

## **AAUW Santa Maria Branch Blog 2018-2019**

**This past year flew by in a flash ... something we seem to experience more and more. Our Branch holds meetings from September to May each year. So, with respect to our Branch President Barbara Johnston, we present a synopsis of our year.**

### **September 2018      Fall Kickoff – Casa Grande Clubhouse**

**The September meeting is always a pleasure, as this is the time when we get together with many friends we haven't seen over the summer. The students who attended Tech Trek during the summer at UCSB are invited to come (with their families) to share their experiences, often with pictures and poster boards to explain some of their tasks. The Allan Hancock College Scholarship Recipients are invited, in addition to their being given a student membership for a year. Groups and activities for the coming year are discussed and people are invited to sign up for their choices, being able to talk with others who are involved, learning and getting their questions answered.**

### **October 2018      Intersectionality - Shepard Hall, SM Library**

#### **Intersectionality: What Is It? Why Does It Matter for All of Us?**

**This most interesting presentation helped us learn how we don't just experience the world as women and men, but, instead, how our gender identities intersect with the many other identities to shape our daily lives. Dr. Lata Murti, AAUW Member and Associate Professor of Sociology at Brandman University, spoke about intersectionality as it relates to herself, the Indian immigrant doctors she wrote about in her book (*With and Without the White Coat: the Racialization of Southern California's Indian Physicians – Universal Publishers, 2014*), and all of us in contemporary society.**



**November 2018      LAF Fundraiser – Minerva Club, Santa Maria**

**Welcome to Bunco! For the second year in a row we have hosted a wonderful afternoon of Bunco for members, family, and friends. An easy game to play, very entertaining, allowing participants to converse and laugh and completely relax into an afternoon of fun.**

**December 2018      Holiday Party – Minerva Club, Santa Maria**

**Our Holiday Party is always a gathering of members, family, and friends, with the entertainment this year by the Sweet Adelines of Santa Maria. Always lots of good food to share, lots of laughter, hugs, and Holiday Cheer.**

## **January 2019 The Hancock Promise – Allan Hancock College**

**The Hancock Promise is a new program to provide high school graduates with the opportunity to get their first year of tuition for free at Allan Hancock College.**

**The Hancock Promise is a new program to provide high school graduates with the opportunity to get their first year of tuition for free at Allan Hancock College. The program removes financial barriers and creates pathways to increase college readiness, access, affordability, and success for all students and their families. The Hancock Promise has been filling area graduates with promise since the summer of 2018 and is open to all students who enroll at Hancock immediately after graduating from a high school located in the Allan Hancock Joint Community College District. Students who are home schooled or completed their GED through a local adult education program within the district (GED and HiSET graduates) are also eligible.**

**Benefits for students include:**

- Save more than \$1,200 in tuition and fees during first year at Allan Hancock College**
- Register for classes early with priority registration**
- Set an academic plan for success with personalized counseling**
- Receive free tutoring and other academic support services**
  
- *"Education is a gift that none can take away."*  
- American Proverb**

**February 2019**  
**Goleta**

**SBC-IBC Fellows Luncheon – Hilton Garden Inn,**

**Members from the Santa Barbara-Goleta Branch, the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch, and the Santa Maria Branch gathered together to hear Keynote Speaker, Daisy Muralles, recipient of our IBC Endowment, share her Master's Work in Library Sciences, with an emphasis on services for diverse users and underserved populations. Many AAUW members are teachers, librarians, scholars of all kinds, and these subjects are of great interest to them.**

**March 2019      Traveling to India**

**Lata and Viji traveled to India recently, and shared their observations of that country, and shared some of the changes and differences they observed from their previous travels. Their presentation was enhanced with pictures and native Indian snacks.**

**April 2019      “Purple Cow: A Dairy Daughter's Heritage” – Quail Meadows West Clubhouse**

**Laura Lee Tognazzini Diaz, a native Californian, has lived in the Santa Maria Area all of her life. Laura's love of life on the dairy, drew her to write, edit and collect stories written by many dairy families in the Santa Maria Valley. She talked about her personal experiences and shared photos of the Italian-Swiss people that made the dairies a giant industry in the early 1900's to the 1990's. The book is for sale with all proceeds going to the S.M. Valley Historical Museum.**

**Ice Cream Sundaes were enjoyed by all!**





**May 2019            Installation of Officers Luncheon – Kirk’s Windmill Farms, Nipomo-Arroyo Grande**

**May is always Installation Month. This year the incoming Board and members gathered at Kirk’s Windmill Farms, where they enjoyed a “farm to table” lunch, lots of laughter, and good conversation.**