



The Branch

December 2024-January 2025
Vol 75. Issue 4



***Kick off the Holiday Season with a Festive
Lunch at Baywood Country Club***

***Meet our Scholarship Recipients and be Inspired
by their Stories***

Each year the Humboldt Branch raises funds to support re-entry women students at Cal Poly Humboldt. Our Scholarship Committee will tell us about the difficult process of choosing the winners of our scholarships.

Then we will meet the women selected for 2024 (see below for their bios). We will hear about their projects and their lives. Many of these re-entry students have worked very hard to return to college after a break of at least five years and we are always uplifted to hear about their successes and how our support has impacted their lives.

*You have already received an invitation to donate in the mail.
Hearing their stories will inspire all of us to be generous!*

December 14, 2024

Please note that this is the Second Saturday

Gather for social time at 9:30 a.m.

Hear from our 2024 Scholarship Winners at 10:00

Luncheon at 11:00

**Menu: Chicken Piccata, Pasta Vegetable Sauté, Mixed Greens with
champagne vinaigrette Cannoli and Coffee or Tea**

Reservations must be made by December 9.

**The December price for lunch \$36
\$8 beverage only.**

**Please make your reservation by clicking here by Monday, December 9.
You may also make a reservation by calling Carolyn Miller at 707-798-
1503. Our branch policy is that members are expected to pay for
reservations whether they are able to attend or not.**

Six Talented Cal Poly Humboldt Students Selected for Re-Entry Scholarships

Great news!! We once again had an applicant pool that was very strong, including so many students with wonderful accomplishments and really significant financial needs! Because our Branch members were so generous with their donations in 2023-24, we were able to award scholarships to six of the Re-Entry Student Scholarship finalists this year, giving out a total of \$12,000 in scholarships!! Last year we gave out 4 scholarships for a total of \$8,000. In 2022 it was 3 for a total of \$7,000.

The scholarship winners have been invited to speak at the December meeting, and we hope you can come and hear their amazing stories. ***Many thanks to all who have made donations making this possible. Please see article below for information on making a donation for next year's scholarships.***

Here are the winners:

Annie Allen received her undergraduate degree at HSU, and has returned to CPH for a Master's in Natural Resources, Fire, Watersheds and Wildland Sciences with the important goal of providing "clear information to land managers and project planners" through in-depth site research and data collection. "Her ongoing research classifying vegetation in the Klamath Mountains reflects her Masters Thesis and her work with the California Native Plant Society which has led her to a strong commitment to Humboldt County and its resources."

Athena Doyle, just a junior, was motivated to return to college after seeing the consequences of climate change around her, visiting places like the Eel River, Benbow Lake, and Avenue of the Giants and noticing disturbing changes since visiting in her youth. She is majoring in Environmental Science and Management, with some great goals

to give back to the King Salmon community where she lives by studying sea level rise and coastal resiliency.

Jasmine Ellman earned a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential at HSU and has been teaching in the Eureka schools while also developing a program to teach swimming skills for special needs students. This interest led her to work with the Redwood Coast Regional Center, helping her see the need for more extensive development of her skills and to seek to complete a Masters in Kinesiology with a Secondary Physical Education Teaching Credential to advance this program.

Maritza Gamez is a highly-motivated, resourceful student. While her parents were forced to abandon their education after elementary school, she worked a 50+ hour full-time job to attend community college and has just kept on going, working hard and saving to fund her dream of higher education. She sacrificed income to work as an unpaid intern to gain skills in fish conservation research, and is now a Master's student researching fish in the Klamath River.

Lorene Lenhart has had a consistent goal of achieving a college degree in her life but raising a family delayed that. While working as a classroom aide in her children's school, this goal became more urgent. So now she is a Junior in the Child Development And Family Relationships program. Lorene sees herself as a potential bridge between teachers, students and parents in the classroom because of the many skills her life experiences have taught her.

Aris Ownsby is a Master's student in Fisheries Biology. She is studying fish off the Northern California coast, with financial support in part from a position leading data collection trips at sea to monitor Marine Protected Areas and introducing people to fishing conservation priorities. She is a first generation college graduate bringing fresh perspectives to the often-difficult field research required for marine biology.



Don't forget your Re-Entry Scholarship Donation!!

You should be receiving a mailing requesting a donation to the Re-entry Scholarship Fund shortly. Please, please give careful consideration to making a donation to fund next year's scholarships.

The Scholarship Committee remains amazed at the qualifications of the students who apply. So many of them are facing daunting financial barriers to continuing their education, while still maintaining large course loads, good grades, and contributing to our

community in amazing ways. It is a very hard process to select just a few! But for sure you all should know that any donations you make to the Re-Entry Scholarship Fund are going to a very worthy purpose.

Please return your donation to the Re-Entry Scholarship fund in the envelope provided. Or feel free to bring it in person to the December meeting. If you didn't receive the mailing or can't find it, just send a check made out to Humboldt AAUW and write Re-Entry Scholarships in the Memo Line. Mail to: AAUW Humboldt Branch, P.O. Box 5116, Eureka, CA 95502

Dear AAUW Branch Leaders,
As we approach this season of giving thanks, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and your branch members for participating in this year's Annual Branch Survey. Your branch is one of over 330 branches that shared vital updates about the impactful and effective work happening in your communities.



Your responses are invaluable. They offer solid evidence of the collective value of AAUW's efforts and provides AAUW National with increased insight in order to support you in advancing gender equity locally and nationally. Together, we are demonstrating the power of collaboration and the impressive impact of our mission.

Branches earning stars through the Five Star Program will hear from AAUW National staff by early December, and we look forward to celebrating your accomplishments on our website, social media and in future communication--including upcoming issues

of Membership Matters.

Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and your commitment to making a difference.

This Thanksgiving, we give thanks for you and all that you do to uplift the lives of women and girls and drive equity forward.
With appreciation,

Gloria L. Blackwell
Chief Executive Officer
AAUW



Lilly
Ledbetter
Champion
of Equal Pay

Lilly Ledbetter: A Beacon of Equality and Justice

One of [AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities](#) is economic security for all women, including equity in the workplace and enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes. Last week, an icon in the equal pay movement, [Lilly Ledbetter](#), passed away in November at 86.

Ledbetter's story is not just one of individual resilience; it embodies the ongoing struggle for women's equality in the workplace. Lilly worked for nearly two decades at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and uncovered that she was being paid thousands less per year than her male counterparts. This revelation sparked a fire within her, igniting a campaign that would forever alter the landscape of equal pay in America.

In 2007, Ledbetter [took her fight to the Supreme Court](#) yet [the Court's ruling](#) was disheartening; it stated that she had filed her complaint outside the statute of limitations. In response to the 5-4 majority opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg provided [one her infamous and noteworthy dissenting opinions](#), calling out the eight male justices for their apathy. "The court does not comprehend or is indifferent to the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination," she said, imploring Congress to act.

Undaunted, Lilly remained a voice for many. Her activism ultimately led to the introduction of the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009](#), which President Obama signed into law as his first piece of legislation. This landmark act marked a significant victory in the fight for gender equality, sending a clear message that pay discrimination would not be tolerated.

Beyond the legislative impact of the Act, Lilly became an icon of empowerment and perseverance, traveling the world and encouraging others to stand up for their rights. Her memoir, [Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond](#) emphasized the importance of awareness and action in combating workplace

discrimination. At the peak of the #MeToo movement, her [opinion piece](#) in the New York Times linked workplace sexual harassment to pay inequity. [Lilly, a feature film based on her life](#), premiered at the Hamptons International Film Festival on October 10, 2024, just two days before her passing.

Lilly's journey reminds us that individual stories can catalyze monumental change and that every voice matters in the quest for equality. The [AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund \(LAF\)](#) challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. The Fund has provided millions in support of hundreds of cases. View [Past Cases](#) and [Current Cases](#) to learn more.

Ledbetter's legacy shows us that change is possible through persistence, courage, and community. As we reflect on her contributions, we are called to continue the work of advocating for equality, ensuring that future generations inherit a world where every individual is compensated fairly for their contributions, regardless of gender. Together, we can continue to champion the cause of equality and ensure that Lilly's legacy endures.

Written by Erica Dias, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee



Crazy Cards

Are people interested in re-starting a group that existed for over 20 years. If you are, we will restart in January on the second Sunday of the month at 1:00 P.M. at Dorothy Skjonsby's house 4565 Luke Ct. Let me know via my email descrab@gmail.com or my phone 707-407-0947

The original listing stated: This group is for people who like to laugh, think and have fun playing non- bridge card games.
Looking forward to hearing from you.
Dorothy Skjonsby



Help Wanted--Make the March Women's History Tea Happen in 2025!

Beth announced at the October Branch meeting that we need a volunteer to organize the March Women's History Tea. The Wharfinger has been reserved for the venue. The Chairperson would need to organize the hostesses and arrange for a caterer to provide the food. Since I have been involved in organizing this event for several years, I can help the new chair with information on how things have been done in the past and help with the details if needed. It's one of our best events and fun to be involved in!

Rosemarie Weaver roseweave52@gmail.com

The Branch is published eight times a year by the Humboldt Branch of AAUW. Submissions of articles, news items and photos from members are welcome. Submit them by the 20th of each month to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com.

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