

The Grapevine

March 2022



President's Message March 2022

As we welcome spring, the program committee has planned several in person activities including outdoor events for the coming months. Details can be found later in this newsletter. Our calendar of coming events on the branch website and the Friday updates are other great resources. We would love to have your input for future activities. Please join us!

Congratulations are in order for branch member **Charlotte Severin**. Her *Hummingbird* painting was one of the winners of the national AAUW Art Contest. Look for it in the spring collection of AAUW notecards you will receive by mail.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

[Marilyn Duman](#)
AAUW LPD President

Upcoming Branch Programs

Our branch Program Committee has several upcoming, in-person events planned. Please **save these dates**, and stay tuned for more details and Evites.

March 22, 11-1: Author Talk at Towne Center Books in Livermore. Towne Center Books will host us at *The Last Word* patio. We will hear from two local, female authors - Ann Parker and Katharine Gregorio. Community members are invited to join as well.

April 9, 4-6: Wine Social - We have moved this annual event to April to allow us to gather in person, hosted by Tina Amber. Spouses/SO/guests are invited. Bring a drink and appetizer to share. See your emailed Evite for details.

April 23, 12-2: Annual Branch Meeting and Luncheon at Zephyr Restaurant in Livermore. Branch member Sarah Palmer, Vice President of the Zone 7 water board will be our guest speaker and we'll vote on Board members for 2022-23.

May 23, 2:30 - 4: Olivina Tasting, Livermore. Charles Crohare will host us for a tour of his family Olive Estate, followed by a tasting of select products. You will of course have the opportunity to purchase items for your home enjoyment. Attendance will be limited—sign up early when you receive the Evite for this event.

June 17, 4-6: Officer Installation. We will gather for wine and hors d'oeuvres at Marilyn Duman's home to install our branch Board for 2022-23.

As always, we ask that you be fully vaccinated when attending in person events. Send your questions to: aauwlpdprograms@gmail.com.

[Sheryl Morgan](#) and [Anita Massey](#), Branch Program Chairs

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AAUW LPD Board 2021-2022

Directors

<i>President</i>	Marilyn Duman
<i>Program</i>	Anita Massey
<i>Program</i>	Sheryl Morgan
<i>Finance</i>	Pam Leong
<i>Membership</i>	Tina Amber

Officers at Large

<i>Communications</i>	Marilyn Duman
<i>Secretary</i>	Charlene Grandfield
<i>IBC Liaison</i>	Charlene Grandfield
<i>STEM Director</i>	Anita Massey
<i>Publicity</i>	Roz Wright
<i>Public Policy</i>	Roz Wright
<i>AAUW Fund</i>	PJ Wells

Grapevine submissions welcome!

Information of any length by phone or email to Devon 925-548-4333.

Comments about a book you've read, female character or event that inspired you?

Branch member news or congratulations?

Questions, suggestions also welcome!



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES Speaker Series a Success!

Our branch program team just completed their second year showcasing a speaker series targeting young women in high school. Our guest speakers are dynamic, professional women at various stages in their careers who share not only their journey, but a genuine “day in the life” of their current role. The program features a 3-week series of 3 speakers per night — for a total of 9 professional women. The audience gets to hear first-hand what it is really like to be an immigration lawyer or a cardiology researcher or a cybersecurity expert.

Our survey results show that the sessions achieved a rating of 89% to 96% when questioned about content, engaging speakers and valuable information. Our sister chapter in Fremont provided feedback and requested access to the recorded sessions as not all their girls were able to attend the live sessions. So the word is getting around!

Links are now posted on our AAUW-LPD website, with easy access to all speakers. If you would like to replay or listen for the first time yourself - it's an hour well-spent!

<https://lpd-ca.aauw.net/stem/career-speaker-series/>

Feel free to forward the above link to a granddaughter, friend or relative who may benefit from virtually meeting these women with such unique stories. A short list of speaker candidates is already developing for next year's speaker series, as well as some recommendations on how to improve the program.

This speakers' program really took off with the referrals of our members: **Carol Kinnard, Tina Amber, Anita Massey, Sheryl Morgan** and **Dot Bishop** all made key introductions that moved us forward in a big way. Thanks to everyone on the program team who questioned, challenged and endorsed the program — you are instrumental to its success!

[PJ Wells](#)

Speaker Series Program Chair

Membership News

National Membership Dues Increase

National's membership dues will increase \$5 to \$67 for 2022-2023, out of which \$64 will be tax-deductible. California state dues will remain the same at \$20, and branch dues at \$16, neither which are tax deductible.

Membership Renewals

Membership Renewals will be sent from National via email in the coming months. I encourage you to take advantage of renewing via the *automated online system*. One, it is so easy! Two, there is no paperwork. Last year the majority of our branch members renewed online.

New Members

The Program Committee has planned a spring just full of in-person activities. We can't wait to see you again! If you know someone who might be interested in joining our active branch, please bring them to one of the upcoming activities.

[Tina Amber](#)

Branch Membership Chair



Annual Local Scholarship Fundraiser

The 2022 AAUW-LPD Scholarship Foundation fundraiser is off to a great start. Many of our members have already sent their checks. This is the easiest way to support our efforts to assist young women in their last two years of college—and it is *never* too late to make a donation that helps these students reach their educational goals!

Many donations have been made in memory of Robin Morgan, long-time member of the branch. We are so grateful! We also received a donation in memory of member Barbara Hempill. Thank you all for your donations.

We appreciate the donations of the following members: *Sandra Hansen, Carol Guarnaccia, Monica Potter, Karen Richardson, Carolyn Kotch, Mary Dietrich, Nurit Ambrose, Ginny Reineking, Nifty Nines Bridge Group, Vicki-Dawn Rader, Sharon Edwards, Sally Stock, Roz Wright, Joann Houk, Charlotte Severin, Pat Wilen, Joy Robinson, Karen Cowan, Marilyn Duman, Patty Rabada, Connie Squires, Bev Howell, Joan Leighty, Pam Copeland, Gwen Locke, and Roxann Spilman.*

Vicki-Dawn Rader and **Ginny Reineking**,
Local Scholarship Non-Event Co-Chairs

AAUW Local Foundation Scholarship News

Our very own AAUW Local Scholarship Foundation is up and running. You have all received a clever **Non-Event Fundraiser** letter in the mail. Please consider giving to this worthy cause! We also appreciate the generous donations we have received from your family members and friends.

The Foundation awards annual scholarships to female college sophomores or juniors who were raised in the Tri-Valley or now live in Pleasanton, Dublin, or Livermore.

Here is a update from two of last year's local scholarship winners:



Nilufar Kayhani: Nilufar has been busy conducting research at UC Berkeley and furthering the health education program of the Afghan Clinic that she and sister Nazineen (on Nilufar's left) founded. Nilufar was awarded a Center for Race and Gender grant from UC Berkeley, and Nazineen won a 2020-21 [SF Bay Area Schweitzer Fellowship](#) and a [Human Rights Center Fellowship](#) from the UC Berkeley School of Law—awards these young women used to support the clinic.



Marisol Franco: Marisol has been focusing on transitioning to UC Berkeley, and she just joined Berkeley's [CALPIRG](#). This student public interest activism group has focused on promoting a safe and clean environment since its 1972 creation. CALPIRG's current issue is to ban ALL plastic bags in Berkeley. Marisol also hopes to study abroad in the spring to focus on the field of law.

Very impressive, don't you think?!

[Susan Wacek](#)

Coordinator, Local Scholarship Foundation



March is Women's History Month

The 2022 national Women's History theme “**Providing Healing, Promoting Hope**” is both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic. The theme is also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history.

We Lobby for Public Policy Legislation! Making History in the 2000's....

Our AAUW branch has always worked toward hope and healing for women in need—both locally and beyond.

In the 2000's, our branch members spread the word: **Advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.** We urged our state representatives to support AAUW priority legislation: first by postcards, FAXes, and letters and now by text, email, and Zoom.



Branch Board member **Sandy Hansen** served as AAUW-CA Director of Public Policy from 1998-2000. This state committee determines which active legislature bills to advise branch members to support—bills that best align with AAUW's mission. Each of 10 AAUW-CA districts has a representative on the state committee.

As AAUW-CA Public Policy chair, Sandy and Arlene Black (AAUW-CA's first advocate, or lobbyist) reviewed bills introduced in the state legislature (“a mighty task!”) and selected 30+ bills for committee members across the state to research and evaluate prior to the annual state convention. Each committee member researched two or more bills for group discussion.

“Our committee met in person five times annually at different state locations—an exhausting yet rewarding experience! My car could almost have gone from Pleasanton to Sacramento on auto-pilot! Our branches covered travel expenses during this busy time.”

“This was in the era before virtual universal use of computers/laptops and no email or Zoom! I'd work on my computer and mail information out to each committee member for review, since we were scattered all over the state.”

During Sandy's tenure, she and the state public policy committee:

- revised the process by which the public policy committee evaluated legislative bills
- made major revisions to the AAUW California Public Policy Principles & Priorities (aligning them with AAUW National)
- promoted legislation to get anti-bullying policies and education implemented in California schools
- promoted legislation to get school-based health centers established in high schools
- co-ordinated a Women in Action Lobby Day with other women's advocacy groups (2 days of workshops and advocacy in Sacramento)



Branch Board member **Roz Wright** has actively educated fellow branch members when we vote on state initiatives.

“I served on the AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee after Sandy's tenure. I loved our process to research and summarize what we had learned about proposed bills! We knew that we were doing important work in advocating for bills that furthered AAUW goals. We trusted and respected each other's research, and we knew that there was common respect and understanding between the AAUW state public policy committee and representatives' offices. District legislators were familiar with and supportive of our AAUW goals.” *(continued next page)*

Roz notes that some issues of urgency today (abortion, connecting with female college students) were priority legislation for women a decade ago. She also remembers the branch group effort to influence legislators to support bills going through legislation or voters on election day.

“FAX messages and postcards were critical ways for us to influence our representatives about bills that supported women. We didn't have the ease or speed of email to spread the word about important legislation! We didn't have online directions about what steps to take (like today's [2-Minute Activist](#)). A phone call would prompt us to start FAX message or postcard “blizzards” at vital times to prompt our district legislators to move a bill forward.”

Roz remembers the fun of getting to know committee members from different parts of the state.

“We stayed overnight in Sacramento’s Julia Morgan house during one memorable policy committee session. It was great fun to cook together in the kitchen of this Mediterranean-style mansion and feel like we’d had a slumber party in a mini-museum!”

(Julia Morgan was the first woman licensed to practice architecture by the state of California. She is regarded as America’s greatest female architect.)



Our AAUW LPD branch members traveled to the state capitol in 2011 to celebrate the **100th anniversary of California women’s right to vote** (October 1911).

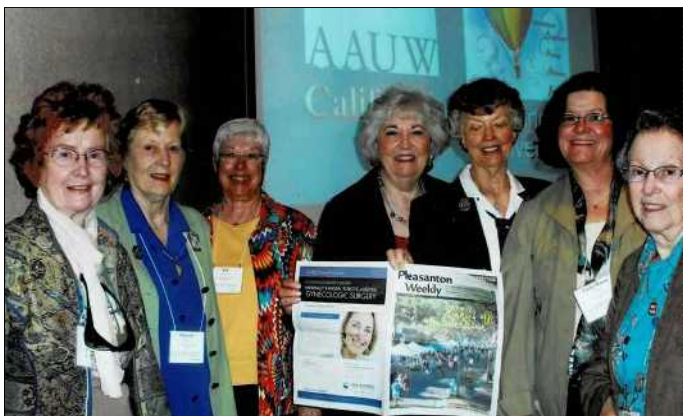
- California became the sixth state in our country where women could vote equally with men, *nine years before* the 19th Amendment enfranchised women nationally.
- The Equal Suffrage measure passed by only 3,587 votes in California—an average majority of *one vote in each precinct* in the state! The measure was soundly defeated in the San Francisco Bay Area and just barely passed in Los Angeles.



A rainy walk from Capitol Mall didn't dampen our enthusiasm!



AAUW-LPD members and Tri-Valley League of Women Voters wore suffrage colors of purple and yellow.



Attending the 2013 AAUW state conference....



Our members Build Young Women's Confidence! Making History in the 2000's....



Tina Amber
(Macy's 2020 Mother of the Year)
with her six daughters

"Building self-confidence in girls is key for me. My goal is for girls to be prepared for times when life gets tough, to be able to pivot to a Plan B when they face problems. Promoting girls' educational advancement and promoting health have been themes of my volunteer life." Branch Membership Chair **Tina Amber** followed a 25-year career as Macy's California Regional Operations Manager with consistent volunteerism—with Girl Scouts of Northern California, the American Red Cross, and organizations like AAUW that advance girls and women. Among Tina's volunteer activities:



Red Cross CPR/First Aid/AED instructor for 20 years. Tina has taught Wilderness First Aid for those taking extended trips into the wilderness.

"Most people don't know how to deal with health emergencies and injuries when they are in remote locations. How to survive, to get emergency help, to treat broken bones and other injuries when medical help isn't available."

- Board Member and Development Committee Chair, Girl Scouts of Northern California
- Leader of two Girl Scout troops, taking girls from middle school through high school
- Girl Scout Camp Two Sentinels volunteer, Unit Leader of Backpacking for 20 + summers

"When Lucy arrived at Camp Two Sentinels...a variety of sensory and social challenges prevented her from relating to and trusting others. The staff pulled together and on the trail, Lucy thrived. She began to trust the other girls in the group. It was incredible to watch her transition. I saw how important it was for her to be in a safe environment where she could slowly trust and grow."



- Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare Hospital volunteer
- House Corporation Board Member, Tri Delta Sorority, UC Berkeley
- annual local poll worker, precinct captain

Tina says that perhaps her greatest adult challenge has been raising six daughters with her husband while advancing in her professional career.

"I recognized that passing on offered transfer job promotions was right for my family—but I had difficulty at times accepting that loss of professional advancement for the sake of our family permanence in one community. I think we need to be more honest with young professional women about the trade-offs we make in balancing family and work life."



Congratulations to AAUW-LPD member Charlotte Severin!

Charlotte's painting *Hummingbird* was one of six **AAUW national Art Contest winning entries**. Look for these six paintings on the notecard collection you will receive this Spring.

Charlotte is grateful for your votes of support in this contest!

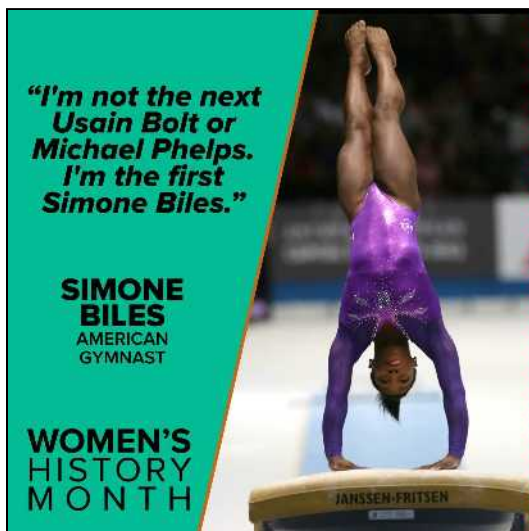
A Huge Step toward Gender Pay Equity! Making History Today...

AAUW has followed gender pay inequity in professional sports for years (example: the 6/2015 article [The Unequal Fortunes of Professional Women Soccer Players](#)).



The US Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) recently made history when they settled their gender-based pay discrimination lawsuit against the US Soccer Federation. This effort to create long-lasting gender equity has been perhaps the biggest fight for American female athletes' pay equity since Title IX.

- Twenty-eight players sued the US Soccer Federation in March 2019, alleging that professional female players were consistently paid less than male players, despite superior performance on the field.
- Most of the \$24 million lump-sum settlement will go toward back pay for USWNT female players.
- The Federation will put \$2 million into a fund for USWNT players' post-career goals and charitable efforts, with each player able to apply for up to \$50,000.
- The Federation has also promised to provide an equal rate of pay between the men's and women's national senior teams in all competitions, including the World Cup. This promise is contingent upon the teams' next collective bargaining agreements, however, which will resolve all remaining claims in the lawsuit when it is approved by a district court.
- The agreement falls short of the \$66 million+ that the players had sought in back pay, but still amounts to a significant victory for the team.







The Build Back Better Act

This year, AAUW prioritized women in crisis recovery. We advocated for the Build Back Better Act, which passed the House in November and awaits a vote in the Senate. The Build Back Better Act invests in:

- [Universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds](#)
- [Affordable high-quality childcare](#)
- Paid family and medical leave
- Home and community-based care
- Historic climate action
- Affordable housing
- Health care, Medicare expansion, and lowering the cost of prescription drugs
- Higher education and workforce development
- An extension of the monthly Child Tax Credit
- Humane immigration reform

Click on [AAUW LPD calendar](#) for branch activities. Check your emails for **AAUW Friday updates**. Email links are in **purple**; Website links are in **blue**. All have been tested and are safe.

Mah Jongg Fun	(first and third Tuesdays/month)	Contact JoAnn for more information.
Cocktails and Conversation 	Tues March 1, 5:50 PM We will meet at the Cellar Door 4469 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton (Across the street from the Firehouse Theater, next to the Meadowlark Dairy.)	Contact Marilyn for more information..
Branch Board Meeting	Wed March 2, 1:00pm – 3:00pm (first Wednesday each month) by Zoom. Contact Marilyn for details. All members are welcome to attend!	We will meet by Zoom. To join by Zoom, CLICK HERE . If you are unable to click on the link, the meeting ID is 847 6261 1370 and the passcode is eq8ty2020.
Monday Night Bridge 	Mon March 7 and 21, 7:00pm (second and fourth Mondays monthly) Contact group chair Marti for location (which varies) for information.	Bridge meets via Zoom . If you are unable to click on the link: recurring meeting ID 871 0728 2781 passcode 104382
Afternoon Book Group 	Wed March 9, 1:30pm–3:00pm (second Wednesday each month) Contact Devon for information. Check Friday update emails for information and meeting location or Zoom link..	Discuss <i>Home is a Roof Over a Pig: An American Family's Journey in China</i> (by Aminta Arrington) reviewed by Patty Rabada. See upcoming titles
Mission Discussion Group	Thu March 10, 10:00am–11:00am Join us for a friendly discussion of current events and how they generally relate to AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls.	This month we continue our discussion about child care. Contact Chris for information. Check Friday updates for meeting location or Zoom link.
International Lunch Group	Fri March 31, 11:45 AM Oyo Caribbean restaurant, 680 Main St, Pleasanton, CA 94566	We're back! RSVP by Evite (watch your mail). Make sure that you respond–maximum of 12 guests!
Coffee And... 	Thu March 17, 10:00am–11:00am (second Thursday each month) Join us for coffee or tea, snacks, and conversation!	We will meet at Paris Baguette 6700 Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 or by Zoom. Check your Friday update emails for location or Zoom link.
Solo Dining 	Fri March 18, 1:00pm lunch Contact Sandie 925-999-8400 for information.	Enjoy eating out with friends! Check your Friday update emails for location or changes.
Author Talk!	March 22, 11:00am-1:00pm Towne Center Books (host) 2375 Railroad Ave #100, Livermore 94550 Talk will be held at <i>The Last Word</i> patio (short walk, same block as bookstore)	We will hear from two local female authors - Ann Parker and Katharine Gregorio. Community members are invited to join us!
Morning Book Group	Thu March 24, 9:30am – 11:00am (fourth Thursday each month) Contact Bev for location or Zoom link.	Discuss <i>The Diary of a Bookseller</i> (Shaun Bythell) See upcoming titles