



Humboldt Inc. (CA) Branch



The Branch

February 2023
Vol 73, Issue 5

Women's History Tea

**Meet our Women's History Honorees and
enjoy our first
in-person tea since March of 2020**

**March 4, 2023
Christ Episcopal Church,
625 15th St, Eureka
1:30 pm**

\$24.00 with food, \$8.00 beverage only

Catered by Cassaro's Catering

**Assorted Quiche, Mini Appetizer Sandwiches, Blueberry Scones
with Clotted Cream, Fresh Fruit Platter, Coffee and Tea**

Please bring your place setting to help our hostesses set beautiful tables for our Tea. You will need a dessert or salad plate, cup and saucer, water glass, napkin, and cutlery.

Phone chain callers will collect reservations; they are due on **February 26**. Contact Maggie Augustine, (Email address: mag3022@gmail.com) if you are not contacted by a caller. Please be sure to make a reservation if you're coming so we will have accurate numbers for the caterer and for the table arrangements.

It is our Branch policy that if you make a reservation and cancel after the deadline, you are expected to pay whether or not you attend.



Women's History Tea

Wear your favorite hat and bring your best teacup to celebrate 2023 AAUW Humboldt Branch Women's History Honorees



Mary Lou Lowry is a pillar of the AAUW Humboldt Branch. She is everywhere you look in all of our projects and activities, not to mention serving 2 years as President. But did you know she was one of the first women in the FBI? After graduating from law school at the University of Texas and not finding a law firm that wanted to hire a woman, she trained and served as a field agent in the FBI. Later she worked in an all-women law firm in a suburb of Chicago. I guess that's a good way to deal with discrimination against hiring

women. She helped start Mother's Day Out, a day care program for mothers to use one day a week, that is still going. Mary Lou has been active in League of Women Voters, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and Philanthropic Educational Association, to name a few. She is dedicated to her family and helps care for her grandchildren during their parents' working hours. She also finds time to be a world traveler. We are happy to honor her for her many contributions and achievements, and for being a kind and caring member of our community.

Sue Leskiw grew up, was educated, and began working in Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Maryland. She says these states all have cold snowy winters. When she moved to Humboldt County in 1998, she was relieved because "You don't have to shovel rain." Her education was in Environmental Communication and she has worked for 40 years in editing, writing and publication design in the fields of medicine and biological science. Her first job in Maryland was with the National Wildlife Federation. Her list of jobs and organizations is very impressive. Sue has worked locally with Friends of the Arcata Marsh, Godwit Days Birding Festival, Humboldt Senior Resource Center, Redwood Region Audubon Society, and many more. One of her favorite projects has been the Student Bird Art Contest where students' drawings of birds are displayed and honored. This contest has been going for 20 years! Check out the winning drawings at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center in May and June. Thanks, Sue, for your many contributions to environmental organizations and to our community. We are happy to honor you this month.



President's Message

March is Women's History Month. Our Humboldt Branch celebrates by honoring women who have made outstanding contributions to our community. Read about this year's nominees below. I'm so inspired by what our nominees have accomplished and how they have made a difference in the lives of many. I'm also happy that we'll be honoring them in person again this year. Thanks to Sharon Ferrett, Margaret Wallace, and Mary Lou Lowry

for organizing the hostesses for this year's event. Thanks to Gina Rogers for publicity about our nominees in the local newspapers. Also thanks to Peggy Smart for arranging the venue and Alex Stillman for contacting the caterer. I hope you will join us in showing our appreciation for our honorees and enjoying each other's company on March 4.

AAUW's Mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. I've been thinking about how far women have come since AAUW began its work in 1881. Do we still have farther to go? You can read about current issues at AAUW's [website](#). There's still progress to be made in the areas of fair pay and economic equity, removing bias from education, and advancing women in leadership. Find out how AAUW is working on these issues. Isn't it good that we support them by being members? AAUW is on it!

At our February meeting, we heard from a very articulate young lady, Clara Morris, who attended Tech Trek last June. She got a great deal from the experience and was grateful to the Branch for sending her there. Be sure to send in your donation for the non-event fundraiser so that other girls can attend this June. Thanks to Mary Lou Lowry and Dorothy Skjonsby for keeping this program going.

Happy Spring and come to the Tea!

Rosemarie Weaver
Branch President

Member News:

Update on future meetings:

- **April 1, 2023** Speaker: Lori Dengler
Topic: Humboldt County and Earthquakes
Place: Red Lion
- **May 6, 2023** Speaker: President Keith Flamer of College of the Redwoods
Topic: Collaboration between Cal Poly Humboldt and CR
Place: College of the Redwoods
- The coming AAUW year, 2023-2024, will be the third year of **increases to dues** by AAUW National. Treasurer Nancy Kay reported the increases in February 2021. State and local dues have not increased. This year we paid \$113; the \$5 increase will mean our dues will be **\$118** when we renew membership in the spring.
- If you are interested in serving on the Branch Board or on a committee, please let me know (Rosemarie Weaver) or talk to a Board member. We would love to have new volunteers for the many jobs and activities of the Branch. See your directory for the list of Board members and committees.
- Interest Groups have collected \$344.50 so far this year for the Scholarship and Tech Trek funds. Book groups, Bridge, and Mah jongg have contributed. Don't forget to collect your dollars and help out these projects.

GET READY FOR THE ACADEMY AAUWARDS!

AAUW California will be hosting our Annual Event on April 22, 2023, from 9-4 on Zoom. This year's theme is the Academy AAUWards! Come join us for red carpet interviews, listen to inspiring keynote speakers, and watch the Speech Trek and Gov Trek finalists. Cheer on your fellow members and branches for all sorts of AAUW awards, get a public policy update, and meet the board candidates. And, every awards event worth its swag bag has after-parties! Join our Zoom-style parties to hang out with your friends! Look on the website for more information soon!

Celebrating AAUW California, its branches, and its members will be the most fun event of the spring! Don't miss out on the Academy AAUWards on April 22nd! Get ready to mingle!



CELEBRATING BRANCH MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN SHAPING AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY

Over the last two months, the state Public Policy team has reached out to members with two opportunities to participate in our advocacy efforts. In December, we asked members to provide input on our Public Policy priorities for 2023-25 and 465 members responded!

While the majority felt that the current priorities satisfactorily represent their views, and there were many suggestions for modifications and/or additions. The committee appreciates the time and thought that went into these comments, and is in the process of reviewing and discussing each one.

In January, we asked members to sign up for Lobby Days to help us advocate for our top three bills with the California legislature on March 21st and 22nd. 111 members answered our call, and the committee is now working on organizing those members into teams. Members should expect to receive further information this month once we know which offices will be participating. A note: some members completed the interest survey but did not register for the mandatory training webinar on March 20th. If you, or any of your members, received a notice of need to register for the webinar, please do so ASAP! Please remember, if you do not attend the training, you cannot participate in the Lobby Days event. Finally, "late-comers" who wish to participate but missed the deadline can still submit an interest survey and register for the training. Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey and register. The deadline has been extended to February 28th.

The committee recognizes the role our branch leaders play in getting the word out regarding public policy events and encouraging members' participation, and we want you to know you are appreciated.

Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

VIRTUAL GOV TREK HAS BEGUN!

On January 28th we launched our inaugural virtual Gov Trek session with just over 60 future leaders and 40 volunteers in attendance from across California!

We were all honored to air a welcome video from Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi to launch this amazing program. We have received permission from the Office of Nancy Pelosi for each California branch to post the video on their websites and social media. Please use the messaging and link below:

Exciting News! AAUW California 2023 Gov Trek's inaugural session started with a video address from fellow Californian SPEAKER EMERITA NANCY PELOSI. We were privileged to have the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives greet us as we begin our journey together to explore careers in public office and elected positions. [Click HERE](#) to see Rep. Pelosi's address

Five distinguished women leaders addressed Gov Trek participants in the Women in Leadership Panel. They covered topics on elective office and public service at different levels of government, including the skills and challenges involved with them, and other related career paths in leadership and political participation.

The speakers were:

- Kathleen Van Osten, AAUW California Advocate and Lobbyist

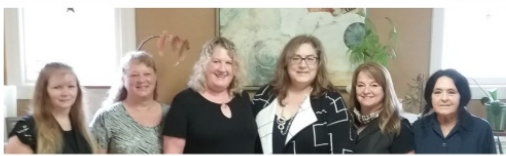
- Ellen Montanari, Deputy Campaign Manager, Rep Mike Levin
- Regina Luzincourt, Lobbyist and Former Press Secretary, State Senator Parker
- Shana Hazan, VP San Diego Unified School Board
- Griselda Ramirez, Senior Director of Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Strategic Initiatives, Office of San Diego County Board of Supervisor Chair, Nora Vargas

Click [HERE](#) to watch Gov Trek Session 1.

There are four more inspiring Gov Trek sessions including the Gov Trek Finale & Campaign Competition! The speaker sessions will be recorded and available to AAUW California members on the website [HERE](#) in the Student Program Materials section.

We can't wait to see how our future leaders will change the world!

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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.

Women's History Month 2023



*Top: Toni Morrison, Maxine Hong Kingston, Jovita Idar, Maya Angelou
Middle: Gerda Lerner, Gloria Steinem, Winona La Duke, Lillian Hellman
Bottom: Betty Soskin, Willa Cather, Gertrude Stein, Marjory Stoneman Douglas*

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