

# The Grapevine

June, July, August 2025



Be the change you wish to see

What you can do:

Attend the June 6 Meet and Greet

Watch the Friday Updates over the summer for current information

Volunteer for a position with AAUW-LPD

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***Please note: The next Grapevine will be the September edition, distributed at the end of August. Watch the Friday Updates for current information over the summer.***

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## **PROGRAM**

Join us for our final event of the year on Friday, June 6, at 4 PM. This is an informal "Meet and Mingle" event to celebrate the end of the branch year and say "Hello" to summer. Drop by and visit with AAUW members in Marilyn Duman's beautiful backyard at 7567 Olive Drive, Pleasanton. Enter through the gate to the left of the house. Please bring a beverage or an appetizer to share. There will be a brief installation of the new officers at 5 PM. Please reply to the recent Evite. For questions, call 925-640-8694 .

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## **FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

### **Branch Election Results**

Our 2025-2026 Board, approved by electronic vote last month, was introduced at our Spring Luncheon on April 26.

Officers 2025-2026

- President/Administrator - Tina Amber
- Finance - Myla Grasso
- Secretary- Sandra Bauer

#### Directors At Large

- Program Co-Chairs- Maria Kennedy and Cori Karlsen
- AAUW Fund - PJ Wells
- Membership - Anita Massey
- Public Policy - Roz Wright
- STEM Director - Sheryl Morgan

Nomination Committee for 2026-2027 - Cori Karlsen, Nancy Hudson and Karen Richardson

In addition, we have several "Board Appointed" roles that you may be interested in, including Publicity, Website Admin and Newsletter.

The Board's top priority will be to identify someone to lead Publicity for the upcoming year. Roz Wright has led this activity for several years and has established contacts with local media that she can share her successor. This individual would be responsible for getting the word out to local print and on-line media for our upcoming events in order to expand our visibility and reach into the Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton communities. Please let Tina, Anita or any board member know if you're interested.

Please join the officer installation at our Meet and Greet on Friday, June 6, 4 to 6 PM, at Marilyn Duman's backyard. See your Evite for more details.

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### ***FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT ANITA MASSEY***

Goodbye, and thank you!

As I finish my 2-year term as branch president, I want to say thank you for all your support and work on behalf of AAUW LPD. We have been busy with the following programs (apologies if I missed any):

- 3 Author Talks
- 2 each Kick-offs, Holiday Parties (this year's with entertainment) and June Meet and Greets
- 2 annual meetings with interesting speakers
- 6 college scholarships and 18 Tech Trekkers off to new adventures
- 2 offerings of a new girl program, STEM Day, in partnership with Sandia, which reached approximately 100 Tri-Valley 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls.
- 2 more years of participation in Innovation Day and Make a Difference Day. Both great opportunities to raise awareness of AAUW in the Tri-Valley
- 1 interbranch program featuring a foundation speaker
- 1 each AI and Ballot Proposition programs

The list makes me tired just reading about your hard work--is it any surprise our interest groups, are going strong? After all this, you deserve to relax and discuss a good book, play some bridge, enjoy an international lunch, or raise a glass of wine.

Thank you, as none of this would be possible without your participation!  
Anita

## **AAUW LPD NOW OFFERS ZEFFY FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**

AAUW LPD has signed up to use Zeffy, an online payment system designed for non-profit organizations. This means that the LPD Branch will be able to accept credit/debit card payments for events and donations. When an event is planned, you will receive an email with a link and instructions on how to make your online payment. We will also be including a donation link on our website to allow for Branch donations.

We are eager to start using this system in the upcoming year. So much easier than writing checks or collecting cash!

Myla Grasso  
Finance Officer

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## **TECH TREK**

It is Tech Trek season again, and the camper selection process has been in full swing since the start of 2025. Thanks to our coordinator, Nitu Shinde, we have kept pace with the program requirements and are well on our way to sending nine girls to “summer camp.”

This year, we received 22 applications for Tech Trek 2025. We then interviewed 12 seventh-grade girls from eight Tri-Valley schools. Seven of the 12 girls interviewed were from Title 1 schools. Ultimately, we selected nine girls (representing seven schools) to attend Tech Trek 2025. A total of seven are attending July’s summer camp in-person and two will attend virtually. All the in-person attendees will go to Santa Clara University.

Much appreciation to our dedicated Tech Trek committee for their help in application processing and scoring, interviews, and orientation. Also thanks to those who worked on year-round fundraising efforts and donors to this program. A big shout out to our new members who jumped in right away to help with this year’s selection process and provide feedback on ways to improve over time. We are grateful to the 2024 Tech Trek girls for helping with orientation, as well as other programs throughout the last year. We look forward to the update this fall when the campers return to share their experience with us!

Nitu Shinde, Tech Trek  
PJ Wells, AAUW Fund



## **LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP**

### **Local Scholarship Update**

I wanted to let our branch know that we have many wonderful applicants this year! Our Selection Committee has their work cut out for them, and I know they will choose three deserving scholarship winners for this year.

### **Help Needed**

Calling all branch members! We need two new co-chairs for our very important annual Non-Event Fundraiser in February. Thanks go to Ginny Reineking and Vicki Dawn Radar who have been doing this faithfully for many years.

Ginny summed up their positions succinctly and simply:

- Come up with a non-event idea. ( Past ideas include A Day in the Theater, Cruising American Style, Tips to Beat the Drought and Let the Good Times Roll)
- Send the flyer with a return-address envelope to our branch members (address labels and envelopes are provided for you)
- Receive envelopes and give the checks to our Scholarship Treasurer
- Send a thank you email to each member for tax purposes and appreciation

Please contact Susan Wacek at [rwacek@comcast.net](mailto:rwacek@comcast.net) or 925.596.1497 if interested. We need you! Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Wacek  
Local Scholarship

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **State Dues Increase**

The dues increase on the recent AAUW California ballot passed with numbers exceeding the 2/3 vote that was required. As such, the new state dues will be \$30 effective July 1, 2025.



## **FROM AAUW NATIONAL**

### **Strategic Priorities and Election Results**

AAUW National has launched their updated Strategic Priorities. These include

1. *Empower pathways to higher education*

We're investing directly in women — especially in under served communities and underrepresented fields like STEM — through fellowships, grants, and leadership development.

2. *Advocate for inclusive policy change*

We're championing legislation and initiatives that remove barriers in education and the workplace — from ensuring educational environments are inclusive and free from harassment to championing pay equity, reproductive freedom, and more.

3. *Strengthen AAUW's grassroots and operational power*

We're building a sustainable future by supporting local branches, aligning for collective impact, and fostering a robust network of members and partners nationwide.

[Read more about the Strategic Plan here.](#)

In the recent national elections, four new board members were elected. In addition, the proposed changes to the [AAUW Bylaws](#) and the [Public Policy Principles and Priorities](#) were approved by an overwhelming majority of our voting members. These changes reflect our collective commitment to bold, forward-thinking advocacy and organizational effectiveness.

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## **FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA**

AAUW California is urgently seeking a Chief Financial Officer for the next two years. The following are the general tasks of the CFO:

- Chair the Finance Committee
- Manage income and the operating budget, including filing income tax reports as necessary and supervising the expenditure of state funds
- Negotiate insurance programs, which include working with the office manager to collect premium payments from branches
- Initiate annual financial review
- Assist branches with financial questions as a consultant and through regular peer group meetings
- Write a monthly Board 2 Board article and conduct webinars/workshops as requested
- Attend quarterly leadership team meetings and monthly check-ins on Zoom

The state leadership team and previous CFO are standing by to help one or two people who step up. Working with the state leadership team is fun, and you will learn a lot about AAUW, our mission, and our branches. See the email you received from the State for additional information.



## ***CELEBRATIONS***

### **Tech Trek Orientation Day**



### **Annual Luncheon**





## ***CELEBRATIONS (continued)***



## 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

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## BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

### Board Meeting

Branch Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (no meetings over the summer). Everyone is welcome at board meetings, so please contact [Tina Amber](#) 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	June 17	Check your email for more info
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays	For info, contact <a href="#">Marti Sliva</a>
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	
Afternoon Book Group	1:00 PM, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	
Cocktails & Conversation	5:30 PM, 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	June 5. See Friday Update for summer times
Mission Discussion Group	Various	Watch for info on next meeting
Bunco	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7 PM	June 10

Newsletter edited by Myla Grasso. Articles or photos for consideration may be submitted to [newsletter@lpd-aauw.org](mailto:newsletter@lpd-aauw.org).

