

the TIDINGS

News of AAUW-Half Moon Bay

Volume 55, Issue 10

June 2022



End of Year Celebration: A Garden Dessert Party

Saturday, June 18, 2022 • 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Our annual end-of-year recognition event, a Garden Dessert Party, will be held Saturday, June 18, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the home of **Kathleen Freitas**.

Please join us to honor and remember Named Gift Honorees, scholarship recipients, and deceased members. We will also install the 2022-23 board members. Sweet treats, socializing, and door prizes will round out the program. It will be

a festive way to kick off the summer.

What you need to know:

Please RSVP by June 4 to either **Kathleen Freitas** at kaf4327@gmail.com or 650-454-4686 or **Lee Ellis** at leeellis5@yahoo.com or 408-569-2800.

Location: 436 Correas Ave. in the Alsace Lorraine neighborhood of Half Moon Bay. Access and yard are flat.

Parking is limited on Correas Avenue and carpooling is encouraged. You may park in the Hatch School parking lot off of Miramontes Avenue. Kathleen's house dead ends at that lot. Her home is four houses on the left from the parking lot.

This is an outdoor event. Coast weather calls for hats, sunscreen, and sweaters; masks are optional.



**American Association
of University Women
Half Moon Bay Branch**

P.O. 1414
El Granada, CA 94018
halfmoonbay-ca.aauw.net



The TIDINGS is published 10 times
a year, September to June, by
AAUW-HMB.

Sara R. Hayden,
Editor

Chris Ortega,

E-mail Blast Coordinator

Email submissions to
aauw.hmb.newsletter@gmail.com.

Articles should be pasted into the
body of the email. Attach any photos
as .jpg or .png files. Deadline is the
15th of the month prior to
publication.

Neighborhood Groups

South Half Moon Bay, Central Half
Moon Bay, North Half Moon Bay, El
Granada/Miramar, and Moss Beach/
Montara. Look for the distribution in
your directory.

AAUW advances equity for women
and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW Half Moon Bay Branch is a
tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation.
Your contribution is tax-deductible.

President's Message

A dedication to the parenting done by our fathers

My dad. Father of six girls.
Fiercely protective. Empowerer.
He would find this last part
extremely humorous. He loved us
dearly, but, boy, did he baby his car.
While he encouraged us in many
ways, he would not teach us how to
drive. He did, however, school us in
shoveling, mowing, raking, and
hedge trimming. When needed, we
would join in as he wielded a paint
brush. And he inadvertently
schooled us in the spirited art of
debate.

He did not live long enough to
see us all grow into adulthood. But
he would be proud to know that we
continued with our education. He

only finished the 10th grade, but
what a math whiz.

June 19 is Father's Day. To the
dads and men who have treated
women as equals. To dads and men
who worked with women to secure
our right to vote. And to the dads
and men who also believe that a
woman has a right to make her own
decisions regarding health and
reproduction.

And to my father, a very white,
Irish, first-generation American,
thanks for raising a whole lot of
strong-headed women. Love
always.

Peggy Rozhon, President

AAUW Fund Contribution Update

Congratulations to AAUW
California members and branches
for generously donating
\$494,020.04 to AAUW Fund in
2021! Our branch contribution to
that amount was \$7,638. This total
includes our branch contribution of
\$5,700 and an additional \$1,938
from individual members and
supporters. We didn't make it into
the top 10 per member
contributions, but more than \$7,500
is an impressive amount.

At the virtual state meeting held
April 30, **Mary "Dr. Mimi" Issac**
from the La Mesa-El Cajon branch,
was presented with the 2021-22
State Named Gift in recognition of
her work as the director of AAUW
California's virtual STEM camp
since its pilot year in 2020. The
program under her direction
expanded in 2021 (COVID year 2)
and has been added to the Tech Trek

CA program as a permanent
offering in 2022. Dr. Issac is a
passionate practitioner and
researcher interested in improving
female engagement and retention in
engineering and technology
through formal and informal
communities of practice. She
worked in many areas of the energy
business at GE for more than 30
years with a BS in mechanical
engineering (Union 1982). She then
started her own educational
consultancy focused on engaging
more females in engineering and
earned her Ph.D. in education
(ODU 2015).

Be sure to attend our June 18
scholarship gathering when our
branch Named Gift Honoree will be
announced. You don't want to miss
this opportunity to congratulate this
very deserving member.

Mary Sheridan, VP AAUW Fund

In Memoriam: Ellen Donnelly

At the time of our May *Tidings* publication, we board members were aware that **Ellen Donnelly** was in hospice. Ellen passed away on May 1. As a very active member, Ellen loved working on our scholarship committee. As Program VP with Allene Zanger, Ellen created exceptional monthly programs. Remember our trip to the sheriff's substation for a presentation on emergency readiness? Ellen also was a *Tidings* editor and, most deservedly, a Named Gift Honoree.

Her memorial service was on Saturday, May 28, with many AAUW HMB members in attendance. She was a communication writer for nearly 30 years at the nonprofit Electric Power Research Institute and many of her

co-workers came to pay their respects and share amazing stories. Most of the stories centered around Ellen making their job easier because she was so good at her job. Lots of funny stories were told, lots of tears and singing. Those who knew Ellen were aware of her compassion and her ability to light up a room. And over and over again, her wonderful sense of humor.

Her cancer did not define her. She lived every day as a gift. She embodied her Buddhist name, Compassion Flower.



For those who know Ellen's sweet kitty Jade: She has gone to live with Brian, Ellen's younger brother, in Canada.

AAUW-HMB Board

It's Dues Renewal Time

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their dues! For those who have not done so, please be aware that the deadline for renewal is June 30.

Dues for 2022-23 are \$115; \$92 of this is tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to AAUW-HMB and note "membership treasurer" in the

memo line. Mail your check to:

AAUW-HMB
P.O. Box 1414
El Granada, CA 94018

Attn: Membership Treasurer

Remember that financial assistance is available. Please e-mail **Mary Wynne** at mzwynne@comcast.net or **Peggy Rozhon** at prozhon@gmail.com to

request assistance and the amount needed. All requests are confidential.

I appreciate all members renewing by June 30. I am going to be moving to a new role in AAUW-HMB, and I look forward to having the renewals completed by the end of June!

Mary Wynne, Membership Treasurer

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Dates to Save & Remember

June 1 to 30
Pride Month

Monday, June 6
Board meeting

June 14, 1811
Harriet Beecher Stowe
born

Saturday, June 18
Annual Recognition
Event

June 27, 1880
Helen Keller born

June 30, 1917
Lena Horne born

Monday, July 4
Ol' Fashioned
4th of July Parade

*Please check calendars
on the [AAUW-HMB](#),
[AAUW-CA](#) and [AAUW](#)
websites for updates,
additional events and
announcements.*

Local Scholarship Winners Selected

The Scholarship Committee readers (**Barbara Cohen, Lee Ellis, Karen Hume, Patti Landry, and Terry Kujawa**) were busy this month deciding which Coastside young women would receive our five available scholarships.

We have finalized the decision. All five are juniors, three of them are studying nursing, one is a mathematics major, and one is studying social work. They will be finalized once they have submitted their verification of attendance for

summer or fall studies. We hope they will be able to attend our Garden Dessert Party on June 18.

During the COVID restrictions of the past two years, our committee met and celebrated each recipient through a “drive-by” event. The committee decided to continue this new tradition on June 14!

Something along the lines of ... be sure to attend the Garden Dessert Party to learn who this year's winners are.

Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Parade

Get out your red, white, and blue and come join in the Half Moon Bay 4th of July Parade! Last year, AAUW-HMB had 16 members participate and, YOWZA, did we have fun. And, of course, the parade is on Monday, July 4.

When we get additional info, we will pass it along! Expect to hear an update toward the middle of June.

“And crown thy good with Brother and Sisterhood, from sea to shining sea.”

The AAUW-HMB Want Ads

An EOB, equal opportunity branch, AAUW-HMB has these current openings.

Qualifications: Be a member, have some free time, and want another life adventure!

1. *Tidings* Editor – job starting by Aug. 15 or sooner.
2. Public Policy Coordinator – job

starting by Aug. 15 or sooner.

3. Pumpkin Festival Committee – job starting ASAP. It's time to plan for this incredible money maker.

Questions? Suggestions? Call **Peggy Rozhon** at 650-712-9143 or email her at prozhon@gmail.com.

Here's to a great new branch year July 1 to June 30, 2023!

Barbara Creed Updates SCOTUS Cases

Retired lawyer **Barbara Creed** was our October 2021 speaker, enlightening us with her presentation, “Understanding the Work of the Supreme Court.” She discussed three cases to be heard on the 2021-22 term docket. We listened, voted, and now she writes to let us know the outcomes. Fascinating to find out if we were in agreement with the SCOTUS decisions.

Barbara writes:

Attached is a summary of the Supreme Court’s decisions in the cases I discussed with your AAUW group on Oct. 16, 2021. I note that while the Court agreed with the group’s majority votes in the Houston Community College case (85%) and in *Hemphill v. NY* (60%), in the *FBI v. Fazaga* case, 63% of the participants would have ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, while the Court decided the case in favor of the FBI.

Houston Community College System v. Wilson

In a 9-0 decision (opinion by **Justice Gorsuch**) the Court ruled that Houston Community College System’s censure of Wilson did not constitute a retaliatory action in violation of his First Amendment rights. The Court noted the considerable history of the use of censure in federal, state, and local governing bodies and then examined the precedents that hold that a retaliation claim must show that the government took an “adverse action” in response to speech that “would have not been taken absent the

retaliatory motive.” Under these precedents, the Court noted two factors: (1) Wilson was an elected official and “In this country, we expect elected representatives to shoulder a degree of criticism about their public service from their constituents and their peers – and to continue exercising their free speech rights when the criticism comes.” (2) The adverse action at issue concerns the conduct of public office. “The First Amendment surely promises an elected representative ... the right to speak freely on questions of government policy. But just as surely, it cannot be used as a weapon to silence other representatives seeking to do the same.”

FBI v. Fazaga

In a 9-0 decision (opinion by **Justice Alito**) the Court held that section 1806(f) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 does not displace the state secrets privilege. Thus, federal district court judges are not authorized to hold hearings “in camera and ex parte” when a party to a section 1806(f) case claims that evidence must be excluded based on the state secrets privilege. First, the Court noted that the fact that FISA makes no reference to the state secrets doctrine is strong evidence that the availability of the state secrets privilege was not altered in any way by the enactment of FISA. The Court then noted that there is no clash between section 1806(f) and the state secrets privilege, since the statute and the privilege (1) require

courts to conduct different inquiries, (2) authorize courts to award different forms of relief, and (3) direct the parties and the courts to follow different procedures. In conclusion the Court stated: “Congress did not eliminate, curtail, or modify the state secrets privilege when it enacted Section 1806(f).”

Hemphill v. NY

In an 8-1 decision (opinion by **Justice Sotomayor**) the Court held that the admission of Morris’ plea agreement violated Hemphill’s Sixth Amendment right to confront the witnesses against him. The Court held that while under the Sixth Amendment states are free to adopt procedural rules governing the exercise of a defendant’s right to confrontation, the door-opening principle (which allowed New York to enter evidence contrary to Hemphill’s assertion at trial that Morris was the shooter) is not procedural but rather is a substantive principle of evidence that dictates what material is relevant and admissible in a case. In conclusion, the Court stated: “The Confrontation Clause requires that the reliability and veracity of the evidence against a criminal defendant be tested by cross-examination, not determined by a trial court.” **Justice Thomas** dissented on technical grounds, noting that the Court did not have jurisdiction to review the lower court’s decision because Hemphill had not raised his Sixth Amendment claim in the New York Court of Appeals.

Local STEM Camp set for June 27-30 at Cunha School

Thank you to the members who signed up to help revive our local STEM day camp for middle school girls. Every summer since 2013,

Mary Vargas and Carlos Vargas

have spearheaded a local science camp inspired by AAUW-CA's statewide Tech Trek. AAUW-HMB uses local resources and our own network of



members to create a fun week of science and tech lessons right here on the coast — and there's still plenty of time for you to get involved.

We are planning a four-day week, from June 27 to 30, with hands-on activities and field trips, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. There are myriad

ways to contribute – by leading hands-on lessons, chaperoning a walk to Francis State Beach on Tuesday, June 28, or to Hiller

Aviation Museum in Redwood City on Wednesday, June 29. We need help rounding up healthy snacks and lunches for our teen campers and

counselors, and we need members (or your local contacts) willing to share career stories on our women's panel.

New ideas for hands-on activities are especially welcome. If you're looking for inspiration, check out the STEM Packs on the [AAUW website](#).

If you have questions or want



more details, contact Mary Vargas at cvu59@aol.com, **Juliet Bolding** at juliet@boldingfamily.com, or **Julie Gerth** at joollee@stanfordalumni.org.

Put on Those Sensible Shoes! We Will Need to March!

If you are not angry, you are not paying attention. Regarding both women's reproduction rights and sensible gun laws, we need to march.

Look for future email blasts, giving dates, times, and locations where we can gather with others and peacefully protest.

In the meantime, AAUW Pacifica

branch has sent a "must watch" YouTube video.

It is an excellent historical piece on abortion history in the U.S., women's rights, and the need to pass the ERA. You can watch it [here](#).

Description: "*Roe v. Wade* is the only thing standing between us and a world where women are criminalized

for bodily autonomy."

Alyssa Milano breaks down the history of abortion rights in the U.S. and what's at stake in this 13-minute video.

Pass it along to all you know.

Peggy Rozhon, President

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SWEETS**

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Sexual Assault on College Campuses

Students on college campuses often face sexual harassment and violence. A 2019 study found the rate of undergraduates who experienced rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation to be 26.4 percent for women, 23.1 percent for transgender, genderqueer, or nonconforming students, and 6.8 percent for men.

A crucial first step toward solving problems is accurate reporting and measurement. While numerous studies show that campus rape is common, the vast majority of American college and university campuses report zero incidents of rape, and only 1 in 5 undergraduate women report their sexual assault to authorities. This speaks to the inadequacy of reporting structures rather than the frequency of assaults. Lack of reporting, action, education, and trust may be exacerbated by the understaffing and underfunding of Title IX positions and offices at universities.

Further aggravating these ongoing

problems, in 2017 the U.S. Department of Education, led by then-secretary **Betsy DeVos**, rescinded a number of sexual harassment protections under Title IX while expanding protections for those accused of sexual misconduct. These changes to Title IX have had a chilling effect as it has become even more challenging for students to come forward to report sexual assaults through official university channels.

Two pieces of proposed legislation in California in 2022 can make strides to address existing problems.

The first is Assembly Bill 1712 (AB 1712), which establishes a workgroup for developing and deploying campus climate and sexual misconduct surveys to students on the campuses of California Community Colleges, California State Universities, and Universities of California in order to better understand campus sexual violence and identify improvement areas.

The second piece of legislation is Assembly Bill 1968 (AB 1968),

which will standardize the content and presentation of crucial information for members of the CSU and UC communities who have survived a sexual assault, helping them to clearly understand their support and reporting options immediately following an assault.

The Department of Education under President Biden is expected to unveil major revisions to the current Title IX rules this spring, including making changes to the definition of sexual harassment and the ways in which schools must respond to complaints of sexual harassment. Further, the department has stated that it will prioritize protections for students based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The AAUW CA Public Policy committee will be looking out for the department's new proposed Title IX revisions and will provide updates as they become available.

*Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko
AAUW Public Policy Committee*

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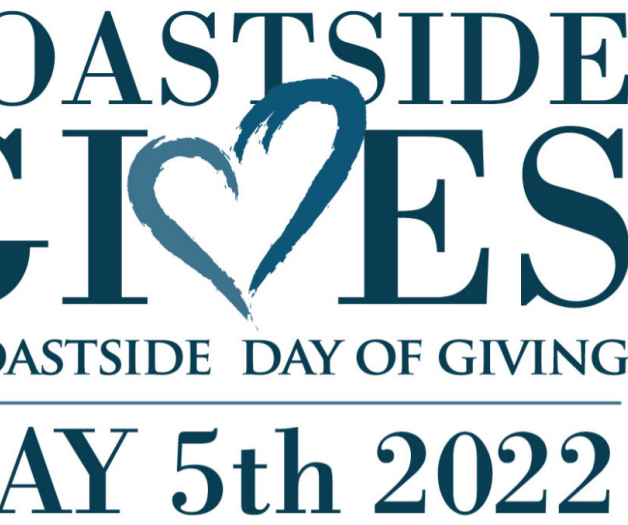
Giving Day A Great Success!

Congratulations, everyone! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Our Coastside Gives 2022 fundraiser exceeded expectations. Thanks to you we met our match and raised almost \$16,000. What a boost for our branch! As an institution on the Coastside for 55 years, we exemplify this quote from AAUW's national website: "We are tenacious and trailblazing – advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!"

So many people helped us all Touch the Future in this campaign.

From the onset with matching donors who gave so generously,



others helped with postcards, made phone calls, displayed lawn signs, worked on social media, and

everyone who GAVE! You spread the word, encouraged donations, and made Coastside Giving Day 2022 our most successful yet. Kudos to all of you! Our branch is vital to our community in support of women and girls pursuing dreams of all shapes and sizes. Be proud. We are Touching the Future together!

Sincere thanks for your support! *Jan Grierson and Mary Sheridan, CG 2022*

Special Giving Day Gratitude goes to ...

We owe a large part of this year's success to **Carol Joyce** who led the Coastside Gives campaign for our branch for five years. Carol's stewardship of this initiative made it easy to continue participating in Coastside Gives. Her expertise and mentorship was invaluable. Thank you Carol, and all who have worked so diligently in the past to make Coastside Gives successful for our branch. We appreciate you!

2022 Giving Day gratitude goes to the following:

Email blasts: **Chris Ortega**
Lawn signs and posters: **Kathleen Freitas, Jan Grierson,**

Sue Hatfield, Angeline Hnatt, Beth Myers, Gladys Picht, Mary Sheridan, Barbara Von Glahn, and Mary Wynne.

Long-distance donor: **Terry Kujawa** and son **Tony Kujawa.**

Make It Main Street: **Len Carlson, Sue Hatfield, Patti Landry, and Peggy Rozhon.**

Matching Fund Donors: **June Baxter, Jidge Boell, Vivian Costello, Nancy Evans, Julie Gerth, Jan Grierson, Angeline Hnatt, Carol Joyce, Ruth Rafello, Lisa Lopez Rossi, Mary Sheridan, Sheila Spieller, Barbara Von Glahn, and Allene Zanger.**

Night Owl and Midnight Madness: **Peggy Rozhon and Wendy Lama.**

Phone calls: **Irene Baume, Vivian Costello, and Nancy Evans.**

Postcards: **Angie Fazio.**

Radio Interview on KHMB: **Pat McNutt.**

Social media support: **Len Carlson, Suzanne DuFore, Paulette Eisen, Angie Fazio, Carol Joyce, Mary Knippel, Patti Landry, and Mary Alice Pearce.**

Tidings: **Sara Hayden.**

Sincere apologies if we've omitted anyone! Thank you all!

AAUW HMB Procures City Council Title IX Proclamation

The 50th Anniversary of Title IX is June 23. AAUW CA has encouraged all branches to contact their local governing body to try to obtain a proclamation of this milestone. AAUW HMB has done

just that. The proclamation below will be read by a council member at the next meeting of the City Council of Half Moon Bay; thereby designating Thursday, June 23, as the 50th Anniversary of Title IX of

the Education Amendments of 1972. The meeting is Tuesday, June 7, at 7 p.m. As always, the public is invited. The meeting is at Ted Adcock Community Center, 535 Kelly Ave.

Title IX 50th Anniversary Proclamation

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination in all areas of education, protecting students and staff in any educational institution that receives federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Title IX has, in the 50 years since its passage, expanded opportunities for women and girls in sports and in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields and improved protections for pregnant and parenting students; and

WHEREAS, according to AAUW research, 56% of female students and 40% of male students grades 7-12 and two-thirds of college students experience sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS, girls have 1.2 million fewer chances to play sports in high school than boys and less than two-thirds of Black and Hispanic girls play sports, while more than three-quarters of white girls do; and

WHEREAS, only 21% of engineering majors and 19% of computer science majors are women, and the rate of women's enrollment in certain nontraditional careers remains at low levels, with some fields well below 25% in women's representation; and

WHEREAS, pregnant and parenting students are often steered toward separate, less rigorous schools; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education has worked to systematically dismantle Title IX protections in recent years, rescinding multiple important guidance documents in 2017 and releasing a new rule in 2020 with significant harmful implications for students' civil rights and federal enforcement of Title IX; and

WHEREAS, proposed changes to current Title IX regulations would not be enforced until 2024, leaving students and survivors of sexual harassment and violence without the resources and support they need now; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education announced in 2021 that it would interpret and enforce Title IX to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and on gender identity, an important step to ensure protections for LGBTQ+ students; and

WHEREAS, we must now pass the Gender Equity in Education Act, which would codify protections designed to help students address sex discrimination in all areas of education and ensure educational institutions have the resources needed to comply with Title IX regulations; and

WHEREAS, Title IX must be strengthened and vigorously enforced to protect students' civil rights, NOW, **THEREFORE**, I, (council member to be named), do hereby proclaim Thursday, June 23, 2022:

THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Memorial Day		Days for Girls 12:30 p.m.			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Walk & Talk 10 a.m. • Board meeting outdoor dinner/social 6:30 p.m.					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Walk & Talk 10 a.m.		Days for Girls 12:30 p.m.			Garden Dessert Party 1:30 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Juneteenth	Juneteenth (observed) Walk & Talk 10 a.m.	Great Decisions 5:30 p.m.				
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
	Walk & Talk 10 a.m.	Evening Book Club 6:30 p.m.				

Interest Groups Carrying On

Days for Girls will meet Wednesday, June 1, and Wednesday, June 15, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maker Room at the Half Moon Bay Library. Contact **Vivian Costello** or **Karen Hume** for more information.

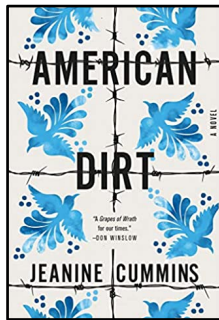
Evening Book Club: All meetings are the last Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Our meetings will now be at the Half Moon Library and begin at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming meetings include:

June 28: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. Facilitator: **Sue Perls**.

July 26: Book nominations for 2022-23.

Aug. 30: *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead.



Facilitator: **Janie Keeler**.

For more information, please contact **Nancy Evans** at egnancy@comcast.net.



Great Decisions will meet June 21 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

In June we will



discuss “Xi’s China takes on the Quad.” Securing China’s maritime periphery is a strategic goal of President Xi. The Quad is Australia, India, Japan, and the U.S.

As an introduction to those not familiar with our group, we purchase books called *Great Decisions* annually from the

Foreign Policy Association. This is not an AAUW organization, but many branches participate in this. Their goal is to develop awareness, understanding, and informed opinions on U.S. policy and global issues.



Janus members hope to meet in person again soon. If you would like to be kept in the loop, please email **Mary Alice Pearce** at maalice_hmb@comcast.net.



Walk & Talk: Join us Monday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon for a walk on our beautiful Coastside. Send your name and email to **Marilyn Garrison** at marilyngarr@hotmail.com and she’ll add you to the weekly email list.



If you have an idea for a new group, tell **Peggy Rozhon** by emailing her at prozhon@gmail.com.

So Long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehen ...

But not goodbye. It’s impossible to wrap up four years as *Tidings* editor in one column. I’ve had a lot of fun adding photos and color graphics to the layout. But after four years, I need a break.

Producing *Tidings* each month is a team effort. I want to thank all of you who participated in the process.

To everyone who has submitted an article, thank you. Without articles there is no newsletter.

To **Vivian Costello** for printing the copies that need to be mailed.

To **Barb Steinberg** and **Nancy Evans** for coordinating the mailing. Keeping all of our members informed, including those without digital access, is critical to our success as a branch.

To **Betty Lee Kendall** and **Chris Ortega** for emailing every issue to you over the years. You made it easy for members to access and read *Tidings*.

To **Janet Rae-Dupree**, copy editor extraordinaire. She made sure *Tidings* was clear, consistent, and concise.

To **Barbara Van Glahn**, **Suzanne Mau**, and **Peggy Rozhon**, the three presidents at whose pleasure I served. Thank you for wearing the publisher’s hat for the operation. You had to do some heavy lifting at times, which helped to make my job a bit easier.

And to all Half Moon Bay branch members, thank you for reading *Tidings* and passing on your compliments and suggestions for improvement. Each one was truly appreciated.

Sara Hayden, Tidings Editor

End Pregnancy Discrimination

Pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Although Congress outlawed pregnancy discrimination in 1978, far too many employers still routinely deny pregnant workers the temporary job modifications they need to keep working and have a healthy pregnancy. These requests for “accommodations” — such as more frequent breaks, schedule changes, and reassignment of hazardous tasks — often are denied to pregnant workers, and can result in severe consequences for their health and financial security. Nobody should have to choose between a healthy pregnancy and a job.

The bipartisan Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) would outlaw such discrimination and require employers to provide “reasonable accommodations” to pregnant

workers.

The PWFA has never been so close to becoming law. On May 14, 2021, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed the U.S. House in a bipartisan 315-101 vote. AAUW strongly supports this legislation and the protection against workplace discrimination it would provide. The bill now advances to the Senate, where your voice is more important than ever-- take action below!

With so many on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis, pregnant workers need protection now.

That's why the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (H.R. 1065/ S. 1486) is so important — it would require employers to make reasonable accommodations to protect the health of pregnant workers, such as letting

them carry bottles of water or take restroom breaks. This legislation clarifies that it is unlawful to discriminate against pregnant workers by forcing them out of their jobs unnecessarily or by denying them reasonable accommodations that would allow them to keep working and providing for their families.

No one should face discrimination in the workplace because of a pregnancy, urge your Senators to support the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act now!

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/pregnant-workers-fairness-act/>

Lisa Lopez Rossi, Public Policy



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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barrier to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.