

The Grapevine

January 2026



Let's move forward together!

What you can do:

Travel with Nancy on January 21

Start the new year by inviting a potential new member

Remember to change to 2026!

[Program](#)

[Message from our President](#)

[Fund](#)

[Girl Programs](#)

[Interest Group News](#)

[Local Scholarship](#)

[Public Policy](#)

[From AAUW National](#)

[From AAUW California](#)

[Celebrations](#)

[Board](#)

[Branch Activities and Interest Groups](#)

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 has visited Turkey three times and 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.

FEBRUARY—SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars for a fun social event on Saturday, February 7, hosted by Program Co-Chair Cori Karlsen. Watch the Grapevine and Friday Updates for details.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our Holiday Party was a wonderful way to celebrate friendship and commitment to AAUW. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

Thank you to those who decorated our Giving Tree with gift cards(s) to Tri Valley Haven. Due to the generosity of our members, the branch donated \$625 to this very important local non profit.

At our Holiday Party, we also collected \$620 from the raffle of beautiful plants, a gift basket and a book bag. As planned, these funds have been donated to AAUW's Greatest Need Fund – supporting the policy work that AAUW does so well. This donation also supports the branch's efforts to earn all stars in AAUW's Five Star Program – becoming a branch that is recognized for aligning with AAUW's strategic priorities. We will have more information about this program in the coming months.

The board is about to solidify both policy and social programs for spring 2026. If you have ideas for programs or would like to join a committee, we would love to hear from you.

AAUW's Mission is "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy".

Tina Amber, President
Tmamber6@gmail.com

AAUW FUND

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Holiday Dinner for AAUW-LPD. The board voted to donate the proceeds of our raffle ticket sales to the "Greatest Needs" fund, and we brought in a whopping branch donation of \$620.00! That is in addition to our individual donations throughout the year. Many thanks to our super Treasurer, Myla Grasso, for transferring those funds before the cut-off date of December 31, 2025.

If you were unable to participate in the dinner, or perhaps you would like to top-off your donation for the year, it is not too late to make an additional gift. The deadline for individual donations is December 31 as well. The Greatest Needs fund ensures AAUW has a voice in lobbying, marketing, policy-driven decisions — and in general, provides "air cover" for our mission. More information is available at <https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail> .

Happy Holidays to all and thank you for your continued support of AAUW and all the lives touched by our mission.

PJ Wells
AAUW LPD Fund Chair

GIRL PROGRAMS

STEM DAY—WE NEED YOU!

On Saturday, March 14, 2026, AAUW LPD is again partnering with Sandia National Labs for a 1-day STEM workshop for 4th and 5th 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. We hope you can be part of this day of childhood wonderment!

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

WINE ENTHUSIASTS

The Wine Enthusiasts interest group held its last gathering of the year on Friday, December 12, at the 3 Steve's Winery. We gave a toast to 2025 and our second year of being an active interest group.

Our next gathering will be in February and is open to all members who are interested in trying out various local wineries. Events are sent via email, the Friday update, and the newsletter if the timing works. They generally have a maximum headcount based on the winery, and reservations are accepted in the order of receipt. A wait list is kept as we have had last minute cancellations.

Cheers until 2026.

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 or 925-301-7394



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

“NON-EVENT” FUNDRAISER COMING NEXT MONTH!

The annual AAUW-LPD Scholarship Foundation *Non-Event* fundraiser will be arriving in your “snail mail” and e-mail in early February. If you are new to our branch, this is one of the easiest fundraisers in which you will participate. All you need to do is read the provided information which will invite you to learn more about some outstanding pioneering women, then select your level and send in your donation. No products to buy, no scheduling conflicts in your calendar, just a fun, theme-based fundraiser for a great AAUW mission-based cause!

The women we are highlighting this year are all from the technology field, specifically digital infrastructure. Digital infrastructure keeps businesses running, connects people, and facilitates innovation. These women work in a variety of careers and companies, and have been highlighted in a book called *Critical Careers—Celebrating Women in Digital Infrastructure*. You will be able to “meet” some groundbreaking female pioneers, learn their stories, and read about how they hope to inspire the next generation of young women to enter the field.

All funds raised will go to granting scholarships through the Foundation to women with local connections who will be entering their junior or senior year of college. Our goal this year is to raise \$12,000. For over 70 years our AAUW - LPD branch has raised nearly \$150,000 in scholarships for local women, furthering our mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Please help us make this the best year yet! Winners will be invited to speak at our September luncheon.

New this year, we are excited to be able to accept donations via Zeffy, which means you can use your credit or debit card. Please understand that Zeffy is a free service; however, you will be prompted at checkout to add a default donation to them to help cover their internal fees. You can change this to “other” and “0” to ensure no additional charges are added to your donation. All donations to the foundation are tax deductible.

Also new this year, watch for a foundation-sponsored meeting in late February where we will learn more about these amazing pioneers..

Jen Kroeger and Myla Grasso
Scholarship Fundraising Co-Chairs



PUBLIC POLICY

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee invites you to join a half-day virtual Symposium - "AAUW School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy" - on Saturday, January 31, 2026, 9 am to 12:30 PM.

Participants will hear a keynote address on the impact of new federal laws and policies on California's protective laws; a panel discussion on how AAUW members can support students, parents, and school board members in the face of challenges and misinformation; and participate in workshops on effectively recruiting school board members and forming collaborations for greater impact.

Register for the event [HERE](#).

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

With steps being taken toward dismantling the U.S. Department of Education, [AAUW released a statement](#) underscoring what's at stake and rejecting the idea that education should be reduced to workforce development alone. AAUW National and AAUW California have been taking action in response – and we have pathways for you to act, so please join us! Collective action is important, and moments of coming together are particularly useful for combating isolation, disempowerment, and division, *and* (bonus!) they help create change. For more on what you can do, individually or together, to push back against the dismantling of Higher Education, see the December issue of [Public Policy News](#)

FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA

AAUW Silicon Valley Branch invites you to join the branch's annual event, *Step Out for Pro Choice*, held every year on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. *No Rights, No Law - A discussion about the Supreme Court & attacks on reproductive rights & justice* will feature keynote speaker Leah Litman, a leader for women's issues and well-known podcaster.

Professor Litman is a co-host of [Strict Scrutiny](#), a podcast about the Supreme Court of the United States, alongside Melissa Murray and Kate A. Shaw. She is a professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School and writes on constitutional law, federal courts, and federal post-conviction review. She is the author of a new book, [Lawless: How the Supreme Court Runs on Conservative Grievance, Fringe Theories, and Bad Vibes](#).

The event will be held via Zoom on Thursday, January 22, at 1 PM. Mark your calendars and register [HERE](#).

CELEBRATIONS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER



CELEBRATIONS (continued)



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	January 28
Afternoon Book Group	1:00 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	January 14
Cocktails & Conversation	5 PM, 1 st Tuesday	Watch for info in Friday Update
Mission Discussion Group	2 nd Wednesday	January 14
Bunco	2 nd Tuesday, 7 PM	January 13

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