



The Grapevine

November 2020 Volume 68 Issue 3

<https://lpd-ca.aauw.net/>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Devon LaHar president@aauw-lpd.org

I'm actually looking ahead to the holidays as we continue this quarantine! Holidays are still a time when gratitude is front and center. Showing gratitude helps us continue to be resilient during a season filled with tough choices and changes--for families and for our branch members!

We are an active generous group, and we already show our gratitude in so many ways! A few more ways to show gratitude this season that inspired me (and may inspire you):

Continue to say *thank you* or show your gratitude to food service, pharmacy, health care and other workers who are putting their own safety at risk to provide care and service to others.

Make two *How are you?* calls weekly this month to a branch member friend or relative you haven't talked with in awhile. You will both feel grateful for that connection!

Drop off virtual care packages, cards, pumpkin bread, even kindness rocks (painted with gratitude messages or images) to encourage someone you know is alone or may need spirit-lifting.

Decorate your front yard with thank-you signs. From essential workers to teachers and neighbors, so many people deserve a special thank-you.

Reach out to [AAUW Fund](#) or local organizations to see how you can give back, whether that's making a donation or volunteering in a way that's safe during COVID-19.

In this *Grapevine* edition:

- Thanks to Chris Alesso (branch Finance Director) for organizing our October *California Ballot Initiatives* Discussion. This election's 12 propositions included some complicated pro/con information that definitely benefited from study!
- Anita Massey (branch STEM Director) updates us on two of our branch *Girl Programs*: October's two *Planning for College* nights and upcoming *Career Opportunities--and More...* (this *Grapevine* Page 5)

(An article about *Planning for College* was in the Pleasanton Patch.)

- Thank you to Anita for coordinating our Girl Programs committees to provide continued AAUW-LPD STEM activities for Tri-Valley girls and teens!
- Thank you to branch member Diane Keller (college planning expert/ presenter) and committee members Tina Amber, Pam Leong, and Susan Wong for planning and executing this vital program!
- Thank you to PJ Wells and her committee for planning our 2021 informational career series, *Career Opportunities – STEM and More....*, a 3-part Zoom series for high school women to hear from women in a variety of careers. (this *Grapevine* Page 5)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Ways to stay involved with our branch:

Click on our [branch website calendar](#) (also the last page of this *Grapevine* issue) to join in activities.

Watch your email for Friday branch updates.

Get help using Zoom if you haven't been able to connect yet! Call one of our board members or email devonlahar@gmail.com for a quick one-on-one session--we do want to help you get in touch/stay in touch with each other



[Faces of AAUW](#) introduces us to AAUW trailblazers--First Ladies, Supreme Court Justices, government leaders, humanitarians, social, legal, science, and educational pioneers. Our members, fellows and award winners pioneer advances for gender equity. Explore how many of us have made our mark — from the past to the present and into the future!



Google Doodles that [Celebrate Women's Achievements](#) are informative, beautiful to look at, and inspire and empower us!

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Save the Date!



Watch for your emailed Evite this month to our

AAUW-LPD Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday 12/16/2020 4:00 PM

(Zoom link will be sent)

Register via your Evite to join the fun! Wear your favorite sweater, PJs, or earrings. Pre-party delivery a few days before the party will get you into the spirit to join your fellow AAUW members online.

Gift card donations to Tri-Valley Haven or Open Heart Kitchen will be gratefully accepted and picked up from your house. Information to follow.

NEXT L-P-D BOARD MEETING

Wed. Nov. 4, @ 1 pm

Board members bring branch business for both November and December to this meeting.

No board meeting in December.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Tina Amber

membership@aauw-lpd.org

Thank you to everyone who completed their AAUW renewal. We have an active branch and we appreciate your continued membership.

We are always looking for new members and especially women that may want to get involved in planning and putting on programs for women and girls. If you know of anyone that may be interested in joining our active and diverse group, send me a note.

AAUW FUND

Sandy Hansen

aauwfund@aauw-lpd.org

This month we highlight AAUW's Legacy Circle -

AAUW has challenged branches to double their memberships in the AAUW Legacy Circle before the end of 2020. We have two Legacy Circle members in our branch. Your commitment does not need to be large.

AAUW would be delighted to welcome you to the Legacy Circle— AAUW's recognition society for visionary members who are committed to advancing equity for women and girls long into the future. This is a group of people who have bequeathed some portion of their estate to AAUW.

Whether you would like to learn more about estate planning in general or tax-wise ways to include AAUW as a part of your legacy, help is available. There are a number of financial instruments that qualify. If you do not yet have an estate plan or are planning to make an adjustment to your existing plan and would like to be part of this group, contact Heather Miller, AAUW Advancement Director at millerh@aauw.org or California Legacy Circle team member Chairmen Goehring (charminme@yahoo.com) for assistance.

Click [HERE](#) to view 25 slides of detailed information on AAUW's website.

COMMUNICATIONS

Marilyn Duman

communications@aauw-lpd.org

As a pilot (and cost saving) measure, we are not mailing directories this year. You will receive a digital version via email soon. Those of you who receive your *Grapevine* via USPS will receive a list of current member names and addresses with this November *Grapevine*.

I would also like to remind you that you can find current and back issues of the *Grapevine* on our branch website: www.aauw-lpd.com. Phone numbers and any addresses are not listed in this public version but all other information is included. The website also has information about events, interest groups, and much more so remember to check it out!



Former branch member Helen Tirsell died on September 5th. Helen had lived in Oakland for many years but was very active in our branch the late 60's and early 70's and was branch president in 1971. She was the first woman mayor of Livermore and participated in writing the pamphlet "How To Get a Woman Elected To Office." The pamphlet was based on her campaign and was published by our AAUW branch. More information can be found in this article from the Independent: [Helen Marie Tirsell](#)

INTEREST GROUPS

Please note: some of these listed branch activities are cancelled. Other groups may be connecting on Zoom or by phone! Check with the group's contact for more information. Communication Chair Marilyn Duman's Friday weekly information will keep us up-to-date.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

CHAIR: Nancy Rensink

dupbridge@aauw-lpd.org

No games until further notice.

MONDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

CHAIR: Marti Silva

monbridsge@aauw-lpd.org

No games until further notice.

LADIES LUNCH 'N MURDER

CHAIR: Maria Kennedy

mken尼迪@aauw-lpd.orgKeep reading those murder/
mysteries!**SOLO DINING**

CHAIR: Sandie Brown

solodining@aauw-lpd.org

Nothing until further notice.

**MAH JONGG, AMERICAN
STYLE**

Chair: JoAnn Houk

mahjongg@aauw-lpd.org**MORNING BOOKS**

CHAIR: Bev Howell

ambooks@aauw-lpd.org

Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 9:30 am

Via Zoom

BOOK: *The Guest List*

AUTHOR: Lucy Foley

REVIEWER: Marilyn Duman

Members will receive an email with
the Zoom address before the meeting.**AFTERNOON BOOKS**

CHAIR: Mary Ann Karlsen

pmbooks1@aauw-lpd.org

No meetings until further notice.

EVENING BOOKS

CHAIR: Joan Leighty

pmbooks2@aauw-lpd.org

Wednesday, November 11 @ 7:30 PM

BOOK: *The Honey Bus*

Author: Meredith May

Reviewer: Susan Wacek

Zoom calls for the Evening Book Group
have been booked for the 2020-21 season.
Members will receive an email with
the address each month.**MISSION DISCUSSION GROUP**

CHAIR : Chris Alesso

chris@aauw-lpd.org

Thursday, November 12 @ 10 AM

Have you met Kim Churches,

AAUW National CEO?

Prior to joining AAUW in June 2017, Kimberly served as the managing director of the Brookings Institution, an internationally recognized public policy think tank.

Kim has also served as an associate vice-chancellor at the University of Denver, a director of development at the University of North Florida and a division director at the American Heart Association.

In addition to her work at AAUW, Kim currently serves as chair of the BUILD Metro D.C. board, which demonstrates the power of experiential learning through entrepreneurship for under-resourced communities.

Kim is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals PAC Board and the International Women's Forum of Washington, D.C., an organization that represents women leaders in diverse fields whose mission is to maximize opportunities for women in thirty three countries on six continents.



STEM DIRECTOR Anita Massey stem@aauw-lpd.org

STEM Activity and Girl Programs

I am pleased to share recent activity from the "Girl Programs" team. As you know this group was formed to ensure we would continue to support education for young women and focus on STEM during this unique year.



Planning for College: The first session led by Diane Keller, an AAUW-LPD member and former college adviser was for 9th and 10th graders held October 13. We had over 100 sign-up but like many free programs we had many no shows. Even with that there were almost 60 families listening to the presentation.

The 11th grade program will be held October 20th and while the attendance for that is not available for this month's *Grapevine* we do know that there are 60 families currently registered. The official evaluations have not been returned however, the comments posted in the chat box were very favorable.

Diane, thank you again for not only presenting this valuable program but for being willing to present it in a new format.



We are now turning our focus to the informational career series, **Career Opportunities – STEM and more....** We settled on this name after reviewing the speaker suggestions we received. It acknowledges both our branches STEM commitment and the reality that STEM is not the only interest or option for young women.

We are currently finalizing our presenters by asking those of you who nominated speakers to verify they are still interested and available for one of the three nights planned for this series. That information is due to PJ Wells by October 25th. Each speaker will have 10-15 minutes to discuss: **Early Life** - interests, hobbies, activities; **High School**- clubs, groups, activities; **College**: education, certifications, affiliations; and **Career Ladder**-stairsteps to success. These will be followed by a short Q & A period.

This 3 part Zoom series is planned for January 14, 28 and February 11 and will be aimed at high school age girls.

PJ, thank you for taking lead on this new and exciting program.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG



March 15, 1933 to September 18, 2020

America lost one of our most beloved role models September 18, 2020, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed — and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999

AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched. The nation owes it to her — and to all women — to honor her final wishes and refrain from naming a replacement until after a new president is inaugurated, if possible.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

With the loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, our country must fight to ensure her successor is a similarly strong advocate for women and families. AAUW believes that, as with all nominations, a full and fair vetting process is vital to determine the nominee's qualifications and temperament. This is fundamentally impossible to achieve in a short time and in light of all the other critical issues the Senate is now addressing. Our nation is reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic crisis, reckoning with our long and painful history with racism, and how to access the vote in a critical election year. Our fundamental rights are at risk, now more than ever — and the American people need a Supreme Court of independent, fair-minded jurists to protect the rights of all.

The next #SCOTUS Justice should be a fair-minded jurist vetted carefully by the Senate, yet this rapid pace is violating the public's trust #OurCourt #WeDissent @AAUW <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/just-and-fair-supreme-court/>

Fight for a Just & Fair Supreme Court: Fill Justice Ginsburg's Seat After Inauguration

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg directed each of us with her final charge: "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed."

These three quotes are from the latest AAUW California mailings and are reflections of AAUW policies.



L-P-D CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Nov. 2	7:00 PM	Virtual Bridge	Mondays
Nov. 3		Have You Voted?	
Nov. 3	5:30 PM	Cocktails & Conversation	1st Tuesday
Nov. 4	1:00 PM	Branch Board Meeting	1st Wednesdays
Nov. 5	10:00 AM	Coffee AND	1st & 3rd Thursdays
Nov. 9	7:00 PM	Virtual Bridge	
Nov. 11	7:30 PM	Evening Books	2nd Wednesdays
Nov. 12	10:00 AM	Mission Discussion Group	2nd Thursdays
Nov. 16	7:00 PM	Virtual Bridge	Mondays
Nov. 19	10:00 AM	Coffee AND	1st & 3rd Thursdays
Nov. 19	9:30 AM	Morning Books	Note: not the usual 4th Thursday
Nov. 23	7:00 PM	Virtual Bridge	Mondays
Nov. 30	7:00 PM	Virtual Bridge	Mondays
Dec. 2		No Board Meeting	
Dec. 16	4:00 PM	Annual LPD Holiday Party	Gift Certificates Tri-Valley Haven and/or Open Heart Kitchen
Jan. 14, Jan. 28 , Feb. 11		3 part series	Career Opportunities-STEM and More

Some of these are subject to change. All are Zoom meetings. You will be notified about the addresses and passcodes before each meeting. **Please use the up-to-date information you will be given before each meeting.** Dates, addresses and passcodes may change during the month.

2020-2021 AAUW-LPD BOARD

PRESIDENT—Devon Lahar—president@aauw-lpd.org

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS—Maria Kennedy & Gwen Locke

program@aauw-lpd.org

FINANCE OFFICER CO-CHAIRS—Chris Alesso & Pam Leong

finance@aauw-lpd.org

MEMBERSHIP—Tina Amber—membership@aauw-lpd.org

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

COMMUNICATIONS—Marilyn Duman—communications@aauw-lpd.org

SECRETARY—Charlene Grandfield—secretary@aauw-lpd.org

STEM DIRECTOR —Anita Massey—stem@aauw-lpd.org

PUBLICITY & PUBLIC POLICY - Roz Wright-

advocacy@aauw-lpd.org

AT LARGE .- P.J. Wells

Appointed Chairs

AAUW Fund : Sandy Hansen

Archivist : Sandy Hansen

Bylaws

Chris Alesso

Marilyn Duman

Sandy Hansen

Carolyn Kotch

College/Univ Relations: TBD

Directory : Marilyn Duman

Inter-branch Council : TBD

Newsletter: Carol Guarnaccia

Website Admin : Sheryl Morgan



Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch
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Address Service Requested

AAUW Mission:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW Values:

Nonpartisan. Fact-based.
Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

AAUW's Value

Promise:

Equity for All

AAUW EMPOWERS ALL
WOMEN AND GIRLS TO
REACH THEIR HIGHEST
POTENTIAL.

VISIT THE AAUW

WEBSITES

www.aauw.org

www.aauw-ca.org

www.aauw-lpd.org

[www.facebook.com/
aauwlpd](http://www.facebook.com/aauwlpd)

THE GRAPEVINE

A monthly newsletter of the AAUW

Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch

Ten issues are published yearly, September to June.

Newsletter Editor

Carol Guarnaccia

newsletter@aauw-lpd.org

December issue is deadline November 18.

Submit all articles (email or in writing & formatted) to Carol.