

The Grapevine

April 2025



Be the change you wish to see

What you can do this month:

Attend the LPD annual luncheon on April 26

Attend the interbranch event on April 17

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PROGRAM

Annual Luncheon on April 26

We are looking forward to reconnecting with you when we gather at Zephyr Grill Restaurant in Livermore for AAUW's Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 26. This always is a wonderful opportunity to see old friends and meet new members, while we celebrate the accomplishments of our branch.

Join us at 11 AM for conversation. Lunch will be served starting at 11:30 AM. There will be a selection of entrees to enjoy, along with salad and dessert. A No Host bar will be available. There will be unlimited refills on sodas, lemonade, iced tea, coffee and tea.

We will need your RSVP (see Evite you received) **and check** no later than April 15. The restaurant has asked for a final headcount by that date. Checks should be made out to AAUW-LPD and mailed to Tina Amber, 2704 Turnstone Drive, Pleasanton, 94566. Cost is \$50.

Lunch will be followed by a short business meeting. This year we are fortunate to have Amanda Kent Benjamin from the Darcie Kent Vineyards as our guest speaker. She will be speaking about the state of the wine industry, in general, as well as the changes that are taking place locally.



PROGRAM WITH LOCAL PARTNERS

INTERBRANCH MEETING

On Thursday, April 17, AAUW Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch will partner with San Ramon, and Danville- Alamo-Walnut Creek in a joint program. The branches will hold an interbranch meeting featuring AAUW Fund recipient Adamaka Ajaelo. The meeting will be held at Danville Congregational Church, Kairos Hall 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville, CA 94526. The doors open at 6:00 for a social and the program starts at 6:30 pm this event is open to the public.

Ms. Ajaelo will speak on **Investing in Innovators**. Adamaka Ajaelo, Founding Executive Director of Self-eSTEM, 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 change makers poised to lead and thrive in the industries of tomorrow.

INNOVATION FAIR

Saturday April 12--A four-hour, one-time volunteer opportunity!

AAUW-LPD is participating in Quest Science Center's 7th annual Innovation Fair. It will be HELD ON Saturday, April 12, from 10 AM to 5 PM at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. This is a family fair and will be attended by adults and children.

We will need 2 shifts of 4 volunteers. Three volunteers will help with hands-on activities for the children, and one person will educate the parents on the value of AAUW-LPD membership. The first shift is 9 AM to 1 PM and includes set up. The second shift is 1 to 5 PM and includes take down. We will schedule a practice session about a week before the event so that all of you have a chance to get comfortable with each of the 3 activities at our table.

If you can join us for this fun and busy day, please notify Anita Massey akm1@comcast.net. Thank you!

Chris Alesso and Anita Massey
Coordinators



STEM DAY

The start of a trend!! As Year 2 of our partnership with Sandia National Laboratories and Las Positas College, we had another stellar event.

The sweet spot seems to be the 3 different STEM workshops:

- Proteins: The Picky Building Blocks of Life – led by Jessica Trinh, Sandia National Laboratories
- Mind Your Minerals: A Hands on Introduction to Mineral Identification – led by Emma Oti, Sandia National Laboratories
- Making Moves with a Quadruped Robot – led by Uma Balakrishnan, Sandia National Laboratories

Over 54% of the girls picked Mind Your Minerals: A Hands on Introduction to Mineral Identification as their favorite. The key being “hands on” for these girls.

We had 55 girls in attendance this year, which was a bigger turnout than last year. Our classroom size limits us to 60 students, so this year we couldn't even consider a waiting list. And 29% of this year's girls were repeat attendees! More importantly, many of last year's 5th grade parents were looking for a similar event for their now 6th grade girls.

Fun was had by all, with much behind the scenes by our AAUW Committee – Carol Kinnard, Sheryl Morgan, Ginny Reineking, PJ Wells, Naomi Siu and Pam Leong. A special Thank You to Ginny for coordinating all the volunteers not only from AAUW, but to our outreach to the community and the Sandia National Laboratory volunteers.

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers!

AAUW Volunteers – Chris Alesso, Tina Amber, Sandra Bauer, Dot Bishop, Karen Cowan, Norma Foss, Charlene Granfield, Cori Elena Karlsen, Maria Kennedy, Carolyn Kotch, Pam Leong, Anita Massey, Sheryl Morgan, Yong Nam, Ginny Reineking, Trish Shannon, Nitu Shinde, Naomi Siu, Susan Wacek, PJ Wells, Lara Wiedemeier.

Community Volunteers – Cibryean Gyuo, Saanvi Hedge, Shriya Javli, Dhakshinaa Manmathan (Tech Trek), Saachi Naidu, Lucia Pauli, Hrudya Shah (Tech Trek), Lakshimi Thillainayagam

Naomi Siu & Pam Leong
Co Chairs



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Foundation Non-Event Update

Thank you to all of you who have supported our annual fundraiser to date. There is still time to donate! Please send a check in the envelope provided in your letter describing our virtual “A DAY AT THE THEATER”. This is the easiest fundraiser you can support as there is no need to leave home.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 in order to award three or four scholarships to women completing their last two years of college.

Our current winners have provided a brief interview describing their current activities and goals. They are amazing young women. Their videos 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 thank the following members and friends for their contributions:

Pam Leong, Patty Rabada, Lorene Green, Charlotte Severin, Nancy Hudson, Monica Potter, Tina Amber, Mary Jane Casper, Nancy Rensink, Ann Dini, Karen Cowan, Charlene Grandfield, Sally Stock, Ayn Wieskamp, Joy Robinson, Karen Sweet, Marti Silva, Marilyn Duman, Connie Squires, Susan & Ron Wacek, Sally Daisman, Sandy Hansen, Joan Leighty, Ginny Reineking, Devon LaHar, Carol Guarnaccia, PJ Wells, Carolyn Kotch, Karen & Jeff Richardson, Naomi Siu, Fern Corley, Roz Wright, Myla Grasso, Gwen Locke, Maria Kennedy, Chris Alesso, and Pam Copeland.

Vicki-Dawn Rader and Ginny Reineking, Non-Event co-chairs

BRANCH ELECTION

Prior to the branch luncheon on April 26, you will be receiving information about the slate of officers for LPD for the upcoming year. You will also see information on how to vote.

Please be sure to watch for this in your email!



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 #3, showcasing four of several featured recipients:

Abbie Cohen - UC-Los Angeles - PhD Philosophy
“After the Final Bell: A Critical Ethnography With
a Youth Serving Community-Based Educational Non-Profit”



Samjhana Khanal - UC-Davis - PhD Agriculture
“Identification and Functional Characterization of
Candidate Genes Conferring Resistance to Downy
Mildew in Lettuce Caused by Oomycete *Bremia
Latucae*”

Anais Voski - Stanford University - PhD Philosophy,
Environmental Studies
“Beyond Western Climate Anxiety: Planetary
Eco-emotions and the Moderating Role of Psychological
Distance and Environmental Justice”



Ameera Waterford - Stanford University - MS Engineering
Management Science and Engineering

Here is a link to the final video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1l1gpN6yaEU&t=39s>

There are a total of 31 California recipients of “Greatest Needs” awards. This is the third and final video feature for the year 2024. Hopefully, you have found at least 1 or 2 of the beneficiaries compelling and reassuring — that your gift is making a big difference in the life of another woman, another community, and another aspect of life. [Click here](#) if you would like to make a donation right now

FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA

California Annual Event

The AAUW California Annual Event is Saturday, April 26th, 10 am - 2 pm. This year's theme is *Pivoting 4 Our Future*. We'll gather on Zoom to recap accomplishments, be inspired by speakers, applaud the winners of state awards, hear the Speech Trek finalists, chat in multiple breakout rooms, and think about how AAUW —and YOU—can respond to today's dramatic social changes. Watch for registration information coming from the State.

AAUW California Election

AAUW California's election is coming up this month. We are electing the following:

President-Elect: three-year term 2025-2028 (one year as President-Elect and two years as President)

Chief Financial Officer (CFO): two-year term 2025-2027

Directors (3): two-year term 2025-2027

The [2025 Candidate](#) postings are open for viewing in the order of receipt of the completed nomination form.

The election will open April 26 and run through May 16. Each member with an email address on file will receive an email on April 26 with a link to their ballot. Members without email will receive a paper ballot. All ballots must be returned by May 16 to be counted! If you do not receive an email with your link, first check your spam folder. It will be coming from siteadmin@aauwca.org via SurveyMonkey. You can also search your inbox (the subject will be 2025 AAUW California Election Ballot). If you still cannot find it, email webteam@aauw-ca.org for assistance.

Please review all of the available information and vote!

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. On Tuesday, April 15, 4 PM PDT, an interactive session will provide information to AAUW branches on funding scholarships amid evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls. Space is limited. [Register Here.](#)

Annual Report

Have you stopped to review all AAUW accomplishments even in present-day circumstances? Check out the [2024 Annual Report.](#)

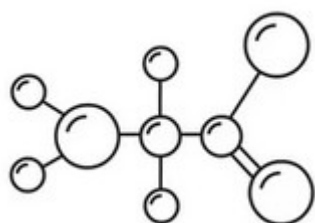
CELEBRATIONS

STEM Day



CELEBRATIONS (continued)

STEM Day



2024/25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President/Administrator - Anita Massey
Finance - Myla Grasso
Secretary- Sandra 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 event
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM, 2 nd and 4 th Mondays	April 7 and 21
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 th Monday	April 28
Afternoon Book Group	1:00 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	April 9
Cocktails & Conversation	5:30 PM, 1 st Thursday	April 3
Mission Discussion Group	Various	Watch for info on next meeting
Bunco		Watch for info on next event

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

April 12 is Grilled Cheese Day!

