

# The Grapevine

## December 2025



Let's move forward together!

What you can do:

Attend the annual Holiday Dinner On December 10  
Watch the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment program on December 13  
Donate to the AAUW Fund

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## **PROGRAM**

### **JANUARY—TRAVELS WITH NANCY**

Please join us on Wednesday, January 21, 1:30 PM, at the Livermore Library for an exciting presentation by LPD branch member Nancy Hudson. She will show us photos from her latest trip to Turkey, sometimes called The World's Largest Museum. Nancy is an avid traveler and accomplished photo journalist. Her career as a university professor brought her to countries all over the world. She has visited 113 countries and lived in Saudi Arabia and Iran. She will bring us with her as she explores the wonders of Istanbul, Ephesus, Cappadocia, Ankara, Antalya, and Troy.

This event is free of charge and open to everyone so please bring a friend and share this with anyone that may be interested.

### **DECEMBER—HOLIDAY DINNER**

If you are reading this before November 30, it's not too late to sign up for the annual AAUW LPD Holiday Dinner on December 10, 5:30 PM at Terra Mia in Livermore. Please see the recent Evite which has complete details and the link for payment. Or go to our "new-ish" online reservation and payment system at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/aauw-lpd-annual-holiday-party>.

## ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT***

The holiday season is about to begin, and I want to wish all of you a wonderful time with family and friends. An AAUW LPD tradition, the Holiday Dinner, is set for Wednesday, December 10, 5:30 PM, at the beautiful Terra Mia Restaurant in Livermore. Wear your holiday finery, and join us as we celebrate the season. Reservations are due November 30, so if you have not yet replied, please do so at <https://evite.me/CSFxXhJc4r>.

We are thrilled to have a board that can move us forward with technological advances. A huge shout out to Myla and Pam who have linked us to the non-profit payment system, Zeffy, which we recently used at the Tech Trek fundraiser and which we are also using for the holiday dinner reservations. Of course, we will continue to accept checks at this time. If you have not used the new system, please try it. If you have questions, we are here to answer.

We are so fortunate to have an organization that has a strong mission statement. It is my belief that this is one major reason AAUW has continued to thrive when other organizations have not. Our mission statement resonates with women everywhere. ***“To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy”***. In the coming year the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch will work with other branches to give you the opportunity to become better informed on issues that affect all of us.

I hope you will be able to join us at our upcoming events. See you at the holiday party in December. Happy Holidays to all!

Tina Amber, President  
[Tmamber6@gmail.com](mailto:Tmamber6@gmail.com)

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## ***MEMBERSHIP***

AAUW LPD is fabulous group of 81 members who come together to support an amazing mission—advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy.

We do this in many ways: granting scholarships for rising college juniors; providing educational programs for girls such as STEM Day and Tech Trek; partnering in support of community organizations like Quest and Tri Valley Haven; and participating in programs in support of our mission like the upcoming Constitution In Crisis: The History of the Missing 28th Amendment and Lobby Day 2026. That is a lot, so we rejuvenate with evenings at the museum; international lunches and wine groups; bridge and bunco; book groups and holiday gatherings; and, of course, friendship and laughter.

Now that you have been reminded of how wonderful we are, don't you have a friend or neighbor who would agree? I challenge each of you to reach out and invite someone to join us at a meeting or activity. It is ONLY with each of your help that we can grow our membership and be able to continue supporting our mission in these challenging times.

Anita Massey  
Membership Chair

## ***GIRL PROGRAMS***

### **STEM DAY**

On Saturday, March 14, 2026, AAUW LPD is again partnering with Sandia National Labs for a 1-day STEM workshop for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The students will be introduced to technical, real world concepts taught by Sandia scientists and engineers, and our very own Carol Kinnard will return with her workshop on Cybersecurity!

We need volunteers to help plan the day, publicize the event with local schools, manage registration and prepare materials for the day. We will also need many volunteers the day of the event to escort girls on campus, supervise workshops, provide lunch, set-up, and clean-up--just to mention a few duties.

If you would like to volunteer to plan the event and/or help out the day of the event, please reach out to Pam Leong, [p\\_c\\_leong@yahoo.com](mailto:p_c_leong@yahoo.com). We hope you can be part of this day of childhood wonderment!



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## ***INTEREST GROUP NEWS***

### **COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATION--**

Please stay tuned as we choose a new location. If you have a suggestion, please contact Gwen Locke at [gwenlocke41@gmail.com](mailto:gwenlocke41@gmail.com) or 925-301-7394

### **BUNCO**

December Bunco is canceled. We hope you will attend the holiday dinner at Terra Mia the next night!

## ***AAUW FUND***

As we head into the final month of year 2025, it is reassuring that AAUW California has turned its focus and energy towards the “Greatest Needs” portion of the AAUW Fund. They have hosted a series of Zoom meetings for instructive fund management support, and the attendance online is very good (especially given it’s the “evening shift”).

AAUW LPD's own contribution to the fund sits at \$590.00 through October 2025, and it is due for a well-earned boost. The LPD board has committed the proceeds from our Holiday Party gift raffle to augment the AAUW Fund this year. This is the umbrella fund that supports all AAUW programs and initiatives--especially fulfilling our Mission and Vision. It includes Fellowships and Grants, and is actually the largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women. Last year the California members and branches donated over \$475K to the fund in 2024, and those donations are tax deductible too.

I look forward to seeing you at the AAUW-LPD Holiday Party this month. Your generosity, membership, and friendship mean everything to me and to so many women striving to make the world a better place for all.

Happy Holidays all around!

PJ Wells  
AAUW LPD Fund Chair

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## ***LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION***

### **COMING IN FEBRUARY**

The annual Local Scholarship non-event fundraiser will be coming to your mailbox in February. While all the details are still under wraps, we anticipate giving you the opportunity to learn about women who are making a difference in the world of technology. And this year, you will have the option of making a donation through Zeffy (with a credit card). Watch the Grapevine and Friday Updates for more info next year!

### **NEWS FROM A RECIPIENT**

Aruna Nannapaneni , one of our 2024 winners, sent us an update. Aruna graduated from UC Davis in June of 2025 with a degree in Molecular and Medical Microbiology. Currently in a gap year, she is applying for PhD programs to study infectious diseases or women's health. We should be so happy to have supported her along her educational journey!

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

### **HISTORY OF THE 28TH AMENDMENT**

Save Saturday, December 13, 10 – 11 AM on your calendar! Our LPD Branch will be joining other Alameda County AAUW Branches to co-host the short virtual presentation *Constitution in Crisis: The History of the Missing 28th Amendment*, by Molly Gonzalez, an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) scholar and Advocacy Manager for the Alice Paul Center for Gender Justice. The Alice Paul Center is a nationally recognized non-profit organization named for Alice Paul, the primary author of the ERA, and provides education around women's history. Her birthplace, Paulsde in New Jersey, is a National Historical Landmark (<https://www.alicepaul.org/>). Molly has created a presentation for us about the past, present, and future of the ERA in California. The 45-minute presentation incorporates historical research, photographs, and action steps followed by 15 minutes for questions and discussion. Information on the Zoom meeting link to join the presentation will be available soon in the Friday Update.

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### **FROM AAUW NATIONAL**

It's a hard truth—there is no gender equity without pay equity. The pay gap has had a detrimental impact on people and families for generations. Unfortunately, after many years of slowly narrowing, the gap has actually been widening over the past two years. When including all women earners, women are paid 75 cents for every dollar paid to men. What has AAUW been doing to reverse the situation? AAUW has been providing salary negotiation, financial literacy, and advocacy training to thousands of women. Our signature document, *The Not So Simple Truth*, a gender pay report, is being updated with the most current data to examine root causes of persistent inequities and to highlight policies and practices that can close the pay gap. The 2025 update can be found [HERE](#). Please share with others.

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### **FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA**

AAUW Silicon Valley Branch invites you to join Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy, for an in-depth discussion on how the current administration's policies are impacting higher education. Specifically, learn the latest repercussions for admissions, Pell Grants, student loan forgiveness, student civil rights protections, and the experiences of international students. Meghan will share how AAUW is responding and explore ways that branches and individual members can help protect and strengthen our higher education system. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 4 PM. Register [HERE](#).



## **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

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## **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	December 12, 1 PM	3 Steves Winery
International Lunch Group	Watch for info in Friday Update	
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM every Monday (except 5 <sup>th</sup> Monday or holidays)	For info and schedule, contact <a href="#">Carol Guarnaccia</a> .
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, December 18	Cookie exchange!
Afternoon Book Group	1:00 PM, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	December 10
Cocktails & Conversation	5 PM, 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Watch for info in Friday Update
Mission Discussion Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	December 10
Bunco	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7 PM	No meeting in December

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