



# *The Branch*

March 2024  
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## **Women's History Tea**

**Date: March 2, 2024**

**Place: Wharfinger Building,  
One Marina Way, Eureka (\*\*note new  
location)**

**Time: 1:00 pm**

**Cost: \$26.00 with food, \$8.00 Beverage only**

**Menu: Catered by Cassaro's Catering:**

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

Remember: Bring your place setting to help our hostesses set beautiful tables for our Tea. Please include a dessert or salad plate, cup and saucer, water glass, napkin, and cutlery.

Reservation deadline is February 26, 2024

Please [Click here to register](#)

or contact **Maggie Augustine** - [mag3022@gmail.com](mailto:mag3022@gmail.com).

# Congratulations to our 2024 Women's History Tea Honorees

## Rose Anthony, aka Shoshanna

Shoshanna is a dancer, teacher, event creator and lover of libraries. She founded Redwood Raks World Dance Studio in 2008 and the more recent non-profit Redwood Raks World Dance Collective. She has been a part of Cal Poly Humboldt's dance faculty since 1998 and graduated from Cal Poly Humboldt in 2003. Shoshanna started a children's birthday party business and the Fairy Festival. Shoshanna is now the Youth Services Outreach Coordinator at the Humboldt County Library.



## Lynn McKenna

Lynn was a public-school teacher for 34 years. She is an active member of the CA Retired Teachers Association including staffing the Little Red Schoolhouse during the Humboldt County Fair. Lynn loves music and was the president of the Redwood Coast Music Festival for several years and held various offices for 28 years. Lynn organizes and coordinates blood drives for retired teachers, Humboldt Sponsors and Elks Lodge. Lynn has been the Alzheimer Advocacy chair and is on the Alzheimer Walk Committee and a member of the Visiting Angels Eureka team. In recent years, this Visiting Angels team ranked first in the nation for Alzheimer fundraising and for largest team.



## President's Message

I took the opportunity to hear the remarkable story of a Black activist, Mary Church Terrell. She was the daughter of former slaves and then went on to earn both a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Oberlin College. Despite meeting all the membership requirements, she was denied membership by the Washington Branch of AAUW in 1946. Following a three-year court battle in which the Washington branch won the right to deny her membership, AAUW National changed the bylaws to require the admission of any college alumna "regardless of race, color, creed or religion." [Click here](#) to go to the recording and hear how she was instrumental in integrating AAUW.

As we move into March, we recognize women in our own community who helped others locally. One of our own, Katy Garrison will be recognized by Soroptimist International of Eel River with their Ruby Award. This award honors non-Soroptimist women who are making extraordinary efforts on behalf of other women. At our March tea, AAUW Humboldt Branch will honor Lynn McKenna and Shoshanna Anthony. Please join us to hear what local women in our community are doing.

Make sure to be an educated voter in the California Primary Elections and submit your ballot.

Nancy Dean

## Meet Ann Carter, Our Newest Member

Ann graduated from San Diego State University (SDSU) in 1980 with a B.S. in Business Administration. She then was hired through the college hire program at Pacific Telephone as a carrier engineer and then a fiber optics engineer as the company changed to Pacific Bell. After working there for 7 years and having two children, she decided to take the “mommy track” and stayed home with her children and earned an M.B.A. in human resources at SDSU. She subsequently worked for the City of San Diego as a crime analyst at the police department for 15 years. Using her job design expertise and computer skills, she then took early retirement to work for a public safety software company where she was a law enforcement consultant and could work with multiple law enforcement agencies to make those jobs easier.



When she and her family retired to Sonoma County, she decided to follow her dreams. Ann had dreamed of singing opera arias since before she was 12 years old as evidenced by a friend’s signature on her 6<sup>th</sup> grade ribbon with the salutation “to the Opera Singer” and her participation in a large church opera at 13. Those dreams were put on hold for many years. In 2015 she started studying vocal performance at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC). While there she performed arias and art songs in many recitals and multiple opera workshops including an Opera Gala in Beilstein, Germany in August 2016. Presently she sings with “A Company of Voices”, a local ensemble, the Cal Poly Humboldt Chorale, and sings choral and solo music to glorify the Lord at Christ Episcopal Church.



## Tech Trek

Thank you to all who provided financial support to the Tech Trek program. We raised enough to send six girls to the Sonoma Camp this summer. There is still time if you want to donate. To make it easy, you can go to AAUW Tech Trek. Use the pull down menu to select Tech Trek – Sonoma Franklin Camp. The other option is to write a check to AAUW CA SPF and include Sonoma Camp in the memo line. Mail to Nancy Dean 2160 Chad Lane, Eureka, CA 95501. Thanks for supporting science, technology, engineering, and math education for girls.



## The Role of California School Boards

By Seena Trigas, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee School Board Project

AAUW California is concerned about the censorship of classroom material, the heightened enforcement of board policies rejecting diversity, and providing discriminatory policies against gay and minority students. This concern now

leads me, as a former school board member, high school teacher/department chair and adjunct college professor, to reflect on the role of school boards in California and their limitations.

The State Board of Education (SBE) is the controlling structure for K-12, and is the governing and policy-making body of the state for public education. Among its duties is the adoption of statewide academic standards for content and of curriculum frameworks.

These inform and guide the local school boards in the development and implementation of specific curricula for K-12 students, and serve as the basis for the adoption of instructional materials. School board members represent districts within the school district boundaries.

In 2023 AB1078 was passed, which requires the California State Department of Education to assess if school boards are in compliance with state laws requiring public schools to provide diverse and comprehensive education. It requires local school districts with insufficient instructional materials to correct this and authorizes the department to purchase (at district expense) adequate curricula if the district restricts students from learning about important topics like racism, sexism, and gender-based marginalization.

AAUW branch members play a critical role in ensuring all California school boards are governed by board members who will follow AB 1078, and who oppose policies that infringe on the civil rights of LGBTQ+ students.

AAUW Morgan Hill members are attending meetings of the Morgan Hill Unified School District board to monitor both the board and the public for threats to AB 1078 and the rights of all students to an equitable education. If you would like to join the public policy team to attend MHUSD meetings, contact Public Policy Chair Susan Rife.

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## Sexism in the Golden Age of Aviation

In 1958 if one became a stewardess, as they were then called, at age 20, She knew the clock was already ticking: at 32 she would be forced to retire.

That is, even if she didn't marry, get pregnant, or gain too much weight before that. All were grounds for termination. It was the golden age of aviation, for everyone except, perhaps, the women who served in-flight meals to well-dressed passengers.

Six years later, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Female flight attendants began to join forces against sexism. For some airlines, they were subjected to "weigh-ins" into the 1990s.

Right now a documentary chronicles how women fought to overcome discrimination in the airline industry. It will be featured on PBS. For more information, [Click HERE](#)

Jean Guthrie source: *New York Times*



