

The Grapevine

February 2025



Be the change you wish to see

What you can do this month:

Participate in the Local Scholarship Non-Event

Sign up to help at STEM Day on March 8

Register by February 21 to participate in the April Lobby Days

[STEM Day](#)

[Member News](#)

[Membership](#)

[Local Scholarship](#)

[AAUW Fund](#)

[From AAUW California](#)

[Public Policy](#)

[Celebrations](#)

[Board](#)

[Branch Activities and Interest Groups](#)

STEM DAY IN MARCH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We urgently need volunteers for STEM Day for Girls! Currently, we do not have enough volunteers to fill all the duties required for this event. Please help our chapter make STEM Day a success.

Date: March 8, 2025

Time: 9 AM to 2 PM

Shifts: All day; half day; or shifts from 1 to 3 hours are available

Location: Las Positas College, Livermore

AAUW is partnering with Sandia National Labs for a 1-day STEM workshop for 4th and 5th grade girls. The girls will be introduced to technical, real world concepts taught by Sandia scientists and engineers. AAUW workshop volunteers will help the girls with their activities and learn alongside them too!

We still need many volunteers to help with workshops, registration, escort girls on campus, lunch, set up, and clean up, and manage several trinket/give away tables, just to mention a few duties. If you have mobility concerns, there are many duties that you can participate in. If you can only volunteer for a few hours, that's perfectly fine too! To volunteer and to learn more, please contact Pam Leong, p_c_leong@yahoo.com, or Naomi Siu, naomi.f.siu@gmail.com. We invite you to join us for an amazing day of fun!

MEMBER NEWS

Mary Dietrich, a long-time branch member, passed away on January 15. Mary participated in many programs over more than 50 years. No information about a service has been announced yet, but we will forward the information when received. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

MEMBERSHIP

We are always looking to add new members to join our branch! Is there anyone you know who would be interested in policy discussions, promoting our girl programs, or joining our book, bridge, wine or lunch groups?

We are also looking for a couple of members to serve on a Membership Committee and help develop plans to increase our branch membership. This is not a time consuming group, but rather a brainstorming session that promises to be fun and informative. Contact Tina if you are interested.

Tina Amber, Membership
tmamber6@gmail.com

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Local Scholarship Non-Event is coming soon! Please watch your USPS mailbox for your invitation to the 2005 fundraiser. This does NOT require your attendance, but instead, just send a check to support women who are finishing their last two years in college. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to award 3 or 4 scholarships. Participation by all members will allow us to meet this goal. Please donate generously!

Our current recipients were at our fall program sharing their involvement at school plus goals for the future. They are amazing young women. Videos from each are available for viewing:

Lara Wiedemeier can be seen [HERE](#).

Aruna Nannapaneni can be viewed [HERE](#).

Evelyn Arrioyo can be seen [HERE](#).

Aaatmi Mehra can be viewed [HERE](#).

We also have an update from one of our 2022 Scholarship Winners. What a treat that we can see what she has been doing since we gave her one of our scholarships. Sadie Eldredge recently obtained her California Mammography License and will be training in MRI soon. This is at her place of employment at Stanford Children's Hospital. She is now the Director-At-Large on the board of the California Society of Radiologic Technologists Student Committee AND she will be attending the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Advocacy Academy this summer. WHEW!! She continues to impress!!



Thank you for your contributions in the past to help women like Sadie succeed and thrive!

Vicki-Dawn Rader and Ginny Reineking, Non-Event co-chairs
Susan Wacek, Local Scholarship Coordinator

AAUW FUND

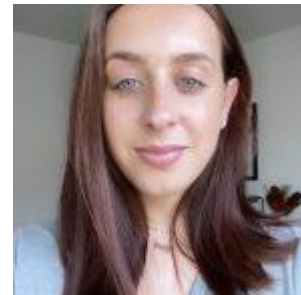
2024 Fund Fellow and Grant Recipients

The 2024 AAUW Fund “Greatest Needs” recipients have been identified and are noted on the AAUW-CA website. A link to that page is below. This month’s focus is on Video #1 and the 3 recipients who are featured.

There are 31 fellow and grant recipients studying in California this year who share their studies with us. Video introductions demonstrate what and who your AAUW Fund dollars support.

Featured in Video #1 are the following 3 recipients:

Rachel Klein, PhD candidate at USC Los Angeles with studies focused on “Incarcerating Motherhood: The Carceral State and Insurgent Kinship Networks in California”



Shannon Bae is a PhD candidate at UC Irvine studying “Reconciling DNA: Making Kinship and Nation through Genetic Testing in South Korea”

Nefertiti Smith Christman, PhD candidate at UC Irvine with a focus on “Left in the Dust: Suspended Sediment impacts Zebrafish “



Please check out [Video #1 here](#) to see our 3 recipients “in person.” Or you can read a bit more about the profile in the summary sheet provided on the aauw-ca.org website.

[Make a donation today](#) and note that it is “In honor of AAUW California Fund Event.” Let’s keep the commitment to higher education for women. It’s working!

FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA

Southern California Fires

Our hearts go out to everyone who has been devastated by the fires in the Los Angeles area. The images we see on the news and on social media are horrific and can only be worse in person. Several of the fires, which have been predicted by climate scientists for years, are still not under control as of this writing, so more destruction is likely. As before with the Maui and Paradise fires, members are wondering how they can support their fellow AAUW members during this difficult time.

Here is a list of several reputable organizations that are supporting recovery efforts in the Los Angeles area at this time.

Organizations supporting victims:

- Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE)- <https://www.corerespone.org/donate-emergency-response-fund/>
- American Red Cross- 1-800-RED-CROSS, text the word REDCROSS to 90999 or visit <http://redcross.org/>
- United Way of Greater Los Angeles- <https://unitedwayla.org/>
- Salvation Army- <https://socal.salvationarmy.org/southern-california/wildfires-in-los-angeles/>

Organizations supporting firefighters:

- California Fire Foundation- <https://www.cafirefoundation.org/>
- Lost Angeles Fire Department Foundation- <https://supportlafd.org/>
- Widows, Orphans and Disabled Firefighters Fund- <https://www.wodff.org/>

Organizations helping animals:

- Pasadena Humane- <https://pasadenahumane.org/eaton-canyon-fire-update/>
- Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation- <https://lacountyanimals.org/>
- Los Angeles Animal Services- <https://www.laanimalservices.com/>

There have been multiple Go Fund me campaigns set up to help those who have lost homes as well.

Please keep our fellow AAUW California members and their families in your thoughts and prayers and donate if you are able. Having a community of friends like AAUW might be very helpful right now.

Stay safe,
Charmen Goehring
AAUW California President

PUBLIC POLICY

Why AAUW Public Policy Priorities Matter

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls. Our Public Policy Priorities guide how we encourage active citizenship toward the goal of advancing our mission. There are four branches to our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security, Equal Access to Quality Public Education, Social and Racial Justice, and Increased representation of Women in Leadership roles. Each of these priorities is further broken down into several action-oriented subcategories, such as enforcement of Title IX and passage of the ERA. Our 2023-25 priorities can be found at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities-ppp-revised/>.

As active participants in society we can help shape the laws and society that govern us, such as healthcare, environmental policies, sex education, curriculum and book banning, housing, childcare, voting rights, immigrants' rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence, racial and LGBTQ discrimination, and Title IX enforcement. We "advocate" or promote our mission through research, education and lobbying for legislation on the international, national, state, and local levels.

History has shown that our advocacy has made a big impact on national, state and local laws. In California alone, you can see the laws that AAUW sponsored, authored, and/or promoted, including those that were passed in the most recent session by going to [AAUW California Bill Tracking Report 2024 - Google Sheets](#). AAUW is also doing impactful work internationally, working to curtail human trafficking and promote civil and human rights for all immigrants, including through participation in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Over the next four years, there will be a lot of opportunities to use this legislative advocacy to push back against attempts to overturn long standing human rights and civil rights protections.

Our Public Policy Priorities also shape our efforts to push forward programs that break through educational and economic barriers for women such as speaker programs, scholarships, oversight of local school boards, leadership and salary training, STEM opportunities for students, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Why do our Public Policy Priorities matter? They make us the most effective advocates for our collective mission to protect and expand gender equity. At the branch and individual levels, we can take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to operationalize our Public Policy Priorities, and through this work to actively promote AAUW's mission. AAUW as an organization relies on the branches to stay informed and to keep track of where our Public Policy Priorities may fall short, to form coalitions with local allies who have similar missions, and to assign branch members to focus where we can have the most impact.

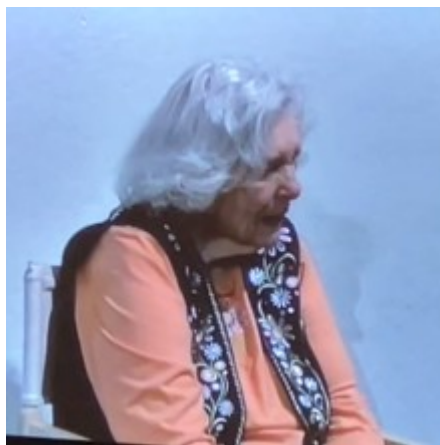
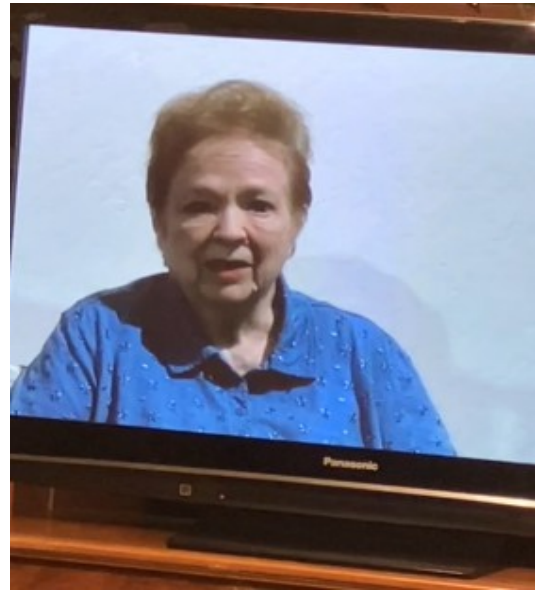
by Nancy Major, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

CELEBRATIONS

February Program—Member Memories
(Photos of attendees and members who were interviewed and recorded by Chris Alesso)



CELEBRATIONS (continued)



Make a Difference Day

2024/25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President/Administrator - Anita Massey
Finance - Myla Grasso
Secretary- Saundra Bauer

Program Co-Chairs- Gwen Locke, Nancy Hudson
AAUW Fund - PJ Wells
Membership - Tina Amber
Publicity and Public Policy - Roz Wright
STEM Director - Sheryl Morgan

BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Board Meeting

Branch Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome at board meetings, so please contact [Anita Massey](#) if you plan to attend.

Interest Groups

Watch the Friday updates for updated or additional information.
Interest groups are open to active AAUW LPD branch members only.
Guests may attend a maximum of three times without becoming a member.

Wine Enthusiasts		Watch for info on next tasting
International Lunch Group		Watch for info on next lunch
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM, 2 nd and 4 th Mondays	February 10 and 24
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 th Monday	February 24
Afternoon Book Group	1:30 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	February 12
Cocktails & Conversation	5:30 PM, 1 st Thursday	February 6
Mission Discussion Group	Various	Watch for info on next meeting

Newsletter edited by Myla Grasso. Articles or photos for consideration may be submitted to newsletter@lpd-aauw.org.

