



# The Branch

February 2024  
Vol 74. Issue 5



## February Branch Meeting

The Schatz Energy Research Center was established in 1989 on the campus of Cal Poly Humboldt to promote the use of clean and renewable energy. We accomplish this by:

- Designing, demonstrating, and deploying clean and renewable energy technologies
- Implementing collaborative programs that support the deployment of clean energy systems
- Performing lab and field research
- Engaging in scientific and policy analysis
- Providing graduate fellowships and work opportunities for student engineers and scientists, and
- Educating the public about clean and renewable energy.

You can find out more about the Schatz Energy Research Center and its project by clicking

[HERE](#)

Or by attending our February Branch Meeting. Our speaker will be Arne Jacobson, the director of the center

Saturday, February 3, 2024  
Red Lion Inn, 1929 Fourth Street, Eureka

9:30 a.m. Social

10:00 a.m. Brunch

Meal Cost: \$30.00 (includes beverage)

Beverage only \$8.00

**Biscuits and gravy. Scrambled eggs and fruit.**

10:30 a.m. Speaker: Arne Jacobson

Click [HERE](#) to make your reservation online by January 31. You may also contact Maggie Augustine - [mag3022@gmail.com](mailto:mag3022@gmail.com) or 707 496 4653. It is our branch policy that if you make a reservation and are unable to attend, you must pay for your meal.

Dr. Arne Jacobson is Director of the [Schatz Energy Research Center](#) and Professor in the [School of Engineering](#) at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt (Cal Poly Humboldt). Dr. Jacobson has a Ph.D. from the [Energy and Resources Group](#) at the University of California, Berkeley, a master's degree in Environmental Resources Engineering from Humboldt State University, and a bachelor's degree in Physics from Earlham College. His areas of research interest include wind and solar power, renewable energy technology deployment, energy policy,



and access to energy in off-grid areas of Africa and Asia. He has led a team engaged in multiple projects related to the feasibility of off-shore wind resource development on California's north coast, including publication of [30 reports](#) on the topic over the past three years. As the director of the Schatz Center, Dr. Jacobson leads a team of about 50 faculty, staff, and students engaged in research related to clean and renewable energy. Since joining the university in 2005, he has been awarded grants and contracts totaling over \$25 million. Arne is a recipient of the 2015 [Wang Family Excellence Award](#), which is the most prestigious award given to faculty and staff members of the California State University. During a sabbatical year in 2010/11, he served as a senior advisor in the Office of Policy and International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy. He was a member of a team that received the Secretary's Achievement Award in 2012 from U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Stephen Chu.



## Monthly Meeting Registration

Thank you for using the Google form to register for our meeting. It is difficult finding enough callers and we are trying this more automated method. I know it doesn't have the personal touch, but we hope it will make it easier for you to register. Some of you have mentioned that you don't use email. You can always call Maggie Augustine to let us know if you are coming. We are working on improving the system, so we have added a request for you to add your email address. With that, you will receive an email acknowledging your reply. You may need to look in your junk/spam folder to find it. With that email, you can make any changes to your reservation, or it will be a reminder that you have already registered. If you have any questions about registration, please contact Maggie Augustine via email ([mag3022@gmail.com](mailto:mag3022@gmail.com)) or call (707-496-4653)



## President's Message

Nancy Dean, Branch President

AAUW Humboldt Branch – Presidents Message Feb 2024

I hope everyone had great holidays and enjoyed them with family and friends. Thank you to Margaret Wallace, Gina Rogers and their committee for advertising for scholarship candidates and selecting such worthy woman. Thanks to our members for generous donations to the scholarship fund. These funds will be awarded to our next worthy group in December 2024.

Elections are in the news, and our California elections will be on March 5th. The Humboldt County Office of Elections is making it easier to vote, so make sure to check out your options and be an informed voter. An important upcoming AAUW vote will be to change the membership criteria. You will be seeing more about that with the membership voting in the spring.

In March, we will have our Tea to honor a person or group that has made a positive difference in Humboldt County. If you have some one or group in mind, please submit a nomination.

Thanks, Nancy

### LEARN ABOUT A WOMAN WHO CHANGED THE FACE OF AAUW!

Join us via Zoom on Sunday, February 4th, at 3 pm to hear about Black activist Mary Church Terrell, her work for women's suffrage and racial equality, and her role in the integration of AAUW. A cofounder of the NAACP, Terrell became the first Black member of AAUW after winning an anti-discrimination lawsuit. We will hear from Dr. Alison Parker, author of *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, as she recounts stories and major successes in the life of this extraordinary woman.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear firsthand about this little known activist and her unusual history with AAUW. Register <https://www.aauw-ca.org/civcrm/mailling/url/?u=1185&qid=30415>.



## Is There a Hidden Agenda Behind the "Parents' Rights" Movement?



Kathi Harper, chair AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project Committee

We members of the AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project sub-committee frequently come across materials from groups advocating for book-banning, curriculum censorship, and policies which negatively impact the lives of LGBTQ+ students, in the name of "Parent's Rights." For example the House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 5, the "Parents Bill of Rights Act." Eight governors have signed legislation with similar titles.

H.R. 5 establishes the rights of parents to, among other things: review curriculum; inspect the books and other reading materials in the school library; be advised of policies that permit transgender girls to compete on female athletic teams or use bathrooms or lockers designated for females; and provide consent before a school may use their child's chosen name or pronouns on forms, or change the child's sex-based accommodations. Many of the state laws noted above require the removal of "inappropriate" materials upon the objection of a single person.

AAUW California recognizes that not all our members will find these policies objectionable. And to be sure, most of our members would agree with this statement from PEN America, a human rights and free expression organization: "There is no question that parents deserve a say in shaping their children's educations; that they have a moral and legal responsibility for their children, and the freedom to make fundamental decisions for their families." (Suzanne Nossel, PEN America CEO, [Time Sept. 20, 2022.](#))

However, legitimate questions are raised when one parent's "right" to control what their child reads and learns collides with another parent's right to ensure their child has access to a broad and diverse range of educational materials. Or when a parent's "right" to know if their child confides to a teacher regarding a sexual identity unknown to the parent collides with the student's right to privacy. Or when one parent's "right" to ensure her daughter doesn't play on the same team as a transgender girl collides with that girl's right to partake in all the same activities as other girls, or to feel safe in the campus environment.

AAUW California advocates for a diverse curriculum in our schools, as well as the protection of all forms of gender identity and expression. It is a cause of concern when the rallying cry of "parents' rights" is, as stated by PEN America, "wielded to do far more than give parents their rightful voice; it is turning public schools into political battle grounds, fracturing communities, and diverting time and energy away from teaching and learning." Additionally, according to the National Education Association (NEA), H.R. 5 "ignores the breadth of parental engagement" that already exists, "disregards educator experience and expertise" and "inserts the government into local decisions."

PEN America worries that the current emphasis on working with schools for the betterment of the child has been replaced with a parental focus on wanting to impose their personal beliefs – moral, religious, and/or political – on the entire education system. As an organization founded on the principal of expanding educational opportunities we might all heed Suzanne Nossel's final words in her Time article: "The phrase 'parents' rights' may have a nice ring to it, but the agenda now afoot in its name should sound alarms for all those who care about the future of public education."

Read more at: [Pen.org](#), [Nea.org](#)



## Board Games are Back!

Board Games are resuming at a new time, 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at Marilyn Field's home.

The 2024 Interest Group Schedule, in the handbook, shows that Board Games are "suspended until further notice," and shows old time of 5:30 p.m., it will now be 1:00 p.m. I know it is too late for the handbook this year.

Marilyn Field.



## March 2024 AAUW Women's History Tea

The Women's History Month Tea will be here before we know it. Would you like to help by hosting a table for the Tea? Last year, each member brought her own place setting and the hostess provided everything else that was needed. This approach was easier for the hostess and still resulted in beautiful tables. If you would like to be a hostess, please let me know by email or phone. Thank you for helping make the Tea memorable for all.

Rosemarie Weaver  
[roseweave52@gmail.com](mailto:roseweave52@gmail.com) or 707-786-7019



## 2024 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 for this honor, please complete the nomination form. The Board of Directors will make the selection. Please nominate a person or persons that you feel should be considered of this honor and explain why.

Your Name

I would like to nominate:

In what way has this person/group made a positive difference in Humboldt County through their activities, education, occupation, or profession?

Please provide contact information for your nominee:



Email, mail, or bring in person to Feb. meeting your nomination!

**DEADLINE Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Nancy Dean, Branch President

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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 20<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.

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