

The Grapevine

November 2025



Let's move forward together!

What you can do:

Vote in the California election

Enjoy a fun evening at the Blackhawk museum

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PROGRAM

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GIANTS

Do elephants and their environments interest you? Wildlife filmmaker Bob Poole brings audiences deep into the lives of African elephants and the landscapes they inhabit. Raised in Kenya and shaped by decades of fieldwork, Bob's perspective blends science, emotion, and cinematic storytelling. Through stories of survival and community, he shows how nature's largest land animals teach us about resilience, intelligence, and the future of the wild.

This exciting talk takes place on Thursday, November 13, at the Blackhawk Museum at 7 PM. The plan is to carpool with Cori Karlsen and Maria Kennedy. We will meet at The Peppertree Plaza/Nob Hill parking lot (919 E Stanley in Livermore) at 4:15 PM OR at the defunct Walmart grocery store at parking lot (3112 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton) at 4:40 PM. At each location, we will organize cars and drive up to the Blackhawk Plaza.

We will then enjoy dinner at a new restaurant, Brown Butter, in the Blackhawk Plaza. At 6 PM, we will walk to the museum and buy our tickets (\$40), unless you have purchased them in advance online. You will have until 7 PM to explore the multiple museum areas--the gorgeous Auto Gallery and The Spirit of the Old West, Art of Africa, Into China, and World of Nature exhibits.

An annual senior membership is \$75 and is good for entrance for the member and a guest to the museum during normal open hours. This pass also reduces fees for talks.

Contact Cori at 925-640-2658 or Maria at 719-539-2057 for more info and reservation.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather and beautiful colors as much as I am. My garden finished for the season; my house is decorated in orange and yellow; and I love fall comfort foods.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the October 8 Tech Trek Fundraiser so successful. As many commented, it was not only an incredibly fun event, but it was also a very classy event. The silent auction items were so well received. The committee is meeting to debrief and find out exactly how much was raised, but all signs point to a remarkably successful event. It was an amazing committee. Thank you!

Fall is always an exciting time to investigate joining something new. Our branch is so fortunate to have wonderful interest groups. We encourage you to investigate a new one. These include book groups, a wine group, a lunch group, bridge group, a policy discussion group, a cocktails and conversation group, and our newest interest group, bunco. Updated times and locations are always in the newsletter or in our Friday updates.

Our board meetings are normally on the first Wednesday of each month. We welcome visitors and anyone who may have an innovative idea or who may want to explore one of AAUW's key policy areas.

Lastly, please be sure to vote!

Tina Amber
Tmamber6@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TWO UPCOMING EVENTS

The annual AAUW LPD Holiday Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 10, at Terra Mia in Livermore. Save the date on your calendar and watch for upcoming information.

AAUW LPD will again be present at Make a Difference Day For Pleasanton Volunteer Festival on Saturday, January 17. We will be looking for volunteers to be at our table to represent the organization and talk to prospective members. Please mark your calendars and watch for a volunteer sign up request.



GIRL PROGRAMS

TECH TREK

On October 8 Tech Trek held its second annual wine fundraiser and first silent auction. The evening exceeded our expectations, and we hope to make this an annual event. We could not have done it without everyone's help. In addition to our committee--Chris Alesso, Tina Amber, Saundra Bauer, Karen Cowen, Charlene Grandfield, Myla Grasso, Trish Shannon and PJ Wells--many others stepped up to secure items for the raffle.

As you all plan your own events for the holidays, I'd like to share a most unexpected gift from a local small business, [The Color of Fresh](#). They were our food supplier for the evening. When we went to settle the account at the night's end, Scott told us that this year he was able to donate the food as his contribution to Tech Trek. If you see Scott at a local farmer's market or have need for some catering, please consider supporting him as he supported us. [Darcie Kent Estate Winery](#) donated the venue for this event and lent their considerable expertise to our first event of this magnitude, so please keep them in mind as well.

We would not have been successful without support from all of you--attending, donating, helping to spread the word and bringing friends and family to the event.

Thank you!

Sheryl and Anita
and the Tech Trek fundraising committee

ENGINEERING FOR ALL

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped staff "Engineering for All" on October 4. Quest led the charge for this free event at Stockmen's Park in downtown Livermore, and we answered the call. A free, outdoor event with a focus on DESIGN-BUILD-TEST allowed our young players to experience Rosie's Runtime: a well-programmed robot who navigated a colored game board, limited to the movements in a prescribed instruction set. As one player stepped onto the game board, another received their instructions from our trusty advisor team. Sunny day, lots of play — and sun hats off to Carol Kinnard for leading our chapter in the robot game.

Contributing to our successful day were Charlene Grandfield, Cori Karlsen, Praneetha Senthilkumar, Carol Kinnard, Prathiksha Senthilkumar, PJ Wells, Sheryl Morgan and Mridula Manojkumar.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

In September, we were able to listen to heartfelt speeches from two of our scholarship winners-- Darya Novokhatskaya and Ileia Thomas. The other two winners, [Clarissa Cheung](#) and [Britney Hernandez](#), provided us with videos to view.

The following are some quotes from our winners expressing their gratitude:

Clarissa Cheung: "Thank you so much. I truly appreciate the Scholarship Selection Committee for awarding me this scholarship. This support means a great deal and will be incredibly helpful in continuing my education!"

Britney Hernandez: "This is exciting news. I am ever so thankful."

Darya Novokhatskaya: "This is a very special and important award for me. I hope to live up the trust you've place in me. I am incredibly happy about this opportunity."

Ileia Thomas: "Thank you so much for the opportunity to help pay for college. I am grateful and honored to be chosen."

We recently heard more from Clarissa Cheung. Besides her busy year at the University of Florida, Clarissa is involved in the following activities. Clarissa is:

- Currently serving as Vice President of Internal Affairs for the UF Society of Women Engineers and has helped increase the membership of this organization.
- Helping with a STEM display at the local Cade Museum.
- Part of a shadowing program through Women in Computer Science and Engineering and will be working on a drone visualization project.
- With a friend, working on a tool that helps students and professionals practice behavioral interviews with AI-powered feedback and analysis.



Our branch is very fortunate to be able to offer fine, young, college-aged women scholarships each year. This coming February, we will be having our annual non-event fundraiser. Please watch for the envelopes that will be coming in the mail early next year.

Susan Wacek
Local Scholarship Foundation Coordinator



FROM AAUW NATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT

As an AAUW LPD member, you are also part of AAUW California and the national AAUW organization. All levels are active in supporting the organization's mission. Discover how AAUW is advancing equity for women and girls nationwide in the latest [Annual Report](#) which highlights key achievements, financials, and the impact of our programs over Fiscal Year 2024. Be sure to check out AAUW's stories of impact.

FALL GATHERING

The AAUW Fall Member Gathering was held virtually on September 25. If you missed it, you can view the [video here](#).

FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA

Join us for an insightful and engaging webinar as we explore the transformative role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in various fields, from education to creativity and social good. This virtual program will be held on Saturday, November 1, 10 – 11:30 AM.

Hear about how AI is:

- Enhancing how we teach and learn
- Fueling creativity for designers and makers
- Being leveraged for social good

The program will include the benefits of AI tools currently being used and the potential risks and how to combat them.

Whether you're an educator, creative professional, or social advocate, this webinar will provide valuable insights into the future of AI and its impact on society.

Click [HERE](#) to register and be part of the AI conversation.

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATION

This month, on Tuesday, November 4, we will return to Bottle Taps, 3020 Bernal Avenue, Suite 160, in Pleasanton (corner of Bernal and Stanley in the shopping center with CVS). Please join us! We do need to reserve a table since there is Trivia later in the evening. There is no conflict with our group, but tables tend to be reserved in advance. Please email Marilyn Duman at marilynduman@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Look for us in the side room.

CELEBRATIONS

ENGINEERING FOR ALL



TECH TREK FUNDRAISER



CELEBRATIONS (continued)

TECH TREK FUNDRAISER



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
Communications—Marilyn Duman
Publicity—Trish Shannon

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 [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 in Friday Update	
International Lunch Group	Watch for info in Friday Update	
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM every Monday (except 5 th Monday or holidays)	For info and schedule, contact Carol Guarnaccia .
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 th Monday	November 24
Afternoon Book Group	1:00 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	November 12
Cocktails & Conversation	5 PM, 1 st Tuesday	November 4 Bottle Taps in Pleasanton
Mission Discussion Group	2 nd Wednesday	November 12 Charming Fig in Livermore
Bunco	2 nd Tuesday, 7 PM	November 11

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