



Del Mar-Leucadia, Inc. (CA) Branch

Equity: The Path Forward →
A More Diverse & Inclusive Society

AAUW Leucadia-Del Mar Branch

**Make sure you zoom in on Saturday, December 11 at 4.00 pm
For our 2021 Holiday Program Schedule**

Zoom Link for our meetings: Members, no registration needed. The Zoom link will be sent to you prior to the meeting. **Guests** are welcome. Please RSVP to membership@aauwdml.org to receive the Zoom link.

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| 4:00 | PROGRAM BEGINS |
| 4:05 | Presidents' Welcome – Sallie Piccorillo and Pat Moran |
| 4:10-4:20 | Concert by Kathy Adams, introduced by Norelynn Pion-Goureau |
| 4:20-4:30 | Favorite Holiday Memory activity with Nancy Kohrs |
| 4:30-4:40 | Food Activity with Sallie Piccorillo |
| 4:40-4:50 | Favorite ornament/object to celebrate holiday with Teresa Kapphahn |
| 4:50-5:00 | Celebrating the Holidays in Diverse ways with Patricia Johnson-Khalifa |

Message from AAUW CA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Elaine Johnson, Director and *Janice Lee*, DEI Committee Co-Chairs diversity@aauw-ca.org

Winter holidays are often synonymous with Christmas and the New Year. But we must not forget that in our multicultural society, there are many traditions and celebrations which enrich our lives and teach us about history, religion, and cultural diversity.

Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holiday commemorating the day Buddha experienced enlightenment. It is celebrated on December 8th.

Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar and the date of celebration shifts from January to February. Each year features one of the 12 zodiac animals.

Christmas is the commemoration of the birth of Jesus, the Christian messiah. It is celebrated on December 25th (Protestants and Catholics), January 6th (Armenian Orthodox), or January 7th (Eastern Orthodox).

Diwali is a five-day celebration by Hindus around the world during the lunar months of Ashvina and Karttika (October–November).

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas, marking the end of the Christmas season. Christians believe that this was when the three kings visited baby Jesus, the Christian messiah.

Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days each November or December. Jews celebrate an ancient miracle in which one day's worth of oil burned for eight days in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The menorah holds eight candles and prayers are recited with the nightly lighting.

Kwanzaa, which means "First Fruits," is a celebration of African culture based on ancient African harvest festivals. It is celebrated by millions of African Americans and Pan-Africans of all religions from December 26th to January 1st.

Las Posadas, symbolized by the poinsettia, is a nine-day festival celebrated in Mexico, Central America, and parts of the United States. The holiday starts on December 16th and lasts until Christmas Eve.

Makar Sankranti (Maghi) is the Hindu celebration of the harvest, is celebrated on January 14th.

New Year's Eve/Day is a worldwide celebratory observance of the end of one calendar year and the beginning of the next.

Soyal is celebrated by the Hopi Indians in the Southwest United States, falls on the shortest day of the year. Participants ceremonially bring the sun back from its long slumber.

Winter Solstice (Yule) occurs on the shortest day of the year, usually around December 21st. People all over the world light bonfires and candles to coax back the sun.

Last year at this time, when COVID-19 severely limited our winter festivities, I found myself reminiscing with friends about how our families celebrated the holidays. No two stories were alike! The strength of our diversity as a nation becomes beautifully apparent during the holiday season in so many wonderful ways. Now, as we slowly begin to return to our normal activities, the DEI Committee wishes AAUW members and their families the joy of this magical time of year.

Winter Holidays: Fabulous Photos in this link

1. [Across America Winter Celebrations](#)
2. [2021 Diversity Calendar](#)

The DEI Committee has begun to attend the meetings of every IBC in the state to present ideologies and tools that can be used to help make our branches more diverse, inclusive, and equitable.

Looking Ahead to our 2022 Programs

Norelynn Pion-Goureau, Program Director

December 11th **Celebrating our Holidays**

The myriad ways our multi-religious and multi-cultural community celebrates its religious and cultural feasts highlights how equity can transform us.

January 8 **Locals Working for Equity in San Diego**

AAUW reaching out to local allies, identifying equity work we can participate in, highlighting the accomplishments of young local women to promote equity.

February 12 **Equity in Information**

Disinformation: How can we recognize and combat disinformation?

March 12 **Joint Meeting with COV**

Our closest allies are our joint branch COV; planning together makes us stronger.

April 9 **Funding Equity**

How our dues and donations promote equity for women: Our main speaker, Carol Pletcher, Ph.D., is a past recipient of an AAUW American Fellowship. She will give us an insight on how this fellowship impacted her career as a biochemist and as President of Pletcher Inc. You will also have an opportunity to hear from a CSU San Marcos student who was chosen to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this year.

May 15 (Sunday) **Supporting Equity through STEM and Speech Trek**

Celebrating our Tech Trek Campers and Speech Trek winners, our Teck Trek Alumni Group, and plans for the future.

June 11 **Celebrating our year of working to promote Equity**

Changing the guard, guarding the mission of AAUW by continuity, our new board, awards and scholarships, equity on the move.

Zoom Link for our meetings

Members, no registration needed. The Zoom link will be sent to you prior to the meeting. Guests, please RSVP to membership@aauwdml.org to receive the Zoom link.

NEW Social time at the start of every monthly meeting

This year we plan to have a half-hour social time at the start of each monthly branch meeting. The Zoom room will open at 10:00 for a 30-minute social/chat time followed by the program at 10:30.

AAUW FUND

Michele McNeil

You are invited to our annual AAUW Fund program April 9th, 2022

Due to the challenges created by the pandemic, we will continue to offer virtual programs.

Our main speaker, Carol Pletcher, Ph.D., is a past recipient of an AAUW American Fellowship. She will give us an insight on how this fellowship impacted her career as a biochemist and as President of Pletcher Inc. You will also have an opportunity to hear from a CSU San Marcos student who was chosen to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this year.

AAUW Grants and Fellowships and the NCCWSL program are sustained by our donations to AAUW Fund.

Questions on AAUW Fund? Contact Michele McNeil, michelemcneil45@gmail.com

AAUW Public Policy

Norelynn Pion-Goureau - from AAUW CA

AAUW SUPPORTS THE *BUILD BACK BETTER* BILL

The *Build Back Better* bill (H.R. 5376) has passed the House and is now in the Senate. This bill has three provisions that are critical to our mission:

- universal paid family and medical leave up to 12 weeks
- an extension of the child tax credit through 2022
- affordable childcare

Here are two ways you can help get this important legislation through the Senate:

1. Respond to the Two-Minute Activist (“Take Action”) request from National, and urge your members to do the same. Even though our senators are in support, they need to hear it from us that these three provisions must not be amended out.
2. If you have friends or family in Arizona or West Virginia, urge them to put pressure on their senators to vote “yes.”

Also, the Advisory Board to the National Public Policy Committee is producing a series of webinars on “tough policy issues.” The first of these, “Political and Non-Partisan,” will air on Wednesday, December 15th at noon (Pacific Time) - mark your calendars, watch for more info from National to all members.

Tech Trek 2021-2022

Lorraine Pfahl, Rebecca Hill

Current plans are for in person camps in 2022. There are still a lot of details to be worked out, but we anticipate that there will be additional guidelines from both AAUW National and the partner campuses to keep the campers safe.

At the San Diego Level, Camp Directors must consider the following in planning:

- Determine rules, guidelines, costs, and regulations at the host institutions as soon as possible and seek legal review of the contracts. Enter into agreements with caution, as you may encounter significant cancellation financial penalties.
- Require COVID-19 vaccinations for all campers, staff and volunteers. Do not hold a camp if your location is prohibited from enforcing a vaccination requirement by applicable state and local law. Investigate options for [third-party vaccination](#) verification services.
- Observe all local and state guidelines. Require (and enforce!) masking and observe social distancing.
- Communicate clearly on applications, invitations and other materials that vaccinations are required and provide a virtual/hybrid option for those not comfortable attending in-person camp. This will broaden access for campers or their families who may be immunocompromised or are unvaccinated.
- Communicate clearly all in-person camp safety rules and mental health guidelines with staff, volunteers, parents, and campers. Ensure you are transparent about COVID-19 and other policies and the procedures used to enforce them.
- Prepare a back-up plan and be ready to switch to virtual camps as circumstances change.

AAUW California Tech Trek is moving forward with plans for in-person camps at all locations. More details will be forthcoming as we get dates confirmed, more information from AAUW and what the pandemic is doing.

Speech Trek

Sharon Corbett-Parry



AAUW California
Speech Trek

2022 Speech Trek Topic

Has the US lived up to its pledge of liberty and justice for all?

Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure *liberty and justice for all*?

Do you know a high school student who

- would like to make their voice heard on this timely topic?
- would like to compete for a cash prize?

Students will prepare an original 5-6 min. speech on the topic.
Exact contest date TBD - January or February 2022

Contact: Sharon Corbett-Parry, Speech Trek Coordinator
E-mail: speechtrek@aauwdml.org

CHECK OUT - 'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...SPEECH TREK VERSION - at the end of the Newsletter

Membership - Introducing our New Members

Karen Dorney

Dr. Jennifer Ostergren (Jenn)



Dr. Jennifer Ostergren (Jenn) is the Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Services (CEHHS) at California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM). She started in this new role on July 1st of 2021, having spent several years as a faculty member and Associate Dean at California State University, Long Beach.

She is a licensed speech-language pathologist who specializes in the care of individuals with cognitive-communicative disorders due to traumatic brain injury and stroke.

She currently lives in Carlsbad and enjoys art, reading, and playing sports in her spare time. Welcome to Del Mar Leucadia AAUW Branch Jenn.

Barbara Grcar



Barbara was born and raised in Minnesota. She has a BA from the University of Minnesota and a JD from University of Iowa.

Barbara has worked for more than 30 years in the defense industry, mostly in the San Francisco Bay Area. She then moved to San Diego and retired.

Barbara has a lifelong interest in the arts and women's rights.

Welcome to Del Mar Leucadia AAUW Branch Barbara!

Rachel Gutierrez - Welcome to the Del Mar Leucadia AAUW Branch



Rachel holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, also majoring in Advertising and graduating Summa Cum Laude with highest distinction. She also attended Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, specializing in Marketing Management.

Rachel has had a diverse career including homeschool educator, business owner and entrepreneur, marketing professional, and 10 years management experience.

Rachel is the wife of Allan and mother of two beautiful daughters, Bella aged 14 and Gia aged 12. She is now looking to spend her time in something purposeful and that brings joy to her life...which will be revealed in due time. Rachel also loves to travel, take nature walks, do ballroom & latin dance, yoga, puzzles and board games.

Special Interest Groups Meeting Now

Become a part of one or more of these fun and informative groups - invite a friend!

Interest Groups

It's 2022 - Join in and be a part of one or more of these fun and informative groups!

Bridge Group: **New Schedule!** Starting in January, we will be playing the **1st and 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.**, Morgan Run Club in Rancho Santa Fe. Our Bridge group is always looking for new substitute players. Interested? Contact Michele McNeil, michelemcnei45@gmail.com.

Novel Lovers Book Group: Meets the 4th Monday of each month at 4 p.m. via Zoom.
Jan. 24: *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri (led by Pat Moran)
Contact Nancy L. Kohrs, nancylkohrs1@gmail.com, 858-220-1951

Great Decisions: We have completed the 2021 series. The 2022 series is planned to begin on the first Thursday of February, at 7 pm. Join us to learn about and discuss global issues using materials from the **Foreign Policy Association**. We are currently compiling a participant list to order books for 2022. Interested? Contact Kathy Adams, bri2kath@gmail.com, 281-704-1495.
Contact Kathy Adams, bri2kath@gmail.com, 281-704-1495.

Morning Literature: Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Meetings are in person with masks and social distancing. Books discussed alternate between a selection of a Great Books series, novels and short stories.
Contact Arlene Lighthall at alight23@gmail.com.

Simply Delicious: We've changed our format a bit to adjust to an even more casual gathering. Groups of up to 8 (couples and singles) meet monthly from October to June in members' homes. The host/ess chooses a main dish, and other participants bring coordinating side dishes of their choice (i.e., no pre-planned menus). The focus is on enjoying each other's company. Contact Joanna Schwend at jwschwend@yahoo.com to join us or with questions.

Cloak and Dagger Murder Mystery Book Group: First Tuesday of the month. Do you like a good mystery? Join us to discuss murder mysteries (dead body required) and socialize. Contact Marlene Gerber-Gale, mgerbm@aol.com.

Fun, Food & Friends: Sign up now! Get-togethers will resume in January! Groups of 6 (members + spouses/partners, or we'll pair you with another single) meet for three events over 3-4 months. Groups are then shuffled – giving you a chance to meet and get acquainted with several members and spouses in small-group settings. (See p. 10 of directory for further explanation.) Let's get creative on types of events – maybe a brunch or picnic in a park or backyard. Contact Nancy L. Kohrs, nancykohrs1@gmail.com, 858-220-1951

Out to Lunch Bunch: **Out-to-Lunch Bunch:** 3rd Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m., in **outdoor settings only**. Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m. - Tin Leaf Carlsbad, 6985 El Camino Real, Carlsbad; 760-431-5323
RSVP to Karen Vandererwerken at karenvtx@gmail.com or 817 371 3833



Our September Out To Lunch Bunch - Photo courtesy of Bobbi Karnes

Message from the Co-Presidents

Sallie Piccorillo and Pat Moran

Looking back at the past year as we slowly moved out of the Covid-19 pandemic, we were amazed at what our branch achieved. We sent 29 middle school girls to the Tech Trek Virtual Camp. Our Speech Trek winner came in second at the AAUW-CA level. We acquired new members and provided scholarships to Mira Costa College and CSUSM, as well as, sending funds to AAUW National.

AAUW National has a new Chief Executive Officer, Gloria Blackwell, the first woman of color to achieve this high honor and responsibility. Her following message to all of us reinforces the work we have to do at our branch level.

“For more than a century, our funding has opened doors and created opportunities for women and girls. Our current focus is on providing increased support for women of color and women in the STEM fields, where barriers to women’s full participation still persist. We’re confident that this year’s recipients will benefit from our life-changing grants and fellowships, and more importantly, our society will benefit from their important work.”

In December you will receive a letter asking for your annual donation. Please keep the young women and girls we support in mind as you make your donation.

As we look forward to 2022, we are reminded of our good fortune to be working together as a united team, inspired by each other, to achieve our goals.

Sallie Seymour Piccorillo and Pat Moran, Co-President



AmazonSmile customers can now support AAUW Del Mar-Leucadia California Branch in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app. Click [here](#) for instructions.

SPEECH TREK - 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...SPEECH TREK VERSION **Marlene Cain, Speech Trek, spechtrek@aauw-ca.org**

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
AND ALL THROUGH THE STATE
BRANCHES SENT THEIR AGREEMENTS
BEFORE 'T WAS TOO LATE!

THEY SIGNED MOUs
WITH THE UTMOST OF CARE
PLANNING THEIR SPEECH TREKS
TO BE FUN AND BE FAIR!

WHILE STUDENTS LAY DREAMING
OF THEIR SUGARPLUM BREAK,
BRANCHES ARE BUZZING
CUZ LOOK WHAT'S AT STAKE:

HELPING ALL STUDENTS
SPEAK TO THEIR VISION,
WITHOUT FACEBOOK OR TWITTER
OR TELEVISION!

HELPING THEIR BRANCH
TO GROW AND TO RISE,
TO SHOWCASE THEIR MISSION,
AND STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES.

AND WHAT TO THE DIRECTOR'S
EYES SHOULD APPEAR?
BEAUTIFUL BRANCHES
WHO SAW THEIR WAY CLEAR

TO PLAN A GREAT CONTEST-
THEY DID NOT DILLY DALLY!
SACRAMENTO, REDLANDS,
AND BIG BEAR VALLEY.

AND THESE WONDROUS BRANCHES
ALSO WANTED TO PLAY:
STOCKTON, ALHAMBRA,

PENSAQUITOS-POWAY!

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE
(THAT'S A GOOD SIGN!)
DEL MAR, LA MESA,
CALIFORNIA ONLINE.

AND LET'S NOT FORGET
THESE FABULOUS FOLKS:
DIAMOND BAR, CAMARILLO,
AND THOUSAND OAKS!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST
(AND IT MADE MY DAY)
PLEASE HELP ME WELCOME
HALF MOON BAY!

YOUR DIRECTOR IS THRILLED
AND SO PROUD OF YOU
(SHE TOLD ME HERSELF--
IT'S GOTTA BE TRUE!)

MAY YOUR SPEECH TREK CONTESTS
BRING YOU JOY AND INSIGHT
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!