

# Branching Out



November 2016

## Letter from our President

Hello AAUW,

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Election day is looming, and AAUW has been involved in the local political scene. We partnered with the Chamber and the League and presented a well received candidate debate held at the State Theatre. I have heard many positive comments from people who attended, and the debate made the Journal's front page "above the fold." Some members have been involved in local campaigns, and on election day, an AAUW team will be working at the polls. With the number of propositions and measures on the local and state ballots, voting could take a while! On the national level, the State Chair, in her recent email report said, "We are certainly invigorated that the upcoming election is bringing so many AAUW topics to the forefront of national conversation!"

Thanks to Barb and Sheryl for doing such a great job organizing the September meeting. Our speaker, Carolyn Garfein, past AAUW National President, was outstanding. She lives in Lincoln, so she will be a good resource for the area AAUW branches. I was inspired as she listed the projects AAUW has taken on in the past, such as equal pay. It is so important that after election day, this is not shelved! Thanks to Beth and Bonnie for inviting the young women who went to Tech Trek and their parents to the meeting. It was good to see so many girls with a "head full of STEAM." Daniella Zimmerman introduced the Title 9 Project that she and Carol Waechter, Norma Zimmerman, Diane Fishburn, and Sheryl Peterson are working on this year.

Also, some members of our branch are interested in working on a special project concerning women's issues. More on this next month. Enjoy Halloween, and maybe we will see you at the polls, Kathleen Shaffer

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Welcome new member Debra Sabo. Debra graduated from Santa Clara University with a Master's Degree in electrical engineering in 1990.

### DATEBOOK

- Board Meeting November 1**
- Board Meeting December 6**
- Holiday Luncheon December 10**
- Taste of Chocolate February 12**

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER KICK-OFF

At our September kickoff brunch, keynote speaker, former AAUW National President, Carolyn Garfein, took us on a journey to the past as she recounted her path to national office. She told us her history, and the recent history of AAUW, including some issues we have focused on for the past several years. Carolyn is a very dynamic speaker and entertained and enlightened us in a down-to-earth way. She made us proud to be members of this great organization, and congratulated us on sending such outstanding young ladies to Tech Trek. She also challenged us to realize that our work is not done regarding equal pay, gender equality, and educational opportunities. We were inspired!



Members and friends also were treated to presentations by all eight of our Tech Trek girls. This year is the first time in a long time that all of them have been able to attend. They were so confident and poised, expressing their thanks for making their adventure possible, and regaling us with a few of the things they had learned and enjoyed.

## PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES - MARY ELLEN OLIVEIRA

We know the issues, we know the importance of this election - Now we have to make a decision and stand up for what's important for all women and girls - and the future of our community and nation! Therefore, please THINK BEFORE YOU CAST YOUR BALLOT!!!! And be sure to VOTE - REMEMBER EVERY VOTE IS A VOICE!!!!

Here are some upcoming California election deadlines:\*

- Voter registration October 24, 2016
- Vote at the polls on November 8, 2016 - polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m
- Vote by mail - completed ballots must be postmarked on or before November 8, 2016 and received by your county elections office no later than November 14, 2016

\*Source: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

## WOMEN'S PERCEPTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE LATE 1940's

This article continues exploring the social and economic context as AAUW-Auburn was being formed in 1948-49.

Today, it is well documented that a tangible benefit higher education is higher wages. But what were less tangible benefits perceived by women in the late 1940s, as the Auburn Branch was on its way to being chartered in April 1949?

To set the stage, here are some facts. In 1948, women made up 28 percent of those employed; this figure grew to 47 percent by 2012. (Source BLS Reports, *WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE: A DATABOOK*, May 2014, [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov).) The increasing number of women in the post-World War II era workforce was a trend that precipitated a social and economic evolution that has transformed our culture ever since. Complementing the labor force trend was the increasing number of women attending college. In 1947, the proportion of women attending college was 27 percent of all college

students; by 2014 the percentage was 55 percent (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1947 to 2014).

To answer the question posed in this article’s introduction, in 1948, AAUW National surveyed the membership regarding the value of higher education to members. They received over 30,000 responses. A report, authored by Patricia Woodward Cautley, titled *AAUW Members Look at College Education: An Interim Report, October 1948* presents survey responses.

One of the 1948 survey questions was: “Think over your college education; in what ways do you feel it is of value in your life today?” Responses to the question are shown below.

### **Value of College Education in Your Life\***

\*The figures represent the proportion of all members answering the questionnaire who mentioned each item.

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percent</b>
In social relationships and attitudes	47%
In a general cultural way	36%
Intellectually	32%
Professionally	27%
In a personal sense	22%
In marriage and homemaking	20%
Economically	16%

It is interesting to see the topics’ order of importance, with “Social Relationships” rating 47% and “Economically” rating 16%.

## **BOOKS FOR BOOKS**

Gently used books that you feel would be of interest to our members and guests can be donated to Books for Books at any branch meeting. Interesting books for reading and support for a good cause, all at one table! Stop by and browse at our Holiday Luncheon!

## **AAUW-CA WEBSITE**

The AAUW California Communications team announced the release of their enhanced website. While the address ([www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)) hasn’t changed, the look and feel have undergone a transformation. The new site is available as of Monday, October 17, 2016. They have organized the information to support users who look for information on the site: state and branch leaders; members; and potential members and supporters.