



Humboldt Inc. (CA) Branch



The Branch

October 2021
Vol 72, Issue 2



October Branch Meeting
October 2, 2021
on Zoom
Social Time: 9:30 a.m.
Speaker: Julie Benbow at
10:00 a.m.

Is Humboldt County Open for Tourism?

The unmatched natural beauty, complimented by lively arts and culture and acclaimed food & wine, make Humboldt County the perfect rural retreat. But are tourists coming?

Julie Benbow, the Executive Director of the Humboldt County Visitors Bureau will tell us about what our community is doing to encourage tourism.

Born and raised in the north of England, Julie graduated from the Royal College of Art in Manchester, then went on to receive degrees in typography, design and linguistics in London before beginning a career as a designer. After moving to San Francisco, she started a design and marketing business then joined the non-profit sector. For the past 30 years she has served in senior leadership positions with arts and social service organizations, as well as acting as a consultant specializing in board training, strategic planning, and capital campaigns. She has been with the Humboldt County Visitors Bureau for over two years restructuring the organization and leading national and international marketing endeavors.

Julie serves as Chair of the North Coast Tourism Council (a marketing partnership between Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake Counties), is on the California Cannabis Tourism Committee, and as Fundraising Committee Chair on the Ink People Board of Directors.



President's Message

Our Zoom Branch meeting for September went very smoothly. It was so good to get together and see each other. Members shared news, listened to speaker Larry Oetker, asked questions, and reviewed the AAUW Humboldt Branch Website. Larry gave us a great deal to think about related to the Humboldt Harbor District's past, present, and plans for the future. He is spearheading big plans to revitalize the Harbor and bring new infrastructure and industry to the area.

Shelley Mitchell is a member of the AAUW CA Public Policy Committee. They are responsible for keeping us informed with articles about AAUW's legislative activity. See the article included in this newsletter about the progress of AAUW California's legislative efforts. We need to thank Shelley for all her work in putting together our newsletter every month. It is interesting and attractive and keeps us informed and connected. Thank you, Shelley, for all your work for our Branch, and for being on the Public Policy Committee.

Do you feel autumn in the air? I've been noticing some leaves changing, the days getting shorter, and pumpkins and fall decorations appearing in stores and on homes. As the year winds down, I think about all that we've missed and given up as we try to stay safe in the pandemic. Personal and family plans, as well as community and cultural events. I really miss our monthly meetings when we had a chance to talk, share, and meet new people. I'm looking forward to having that opportunity again, as soon as it is safe. On a positive note, there are members who are able to join zoom meetings that could not come to in-person meetings for various reasons. And we can have an extra cup of coffee or come

to the meeting in slippers. Then there's the driving time we save. We can always look at the bright side!

Please join us on October 2 for the zoom meeting with speaker Julie Benbow of the Humboldt County Visitor's Bureau.

Rosemarie Weaver
Branch President

Member News

Gina Rogers has joined Sharon Ferrett on Publicity. Thank you, Gina, for taking on this important job.

The audit has been completed and approved by Nancy Dean and Mary Lou Lowry. Thanks for doing the audit and thanks to Nancy Kay for keeping the books in such good order.

AAUW Humboldt Branch Directories have been delivered. Thanks to Nancy Dean for getting the directory published and to all who delivered them.

In October, information about our Re-entry Scholarship will be distributed and scholarship applications collected. Then the process of selection will begin. Everyone was so generous last year that we have sufficient funds for this year's applicants. Soon, members will be asked to donate to the scholarship fund for next year.



AAUW CA Public Policy Update: It Wasn't a Normal Legislative Year!

Kathi Harper, Co-Chair Public Policy, AAUW California

How did the bills we supported fare in the last legislative session? Not particularly well, as it turns out! We started the year off with 39 bills selected for varying degrees of support. The Public Policy Committee chose one bill to co-sponsor, AB 92 which would have made fees that families receiving subsidized childcare more equitable. We also chose four additional bills for top-priority attention ("A" level bills), five bills for "important" status ("B" level bills), twenty-two bills for low-("C") level attention, and seven bills to "watch."

Twenty-eight of these thirty-nine bills have been designated "2-year" bills, which means they are dead for this year and likely will be taken up again in 2022. Our advocate, Kathy Van Osten, explained that this is because Senate and Assembly leadership set a limit of just 12 bills that a member could move to the second house, so members had to pick and choose what would they wanted to move forward.

Some of our bills did not make the cut. Four of our five "A" bills, along with our co-sponsored bill, and four of our five "B" bills, did not make it through. Several of them, however, were converted into the Budget and Budget "trailer bills," which will provide funding for childcare. Although we were not entirely successful in getting our co-sponsored bill AB 92 passed, the state budget does include \$60 million for one year of relief for all families using subsidized childcare, increased reimbursement rates for childcare providers, and funding for 206,000 new childcare slots.

We are pleased that several bills have passed and been sent to the Governor, and we are working hard to secure his signature on these bills: AB 62 and AB 367, as well as 3 of our

"C" level bills: AB 123, AB 1074, and AB 1461.

Thanks again to all our members who participated in Lobby Day and/or weighed in at critical junctures on social media. For descriptions of each of these bills and/or more information on their status, visit our [Bill Tracker](#)

Interest Group Updates

The evening and daytime Bridge groups have joined and we are now meeting on the first and third Mondays of the month from 1-4:00 p.m. The Gourmet group is having our planning meeting September 28 at 6:30. It will be a potluck at Suzie Owsley's. **Contact Carol Kinser.**

Daytime Book Group

We all agreed that the book club is a great way to get together and share news not only about the month's book but about other topics and issues as well. Today was a good example of camaraderie!

Next month's book is *The Accidental Presidents* by Jared Cohen. It's a long one (530 pages).

Happy Reading! Ann Zumbrun

Evening Book Group

We only had a handful of folks tune in for the August meeting to report on what they've been reading. Here's what I was able to take down from our conversations.

Marshelle listened to Anthony Bourdain's *Kitchen Confidential* on tape. It made her miss his TV show which was funny, poignant and not really too much concerned with travel or food. More about his own journey of self discovery. If you have never watched his one of the old TV shows or read one of his books, I highly recommend them.

Marshelle also reported on the *Women's Mystery Club* series by James Patterson. It is set in San Francisco and features women that work together to solve crimes. His latest was #20, so I guess we have a lot of reading to do to catch up! She also read, *Killer Instinct* by Patterson but it didn't grab her. Patterson also likes to write with prominent people. His second book with Bill Clinton, *The President's Daughter* just came out. Also in the works is a book coauthored by Dolly Parton, which ought to be a hoot! FYI: Louise Penny is writing a book with Hillary Clinton that is due out in a couple of months.

Linda started to read *Improvement* by Joan Silber. It won the National Book Critics Circle award in 2017. Somehow it didn't grab her either, so she's putting

it aside for a later start. She has also ordered a book called Damnation Spring by Ash Davidson which is about logging in Northern CA. It was written up in the NYT books review.

Maggie read The Rules of Magic by Alice Hoffman about a family with magical capabilities. (It's the prequel to Practical Magic, which was made into a cute movie with Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman that barely resembled the book!) Also reported on was The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave. A newly married woman's husband disappears and together with his daughter they search for him.

Dorothy confessed that she tried to read Caste but gave up. Instead she read Stamped by Jason Reynolds. It is done more tongue in cheek than Caste and is a more enjoyable read (not so much like reading a textbook).

I read Convenience Store Woman by Sayaka Murata. It is a light read about a woman in Tokyo who has never fit in anywhere and has always felt like an outsider everywhere except the convenience store. Her friends and family think she should move on with life get a better job, get married etc. If you've ever been in an Japanese convenience store you'll like this one. The stores are literally everywhere and carry just about everything, not just chips, junk food and drinks like here. I also read the Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer. (The title kind of grabbed me!) It is about the lengths that the citizens of Timbuktu went to smuggle their rare ancient Muslim texts out of the city while Al Qaeda, was taking over Mali. It is a non-fiction that is highly informative but reads like a thriller. The only thing that I didn't like was that it needed an update to inform the readers where things stand now in Mali about 5 or 6 years later. I highly recommend this one!

Our next meeting is Monday, September 27. We will be discussing any of the works of Kasuo Ishiguro.

Chris Stenlund

Page Turners book group met on September 15th and discussed Trevor Noah's stories about his South African childhood in Born a Crime. We agreed that we learned a lot about South Africa from the book. It was well-written and entertaining, in spite of the grim events in many of the stories. Our next selection is The Second Lady by Irving Wallace for October 20.

Thanks everyone,
Rosemarie



Upcoming Webinar

Thursday, September 30, 2021 4pm ET
In Conversation with Dr. Rajika Bhandari
America Calling: A Foreign Student in a Country of
Possibility

Join us for a discussion with AAUW fellowship alumna Rajika Bhandari, PhD., a nonprofit executive and an international higher education expert, to discuss her upcoming book, [America Calling: A Foreign Student in a Country of Possibility](#), which will be released on September 14. America Calling is both a deeply personal story of Dr. Bhandari's search for place and voice, and an incisive analysis of America's relationship with the rest of the world through the most powerful tool of diplomacy: education. Dr. Bhandari is a sought-after speaker on issues of international education, skilled immigrants, and educational and cultural diplomacy. An author of five academic books and one previous nonfiction book, Dr. Bhandari has written articles featured in Ms. Magazine, The Guardian, The Chronicle of Higher Education, HuffPost, and The Diplomatic Courier, among others.

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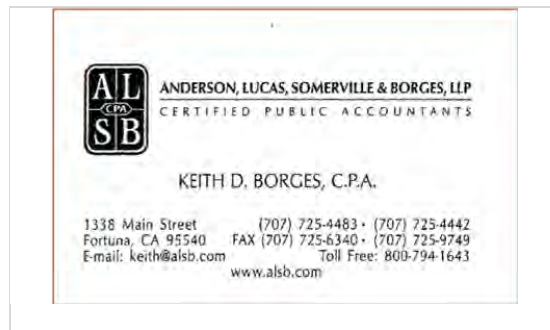
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Editor:

Shelley Mitchell

Submissions welcome: deadline is the 20th of each month

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