

The Grapevine

September 2025



Let's move forward together!

What you can do:

Attend the September 20th Fall Kick Off event (see below)

Save October 8 for the Tech Trek fundraiser (see page 2)

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PROGRAM

AAUW LPD Fall Kick Off Event on September 20

Join us on Saturday, September 20, for our first event of the 2025-2026 year. We will hear from the 2025 Tech Trek Camp attendees and the local Scholarship winners - always an amazing group. This is also an opportunity to learn about the branch's mission activities and interest groups. A light lunch will be served. The event will be held from 12 to 2 PM at the Dublin Civic Center, with easy access and parking. New and potential members are especially welcome. If you have a friend who supports AAUW's mission of educating women and girls, this would be the perfect opportunity to share an uplifting afternoon with them.

Please check and respond to the Evite that was sent out on August 11. You can also sign up to bring food via the Evite after you have responded.

TECH TREK FUNDRAISER—SAVE THE DATE

Everyone is invited to attend AAUW LPD's Tech Trek Fundraiser on Wednesday, October 8, 5 to 8 PM, at the Darcie Kent Estate Winery. Enjoy a silent auction, good eats from Darcie Kent and Color of Fresh, wine by the bottle or glass, all while supporting our Tech Trek STEM camp program for 8th grade girls.

We can also use members' help in getting the word out about this unique, after-hours event. Please think about locations where we can post information about the event. Flyers for you to take and distribute will be available at the Kick Off event on September 20.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I'm thrilled to be your next president, and I'm excited to continue to support our successful educational programs centered on women and girls.

I hope you are planning to attend our September 20th Fall Kick Off event . Meeting our Tech Trek students and the scholarship winners is always so inspirational. It is an opportunity I look forward to every year.

This year, we plan to begin offering more programs based on policy issues. If you have an idea for such a program, I would love to hear from you.

As always, we are looking for new members. If you know is someone who shares our interest in promoting education for women and girls, bring them to the September meeting.

I'm always open for a phone call or coffee. I'd love to hear your ideas for making our AAUW branch a place that offers current and thought provoking programs and is welcoming to everyone.

See you on the 20th!

Tina Amber
Tmamber6@gmail.com

TECH TREK

Tech Trek Camps Were An Inspiring Success!

During July, our selected Tech Trek campers had the chance to build lifelong friendships and become inspired about STEM! Due to the generosity of our members, our branch sponsored seven rising 8th grade girls at the week-long Tech Trek residential camp at Santa Clara University, aka: Camp Hopper. Two additional campers completed the virtual Tech Trek camp.

At this year's camps, the girls explored Climate Science, Botany, Engineering, Robotics and more. They took a field trip to explore water purification and wastewater treatment up close. Campers had the chance to combine Morse Code and 3D art in "creative and expressive ways". Camper Aadya described the experiences as "an unforgettable week of learning and fun."

More inspiring quotes from campers:

"I loved how we created something new everyday, and used our brains to come up with cool designs for solving certain challenges...I felt like a real scientist!" – Amrit

"Thank you for sending me to Tech Trek. I've never done anything this fun and educational!" – Hritvi

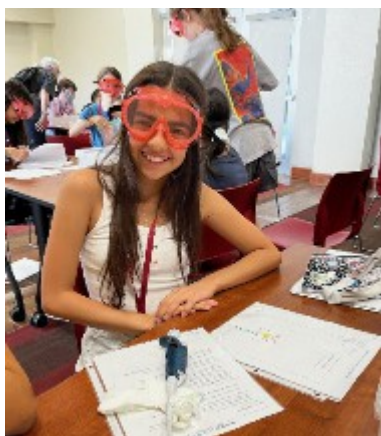
TECH TREK (continued)

“The whole week has been nothing but a magical experience. I’ve had so many new workshops that couldn’t be replaced anywhere else.” – Mridula

“It was an amazing experience, and it not only taught me about science, but it taught me about myself” - Susanna

“An activity I especially enjoyed was making a solar oven in my engineering class. This class greatly changed my perspective toward STEM.” – Natalie

“From learning about chemistry in a working lab environment to learning how to build a flashlight, being in this camp has taught me so many vital skills.” – Aadya



We’d like to thank all those members who contributed to make this a successful experience. When we first sent girls to Tech Trek 27 years ago, the cost of camp was \$500. Today the cost is \$1200. We could not do it without your support.

Thanks also to our Tech Trek Co-Chairs, Nitu Shinde and Karen Cowan, and to all who participated in this year’s selection process: Anita Massey, PJ Wells, Trish Shannon, Tina Amber, Sheryl Morgan, Charlene Granfield, Sandra Bauer, and Carolyn Kotch.



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Please meet the 2025 Local Scholarship Recipients. The Scholarship Foundation was pleased to award four scholarships this year. You may have the opportunity to meet some of these amazing women at the September 20 Kick Off event in Dublin.

Clarissa Cheung is from Livermore and is majoring in Computer Science at the University of Florida. She has worked at the NASA Ames Research Center. Clarissa's goal is to aspire to become a software engineer who makes a meaningful and positive impact on the way we live. Hear from Clarissa at [this link](#).



Britney Hernandez is from Livermore and is enrolled at Pacific Union College. She is majoring in Psychology. Britney is a first generation college student. Her goal is to become a person who can truly help others through presence, empathy and emotional support. [Click here](#) for a video from Britney.

Ileia Thomas is from Pleasanton and will be attending the Cal State East Bay or San Francisco State University. She is majoring in English with a Creative Writing Concentration. She has a beautiful daughter and has performed at 'Poetry Slams'. Ileia's goal is to get a masters degree and teach her love of poetry and creative writing to other hopeful writers.



Darya Novokhatskaya is from Pleasanton and is enrolled at UC Irvine majoring in Business Administration. Darya came to the US from Russia when she was 18 years old. Her goal is to embrace the strength and leadership that comes with breaking barriers and pursuing an MBA while inspiring others along the way.

MEMBERSHIP

For those of you who joined *before* 2023 , **membership renewal time has passed**, and you are in AAUW National's grace period.

Your AAUW membership ended on June 30, 2025, and multiple renewal notices have been sent from AAUW National, along with a reminder from me. To renew, follow the simple instructions on the email sent to you from AAUW National. It takes less than 10 minutes and is very easy.

If you no longer have that email, go to [Home – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#) and click on Membership in the upper right corner. On the next page, click on Community Hub, scroll down, and you will find a video ***How to Self-Renew for Existing Members***. This will show you what to do. Be sure to rejoin our local branch, CA0048, and the state branch. If you have any changes to your address, phone number or email, you can make them at this time. Current dues are:

National Dues:	74.00 (tax deductible)
State Dues:	30.00
Branch Dues	25.00
Total	\$129.00

If you are a Lifetime member, you only need to renew your state and branch memberships. If you are an Honorary Lifetime Member, you may completely disregard this update. If you joined after July 2022, you renew on a rolling calendar so please watch for email communications from AAUW National, and follow the directions in the e-mail.

Should you have questions, please reach out to Anita Massey, 2025/26 Membership Chair, at akml@comcast.net.

MEMBER NEWS

We are sad to report that long-time branch member Anne Les passed away over the summer. Anne was very active in AAUW California, including being a founder of the Tech Trek program. You can read more about her achievements [HERE](#). Our thoughts go out to her friends and family.



GIRL PROGRAMS

Science@Stockmen's Park

Here is a fun event for your AAUW-LPD autumn calendar. Join us for a Quest-sponsored workshop on Saturday, October 04, for “Science@Stockmen’s Park” in downtown Livermore. This is a free outdoor event for children, teens, and adults with a focus on the principles of DESIGN-BUILD-TEST. It includes fun science activities, music, and more — plus it’s a short event starting at 10 AM and ending at 1 PM.

Our AAUW branch is hosting a hands-on game that’s an example of simple programming: 2-3 young players organize game cards so that another player can physically navigate a grid (using those same cards as instructions to move left, right, step, etc.). To avoid a long queue, we will have 2 games going at once.

We appear to have all the volunteers we need, but I am willing to take “back-up” volunteers in case someone needs to drop out. If you would like to volunteer, [please email me](#). Also, consider visiting downtown Livermore that morning, stop by to see our booth, and patronize a local business. Volunteer shifts include:

Shift #1: 9:30 to 11:30 AM (includes a little set-up time)

Shift #2: 11:30 AM to 01:30 PM (includes a little take-down time)

Branch member Carol Kinnard is putting together the game and will instruct the volunteers on game goals, rules and tools. I am working on volunteers, materials, and schedules. This should be a fun, easy play day!

If you would like to learn more about the event, [click here](#).

PJ Wells, AAUW Fund Chair
pj.wells.ca@gmail.com

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

For over 140 years, AAUW has stood as unwavering champions for equity in education for women and girls. Today, in a moment that demands courage and clarity, our mission has never been more vital — or more urgent.

As higher education faces mounting challenges and unprecedented threats, we are rising to meet the moment. We’re doubling down on what we do best: leading with vision, advancing women in higher education, and igniting pathways to opportunity, equity, and lasting economic empowerment.

Our three Strategic Priorities are to empower pathways to higher education; advocate for inclusive policy change; and strengthen AAUW’s grassroots and operational power. To see more about the Strategic Plan, [click here](#).

FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA

AAUW WA Online Branch Program on Title IX

The AAUW Washington Online Branch is offering a program on Title IX on Wednesday, September 17, 5:30 – 7 PM PST. The panel presentation will explore the historical evolution, current landscape, and future implications of Title IX, with a focus on its impact on gender equity in education, athletics, and beyond. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the legal, cultural, and political dimensions of Title IX—from its 1972 origins to the most recent developments in 2025. Panelists will share insights on enforcement trends, lived experiences, and strategies for upholding gender equity in the face of evolving interpretations and challenges.

Panelists include:

Dr. Dorothy McBride, professor emeritus of political science at Florida Atlantic University
Dr. Julie McCleery, Co-Director, UW Center for Leadership in Athletics, College of Education.
Domanic Vanthom, WSU Vancouver, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Deputy Title IX Coordinator

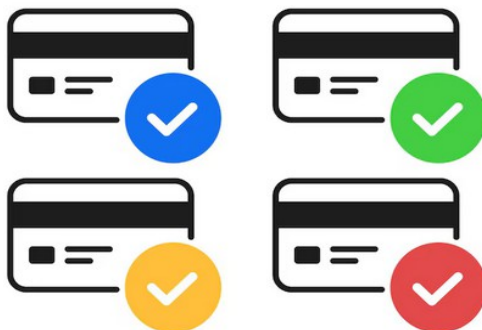
To register click [HERE](#). This will take you to a Google Form. Complete it and then 48 hours before the presentation you will receive the Zoom link. Remember you must pre-register to receive the Zoom link to attend.

AAUW LPD NOW OFFERS ZEFFY FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

AAUW LPD and the Local Scholarship Foundation have signed up to use Zeffy, an online payment system designed for non-profit organizations. This means that the LPD branch and foundation 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 posting donation links on our websites.

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



CELEBRATIONS

End of Year Party and Installation of Officers



International Lunch Group at Cafe Calamari



2025/26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President/Administrator – Tina Amber
Finance - Myla Grasso
Secretary- Saundra Bauer

Program Co-Chairs- Maria Kennedy, Cori Karlsen
AAUW Fund - PJ Wells
Membership – Anita Massey
Public Policy - Roz Wright
STEM Director - Sheryl Morgan
Publicity—Trish Shannon

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	October 8 Tech Trek Fundraiser at Darcie Kent	
International Lunch Group	September 4, 12 noon, Naschmarkt in Pleasanton	Limited to 12. Respond to Evite or contact Tina Amber .
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM every other Monday (except 5 th Monday)	For info and schedule, contact Carol Guarnaccia .
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 th Monday	September 22
Afternoon Book Group	1:00 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	September 10
Cocktails & Conversation	5:30 PM, 1 st Thursday	September 4
Mission Discussion Group	Various	
Bunco	2 nd Tuesday, 7 PM	September 9

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