



Humboldt Inc. (CA) Branch



The Branch

March 2022
Vol 72, Issue 6



March Branch Meeting Saturday, March 5

In March we will celebrate Women's History Month with our Annual Women's History Tea. This annual branch event honors women who have made a difference right here in Humboldt County.

This year our tea will be on Zoom, but, it is FORTUNATE that we have a food option, thanks to the efforts of Alex Stillman and Dorothy Skjonsby. The high school class that has been making the food for our March Tea for many years will make a boxed tea for each of us who wants to order it and have it for the Zoom meeting. The box will have tea and treats to eat. It will be delivered to your home on the morning of the Tea, March 5, by 9:00 or so.

If you are interested in ordering the tea box, please reply to this email and I will compile a list and pass it to Dorothy and Alex. The cost is \$10 and must be paid in cash to the driver when she arrives to deliver your box. Please order your tea box by contacting Rosemarie by Monday, February 28th, so that we can have everything organized and ready by March 5.

Thanks to Dorothy and Alex for this great idea and for organizing to make it happen. Hope to see you on March 5.



What do Kay Escarda and JoAnn Schuch have in common?

They are AAUW Humboldt's choices for recognition as our Women's History Month honorees!

- Kay and Joann have both been AAUW members for many years.
- Both have accomplished a great deal for our community as organizers and innovators.
- Both are dedicated women who give of themselves to help others in many ways.
- Each is an asset to our community.
- Talking to them is a pleasure as they are both warm, outgoing, and altogether lovely people.

JoAnn Schuch is an artist in talent, training, and accomplishment. She has spent many years designing and constructing furniture and cabinetry that combine beauty and function. She calls her furniture "a piece of art you can live with." JoAnn's personal experience with elder care has led to her work with Redwood Coast Village and Life Care Humboldt. These are very big projects, but JoAnn is tireless in bringing them about and knows how to accomplish big goals. She believes that working toward a big goal means defining small steps and working to complete them one at a time. She is also a kayaking enthusiast and enjoys being out on the water. JoAnn has been instrumental in changing the experience of aging in Humboldt County for the better, and we are happy to honor her this month.

Kay Escarda has been a teacher, social worker, advocate for lower income housing, educator of the public on election issues, League of Women Voters leader, poll worker, and the list goes on. All of Kay's efforts have been geared to helping others. She serves on Boards and works as a volunteer on many community agencies such as the Eureka Public Housing Authority, Senior Action Coalition, Multiple Assistance Center, and League of Women Voters, to name a few. Kay took her daughter and granddaughter to the Women's March in Washington D.C. in January of 2017. Three generations of her family stood together at one of the biggest women's events of all time. Kay says she has loved to dance all her life. For many years, she was part of a group who learned and danced the tango. We are honored to recognize Kay for her passion and dedication to helping others.



President's Message

We had another very interesting and enjoyable Branch zoom meeting in February. Many thanks to Connie Stewart for arranging to have Valerie Reed as our speaker and facilitating the presentation. Valerie is a member of the Yurok Tribe and Chief Operating Officer of United Indian Health Services. Valerie shared the many ways she has worked to provide health services to Tribal Communities in Humboldt Country since 1968. Her talk showed us how tirelessly she has worked on this goal and the many directions she has taken. I think we were all very impressed to hear about her wide-ranging efforts.

The budget for the 2022-2023 year is in the works. Nancy Kay shared her preliminary

budget with the budget committee, Margaret Wallace and Rosemarie Weaver. The budget will be presented to the Board and voted on at a zoom meeting on March 12 at 10:00 am. Any interested member may attend the budget meeting, according to the standing rules. I will send the zoom link to anyone who is interested and wants to attend. The Board approved budget will be printed in the April and May newsletters and voted upon by the members at the May annual Branch meeting.

Our scholarship fundraiser held in November was very successful. Generous donations from members totaled \$8175 and will give us a good fund to use for next year's scholarships.

I am very much looking forward to our March Branch Meeting, the annual Women's History Tea, on March 5. As always, we have two very worthy recipients to honor for their contributions to our community. You can read about them in the following article and hear about their accomplishments at the zoom meeting. An added feature will be the boxed tea delivered on the morning of the tea to members who order it. This should make the event more fun for all of us. Add to the atmosphere with hats, gloves, and pretty teacups if you like.

Natalie Arroyo is our newest Branch member. Natalie was one of this year's scholarship winners and we are happy to have her join. Welcome, Natalie!

Rosemarie Weaver
AAUW Humboldt Branch President

Evening Book Group

The group meets on Zoom on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Chris Stenlund for more information and the zoom links.
"

Page Turners Book Group

Third Wednesday of the Month at 10:00 a.m.
Contact: Rosemarie Weaver,



ANNUAL EVENT

Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner,
meetings@aauw-ca.org

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE SNAKES??

Just kidding-no snakes will be found on this AAUW California adventure! What will be found is inspiration, adventure, and connections galore! Join us for our virtual Annual Event on April 30th to hear fabulous speakers like AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell,

Policy Rockstar Lisa Maatz, and the Dancing Rocket Scientist Jasmine Sadler!

Get caught up on all the incredible work and successes of AAUW California branches from the past year. Hear our Speech Trek finalists. AND, there won't be a dull moment when we venture through a series of "open space" sessions in the afternoon, on a variety of topics covering all things AAUW, equity, women, and girls. More details and registration information will be coming soon.



We used to call it Lobby Day. Now we're calling it Lobby Week. Tomato/tomahto. It's still a chance to talk to your state representatives, either in- person or virtually, about the bills we support. Don't worry. We'll tell you what they are! To bring your voice to "the room where it happens" during Lobby Week,

complete this short survey [HERE](#) by February 28th. Oh, and you'll have to

attend a mandatory training webinar on April 7th. Register for that [HERE](#). Check your overflowing email inbox for the one we sent February 2nd with all the details. It's probably after the ad for Omaha SteaksTM.

What are You Doing this Year to Mark Equal Pay Day?

Ginny Hatfield and Shelley Mitchell
AAUW CA Public Policy Committee



AAUW believes that pay equity and equal employment opportunity are matters of simple fairness. We know that on the average, women earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal of Equal Pay Day was to raise awareness about the gender wage gap.

Each year this date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. The date normally moves earlier each year as the wage gap closes, as women's average wages rise faster than men's. Equal Pay Day was traditionally a Tuesday in April, but happily, in 2021, the date was March 24, meaning that things had improved. And this year the news is even better – all women in the aggregate will reach parity with all white men on March 15, 2022. Better, but we're still not there.

On June 10, 2021, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which had passed the House of Representatives and amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 by providing more effective remedies to victims of wage discrimination based on sex, was filibustered in the Senate on a 49-50 vote. Now is the time to let your elected officials know how you feel about this failure to codify pay equity.

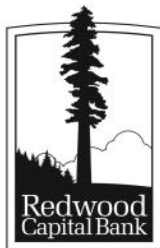
AAUW Branches throughout the country have marked this day with activities that highlight the wage gap. Here are some suggestions for things your branch can do.

- Write your representatives in Congress to encourage them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- Encourage your local city council or county board of supervisors to issue a proclamation in support of pay equity.
- Wear Red to symbolize that women's paychecks are "in the red" when compared to men.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper or offer to submit an op-ed.
- Share a timely post on social media to spread awareness.
- Hold an event on your local campus and offer cookies to women that are proportionately smaller than the ones you offer to men. Also invite participants to become student affiliate members of AAUW.
- Invite community members to an "unhappy hour."

Whatever you decide to do, start planning now. We can't wait for equal pay!

You can get more information and samples of proclamations and letters from the [National Committee on Pay Equity](#). You can also find out more on AAUW National's website on Pay Equity at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/pay-gap-faqs/>.

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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.
