



Monterey Peninsula

# MESSENGER

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Monterey Peninsula Branch

May-June 2013

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Welcome to the new electronic version of our Messenger newsletter. Whether you print it out or read it online, we trust you will learn to love it! Be sure to try clicking on the "In This Issue" links in the left column and other "click here" to follow links for more info.

## May Branch Meeting

### Picnic in the Park

Sunday, May 19, 2013

12:30 PM

Whispering Pines Park, Monterey

[\(click for directions\)](#)

What: Potluck picnic with spouses and potential new members.

Please plan to come to this relaxing and festive event. Bring a dish and drink to share.

## BOOK GROUPS

### Morning Books

Mon, May 20, 10 AM

*The Submission*

by Amy Walderman

Leader: Margaret Smith

Mon, June 17, 10 AM

*The Promise of Happiness*

by Justin Cartwright

Leader: Sally Hekkers

### Afternoon Books

Tues, May 14, 2 PM

*Clara and Mr. Tiffany*

by Susan Vreeland

at St. Mary's by the Sea  
Episcopal Church

146 12th Ave, Pacific Grove

Host: Beth Crittenden

RSVP: 626-8339

Tues, June 11, 2 PM

*Round House*

by Louise Erdrich

Host: Kathleen Stacey

RSVP: [yecats123@comcast.net](mailto:yecats123@comcast.net)

Tues, July 9, 2 PM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a memorable year for our Branch and its members. We have expanded our International awareness through programs on Cuba and Armenia, book discussions, "Great Decisions" and gourmet cooking. On the local level, we have provided seven scholarships to well-deserving college students, explored the "water" issue, manned a polling place for the national election, learned more about "Women in the Military" and are sending two eighth graders to Tech Trek Camp at Stanford University this summer. Members participating in "Romancing the Coast" have investigated and enjoyed a variety of local dining, cultural and scenic spots. Our Branch has raised money for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. We were privileged to hear an address by Alicia Hetman, President of AAUW-CA on ongoing cases and we also had Shannon Smith-Crowley, our legislative advocate in Sacramento, speak on current legislation affecting women and education. We also have a beautiful new website accessed through AAUW and you are getting this Newsletter and E-blasts through Constant Contact.

Thanks to all of you who have made all this possible. It's the Board members, the committees who planned or produced a program, or facilitated our Tech transformation, the election workers, the interviewers of countless scholarship applicants and Tech Trek hopefuls, the fund raisers, the interest group members and coordinators, and the writers, Directory and Newsletter editors and mailers who make our Branch run smoothly and all of you are special people.

Sharyn Siebert and I represented our Branch at the AAUW California Annual Meeting in Sacramento in April. (more about that in the Fall) I am off to explore the Hudson River Valley and Vermont in May, but hope all of you will attend the picnic. Bring a friend, spouse or prospective member and renew your membership so you can enjoy another productive and educational year and the friendship that is so much part of AAUW.

*Susan Murphy*

*Benediction*

by Kent Haruf

Host: Betty Van Meter

RSVP:

[bjvanmeter@comcast.net](mailto:bjvanmeter@comcast.net)

Tues, August 13, 2 PM

*Submission*

by Amy Waldman

Host: Judy Cunningham

RSVP: [jrc2900@msn.com](mailto:jrc2900@msn.com)

**Evening Books**

Thurs, May 16, 7 PM

*The Heretic's Daughter*

by Kathleen Kent

Hostess: Jacqi Davis

Leader: Christy Yarr

Thurs, June 20, 6 PM

*The Secret Daughter*

by Shilpi Somaya

Hostess: Mary Conway

Informal discussion

Potluck

**The new AAUW-  
MPB website is  
up and running!**

## PUBLIC POLICY

All AAUW members are eligible to vote in the 2013 election for officers. For details see voter guide on line or Spring/Summer Outlook Magazine.

April 9 was Equal Pay Day as the symbolic day when womens' earnings catch up to mens from the year before. Paycheck fairness Act before Congress is S. 84 H.R. 377 which would close loopholes in the previous Equal Pay Act .

Lucy Campen

Public Policy Chair

## ROMANCING THE COAST

### Saying goodbye

We've had another exciting year with many interesting adventures, visiting new places and trying different restaurants.

Unfortunately, I must resign as chair, as we will be moving out of the area. I'm hoping someone, or two people will volunteer to take over, as it is a wonderful way for new members to become acquainted with others and with our area. Dates that are not difficult to...

The website address is <http://mpb-ca.aauw.net/>

We suggest you include the new website in your Bookmarks listings for quick and easy access. Take a tour of the new website and enjoy! Please note that the old website address will not take you to the new site.

### *Certificate of Honor*

In recognition of the  
**85th Anniversary**  
of the  
**AAUW Monterey Peninsula Branch**

TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE  
APPRECIATION FOR YOUR  
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

*Carolyn H. Garfein*  
AAUW President

**NO BOARD MEETING**

**until September**

members suggest places to go at the first meeting in the fall, and are responsible for that meeting. As chair, I planned the first get together, sometimes at a restaurant, and sometimes a potluck lunch in a home. I sent notices to the newsletter editor, and each month, sent out a reminder to members about the coming event.

If you are interested in becoming chair or co-chair, let president Susan Murphy, [murphfam@redshift.com](mailto:murphfam@redshift.com), know and if you have questions please e-mail or call me and I'll be glad to talk to you. It has been a real pleasure for me to chair Romancers and I'll miss it. Fortunately, where we're going there is already a similar group and I plan to join right away.

Jan Smyth: 373-0882, [janzeek@hotmail.com](mailto:janzeek@hotmail.com)

## LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

### AAUW-MPB CSUMB Scholarship winners

Four outstanding and deserving young women from CSU Monterey Bay were selected for our \$1,500 AAUW Local Scholarships from a pool of 52 applicants and 9 finalists. Many of the applicants are the first in their family to ever attend college. They have faced significant difficulties (financial, societal, medical, logistical) in their quest to get an education. Yet, they push forward with determination and a positive attitude. Hear a little more of their stories:

**Sandra Zuniga Ruiz** is a 20 year old senior Math major from Salinas with an amazing 3.963 GPA, even after taking difficult upper division math classes. Her mother has worked very hard raising her and her brother after Sandra's father left when Sandra was 8. They moved away from their dangerous neighborhood to the outskirts of Salinas after their house burned down in an electrical fire in 2012. Sandra now rises early to take the high school bus into town, then takes another bus over to CSUMB.

## OFFICERS

**President:** Susan Murphy

**Finance VP:** Nancy Soule

**Membership VPs:**

Miriam Lilley  
Sharyn Siebert

**Co-Secretaries:**

Fatima Dias  
Marcia McCleary

Branch Membership &  
Information:  
324-0636 or  
622-0425

Send articles for  
the Sept-Oct newsletter  
to Ann Donaldson at  
[ann@wjdonaldson.com](mailto:ann@wjdonaldson.com)  
by August 15.

Sandra has an amazing attitude and an even stronger ability for higher math. She would love to get an advanced math degree or possibly a law degree, based on the legal needs she saw in her community while working with her mother in the farm fields last summer.

**Jordan Cosby** is a 22 year old from Castroville who will be a senior Collaborative Health and Human Services major. She has a 3.865 GPA. Her interest area is in health care policy and/or administration. She felt compelled to enter this area after watching her stepfather lose his battle with cancer, partially due to delayed treatment because of the structure of the Medical system. She is currently an intern for the PG Housing department and shows herself to be a leader and an excellent advocate in that role and others.

**Morgan Kashata** is a 23 year old Business/Accounting major from PG with 3.814 GPA. She struggled with medical issues after an accident in high school but has now recovered and is determined to make a difference in either the business world or in public policy. Just after our interview, she was also selected as a CSUMB Congressional intern through the Panetta Institute of Public Policy. Her family's financial struggles have done nothing to deter her from setting and achieving ambitious goals.

**Denise Rubio** is 21, from Watsonville, and will be a junior in Liberal Studies. She maintains a 3.62 GPA. Her goal is to be a bilingual elementary and/or special education teacher in the Watsonville area. She has a passion for Creative Writing as well and she volunteers at the local high school and church. She has also fought medical issues but is able to manage well now with the proper medicines.

Congratulations to these four young women on their scholarships!

A very big THANKS to the AAUW members who helped with the selection process. Judy Ritchey, Karen Snow, Mary Conway and Kay Morris helped review the semi-finalists and/or interview the finalists. A very BIG thanks to Jeanne Krener, who read all of the 52 applications with me and helped narrow down our semi-finalists. She also was an interviewer and she and her husband, Art, an Applied Math professor, have met with Sandra to discuss math-related careers and possible graduate schools.

The interviews for our three MPC scholarships are soon and I will report on the scholarship winners in our next newsletter.

Pat Fletcher  
AAUW-MPB Local Scholarship Director

## Matching Funds for donations to Local Scholarship fund

Over the last couple of years, AAUW-MPB has grown the number of local scholarships and the amount of each scholarship. In the current round, we will be awarding seven \$1,500 scholarships. The additional funds have primarily come from grants we have received from local community organizations.

We have seen the needs of the students grow dramatically over the last few years. The cost of tuition and fees at CSUMB has risen 81% in the last 6 years. We hear stories of students having a garage sale to raise the funds needed for gas to get to class. Many have absolutely no funding available from their families; indeed some need to contribute to the household income as well. Students often juggle more than one job with their full load of classes and other commitments as well.

We will continue to submit grant applications and hope for continued community support in this fashion. Of course, we will continue to raise funds by working at our polling location in PG.

If you would like to contribute to the local scholarship fund, we have an offer to match any funds, up to a cumulative total of \$1,500, for donations received by July 1, 2013. One easy way to contribute is to add any additional funds to your AAUW yearly dues check, and make a note in the memo field of the check with 'LS' and the amount of the donation. Alternatively, send checks made out to 'AAUW-MPB Local Scholarships' directly to

Judy Ritchey, the LS treasurer at 4098 Pine Meadows Way, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.

Having good organizational support for our programs will help when writing the grant applications. Thanks for any support you can provide!

## **TECH TREK SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

Two 7th-grade students from Pacific Grove Middle School will be attending Tech Trek at Stanford University this summer. The 2013 Scholarship recipients are Sarah Bitter and Jordan Modisette. The Tech Trek Committee, Betsey Skinner, Valda Fletcher, Carol Young, and chaired by Marilyn Erikson, read through the 16 applications, interviewed 8 applicants, and ultimately chose Sarah and Jordan to attend Camp Marie Curie at Stanford University from July 7-13.

Tech Trek is a special project supported by the Monterey Peninsula Branch of AAUW. Each scholarship is worth \$900. The girls were chosen on the basis of their essay entitled "How would you use math or science to make the world better." They were also chosen for their enthusiasm for having the opportunity to attend this special camp as expressed in their interview. In order to apply, 7th grade girls must be nominated by their math or science teacher. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage girls to continue their studies in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM), and hopefully attend a good college or university to prepare for a career in one of these disciplines. Tech Trek gives these girls a chance to see role models of women who have chosen careers in science, technology, engineering or math and to spend a week with them and other girls doing special projects, field trips and classes to expand their knowledge and excitement in science and math classes that are above and beyond the typical educational experience for girls at this age.

Tech Trek was started by AAUW in 1996. More than 8,000 girls have attended the program which is held on 8

campuses in California.

We will be meeting with the two selected students in the Fall to hear about their camp experience. Any member who has a special interest in this program, and would like to be a part of the committee to help fund raise and then select next year's campers, please call Marilyn Erickson at (650) 787-8546.

## TIDBITS

### DID YOU KNOW?

\* Our Branch nominated Sally Hekkers for the Monterey County United Way 37th Annual Community Service Awards for an adult service award. The ceremony was held April 23 at the Cypress Ballroom at the Monterey Plaza Hotel. Not only has Sally done so much for our branch, but she also volunteers for Hospice including co-facilitating a group for parents who have lost children.

\* LaVerne Whitmill is a true magician. She put together a truly memorable luncheon at Carmel Manor in March and when the original speaker had to cancel found a wonderful alternative. The weather was beautiful, lunch delicious, and the setting ideal. We all learned a great deal about Armenian food, history and culture. Thanks, Laverne.

\* Elena Sherygal-Placzek, PhD, a retired professor of the Volgograd Pedagogical University in Russia, recently gave a class at Olli called *Mosaic of Russian Life and Culture: Russian Artistic Heritage*. Elena was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley on an AAUW grant in 2006. We hope to have her as a speaker next year.

\* The 33rd Annual Steinbeck Festival is scheduled May 3-5, 2013. "Home" is this year's theme. The festival will explore Steinbeck's home - including Salinas, Cannery Row and the Pastures of Heaven. The Festival will feature talks, tours, films, food and the visual and performing arts. "Houses and children and graves, that's home, Tom. Those are the things that hold a man down," said Ma Joan



in The Grapes of Wrath. For details about the Festival, visit [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org). Information, including tickets, is available at (831) 775-4721 or [phillip@steinbeck.org](mailto:phillip@steinbeck.org).

\* Several of our members have another life elsewhere. Pat Dege lives part of the year in Sweden, Carolyn Bazzani, in Florence, Italy and Donna Gauvreau in Paris, France. Stateside, Ann Donaldson lives six months of the year in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and edits your newsletter from there. Jean Bennett lives in West Linn, Oregon part of the year, and Catherine Coleman and Donna Pribble go back and forth from the Bay Area.

\* AAUW California gained 196 new members last year, the largest gain in the nation. Renew your membership and recruit a new member. Help us grow.

Susan Murphy

## GOURMET DINNERS

Planning Meeting: Friday, June 7, 2013 at 6 PM  
At the home of Karen & Wayne Snow

Bring a hearty appetizer, a bottle of something to share and ideas for the next year's four themed dinners.

RSVP: Sharyn Siebert at [sharynsiebert@comcast.net](mailto:sharynsiebert@comcast.net)

### A Note from Sally. . .

Dear AAUW-MPC Board and Membership,

Thank you for nominating me for a 2013 Community Service Award. I am very grateful and humbled, and was so proud to represent our wonderful Branch at the April 23rd event at the Monterey Plaza. It was a beautiful and fun event, and it was great to share it with President Susan Murphy, Co-Secretary Estime Diaz and my

husband!

Just being in the same room with volunteers who represent groups we are all familiar with and groups we've never heard about was a true honor for me. Who ever heard, for example, of the Breakfast Ladies? These volunteers prepare breakfast every school day for Marina high school students who need a little extra help. There were so many fine examples of volunteers who give their time and energy to causes greater than ourselves. AAUW is a prime example of a group with a worthy cause and mission.

I love our organization and all that we stand for. The Monterey community is lucky to have us doing our work in the trenches. I felt like our membership was there in attendance with me. Again, thank you all so much. I am so proud of us and so grateful for us.

A dedicated AAUW volunteer,  
*Sally Hekkers*

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## September-October Messenger

Send articles for the Sept-Oct newsletter to  
Ann Donaldson at [ann@wjdonaldson.com](mailto:ann@wjdonaldson.com) by August 15.