



What you can do this month:
**Attend the "Let's Bloom Together" kickoff on September 23
**Renew your membership if needed
**Sign up for the Zoom seminar about book banning (see page 5)

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SEPTEMBER PROGRAM #1

Let's Bloom Together Annual Kick-Off
Saturday, September 23
12 to 2 PM
Robert Livermore Community Center
4444 East Avenue, Livermore



Let's get together for our first event of the 2023-2024 year! Enjoy the opportunity to hear from the 2023 Tech Trek attendees and Local Scholarship winners - always an amazing group. This is also a great opportunity to sign up to participate in our wide variety of interest groups - various book, discussion, bridge and eating out groups.

A light lunch will be served. The event will be held in the Palo Verde room on the left side of the Community Center with easy access and parking.

Please RSVP to Evite you received by September 19.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM #2

Save the date—September 29!

LPD-AAUW will be co-sponsoring an author talk with Towne Books on Friday, September 29, about the 1970s struggle for women's right to choose. Watch for details in the Friday Updates (email).

Gwen Locke and the Program Committee
gwenlocke41@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Renewals

A big shout out to the members who have completed their membership renewal for 2023-2024. You make my job easier! 21 of our members even renewed online. During the coming year we will be working towards moving more of you towards an online account. It's as easy as any online shopping!

We are always looking for dedicated women to join our amazing LPD chapter. Please contact Tina with any member referrals. During October we will schedule informational meetings for potential members.

Please be aware that AAUW national will delete members whose dues are in arrears at some point in the near future.

Contact Tina via email for any assistance you need for membership renewal.

Tina Amber
Membership Chair
tmamber6@gmail.com

Branch Dues Change for the 2024-25 Membership year.

Last year we shared that the AAUW-LPD Board, recommended increasing branch dues from \$16 to \$25 for the 2024-2025 membership year. Branch dues have not been increased for at least 18 years. During this time costs have risen tremendously. AAUW LPD has one of the lowest branch dues in California. Unlike many other branches the LPD branch will continue to not charge dues to all 50+ year members.

In May we asked you, our members, to support this in a branch wide vote. We are pleased to share that this resolution passed and will take effect for the 2024-25 membership year.

Thank you for continuing to support AAUW-LPD.

IMPORTANT LINKS

As an AAUW member, you have access to a wide array of online resources, including:

AAUW-LPD [website](#) and [calendar](#)

[AAUW California website](#)

[AAUW national website](#)

You also should be receiving our local Friday Update via email, along with messages from AAUW California and National. If you are not receiving these, please be sure your membership is current, then contact Tina Amber for membership assistance.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Local Scholarship Foundation is proud to announce this year's Local Scholarship Foundation winners:

[Sangavi Suresh Kumar](#) is from Dublin and will be attending UCLA, majoring in Psychology. She retains a high GPA while giving back giving back to the students at Las Positas by tutoring and helping with a Free Food Program.



[Juliana Santiago](#) is from Livermore and will attend UC Berkeley, majoring in Media Studies. Juliana eventually wants to attend Law School. In addition to maintaining an excellent academic record, she also tutors and posts events for the City of Livermore. [Get to hear from Juliana here.](#)

[Alejandra V. Quezada Sermeno](#) is from Livermore and is attending the University of San Francisco in Sacramento, majoring in Nursing. She keeps her grades up while participating in a variety of volunteering activities, including tutoring students in English and supporting veterans. See a [thank you message from Alejandra here.](#)



You will be able to hear these young women at our Fall Luncheon on Saturday September, 23. See you there!

Susan Wacek
Coordinator, LPD Local Scholarship Foundation
rwacek@comcast.net

GIRLS' PROGRAMS

Tech Trek

An adventure story from PJ Wells . . .

This July, Sonoma State University hosted three of our Tech Trek students. There was also a last-minute call for volunteer room monitors. Despite the fact that the drive was long, our branch quickly rallied and found three volunteers to carpool to Rohnert Park from Livermore.

Anita Massey, Pam Leong and I met before dawn and eased out of my driveway to ensure our 8:00 AM arrival time on July 24. Despite worries about traffic, Monday accidents, car pool crazies and the “great unexpected,” our main concern soon became how many crumbs would scones generate in my car. Well, when you are blessed with homemade baked goods, it is best to err on the side of generosity: crumbs are not a problem.

Upon arrival we quickly found our meeting area and were sent to one of the girl groups--Robotics, Botany, Engineering, Forensics, and Chemistry. This camp was segmented into interesting fields of study! We all went our separate ways and headed with our pack to their respective “home room.” We spent the morning running simple tests or experiments and discussing the results of same. At lunchtime, we all reunited to walk back to the cafeteria and ate our lunch outside--perfect weather for a summer camp.

After lunch we followed our same group to 3 separate classrooms. electronics, then coding, and origami capped off my day. What a perfect gateway to geometry! The girls had fun and slowly shed their 8th grade shyness as they teamed up with classroom partners. What a terrific day we monitors had--arriving home at sunset after a quick supper along the way. We fulfilled the call of duty as room monitors for Tech Trek.



And that is how I spent my summer vacation!

ADVOCACY

From AAUW-LPD President Anita Massey:

We're puttin' on our gloves. Not the ones Holly Golightly wore. No, our boxing gloves. AAUW is not going lightly into the fights against the book banning and censorship that are creeping into California's schools. Join us for the webinar *Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!* on Thursday, September 21, at 7 PM. Hear from AAUW California's School Board Project Committee and other heavyweight organizations about the scope of the problem and how you can help resist its appearance in your own school district. [Register](#) here, then put up your dukes!

AAUW FUND

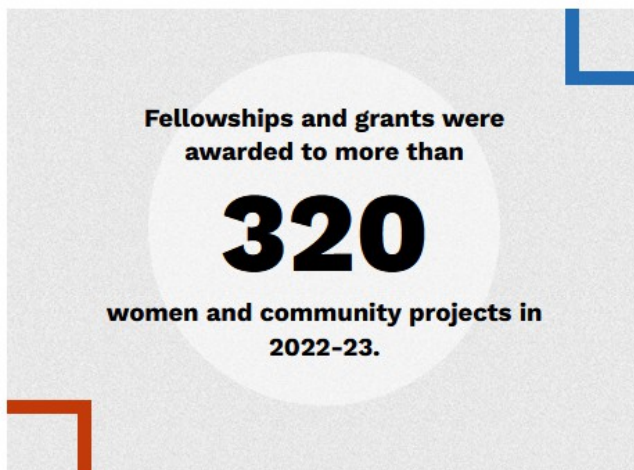
The AAUW Fund allows women to pursue advanced research and degrees in a variety of areas. Our branch donations (your generous gifts) are blended with the donations from other branches to multiple our gifts. This month we highlight a **Career Development Grant** through the Dawn Gordner Fund #1244. Please meet Shirley Ruiz!

For 15 years, Shirley Ruiz has supported students with disabilities in several capacities in higher education. Most recently, she was the alternate media specialist, supporting students with disabilities in gaining access to textbooks and other course content in a format that is accessible to their assistive technology. She is dedicated to ensuring meaningful access for students with disabilities and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Organizational leadership & learning at Pepperdine University. Shirley received a 2022-23 Career Development Grant from AAUW.



More about Fellowships and Grants

AAUW (National) has a long history of supporting higher education opportunities for women. Going back for 135 years, AAUW members have funded fellowships and grants for women in a variety of fields. Please take a minute to [read more](#) about this effort.



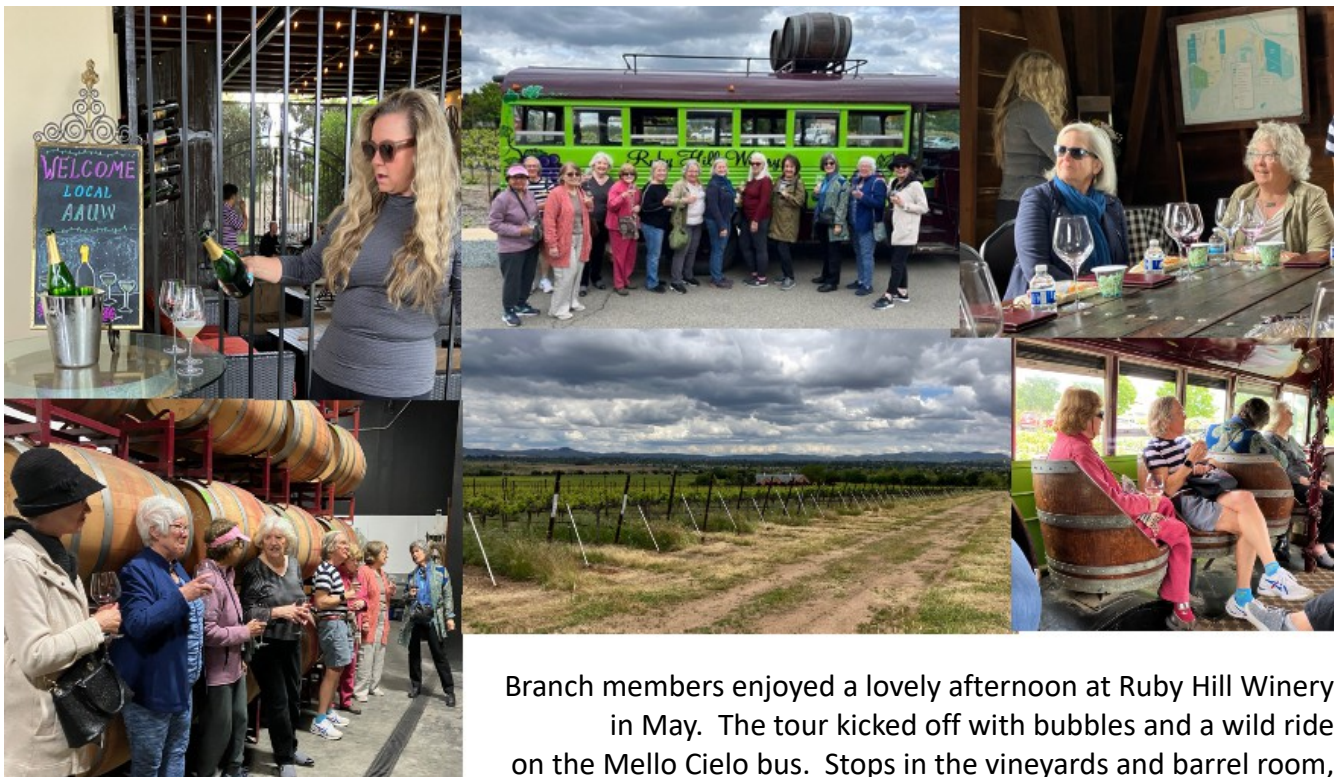
CELEBRATIONS

June's Event--New Board Installation

Outgoing Branch President Marilyn Duman hosted the New Board Installation and Meet and Greet at her home in June.



May's Event—Mello Cielo Bus at Ruby Hill Vineyard



Branch members enjoyed a lovely afternoon at Ruby Hill Winery in May. The tour kicked off with bubbles and a wild ride on the Mello Cielo bus. Stops in the vineyards and barrel room, along with tasting and snacks in the water tower were highlights.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS



Interest groups are open to active LPD-AAUW branch members only. Guests may attend a maximum of three times without becoming a member.

International Lunch Group	First get-together in October	Watch for an Evite. Contact tmamber6@gmail.com with suggestions for locations.
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM, 2 nd and 4 th Mondays	Various locations
Monday Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 th Monday	
Afternoon Book Group	1:30 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	
Mission Discussion Group	10 AM, 2 nd Thursday	
Solo Dining Group	Various times, 2 nd Friday	
Coffee and . . .		Taking a break for a few months!
Cocktails & Conversation	5:30 PM, 1 st Thursday	828 Bites & Brews

YOUR 2023-2024 LPD BOARD



Officers:

President/Administrator - Anita Massey
 Program Chair - Gwen Locke
 Finance - Pam Leong
 Membership - Tina Amber

Directors:

AAUW Fund - PJ Wells
 Interbranch Council Liaison - Charlene Grandfield
 Communications Coordinator - Marilyn Duman
 Publicity - Roz Wright
 Secretary - Pam Leong
 STEM Director - Anita Massey