

The Grapevine

May 2025



Be the change you wish to see

What you can do this month:

Volunteer for a committee or project for next year

Consider a donation to an initiative you support

Vote in the national and state AAUW elections

[Program](#)

[Innovation Fair](#)

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PROGRAM

Mark your calendars now for the final program event of the year. On Friday, June 6, AAUW LPD will celebrate the accomplishments of the year and the incoming and outgoing officers.

INNOVATION FAIR

For the third year, AAUW-LPD had a great time hosting a booth at the Quest Innovation Fair. It was held Saturday, April 12, at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, and an estimated 4000 people attended.

Along with our reliable levitating magnets and fingerprinting, this year we introduced origami frogs and, along with the kids, did our best to make them hop.

All three activities had a steady stream of visitors, and our volunteers had almost as much fun as the attendees. A BIG THANK YOU to Carol Kinnard, Tina Amber, Myla Grasso, Maria Kennedy, Sandra Bauer and Cibryean Guyo. We couldn't have done it without you.

Chris Alesso and Anita Massey
Event Co-Chairs



MEMBERSHIP

Goodbye

As I move to a new position on the AAUW LPD Board, I want to thank everyone who has helped me through the job of Membership Chair for the last five years. I've enjoyed getting to know all of you. We survived the COVID years and the new online membership system together. Thank you for your patience and your help! I look forward to working with you this coming year and beyond as we grow the branch and continue to bring relevance to the organization.

Tina Amber
Membership

New Honorary Lifetime Members

Honorary Lifetime members are those members who have 50 plus years of membership in AAUW. I wish to recognize three of our members who just reached this incredible milestone. Please congratulate them when you see them:

Joy Robinson
Patricia Rabada
Marti Silva

Voting Open

You should have received, or will shortly, via email, two important ballots. Now is the time for members to make their voice heard when accepting, rejecting or selecting organization initiatives and candidates. Be sure to vote in both the following elections--AAUW National (April 14-May 13) and AAUW California (April 26-May 16).

TECH TREK

On May 15, we will host nine new Tech Trek campers for an orientation pizza party. At this Camper Orientation, the 2025 Trekkers will get more information on what to expect during their week at camp and answers to their many questions. Some of last year's Trekkers will also be there to give the girls the REAL scoop, from a camper perspective! The evening also allows time for the committee to answer any parent questions and provide any necessary reassurance--along with sharing the benefits of AAUW membership.

The Tech Trek committee wants to thank all of you for your 27 years of supporting this wonderful program. LPD has been part of Tech Trek since it was first started, and none of that would be possible without branch involvement and support.

Nitu, Karen and Anita

AAUW FUND

Thanks so much to Sandra Hansen for pointing me at an online presentation called “Demystifying the Greatest Needs Fund.” Sometimes we do not see the tangible or immediate impact of our giving, but without the means to execute a long-term vision, AAUW cannot support its mission. Gifts to the Greatest Needs Fund are “unrestricted.” This empowers AAUW National to utilize those monies in areas where they are most needed. Endowments, grants and bequests are “restricted” funds, and can only be utilized for their sole, original purpose.

Click on [this link](#) to see the whole presentation (it only takes a few minutes to view the PDF), and gain a better understanding of how this fund serves our mission. It sure helped me — thanks Sandra!

PJ Wells
AAUW Fund Chair

What is the impact of Unrestricted Giving?



- Solid overhead capabilities make AAUW more **resilient** to disruptions like pandemics, disasters and economic downturns.
- It empowers AAUW to continue and build **mission-critical activities and programs** – when restricted funds are not available.
- Stable funding empowers AAUW to focus on **long-term planning** goals and dedicate resources to **research and organizational improvements**.
- Ensures AAUW can afford to **pay competitive salaries** to hire and retain employees, which is needed now, more than ever as there is a crisis of attrition affecting the world of nonprofits.

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

AAUW has created a new fund and is requesting everyone's support. The Defend Higher Education Fund will enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women; mobilize advocates across the country; provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campus; and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward. Your support ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Foundation Non-Event

It is NOT too late to send your donation for our scholarship fundraiser. We have not reached our goal so far--\$1800 to go--and hope that donations will continue. This is the easiest fundraiser in which to participate! Just enclose your check in the envelope provided.

We recently received donations from the following: Sandra Bauer, Carol Kinnard, Vicki-Dawn Rader and Harriet Lawrie.

Vicki-Dawn Rader and Ginny Reineking
Non-Event Co-Chairs

FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA

AAUW California Election

AAUW California's election is still open for voting through May 16. Each member should have received a link for voting via email. Members without email will receive a paper ballot. 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.

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. Please review all of the available information and vote!

Public Policy

AAUW California's Public Policy Committee has been busy setting the Legislative Agenda for 2025. The committee collectively evaluated over 60 bills related to AAUW's mission and Public Policy Priorities. Each bill was carefully considered, and 25 bills were selected to be prioritized. Visit <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/> for more information.

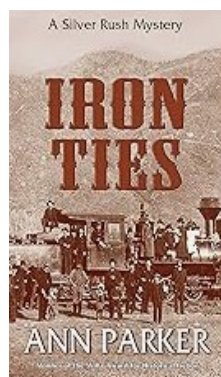
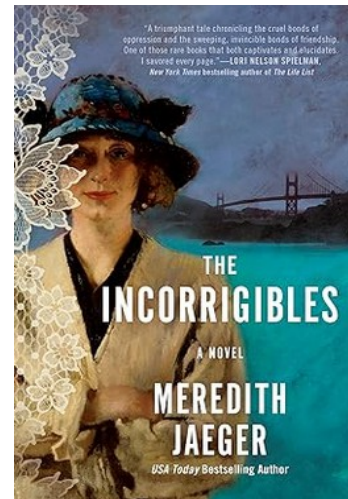
CELEBRATIONS

Wine Interest Group



CELEBRATIONS (continued)

Author talk



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	May 12 and May 26
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 th Monday	May 26
Afternoon Book Group	1:00 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	May 14
Cocktails & Conversation	5:30 PM, 1 st Thursday	May 1
Mission Discussion Group	Various	Watch for info on next meeting
Bunco	2 nd Tuesday, 7 PM	May 13

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

May 15 is National
Chocolate Chip Day!

