



# The Branch

October 2019

The Humboldt Branch of AAUW publishes *The Branch* eight times each year  
<http://humboldt-ca.aauw.net>

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Submissions welcome: deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

**Mission.** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision. Equity for all.

Values. Nonpartisan. Fact-based.

AAUW is the nation’s leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.

## October Branch Meeting

Sat. October 5 – 10:00 AM - Red Lion Inn, Eureka

Red Lion Hotel Dining Room

1929 4th Street, Eureka

10:00 a.m. Registration, Social and Brunch

Menu: egg, bacon, cheese breakfast croissants, muffins & scones, breakfast potatoes, seasonal fruit, juice, coffee tea.

\$20 for brunch, \$6 for beverage only



Program: *How do you Turn an abandoned,*

*blighted school building into a thriving Community Beacon?*

Heidi Benzonelli, President of Westside Community Improvement Association will tell us how a group of concerned neighbors transformed their neighborhood on the West Side of Eureka.

If your caller has not reached you by Tuesday, October 1, please contact Maggie Augustine by phone or email.

It is our Branch policy that if you make a reservation, you will be expected to pay for your meal whether you attend or not.

## October President's Letter

### Mary Louise Lowry

I wanted to thank Jeanne Harris and Alex Stillman for our successful September meeting. Everything went well at the Red Lion. The Speaker, Mary Ann Hansen of the First Five Commission was very interesting. We also heard from one of our Tech Trek graduates who spoke so eloquently about her experience. The Scholarship Committee has done a great job promoting our scholarship. We have 23 applications to date. The deadline is October 31. It makes me proud to be part of an organization that is working hard empowering women.

As we look ahead, I want to remind you to nominate outstanding community members for our History Tea. Also, I would like to remind you to gather items for our Gala in December. Sharon Ferrett is gathering children's books at our monthly meetings.

## Coming up in October

The International Day of Non-Violence is marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

UNESCO proclaimed 5 October to be World Teachers' Day in 1994, celebrating the great step made for teachers on 5 October 1966, when a special intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO in Paris adopted the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, in cooperation with the ILO.

October 11 is International Day of the Girl Child.



some photos from our September meeting. We enjoyed learning more about early childhood education from Mary Ann Hansen and got to meet one of the girls we sent to Tech Trek.



## 2020 Women's History Tea Honoree Nomination

Each March we celebrate women from the past and present who have made a difference in Humboldt County. If you would like to nominate a recipient of this honor, please complete this nomination form. The Board of Directors will be making a selection by the end of this year. Please nominate a person or persons that you feel should be considered for this honor and why.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

In what way has this person/group made a positive difference in Humboldt County through her activities, education, occupations, or professions?

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Please provide the contact information for your nominee:

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EMAIL OR MAIL YOUR NOMINATION TO Branch President Mary Louise Lowry  
(Marylouiselowry@gmail.com), or 611 1 St, Arcata, CA 95521-5529

# Women and Baseball



In honor of the World Series this month and the changes Title IX has brought to women athletes, we have some stories about women and baseball. The stories are from the *New York Times*, and we thank Jean Guthrie for finding them for us.

### Toni Stone

A play named *Toni Stone* opened in New York in June. It is about the first woman ever to play in a professional baseball game. It presents “America’s Pastime in a Time of Change” starting in 1953 when Toni Stone became the first woman of any race to play in a professional baseball game and who has almost been forgotten. She spent years barnstorming with men’s exhibition teams, then took her historic first at-bat for the Indianapolis Clowns of the professional Negro Leagues. That was 66 years ago; the play works to bring her brief career back to life.

### The 19<sup>th</sup> Girl in 2019

Maddy Freking, a 12-year-old from Minnesota, was this year the nineteenth girl, one of only six Americans, to play baseball in the Little League World Series championship games in August. Just 19 girls have performed on teams in the LLWS games for its 72-year history. The Little League Federal Charter in the U.S. was amended to allow girls in 1974.

Maddy’s coach says, “She’s very quiet and leads by example. Her teammates have never treated her any differently because she’s a girl.”

### *Geography Note for Little League World Series*

*The LLWS final game for the International Championship was between Japan and Curacao. Though the countries are from very different and distant geography on a map, their cultural geography is at least similar—both cultures are deeply devoted to baseball.*

*The U.S. championship for LLWS follows a similar pattern – Hawaii vs Louisiana.*

## The Status of Women and Girls in CA ~ 2019

For the past eight years Mt. St. Mary’s University in Los Angeles, (the only all-women’s higher educational institution in the area), has published a report assessing the status of women and girls in the state of California. It is an impressive document and I would encourage members to log on to: [www.msmu.edu/media/website/content-assets/msmuedu/home/status-of-women-and-girls-in-california/documents/RSWG-2019-ReportFull.pdf](http://www.msmu.edu/media/website/content-assets/msmuedu/home/status-of-women-and-girls-in-california/documents/RSWG-2019-ReportFull.pdf) and review the findings – they may surprise you.

This year's report entitled, *Intersections: Identity, Access and Equity* "celebrates the gains women have made and the challenges they continue to confront in areas like economic well-being, health and wellness, workforce factors and safety." It presents an overview of how women of different races and ethnicities are faring in CA. The following bills passed during the last legislative session were significant in making strides toward greater equity for California's women and girls; you may recognize some of them.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Mandates a baseline representation of female identified persons on the board of directors of each publicly held corporation whose principal executive offices are in California. (SENATE BILL 826, JACKSON)

**DISCLOSURE OF SALARY HISTORY:** Prohibits employers from seeking salary history information and making a subsequent salary determination for applicants, thereby improving pay equity. (ASSEMBLY BILL 168, EGGMAN)

**LACTATION ACCOMMODATION:** Requires employers to designate an area close to the workspace — excluding bathrooms — for employees who wish to express breast milk. (ASSEMBLY BILL 1976, LIMÓN)

**MARRIAGE AND DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP: MINORS.** Ensures additional levels of protection before a youth may marry or establish a domestic partnership by 1) providing information about their rights of termination and dissolution directly to children and 2) requiring involved parties to participate in premarital counseling. (SENATE BILL 273, HILL)

**EXTORTION:** Expands the crime of extortion to include consideration of sexual conduct or images of intimate body parts. (SENATE BILL 500, LEYVA)

**CALWORKS MODIFICATIONS:** Authorizes domestic violence survivors who are recipients of California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) benefits to be eligible for CalWORKs homeless assistance. (ASSEMBLY BILL 557, RUBIO)

**FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS'**

**RESTROOMS:** Requires public schools serving students in grades six to 12 that meet the 40 percent pupil poverty threshold required to operate a federal Title I school wide program to always stock at least 50 percent of the school's restrooms with no-cost feminine hygiene products. (ASSEMBLY BILL 10, GARCIA)

\*Above material referenced from Mt. St. Mary's University annual *The Status of Women and Girls in CA* 2019



Congress is back in session after the August recess and the administration and the courts have been busy all summer, so there's lots happening — read on for more. We're also premiering a revamped format this week, which will help us better share opportunities for you to take action, news about movement on AAUW issues, and information about what we're up to at the national office. We're looking forward to a productive fall!

## Act

· Newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that the gender pay gap remains unchanged. While women now typically make 82 cents on the dollar compared to men, this is because the Census Bureau adjusted its pay data methodology for the 2018 data. This doesn't represent real change in America – the gap is not statistically different from last year. Another year with no change in the pay gap is unacceptable. Contact your senators today and urge them to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to help close the gender pay gap!

## Learn

· The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced this week that they plan to halt their pay data collection, which is intended to help them understand and address gender and racial pay gaps. AAUW opposes this decision – pay data collection helps employers and enforcement agencies to better analyze and act on pay disparities. Stay tuned for opportunities for action.

· The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services proposed a rule that would roll back critical protections guaranteed by Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. AAUW submitted comments in opposition to the proposed regulation, which would result in many people who are particularly vulnerable to discrimination, including LGBTQ people, people who need reproductive health care including abortion, and women of color, facing barriers when accessing health care.

· Despite a legal battle, the administration's rule to prohibit health care providers that receive Title X family planning funding from discussing abortion with their patients has now gone into effect. Several providers, including Planned Parenthood, were forced to withdraw from the program due to the change, which will have the greatest impact on low-income patients. Some states have stepped in to cover costs, and AAUW continues to urge the House and Senate to stop the rule.

· Following advocacy from AAUW and others, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal (FAIR) Act (H.R. 1423) passed out of the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

· A federal district court in Virginia sided with transgender student Gavin Grimm in August, ruling that his former high school's refusal to let him use the bathroom that aligned with his gender identity constituted discrimination under Title IX. AAUW signed on to an amicus brief in Gloucester County School Board v. GG.

## Connect

· Lifetime AAUW member Antonia Glasse passed away early this summer. Glasse was a pivotal part of the Cornell 11 case, which helped to launch AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund.

· AAUW signed on to a letter urging the House Judiciary Committee to support the Equal Rights Amendment and hold a vote on H.J. Res. 38.

· Negotiations continue in Congress over the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which will impact AAUW priorities including campus safety and student debt. AAUW recently weighed in with two letters to the committees responsible for the reauthorization.

· AAUW helped to draft and joined a large group of organizations in outlining civil rights principles for safe, healthy, and inclusive school climates.



AAUW RE-ENTRY SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (ARSC): At the September meeting, the coffers of the Re-entry Scholarship were increased by \$260. That will make more applicants happy. By the way, the number of applicants is up to 23. Again, a big *Thank You* to the branch membership.

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Editor's Note: Last year the board voted to switch the *Branch* to a primarily emailed publication. An email publication looks different than a printed newsletter. It is meant to be viewed on a screen (computer, phone, tablet) and while it is printable, it looks different when it is printed. The best way to print it is to save it as a pdf file and then print that. Please let me know if you have problems viewing or printing it and I will try to work with Constant Contact to resolve them. Shelley