



The Grapevine

April 2023



President's Message

I would like to thank the program committee chaired by **Anita Massey** and **Sheryl Morgan** for the wonderful activities planned for this spring. I look forward to seeing you in person at the annual meeting at Zephyr Restaurant on April 22. This is a great opportunity to celebrate spring, reconnect, and of course attend a fun function with a great speaker. This year **Dr. Kelly Bowers**, CEO of the Three Valley's Community Foundation, will speak to us. Please join us so that we have a great showing.

We are actively soliciting committee members for the upcoming year and would love to have your participation. As always, we would love to have your input for future activities so let us know what interests you.

[Marilyn Duman](#)
AAUW LPD President



You're invited to our AAUW-LPD Annual Meeting and Lunch

**Saturday, April 22
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

Zephyr Restaurant

1736 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550

- 11:30-12:00 No-host beverages and socializing
- 12:00 Lunch is served (including choice of entrees)
- 12:45 Short Business Meeting
- 1:15 Guest Speaker Dr. Kelly Bowers

Please **RSVP via Evite** (March 6 email).

Luncheon checks **must be received by April 14.**

Please mail your \$39 luncheon check (made out to AAUW-LPD) to:
Anita Massey, 588 Rhea Way, Livermore, CA 94550.



This year we are fortunate to have [Dr. Kelly Bowers](#), CEO of the [Three Valleys Community Foundation](#), speaking to us. Community foundations are grantmaking public charities dedicated to improving the lives of people in a local geographic area. We will also be recognizing the Honorary Lifetime members from our branch.

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<i>Program</i>	Anita Massey
<i>Program</i>	Sheryl Morgan
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<i>Membership</i>	Tina Amber

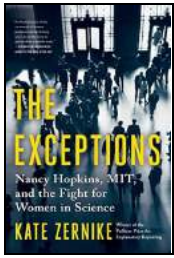
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<i>AAUW Fund</i>	PJ Wells

AAUW Website

AAUW has made major changes to the membership section of the website. Several short video tutorials are now available to help you make the transition. Check them out at: <https://www.aauw.org/new-systems-update/>

Luncheon Questions – contact Anita Massey at akm1@comcast.net.



Branch Programs

Thanks to all of you who attended our March 16 author event co-sponsored with Town Center Books. In support of Women's History month, we heard from Kate Zernike, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author of The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and the Fight for Women in Science. Kate broke the story of the sixteen female scientists who forced MIT to publicly admit it had discriminated against its female faculty for years. This action sparked a nationwide reckoning with the pervasive sexism in science.



The Program Committee will publicize upcoming planned events in several ways. Look for AAUW-LPD Friday update emails, Evite emails, future *Grapevine issues*, and our branch calendar link.

Sheryl Morgan and Anita Massey Branch Program Chairs



Membership Update

At our April branch luncheon/business meeting, we will vote on raising branch dues from \$16 to \$25 (effective 2024-2025 membership year). Branch dues have not been raised for at least 18 years and, most likely, even longer than that. Our branch dues are currently one of the lowest in the state. National dues are planned to increase for the 2023-2024 year.

In April, you should expect to receive membership renewal notices from AAUW.org for national, state and branch renewals. **This is the year to convert to online membership renewal!!** Per our AAUW state president, our goal is to have 90% of our members renew online. Detailed instructions will be included, and, as always, I am available to help you if needed. The issues we dealt with last year have been corrected, and you should find it easy to set up an account online and renew your membership.

We are recruiting new branch members and are holding a monthly "Get to Know Us" hour. If you know someone who shares AAUW's goals and mission and/or who would enjoy some of our many branch interest groups, please send their names to my attention.

National membership dues will increase \$5 to \$67 for 2022-2023, 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 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.

Tina Amber Branch Membership Chair



[Maria Sarasua \(20-year Pleasanton PD veteran\) becomes Pacifica's first female top cop](#)

Then and Now...

[Livermore Bids Goodbye to First Female Mayor Helen Tirsell](#)



International Lunch Group

The Bay Area is home to a large population from Afghanistan. This month we will visit a small family-owned Afghan restaurant, [Khyber Pass Restaurant](#) (7479 Village Pkwy, Dublin 94568). Their food looks inviting and tasty.



"At Khyber Pass Kabob, you will get a taste of Afghan culture. From the generous hospitality served by all staff members to the tasty food – you feel like Afghan Royalty".

The restaurant owners are two sisters, Monica and Mariam Nasiri. Their parents came to America from Afghanistan in the 1970's.

Join us for lunch at [Khyber Pass Restaurant](#) (7479 Village Pkwy, Dublin 94568) on **Thursday March 30 at 12:00 PM! Please RSVP** to Evite (March 8 email). Limit 12 guests. Please bring cash. Questions? **Call Tina** at 925-640-8694.



Annual Local Scholarship Update

Thanks to many of our members, we will be able to give several valuable scholarships this spring. However, with the costs of education rising each year, we would like to be helping our winners as much as possible.

It is never too late to give to support our branch local scholarships! Please share information about our scholarship program with any young woman you know who will be a junior or senior in college next year and is currently a resident of our area.

The following members and friends have already generously donated to our scholarship fund:

Chris Alesso, Tina Amber, Mary Jane Casper, Pam Copeland, Fern Corley, Karen Cowan, Pushpa Dalal, Mary Dietrich, Anne Dini, Marilyn Duman, Norma Foss, Charlene Granfield, Carol Guarnarccia, Myla Grasso, Laurene Green-Horner, Sandy Hansen, Bev Howell, Patricia Howell (mother of Susan Wacek), Joann Houck, Mary Ann and Corrie Karlsen, Carol Kinnard, Carolyn Kotch, Devon LaHar, Harriet Lawrie, Gwen Locke, Anita Massey, Walt Morgan, Monica Potter, Patty Rabada, VickiDawn Rader, Ginny Reineking, Karen Richardson, Joy Robinson, Julie and Doug Rusch (daughter of Walt Morgan), Marti Silva, Connie Squires, Sally Stock (former member), Karen Sweet, Susan Wacek, Ron Wacek (husband of Susan Wacek), PJ Wells, Patricia Wilen, Roz Wright.

Thanks to all for your generosity. You can still send your donation check (made out to [AAUW-LPD Local Scholarship Foundation](#)) to: **Ginny Reiniking, 4123 Silver Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566.** Please email scholarships@aauw-lpd.org for more information.

Vicki-Dawn Rader and Ginny Reineking

Local Scholarship Non-Event Co-Chairs

Making space for women of color in architecture

Less than ½ of 1 percent of licensed architects in the U.S. are Black women. Pascale Sablan overcame the structural and interpersonal biases latent in architectural school to be among this group. She is working to expand the Great Diverse Designers Library, among other steps, to ensure a more diverse generation of architects that shape the building environment of the future. [Here's her story.](#)





[AAUW Money Smart](#) is a new program aimed at providing all women with the personal finance information we need to ensure our own financial security.

The Money Smart series includes three one-hour facilitator-led virtual training sessions. Each free workshop is stand-alone. Attending all three sessions can provide a comprehensive guide to personal money management.

Upcoming Free Workshops

[Workshop 1: Smart Foundation – Tuesday, March 28, from 12-1pm](#) (Eastern Time)

Learn the ins and outs of budgeting and ways to create a money plan that aligns with your personal values

[Workshop 2: Smart Finances – Tuesday, April 11, from 12-1pm](#) (Eastern Time)

Understand how to manage your existing credit and debt, including student loans.

[Workshop 3: Smart Future – Tuesday, April 25, from 12-1pm](#) (Eastern Time)

Learn how to approach investments and retirement planning. When it comes to money, the time to start thinking about the future is now!

[AAUW California State Public Policy Committee Sets 2023-24 Legislative Agenda](#)

(information from Kathi Carpenter, State Public Policy Chair)

AAUW California Public Policy Committee sets policy directives that serve our mission and inform our state legislative priorities. Every two years this committee gets feedback from AAUW members across our state when choosing legislative bills that align with our mission: to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Our public policy advocate Kathi Von Osten will spend most of her time working on three legislative bills that align with our mission. Our advocate will work with the bill authors' offices, attend committing hearings, and write letters of support for these priority bills.

Here are AAUW California's top three state legislative bills to support:

AB1394 – This is our co-sponsored bill. It would allow victims of child sexual exploitation and trafficking to sue a social media platform for between \$1 million and \$5 million if the victim can prove the platform design knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitated the use of code words for sexual predators to describe the type of child and the type of sexual activity that resulted in the act of exploitation.

SB287 - This bill would prohibit a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or should know, causes child users to: purchase fentanyl; inflict harm on themselves or others; develop an eating disorder or engage in dangerous dieting; purposely take their own lives; and/or experience addiction to the social media platform. A victim of any of these consequences can sue the platform for up to \$250,000 for each violation.

AB549 - This bill requires all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all of their departments to ensure the state does not discriminate against women, and report their findings every two years.



Female Authors to check out....

[Rachel Carson](#) was an American marine biologist, writer, and conservationist whose influential book *[Silent Spring](#)* (1962) and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement and the creation of annual Earth Day (April 22). [Click here](#) for a 9-minute introduction to the PBS American Experience documentary about Rachel Carson.

[Women Writers on the Environment, Nature, Exploration, and Nature Travel](#) (from [Goodreads](#))

Book recommendations compiled from suggested titles and titles associated with [@womenwritersnet](#).



Click on our [branch calendar](#) link to see month-by-month activities.
 Click on any calendar entry link for more information.
 Watch also for our AAUW-LPD Friday update emails.

Branch Activities & Interest Groups

International Lunch Group	Meets on various days and times. Watch for an Evite.
Monday Night Bridge	Meets the 2 nd and 4 th Mondays of the month at 7 pm
Morning Book Group	Meets the 4 th Thursday of the month at 9:30 am
Afternoon Book Group	Meets the 2 nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm
Mission Discussion Group	Meets the 2 nd Thursday of the month at 10 am
Solo Dining Group	Meets the 2 nd Friday of the month for lunch or dinner
Coffee and...	Meets the 3 rd Thursday of the month at 10 am at Paris Baguette (6700, Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton)
Cocktails & Conversation	Meets the 1 st Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm at 828 Bites & Brews (828 Main St., Pleasanton)



Peggy Schimmelman
Livermore's 5th Poet laureate

[Livermore's 'Poetry in a Test Tube' contest underway](#)

April 7 poem submission deadline: Local residents are invited to submit a poem of any style or length related to a science theme.

Four age divisions: kindergarten to grade five, middle school, high school, and adult. In each division, a first, second, and third place poem will be selected and awarded \$75, \$50, and \$25, respectively.



Bright Futures for Women Career Series Videos available

You can access videos of our branch-sponsored series from our website [HERE](#) .

Please share with young women you know!



Invest in our Future (4/22/23 Earth Day theme)

[East Bay Regional Parks Earth Day Activities](#)

Saturday April 22, 2023: You *won't* miss the **AAUW CA Annual Event** while you attend our AAUW-LPD Annual Luncheon! Look for a link to the AAUW CA event online after our branch get-together, including:

- Equity Champion award winner
- State Named Gift Honoree and Branch Activity of the Year awards
- Speech Trek and Gov Trek competition finalists
- trailers for the Tech Trek program