

The Grapevine

March 2025



Be the change you wish to see

What you can do this month:

Volunteer for STEM Day on March 8

Come to the Book Talk on March 29

Participate in the Local Scholarship Non-Event

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PROGRAMS

It seems like everyone's calendar starts to fill up as spring and summer approach. Here are some upcoming events, both LPD and others, to add to yours!

March 8—STEM Day at Las Positas College. Volunteers are still welcome. Shifts are available from 9 AM to 2 PM. 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! [See below](#) for more info.

March 22—A commercial film of Lilly Ledbetter's case of pay equity will be shown at the Cinequest Film Festival at 1 PM on March 22. Tickets for the show at the California Theater are \$8.00. For more information and tickets, [click here](#). It's a great way to celebrate Women's History Month.

March 26--The International Lunch Group will be dining at Oyo, Wednesday, March 26. Look for an Evite in early March. Be sure to RSVP early to enjoy the flavors of South American foods. The lunch will be limited to 12.

March 29—Join us on Saturday, March 29, 4:30 PM, for a Happy Hour and Book Talk at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton. Come and enjoy hearing from Meredith Jaeger, author of two historical mysteries. Her books highlight strong woman characters and are set in San Francisco in 1800. Also, Ann Parker, a staff member at Towne Center, will be part of the conversation.

(More events on the next page)

April 17—LPD will partner with two other local branches for a meeting featuring AAUW Fund recipient Adamaka Ajaelo. The program will be at 6 PM. Watch the Grapevine and Friday Updates for information on how to attend. [See below](#) for more details.

April 26--Save the date for the AAUW Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch's end-of-year luncheon. We will be meeting at noon on Saturday, April 26, at the Zephyr Grill and Bar in Livermore. Watch for more information next month.

PROGRAM WITH LOCAL PARTNERS

On Thursday, April 17, at 6 PM, our branch will partner with San Ramon, and Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek for a joint program. The three branches will host an interbranch meeting featuring AAUW Fund recipient Adamaka Ajaelo.

Adamaka will speak on innovation. She is the Founding Executive Director of Self-eSTEM and is a visionary leader dedicated to empowering girls through early STEM education and development. With a mission to ignite pride, purpose, and possibility, Self-eSTEM has transformed the lives of over 1,600 young women, equipping them with critical technical, digital, and leadership skills. Self-eSTEM's innovative programs are redefining what's possible by creating equitable access to STEM opportunities, fostering innovation, and cultivating the next generation of changemakers poised to lead and thrive in the industries of tomorrow.

Watch for information on how to sign up to attend in the April newsletter and the Friday Updates.

STEM DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Date: March 8, 2025

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Shifts: All day, half day, 1, 2, or 3 hour shifts are welcomed

Location: Las Positas College, Livermore

Please help our chapter make STEM Day a success by volunteering for this 1-day event!

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 volunteers will help with the workshops, registration, escort girls on campus, lunch, set up, and clean up, and manage several trinket/give away tables. To volunteer, 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!

MEMBERSHIP

New Branch Members

Please welcome our five newest branch members! They have been invited to all our upcoming branch activities, so please introduce yourself and welcome them to LPD. The roster on our website will be updated with their contact information.

Our new members are:

Shradha Tibrewal

Tabitha Harper

Liz Paul

Yong Nam Bae

Anna Schaller

Honorary Lifetime Members

Did you know that our Branch has an incredible 14 Honorary Lifetime Members? These women have been AAUW members for 50 plus years and have been granted this status by AAUW National.

Special recognition to Carol Guarnaccia who joined AAUW in 1962. That is 63 years of amazing AAUW membership!

Tina Amber, Membership
tmamber6@gmail.com

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Foundation Non-Event Update

Your invitation to this year's NON-EVENT for an evening at the theater has no doubt reached you.

We are having this no-effort fundraiser with the goal of raising \$10,000 to support several scholarships to women in their last two years of college.

No need to purchase a ticket or travel for the evening--just please donate generously to support our goal. Thank you so much for returning your donation in the envelope provided.

Past scholarship recipient

We have heard from past scholarship recipient Aruna Nannapaneni. Aruna volunteers on the UC Davis Student Health Advisory Board regarding health resources for students on campus. She is also working on a podcast series highlighting interviews with health providers on campus. Great job Aruna!

Scholarship applications are available

Do you know a woman entering their junior or senior year of college? Please let them know that AAUW LPD has scholarships available for up to \$3,500. Applications are due May 1, 2025, and are available on the website: bit.ly/AAUW-LPDscholarship.

For almost 40 years, our Branch has awarded scholarships to qualified applicants to help them continue their college education. The scholarships are open to women of all ages who graduated from a high school in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin or Sunol or who currently live in one of these cities. Applicants should be planning to complete their course of study at a 4-year college or university. The scholarship program supports AAUW's commitment to promoting education for women and girls.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Scholarships up to \$3,500 are available for qualified women entering their junior or senior year of college

**For Application & Information
Visit bit.ly/AAUW-LPDscholarship**

APPLY BY MAY 1, 2025

A "HISTORY" QUESTION

As we are working on setting up AAUW LPD with online event payment capability, we have run into a bit of a snag. The IRS will not provide us with some copies of forms we need unless we have the correct address of the person who filed the form. Specifically, we are looking for a past treasurer or president who might have filed an application for a federal tax ID number (the 94-xxx number). If you have any insight about this, please email Myla at mylaatwork@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

Myla Grasso
2024-25 Finance Officer

NEW INTEREST GROUP

Looking for a fun way to spend some social time with other LPD branch members? A new Bunco interest group is forming. Bunco is an easy-to-learn dice game that offers the opportunity to visit with fellow players. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 PM. If you are interested in playing, please email Myla Grasso at mylaatwork@yahoo.com no later than March 22. Space is limited.

AAUW FUND

The 2024 AAUW Fund “Greatest Needs” recipients have been identified. These are women who are being supported by your generous donations to the Fund.

In order to let you know how donations are being used, a video highlighting six women and their works is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCy_VXg50EE.

Follow this link to the second video in the series and see the following featured recipients:

- (1) Tran Ann Ngoc - USC, Los Angeles - PhD Philosophy
“The Ark is Already Gone: A History of Boat Refugee Non-Arrival”
- (2) Maggie Matern - Stanford University - Post Doctorate, Biology/Otolaryngology
“Developing a CRISPR Toolkit for Inner Ear Organoid Gene Control”
- (3) Faith Bennett - UC, Davis -PhD Philosophy (Gender & Labor)
“Side Work: Class Consciousness & Political Activism Amidst the Decline of SF Bay Area Restaurant Unions (1940’s to1980’s)”
- (4) Joanne DeCaro - UC, Irvine - PhD Philosophy (Criminal Justice)
“Unnamed Wounds: Carceral Trauma and Wellness in Reentry”
- (5) Adamaka Ajaelo - Self-eSTEM - Early STEM Immersion Program
Community Action Grant
- (6) Esther Nwanna - UC, Davis - Post Doctorate, Biochemist
“Evaluation of the Antimicrobial Potential of Selected Medicinal Plants for Treatment of Bacterial Infections in Dairy Cattle”

There are 31 fellow and grant recipients studying in California this year who are sharing their studies with us. Video introductions demonstrate what and who your AAUW Fund dollars support. Please take a minute to enjoy this video and hear from some truly inspiring women.

PJ Wells
AAUW Fund Director



FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA

TIPS FOR AVOIDING EMAIL SCAMS THAT APPEAR TO COME FROM FRIENDS OR FAMILY

Email scams don't always pretend to be large corporations; sometimes they impersonate people you know – family, friends, or even colleagues. These scams can be especially dangerous because they are working to exploit established trust.

Here are four tips to recognizing and avoiding email scams.

1. Be suspicious of unusual requests. If a friend or family member suddenly emails you asking for money, gift cards, or sensitive information, be skeptical.
2. Look at the writing style. Proceed with caution if you encounter unusual wording, spelling or grammatical errors, or phrasing that just doesn't "sound like" the person.
3. Stay calm. Scammers frequently rely on urgent language to drive immediate action. Do not rush to respond to the request until you determine its validity.
4. Look carefully at the sender's email address. Many email systems just show you the sender's display name, which is easy to manipulate. The email address itself must be inspected. In most systems you can hover your mouse over the sender's name to reveal their email address. Check the email address carefully. Frequently, the email address is entirely wrong and easy to dismiss as fraudulent. In more sophisticated scams, the email address may be only slightly different.
5. If you have identified the email address as incorrect, then delete the message (optionally, report as spam). However, if after reviewing an email message, you still have some doubts, how do you proceed?

First, it is very important **to NOT reply to the message and do NOT click on any links or attachments**. Then, reach out to the purported sender directly, such as by a phone call or text, to validate whether the message is authentic. With a bit of knowledge and careful attention, it is possible to avoid many email scams.

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

Member Gathering

We appreciate everyone who joined us at our recent Member Gathering. Your passion and engagement energize our mission. Your voices are the foundation of our advocacy, and together, we're stronger. [If you missed it, watch the recording here.](#)

Program about Social Security

All of us need to understand how social security programs work for women. AAUW National is hosting What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security on Tuesday, March 25, at 10 AM (PST). Register [HERE](#) to learn about retirement, disability, spousal and survivor benefits, and more so you can make confident decisions.

CELEBRATIONS

International Lunch Group at The Duchess



Wine Interest Group at Las Positas Vineyards



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	Wednesday, March 25	Oyo, Pleasanton
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM, 2 nd and 4 th Mondays	March 10 and 24
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 th Monday	March 24
Afternoon Book Group	1:00 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	March 12
Cocktails & Conversation	5:30 PM, 1 st Thursday	March 6
Mission Discussion Group	Various	Watch for info on next meeting
Bunco	Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 PM	RSVP to mylaatwork@yahoo.com

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

