



# The Grapevine

June 2023



## President's Message

I want to take this opportunity to thank the current branch board members **Chris Alesso, Tina Amber, Charlene Grandfield, Sandy Hansen, Pam Leong, Anita Massey, Sheryl Morgan, PJ Wells** and **Roz Wright**. It has been a pleasure to work with them. I look forward to continuing my board service as Communications Chair under the able leadership of incoming President Anita Massey. I hope you will join us on **Friday, June 9** for a casual "happy hour" social and installation of the new board. You will find details in this newsletter as well as in the recent Evite.

I hope you have a wonderful summer! Interest groups will continue to meet, so look for information in the Friday Updates. I look forward to seeing you at our fall kick-off event in September.

### [Marilyn Duman](#)

AAUW LPD President

## Meet and Greet our New Branch Board!

**Friday June 9**  
**4:00-6:00 PM**

This is our final event of the year! Drop by and visit with fellow branch members in **Marilyn Duman's** backyard:

[7567 Olive Drive, Pleasanton, 94588](#)

Please bring a beverage and an appetizer to share. There will be a brief board installation at 5:00 PM.

**Please reply to the Evite emailed to you on May 2.**

Questions? Call 925 784-4418



"...it's surprising to learn that even though data shows that female-led businesses often outperform, they still only receive a disproportionately small amount of venture capital funding— the highest being just 3%!"

**Inspirational Women in STEM and Tech: Brooke Waupsh of Swoovy On The 5 Leadership Lessons She Learned From Her Experience**

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### ***Thank you AAUW LPD Board!***

#### **2022-23 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

"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong, it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."

**G.D. Anderson**



Our **2023 Tribute to Excellence** award recipient **Brooke Bistline** is an accomplished woman with a unique profile for anyone of her age! Come to our AAUW-LPD branch **Meet and Greet** on **Friday June 9th** from 4:00-6:00 pm. Meet Brooke and you'll understand why.

To quote Brooke: "It was 2011, just a year after the devastating earthquake that tore apart the country (Haiti), crumbling homes and killing hundreds of thousands..... I stood with my shovel, looking over the newly planted orchard and vegetable garden in the center of the orphanage courtyard .....I saw the children being treated for cuts, old wounds, and skin conditions that could have so easily been prevented with basic first-aid knowledge and sanitation instruction. I saw a need, and in that moment, I saw my future."

Brooke returned home to learn the emergency response skills she now uses as a 911 Alameda County Paramedic. She continued to feel a further call to serve, however. Brooke discovered [Samaritan's Purse](#), a non-profit humanitarian organization that helps victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine. Last year, Brooke applied for a position on a Samaritan's Purse disaster response team. Brooke trained for deployment to Ukraine, where she helped build and run a field hospital approximately 10 miles from the active fighting. Brooke worked 14 hours daily for 6 weeks (close to 600 hours of service!) as a Paramedic. Her team treated civilian patients injured or ill due to direct effects of the war, as well as military personnel.

Inspired by the doctors and nurses she worked alongside in Ukraine, Brooke has returned to the East Bay to continue her job as a Paramedic while she works toward education completion of her Biology degree and subsequent medical school. During summers between her school courses, Brooke plans to continue learning while on future medical team service deployments.

Congratulations Brooke on your continued education and service!



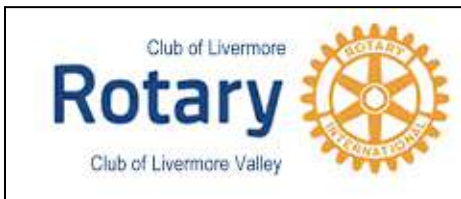
Thank you to new branch member [Heema Sinibaldi](#) for participating in this Spring's **AAUW California Lobby Days!** Heema's 26-year profile as a Professional World Language Educator includes: Graduate Student Instructor (University of Michigan), Visiting Lecturer (Eastern Michigan University), French instructor (Cabrillo Community, Monterey Peninsula high schools), Department Chair of World Languages (Livermore High School), affiliate liaison to the California Language Teachers Association, and Professional Development Workshops completed (Stanford University, UC Berkeley).

From Heema: "I met virtually with fellow AAUW members from the Napa Chapter. We presented three bills via Zoom to Senator Bill Dodd's office. I also participated in the much larger virtual training on the weekend prior. It was an excellent experience! I definitely plan on being a repeat participant."

The reception of AAUW California's Public Policy Committee's [top three bills advocated this year](#) (AB 1394, SB 287, and AB 549) was generally favorable, especially the two social media bills. Legislators and their staff alike were concerned with the pervasive problem of children being targeted by social media. AB 549 was more difficult to explain, including CEDAW ([Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)).

Per Ginny Hatfield, Amy Hom, and Kathi Harper (AAUW California Public Policy Committee): *A sterling endorsement came from none other than Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant for Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, whose mother was an AAUW member in the 1940's in Orange County. He credits her involvement in AAUW "making me the man I am today."*

Read about the status of top [California legislative bills](#) that AAUW supports: **AB 549** (gender discrimination), **AB 1394** (commercial sexual exploitation), **SB 287** (social media features that hurt child users)



## Rotarian Foundation Of Livermore Awards Almost \$200K In Grants

The Rotarians have generously funded non-profit causes in Livermore with a healthy dose of money (nearly \$200,000!), including **AAUW-LPD and our Tech Trek efforts**. Thanks to the grant that our branch member **Karen Cowan** submitted, we received \$3,000 towards summer camp.

Successful grant-writing is a skill that requires focus, organization, and persuasion: we are lucky to have members like Karen who are willing to apply their talents to benefit our mission. There are many ways to give back, and we cannot thank Karen enough for her efforts. Together with **Nitu Shinde**, she has made Tech Trek shine in 2023 — what a dynamic duo. With a partner like the Rotarian Foundation — it's a triple win!



Photo from *The Patch* 05/18/2023 . Karen Cowan is center front, red floral jacket.

(Information from branch board member **PJ Wells**)



**Gov Trek Finale & Competition** is a virtual statewide program that engages female high school juniors and seniors across California. Gov Trek's goal is to elevate a new generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office.

**Hear winning speeches in 5 categories:**

Best Candidate Speech, Best Campaign Management,  
Best Voter Outreach Plan, Best Campaign & Flyer, Grand Prize Team

## AAUW's 2023 National Election

Voter turnout was nearly double that of last year. Results of the 2023 election:

- Kimberly S. Adams, Edwina Frances Martin, Jenna Kirkpatrick Howard and Mary Zupanc were elected to serve on the AAUW National Board of Directors.
- [Our Leadership](#)
- The bylaws revision was approved by 95.1% of voters.
- The Public Policy Priority revision was approved by 96.3% of voters.



Since 1998, AAUW has helped change girls' lives through **Tech Trek**, a experiential summer camp designed to raise the interest of 8th grade girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Our LPD AAUW Branch supports this program. Seventh grade Math/Science teachers from each local middle school can nominate 2-3 girls for the annual program. Nominated girls fill out a questionnaire, write an essay and then interview with our Tech Trek committee. Through your

continued financial support, we are able to send 9 girls to camp this summer. UC Davis and Sonoma State are the on-site camps this summer.

The Tech Trek committee hopes you will enjoy hearing from these girls at the September Tea.



Watch this 5-minute [Celebrating Tech Trek](#) video for a look at the joyful photos of so many California girls whose lives change during their 5-day camp experience at a local college!

**Karen Cowan & Nitu Shinde**  
Co-Chairs, Tech Trek Committee

## Local Scholarship Foundation News

Our foundation is very happy to report that we have some spectacular applicants this year. The selection committee will be choosing our scholarship winners very soon. It is going to be a difficult decision. We want to welcome **Heema Sinibaldi** as one of our selection committee members!



Thank you, as branch members, for supporting our Local Scholarship! Thank you also to the following members of our Foundation: **Ginny Reineking, Joy Robinson, Roz Wright, Laurene Green-Horner, Vicki -Dawn Rader, and Heema Sinibaldi.**

[Susan Wacek](#)

Coordinator of the Scholarship Foundation

**You provide the voice. We'll provide the megaphone.**

[It Only Takes Two Minutes!](#)

Urge Congress to improve and expand legislation protecting our civil rights, economic security, and access to education. AAUW provides the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress or your state legislators about pressing issues, and more.



## It's May, and that means... AAUW Membership renewal time! The new membership year begins on July 1.



This is the year to set up your online account and renew with a few clicks on your computer. It's straightforward and quick.

**Renewal emails were sent to all members from Katrina Breese, memberinfo@AAUW.org. on April 24th.** Click the blue **RENEW** button in your email. Instructions included are easy to follow.

**To pay online:** Click on [AAUW's Community Hub](#), read and follow the directions.

- If you haven't already set up an account, scroll down the page (below the [blue login button](#)) and click [Forgot your password?](#) at the bottom of the page.
- Enter your email address, then click "Reset Your Password" to receive your login email. If you don't receive an email within 20 minutes, please contact [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).
- After you receive the email, enter your email address and then "Create and Confirm your Password" to access your Personal Snapshot.
- **Most important:** [Join our branch](#), Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin (CA0048). Scroll down to find our branch name.
- Continue to scroll down to the payment screen.
- You will receive a receipt when finished.

Board members have renewed online. If you need assistance, you can also ask one of them for help.

For those who cannot renew online, we will accept checks. They should be made out to *AAUW-LPD* and mailed to *AAUW-LPD, P.O. Box 661, Livermore, CA 94551*. If there have been any changes to your contact information, please include those changes.

Honorary Lifetime members (those who have been members for 50+ years) do not pay dues. Lifetime members pay a total of \$36.

As always, we gladly accept donations. They can be designated for general branch programs or for Tech Trek. We appreciate your continued support of our branch and our programs.

Questions? Contact Tina Amber at [tmamber6@gmail.com](mailto:tmamber6@gmail.com), or 925 640-8694 (I'm home from travels by the end of May). Remember - **renew today and renew online!**

### [Tina Amber](#)

Branch Membership Chair

Questions about membership? Click on [Community Hub FAQ](#)

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Las Positas College hosted its 11th annual [Honoring Women Veterans program](#) this Spring. The *Her Story* theme brought stories of three female veterans to the public. The panelists were asked, "**What should be mandatory for veterans transitioning to college?**" Their answers? Free daycare, a mentor to be assigned to each veteran, and access to a good veterans' center like the one at Las Positas College.

Quilts of Honor were awarded to: Tracy Walker (Navy veteran/LPC alumnus), Tina Knutson (Army veteran), Julia Coty (Air Force veteran/ LPC Alumnus), and Dr Jannett Jackson (Army veteran/past Chancellor of Chabot-Las Positas College District).



(From Gloria L. Blackwood, AAUW CEO) “**Building power for women is key.** On April 27, the [Equal Rights Amendment](#) fell short in the Senate vote—but we are not defeated—and we applaud the Senate's decision to recommit the resolution and revisit it in the future.”

“On the impact of the [motherhood penalty](#) and childcare on women’s economic security: AAUW is asking legislators, policymakers, and corporations: If you love moms so much, why do your policies and old workplace paradigms create an environment that negatively impacts women’s earnings and jeopardizes their family’s economic security?”

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## In the News

AAUW research has long shown that [women bear the brunt of the student debt crisis](#): Women hold about two-thirds of the country's nearly \$1.7 trillion student debt. This debt follows a woman through her life: from graduation to starting a career to greater difficulty paying for loans or a family or mortgage, and less money saved for retirement.

[Women account for two-thirds of the country’s student loan debt. Here’s how it affects them.](#) USATODAY. Alia Wong. April 3

[Support Economic Security for Student Loan Borrowers](#) (Read, then act....action only takes 2 minutes)

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### [Most airline pilots are men. Why aren’t there more women in the industry?](#)

According to a 2021 workforce report (based primarily on 2020 Federal Aviation Administration data): Women comprise [under 20%](#) in any given aviation career (aside from flight attendants).

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### [Why Your Company Has a Gender Pay Gap, Even if it Claims Otherwise.](#) Medium. Kerala Taylor. May 2

As the [American Association of University Women \(AAUW\)](#) points out, “For women who took just one year off from work, their annual earnings were 39% lower than women who worked all 15 years between 2001 and 2015.”

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### [AAUW Survey: NYC Women and the Pandemic](#)

#### **Women Were Already Feeling Economically Pinched. Then the Pandemic Hit.**

In August 2021, AAUW contracted with the public opinion research firm [Ipsos](#) to poll women in New York City about how they fared economically during the pandemic. Women—including many women earning middle-class incomes—report that they were in a financially precarious position well before the pandemic pushed them over the edge.

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### [Reasons why black women are set to become major wealth creators in 2023](#)

*Black Enterprise.* Atiya Jordan. May 3

[New research from the Pew Research Center](#) (a nationally representative survey of 5,152 U.S. adults): 1 in 4 Black wives out-earn their husbands. This study, which sparks a drastic change in gender norms, comes 50 years after men were considered the sole breadwinners in 85% of opposite-sex marriages.

(*Newsletter editor note:* It’s worth taking a close look at both the title article and the Pew Center link. Some data will surprise you and be new or different information from what we’ve previously read.)



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

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

Our **updated branch roster** is online! [Click here](#), then enter the password **LPD1952**. This list of branch members is available in a members-only protected area.

The member-only area can also be accessed from the right side of the top bar on the home page: [www.aauw-lpd.org](http://www.aauw-lpd.org)

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### Support AAUW...and Get Discounts and Services

As an AAUW member, click [here](#) for information on great discounts and special services on insurance, hotels and travel, office supplies, email services and more.

Most important: You support AAUW's vital work every time you use one of your benefits...which is what makes AAUW one of the nation's most powerful voices on women's issues. With each purchase, AAUW receives a royalty that supports equal-pay advocacy, community programs, leadership development tools, the student leadership conference, and so much more!