ice Cream Social at Fallbrook High School**

Public Policy

California State Senator Brian Jones recently responded favorably to the request we made at last April's Lobby Day for him to vote in favor of [AB 2843](#), which passed and has now been signed into law by Governor Newsom.

Jones said, "I wanted to let you know that I agree with your position and voted for this bill when it came before me on the Senate floor. This bill requires health plan and insurance coverage without cost-sharing for emergency room medical care and follow-up treatment for rape or sexual assault."

The AAUW Fallbrook Public Policy Committee will continue to advocate for Fallbrook girls and women, even after elections are over.

We meet again on Thursday, November 21 at 3:15 pm at the home of [Joy Frew](#). Let Joy know if you would like to attend.

Public Policy News From AAUW California



Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) and the Election Considering How Groups and Candidates Align with AAUW's PPPs Highlight: Student Loan Debt

By Missy Maceyko, Co-Chair Public Policy, AAUW California

At the national and state levels, AAUW has been a leader in the fight for increased economic security for all women, becoming well known for putting out annual data on gender-based wage gaps. However, [wage gaps are only one part of the much bigger picture](#) of gender-based economic inequality. AAUW, following [contemporary socio-economic research](#), conceptualizes economic insecurity as part of wealth gaps and debt cycles that are created by multiple factors, [including the ballooning cost of higher education](#).

[Education is critically important for social and economic mobility](#). In 2024, young college graduates still [tend to make more money than their counterparts](#) who do not have a college degree, and have higher earnings later in life. However, the value of higher education [has become a more complicated calculus](#) for many: as education costs have risen, overall income rates have remained stagnant and low interest borrowing and repayment options to cover these costs have, in many cases, decreased. Without intergenerational wealth, ongoing

family support, or scholarship wins, many Americans must go into debt to obtain a higher education.

Women are disproportionately impacted by these increasing costs. Women tend to make less money directly after graduation when compared with men. This, combined with many additional factors, such as the tendency for women to be primarily responsible for the financial and emotional costs of household maintenance, such as caregiving, makes any accrued student debt much harder for women to repay. As such, women in the United States owe \$929 billion, or two-thirds of the nation's student debt.

As part of the larger commitment to economic security for women, AAUW has been a leader in pushing for policies that meaningfully address massive increases in the cost of education and the student debt crisis. In California, reducing the cost of education and easing the financial burden of acquiring a degree remains central to AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities, as well. In California, our work to reduce the burden of student debt falls under three of our four Public Policy Priority Pillars.

- Economic security for all women.
- Equal access to quality public education for all students.
- Increased representation of women in leadership roles, including access to programs that promote participation in public service careers.

The issue of student debt, as an issue of women's overall educational access, social mobility, and economic security, also looms large in the current election cycle. Addressing student debt issues in ways that align with AAUW's PPPs may include:

- student debt relief for borrowers;
- making investments in public education;
- expanding federal grant access;
- ensuring the continuation of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, which eliminates federal student loan debt after 10 years of work at a non-profit or government agency;
- maintaining Income Driven Repayment (IDR) plans, like SAVE, which take into account unique financial situations and eliminate interest-driven balance increases for borrowers who make on-time monthly payments.

Not addressing student debt issues at all or exacerbating these issues does not align with AAUW's PPPs. Actions taken that are not in alignment may include:

- widespread funding cuts for higher education;
- cutting loan forgiveness programs or slowing their functionality;
- eliminating the Department of Education.

While many candidates have tried to distance themselves from Project 2025, their openly stated and proposed policies may still be in alignment with the 900-page planning document's positions on the topic of women's economic security via higher education access and debt relief: [Project 2025 calls for](#) changing, rescinding, or repealing federal student loan forgiveness plans, including PSLF and debt relief through IDR.

As you prepare to vote, be sure to ask: what do the candidates who you are considering stand for? Do your own assessment by comparing candidates' public statements, policy positions, and voting history against AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities.

Voter Links

[AAUW Falbrook School Board and Bond Measure Recommendations](#)

[AAUW National Ballot Initiative Recommendations](#)

[2024 Voter Guide](#)[Candidates for 49th Congressional District](#)

[Find Your Voter Election Districts](#)

AAUW Advocacy Links

[Have you signed up to be a Two-Minute Activist? It's so easy to do a good thing!](#)

[Track AAUW California's legislative priorities and progress here.](#)

Bibliobabes

On October 21, the Bibliobabes met at the home of Rachel Rose, who spoiled us with homemade baking. She then led us through a delightful

discussion of *My Brilliant Friend*, by the mysterious Elena Ferrante. This 2011 novel, translated from the original Italian, recently leaped back onto best seller lists in concert with HBO MAX's release of its excellent series based on the quadrilogy that begins with *My Brilliant Friend*. If you just don't have time to read the books, but like to unwind in front of the screen, watch it! But wear your glasses anyway because you still have to read the subtitles!

Here is the current reading schedule for the Bibliobabes Book Club. See the AAUW Fallbrook [calendar](#) for details each month.

November 18 — ***The Women***

December 16 — ***The Holdout***

January 20 — ***The Alphabet vs the Goddess***

February 17 — ***Good Material***

Happy reading!

Cynthia Young

Bibliobabes Book Club Chair



The Bibliobabes

Hiking & Outings Group

On Thursday, October 24, the Hiking and Outings group met at a cute little French cafe in Temecula Old Town and walked/shopped/window shopped for a couple of hours. It is a very cute place to go for a nice morning. Old Town is a major outpost for the Temecula Olive Oil Company, which is THE place for olive oil and vinegars. Lunch was delicious and was across the freeway overlooking a lake.

Our next outing will be at the University Town Center, Thursday November 21. We meet at 10:00 am in front of **Williams Sonoma**. There are lots of great shops to explore and plenty of options for lunch. Plus, there is a new Italian dessert and chocolate restaurant we should probably investigate.

The Hiking and Outings Group generally meets the fourth Thursday of the month, except in November and December, when we will meet on the third Thursday of the month so that it does not interfere with Thanksgiving or Christmas.

You do NOT need to be a formal member of this group to attend. All are welcome. See full schedule [here](#).

Rachel Rose

Hiking and Outings Co-chair

Movie Review Group

Thank you to Marli and Rick Shoop for hosting the October 18 Movie Review! Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and potluck. This is always an opportunity to spend time with other members and spouses in a relaxed atmosphere! Please Join us.

November 15 Movie Review

6:00 pm at the home of Marli & Rick Shoop

Movie: [Here](#), the new Tom Hanks movie, coming to theatres on November 1.

Watch for an Evite invitation and be sure to RSVP promptly. Email [Carole Hodges](#) to be added to, or removed from, the Movie Review notices.

Carole Hodges

Movie Review Group Chair

UkuLadies

UkuLadies invite you to join us in breaking out some Christmastime/Winter songs to keep seasonal. We have a couple of extra ukuleles in case you would like to give playing a try. No tryouts necessary — some of us are complete beginners. We plan to meet on Friday afternoon, November 22 from 2:00 pm–4:00 pm at Patty Carlson's house. Call (949-280-2628) or email [Margot Dokken](#) if you'd like to come play with us.

Margot Dokken

UkuLadies Chair



Attention current members:

**WE ARE STILL COLLECTING INFORMATION
FOR OUR 2025 DIRECTORY**

*Anyone with new information or
a stunning new photo
needs to click on the button below*

**[Click here to provide or update directory
information.](#)**

Annual All-Branch (IBC) Luncheon

San Diego County InterBranch Council (SDC-IBC)

Annual All-Branch Luncheon

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 10:30 am



Lomas Santa Fe Country Club
1505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive
Solana Beach 92075

Cabrillo-Diego
Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista
Del Mar-Leucadia
Fallbrook
La Mesa-El Cajon
Poway-Peñasquitos
San Diego

The Del Mar-Leucadia and Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista Branches cordially invite you to

Our Special Guest Speakers: One Safe Place Staff



One Safe Place - the North County Family Justice Center - provides comprehensive help in a safe and judgment-free environment that empowers people to move forward with their lives. They provide free support services all under one roof to anyone who has experienced child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, hate crime, elder abuse, human trafficking, violent loss, family violence, or other abuse or victimization.

join us for lunch and a good time together renewing old friendships, meeting new friends, bidding on enticing silent auction items to take home, and hearing what the other members have been up to. See you at the Club!

10:30 am Check-in & Silent Auction
11:00 am Welcome Address
11:30 am Lunch
12:15 pm Speaker

Questions? Call or text Cathy at (858) 449-5096, or e-mail cburciaga@san.rr.com

RSVPs are a Must - by January 14th please!!

☐ Yes, (name) _____ (branch) _____ will be there.

And, I am bringing _____ guests: _____

Select Your Entrée(s): ☐ Seared Salmon ☐ Wine Country Salad with Chicken
☐ Vegetarian Roasted Vegetable Wrap

Cost: \$45. Enclosed is my check payable to "SDC-IBC".
Tear off this reply & mail to: AAUW IBC Luncheon, PO Box 262012, San Diego, CA 92196

Click here to download the IBC flyer.



Here are some resources to explore

Fallbrook AAUW

AAUW California

AAUW National



P.O. Box 1061
Fallbrook CA 92088-1061

Phone:
760-500-0393

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