



January 4, 2022

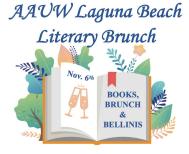


Dear Branch Members:

Happy New Year to you all!

May 2022 be the year we move to a more relaxed and enjoyable "new normal." As we faced yet another COVID-19 variant, many of us were still limiting our travel and family gatherings this holiday, but we are looking forward to welcoming friends and family to our homes again in the new year.

Despite the pandemic, AAUW Laguna Beach had a very successful 2021. Last year, instead of our usual Literary Lunch in March, we had a Literary Brunch—Books, Brunch and Bellinis—in November. With an 18-month wait since our last authors' luncheon, the brunch was a huge success. We raised over \$26,000 to support our scholarships and other mission-based programs. Many thanks to our fundraising leaders and committees, the sponsors and all of you for donating your time and money to such worthy causes.





In September we had a **wine and cheese social**, our first "in person" event since the availability of the COVID vaccines. In October, our Tech Trek campers put on a virtual **poster session**, sharing their experiences as <u>virtual campers</u>. In December we met again for our **Winter Gathering** of members and family/friends to begin the holiday season.

While 2022 will not yet be entirely normal for us, it will still be busy. We have delayed our **Literary Luncheon** until spring 2023 to put some space between it and our November 2021 event and in the hopes that we can once again meet in person. We will

be resuming some of our mission-based initiatives such as tutoring at El Morro Elementary School (The Learning Club, TLC) and the <u>National College Conference for Women Student</u> <u>Leaders (NCCWSL)</u>.









We will be selecting and awarding <u>college scholarships</u> to graduating high school girls and returning women undergraduates.These will be particularly needed to enable women to continue their education over the next few years. And we will be sponsoring middle school girls to attend <u>Tech Trek</u> virtual or hybrid summer STEM camps and other STEM programs.

Our meeting schedule for 2022 starts off with a **New Member Reception** at Deana Pink's home in January. We will be offering our annual **Art Salon** in February, highlighting members who are artists. March, Women's History Month, brings an interesting **program on AAUW**



and our involvement in the support of women throughout our nation's history. And we are hoping to hold another **Fundraiser** in April. All of our **interest groups and programs** are listed on our **website**.

I hope to see each of you at these fantastic events and I wish you a Happy New Year,

Sigrid Moranz, President AAUW Laguna Beach



AAUW Laguna Beach | P.O. Box 189, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

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