



Humboldt Inc. (CA) Branch



The Branch

April 2021
Vol 71, Issue 8

AAUW Presents a Panel of Women Leaders April 3, 2021, 9:30 am Social 10 am Program via Zoom

Our April speakers will include Michelle Vassel, Tribal Administrator of the Wiyot Tribe, Leslie Castellano, City Council Representative for the City of Eureka and Maggie Flemming, Humboldt County District Attorney.

Connie Stewart will facilitate a discussion with this dynamic trio who will share stories of their personal journeys, what keeps them passionate about their jobs and hopefully share ways we can support them in the future!

Clockwise from top right : Leslie Castellano, Michelle Vassel and Maggie Flemming





President's Letter



In April, we will have a panel of women leaders in our community and in May, we will have a program on financial security for women. This is a great time to invite your daughters, granddaughters, and other young women you may know to our meetings. We hope that the panel may inspire other women to take a leadership role in our community. Please share the link when it comes out. Our program starts at 10am both on April 3 and May 1. We do have social time 9:30 to 10am.

I thought that the March Tea was lovely. I was so inspired by our Women Honorees who have devoted themselves to our community to make it a better place to live. Also, I loved hearing about the women who saved the redwoods. I wish I could thank them all individually. Now, when I take walks in the redwoods, I think about them and am grateful to them for saving our redwood forests. Our county would be so diminished without those wonderful trees. Thank you to Connie and Alex for their wonderful programs this year.

I woke up in the middle of the night and realized that I had not written my president's letter. So, heeding all the advice I have read about how to fall back to sleep, I got up and started writing. I have enjoyed the opportunity to be president of AAUW but the president's letter always weighed heavy on me. Now, I have only one letter left after this one. This is the first time I have written it in the middle of the night. You might think I would be better at this now but I don't think so.

Rollin Richmond, our publicity chair, who has done such a wonderful job of getting the word out about our programs has moved to Atlanta. I will miss him and all the good he has added to our community.

My computer died about a week ago. It seems to have been very sensitive to some water that I spilled on my keyboard. Fortunately, I saved my AAUW folder and all my folders to the cloud and I now have them on my new computer. I have gotten very far behind on my emails and other work I do on the computer. I apologize to you if I have not answered your emails but be patient, I will. If you want an answer fast, please call me.

Hope to see everyone April 3.

Mary Louise Lowry

Thursday, April 1, 2021
1:00 p.m. PDT

AAUW National Town Hall on Member Education Requirement

AAUW's annual election will begin on April 7 and run through May 17. We encourage you to attend this member-only Town Hall to learn more about the Board-supported proposed changes to the bylaws that would eliminate the degree requirement and open membership. We will also discuss Get Out the Vote efforts during the COVID pandemic and what you can do to help make sure that members voices and votes are counted. The Town Hall will include breakout groups, which will allow for more specific discussion on the items up for membership vote this spring, as well as GOTV efforts that you can participate in. Please join us!

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Interest Group Highlight

AAUW DAYTIME BOOK INTEREST GROUP is one of the book interest groups. The other three are Evening book, Mystery Book and Page Turners.

Some history may be of value. Our branch interest groups/sections were formed in the early 1950's and at that time a book discussion group section was among them. However, who started the **first** branch book discussion group could not be determined. Over the years, the other book groups have developed. Ref. *50 Years of Friendship & Service America Association of University Women Humboldt Branch, 1950-2000*.

Now to return to the present time. Ann Zumbrun is the host/chair. Gatherings are on the 3rd Monday of the month at 10:00 am via zoom. All genres are read except mystery which is reserved for Mystery Book Club. Examples of books read are *Mr. Timothy* by Louis Bayard, *The Moment of Lift* by Melinda Gates, *The Monk of Mokhta* by Dave Eggers and *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett.

Current membership is 16 members. Interested members and their book recommendations are most welcomed. Before "formally" joining this interest group, feel free to try out a session. Please contact Ann Zumbrun for further information.

The next meeting is Monday, 19 April 2021, at 10:00 am and the selected book is *The Library Book* by Susan Orleans. This book covers the burning of the Los Angeles Central Library in 1986 which destroyed or damaged more than a million books. If you want to know the inner workings and future of libraries this is a book to read and discuss.

Margaret Augustine

The Future for Roe v Wade and Choice

by Claire Noonan, California Public Policy committee

The times they are changing – a new president and vice-president who support pro-choice, but a sixth very conservative justice is added to the Supreme Court.

Abortion rights activists stress state-by-state vigilance to be aware of how reproductive choice is now used as a political tool, says Ilyse Hogue, recently



retired president of National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL). New anti-choice bills are mainly introduced by the white male religious minority, except in Montana with six abortion-limiting bills introduced this year by conservative female legislators and one male.

For instance, extreme 2021 legislation in Tennessee will allow fathers to veto an abortion. A Texas bill will require a fetus to have a lawyer. Arizona's new bills propose to criminalize a woman who gets an abortion and the doctor who performs it.

During a pandemic telemedicine is valuable to prescribe pills for medication abortions. In July 2020 the federal courts temporarily suspended the doctor's visit rule for the first pill, mifepristone, but in January 2021 SCOTUS reinstated the rule. Patients again must visit a doctor for the first pill and get a prescription to obtain the second, misoprostol.

These restrictions have a particularly significant impact on low-income communities, which often include women of color, which are stressed economically by the year-long and counting pandemic. Clinics especially in the South, like West Alabama Women's Center, are constantly searching for money sources to provide reproductive services as well as current needs for newborn assistance. The center focuses on providing financial assistance to the under-served, even when services are 'temporarily' deemed "non-essential". Despite efforts to provide full-spectrum reproductive health care access, dwindling numbers of clinics from the Sun Belt across the Deep South curb the availability of services. In the Navajo Nation, Covid infection is so high that patients need a doctor's note to leave the tribal area for a clinic appointment.

Consequently, vigilance means watching the power of the courts, encouraging reversal of the Hyde Amendment, and backing codification of the Roe v Wade decision. As you know, each woman in California can choose, but support for organizations that oversee the reproductive health rights of women in America are worth the effort.

The proposed budget (below), as well as the incoming slate of officers, will be voted upon at the May 1st meeting.

PROPOSED BUDGET	
July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	

Income

Advertising Income	600.00
Branch Meeting Income (Meals)	7,500.00
Membership Dues	10,260.00
Total Income	18,360.00

Expense

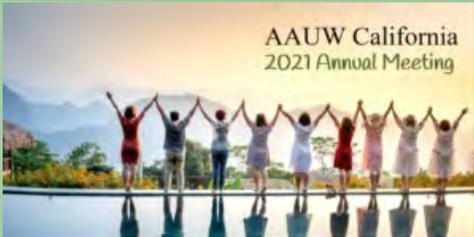
Administrative Expense	150.00
Branch Courtesies	15.00
Branch Meeting Costs (Meals)	7,500.00
Community Action Projects	955.00
Conferences/Conventions	500.00
Discretionary Projects	100.00
Dues Paid to State and National	7,790.00
EF Branch Assessment	65.00
Guest Meals	300.00
Holiday Gala	100.00
Insurance	400.00
Membership Handbook	150.00
Membership Support	50.00
Newsletter	115.00
President's gift	70.00
Speaker Gifts	50.00
Treasurer	50.00
Total Expense	18,360.00
NET INCOME	-

The Proposed Slate of Officers 2021-2022

President: Rosemarie Weaver
 Vice President: Margaret Wallace
 Secretary: Becky MacQuarrie
 Treasurer: Nancy Kay

This will be voted on at the May meeting.

Our AAUW California Annual Meeting will be



held via Zoom for the second year.

No travel, no hotel reservations and no lunch, once again. But, that means you can attend at no cost from your office, living room or kitchen!

You will learn what has been happening in California this past year and it is a lot! You will see the three Speech Trek Finalists, learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is and see the first Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown will join us and we have a special event brought to us by past Co-President Cathy Foxhoven.

The meeting is open to the public. Registration is required.

[Click HERE to Register](#)

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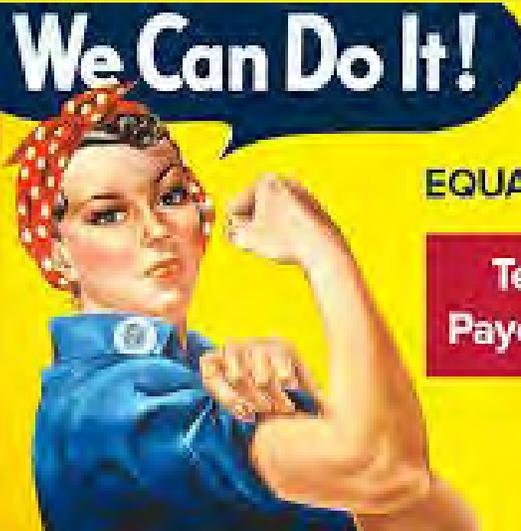
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Thank you, members, for your support during
the pandemic.

Mary Lou Lowry, President





The Humboldt Branch of AAUW publishes The *Branch* eight times each year

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aauwHumboldt

Editor:

Shelley Mitchell

Submissions welcome: deadline is the 20th 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.

Editor's Note: The *Branch* is 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, 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