



THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 39, Number 4

December 2022

"You've Got a Friend"

Sunday, December 11

1:00 PM–3:00 PM

Bollinger Hills Cabana
2951 Morgan Drive, San Ramon

Visit with friends, enjoy tasty food
and beverages, play a game!



*Join your AAUW friends
for a little holiday cheer!*

Guests are welcome too!

Look for the Evite—please RSVP

See page 4 for more details

AAUW MISSION AND DIVERSITY STATEMENTS

American Association of University Women advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7:30 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
4	5	6 12:30 PM Lunch Bunch Margo James	7	8	9	10 9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff International Human Rights Day
11 1:00 PM– 3:00 PM Holiday Party	12 1:00 Daytime Readers Margo James	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17
	7:00 PM Board Meeting Via Zoom					
18	19 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	20 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30 Friday Flicks *Special Date* Chris White	31 

Snippets

If you have a Snippet item (family events, career changes, etc.) that you would like to share with branch members, please contact Carol Lombardi.

Thank You, Thank You to the volunteer editors and proofreaders of this issue: Judy Bracken, Cindy Ferrin, Lois Kamoroff, Rebecca Said, and Lucy Weed. Heroines all! —Ed.

Save the Dates

Watch for more information about our 2022–2023 events coming in future newsletters.

Co-President's Pen



Celebrate Your Holidays and Universal Human Rights

I'm always amazed when I turn the calendar page (yes, I still use a paper calendar—blame my granddaughters!) and see that it's the last month of the year!

Yes, I'll say it, where did the year go?

I usually prefer to reflect on the past year's accomplishments, but this month I'd like everyone to mark their calendars for Saturday, December 10, [International Human Rights Day](#), which commemorates adoption and proclamation of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) by the United Nations. The UDHR—the first enunciation of rights to be protected for all people—is one of the UN's greatest achievements.

“Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

Adopted on December 10, 1948, the declaration stipulates universal values and a shared standard of achievement for everyone in every country. Although the declaration is not a binding document, it has inspired over 70 human rights instruments and treaties that today make a common standard of human rights. Available in 500 languages, it is the most translated document around the globe.

We celebrate our inalienable rights and freedoms including rights to an education, a decent living, and health care—and a right to live free from discrimination.

Despite the efforts to protect human rights, hostility toward human rights and those who defend them continues to rise. As a result, Human Rights Day advocates for everyone to stand up for their rights—civil, economic, political and cultural—and for those of others.

It reminds us that our rights are a foundation of sustainable development and peaceful societies—urging us to build a better, fairer, greener world. The day also acknowledges the defenders of human rights everywhere.

Now more than ever, human rights are being challenged. While not all of the following are enshrined in the declaration, many rights being attacked right now, including:

- Right to an abortion
- Right to contraception
- Right to vote
- Immigration rights
- Right to bodily autonomy
- Right to be protected from human trafficking

As AAUW members, our work helps protect the rights of others who may not have a voice.

As we celebrate the holidays, I hope you will celebrate all you do to protect human rights through your volunteerism and your donations.

Wishing you a joyous holiday and a healthy and happy new year.

Janice Colby
Co-President with Kathleen Schaub



Happy December Birthdays

**Beth Allen
Marielle Boortz
Lois Kamoroff
Brenda Hill**

Program

You've Got a Friend

Join Us for a Holiday Social!



December 11, 1:00–3:00 PM

Bollinger Hills Cabana

2951 Morgan Drive, San Ramon

Celebrate that *You've Got a Friend*—or plenty of friends!

Enjoy some food and drink, play a game or two, and celebrate the holidays with your AAUW friends.

Guests (spouses, partners, significant others) are invited too.

Please also invite prospective members— this is a great opportunity for them to meet your AAUW friends!

Look for an Evite and please respond so we get an accurate count of people.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Thanks to Dr. Patrick Joseph
for the Informative November Program**

Many thanks to Dr. Patrick Joseph for his very informative presentation on Covid-19 in November. He provided great background information, suggestions on how to minimize our risk of getting the virus, and an overview of how the virus will continue to mutate.

His recommendations: continue masking when in large crowds, get vaccinated/boosted, and maintain your health.

Happy Holidays,
Cindy Alpert & Karen Rice
Co-VPs Program

Local Scholarship



Donor Gift Basket Drawing To Be Held at the March 2023 Program

Once again, we plan to hold a drawing for a Thank-You Donor Gift Basket for anyone who donates to AAUW San Ramon Local Scholarship. Donations made starting July 1, 2022 through the day of the drawing at the March program (date TBD) are eligible.

Any member, their family, or friend who makes a monetary donation, regardless of amount, either directly or through SPF, will have their name entered in the drawing.

ONE LUCKY donor's name will be drawn, and the winner doesn't need to be present to win—but how fun if they are!

The attractive, reusable, and sturdy-handled gift basket is wine themed with an estimated value of \$125–\$150.

So far, the basket contains

- 1 bottle of Bent Creek 2020 Chardonnay from the Mendocino Coast vineyard
- 1 bottle of Artesa Estate Vineyard 2017 Pinot Noir from the Los Carneros region, Napa Valley
- 1 wine opener
- 1 package of 40 lovely sunflower design napkins
- 1 gift card to Chamois Car Wash (Danville) for a deluxe car wash (valued at \$33)
- 1 box of cocoa chocolate truffles
- 1 bag cornbread crisps
- possibly one more gift card TBD



Thank you in advance for your generous support of Local Scholarship!

Loranne Weir Co-Vice President, Local Scholarship with
Julie Gin and Susan Walker-Christensen

Tech Trek



Planning for 2023 Tech Trek

In the first meeting of the AAUW-CA Tech Trek Branch Coordinators Support Peer Group, over 100 coordinators throughout California shared experiences and exchanged ideas about future Tech Trek summer camps for young women who have completed the 7th grade. The coordinators are just a few of the approximately 1,000 volunteers working together to make Tech Trek the success it is. The meeting was also an opportunity for Mary Isaac, the AAUW-CA Tech Trek director, to update coordinators on the plans in progress for the 2023 camps and the long-term sustainability of the program.

In summer 2023, Tech Trek will again offer residential and virtual camps. However, there will be one less residential camp site, compared to pre-Covid years. The Sonoma camp, which San Ramon Tech Trekkers have attended since its inception in 2008, has a planned camp session for late June 2023. The camp director is looking into adding a second session to alleviate the lost residential camp site. Multiple virtual camp sessions are planned as well.

Going forward, our branch plans to sponsor six residential and two virtual campers in 2023. Offering the two modes of attending camp provides the young women with alternative dates and settings (living on a college campus for a week or at home via Zoom and small group breakout rooms). Our campers have testified that the STEM experience is extraordinary and very rewarding in both modes. The process of selecting STEM campers sponsored by our branch will begin soon with requests to the four San Ramon middle schools for nominations from the 7th grade STEM teachers.

The sense at this time is that there will be little or no sponsorship fee increase over the 2022 cost of \$1,000 per residential and \$500 per virtual camper. Our branch's 2023 Tech Trek fundraising effort was kickstarted in November by generous donations from two longtime Tech Trek supporters. We are fortunate to have this support and dedication from our members! The November 2022 fundraising letter from the Board included a "how to" sheet on ways (e.g., by check or online) to donate to the Tech Trek project.

Please remember these future innovators—our Tech Trek campers—in your year-end donations. Thank you in advance.

Stella and I welcome any comments or questions you may have about Tech Trek.

Cordelia Hwang, AAUW San Ramon Tech Trek Co-Coordinator with Stella Hadjimarkos



Tech Trek campers at the 2022 session



"All human beings" not "All men"
Equal pay for equal work
No discrimination based on sex
Equal rights in marriage

These and other rights are included in the UDHR because women representing multiple nations persisted.

For more information about them, check [here](#).

Membership



Membership Matters

Prospective Member Guests and Shape The Future Discount

We look forward to seeing you at the holiday gathering on Sunday, December 11. Please make sure to RSVP to the Evite you received by email.

****Everyone should receive an invitation via Evite to all programs. Please notify Margo James if you are not receiving them.****

Guests are welcome to attend our programs! If you know someone who is interested in learning about and potentially joining our branch, we encourage you to share their contact information with the membership team. We will invite them to the next branch event(s). Remember that throughout the year, we are able to extend the Shape The Future discount to new members who join at or soon after our events. The discount is 50 percent off the national dues for one year—a \$33.50 savings.

New Member Spotlights



Heather Taapken

Heather Taapken was born in Oakland, California and grew up in the San Ramon Valley since 7th grade—a real local gal! Heather met her husband, Ted, at San Ramon Valley High School. Their life together has included overseas travel and residential stays in Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, and Seoul. They have two children.

Heather graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Sociology. She intended to become a social worker but life changed course. She retired in 2014 after a 30-year career as a senior underwriter for Great American Insurance.

Heather is already playing bridge with our branch as well as with Alamo Danville Newcomers. She plays mah jong, euchre, and Mexican train a few times monthly. She also works part-time with her brother as the office manager of his architectural firm.

Heather's greatest joy is spending time with friends and family. She finds that being together with her two children, their spouses, and her five grandchildren "tops everything. Hearing about their lives and remembering shared experiences—that's what life is all about."



Lynn Davies

Lynn Davies (Phyllis Lynn Davies on Facebook) was born in Alabama and grew up in Kansas City. In her youth, she also lived in Georgia, Florida, and Illinois—relocations were due to her father's career in sales.

Lynn graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Business Administration. She met her husband, Ken, during her first year at UK; they married three weeks after graduation and moved to California. They have two children.

Lynn retired after 42 years in sales and sales management for several consumer food companies and brokers, including Nestlé, Kraft Foods, Elgaan-Booth Confectionary Broker, Mezzetta, and John B. Sanfilippo and Son.

Lynn's current interests are choral singing, gardening, as well as group exercise in yoga, Ballet Barre Fit, Zumba, and Power Pump. She is an avid reader and already an active member of our Daytime Book Group.

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Lynn likes to travel and reports that her most memorable experience was singing with her chorus at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland in 2019. She volunteers with Meals on Wheels Friendly Helpers and White Pony Express Flower Bouquets.



Happy Holidays from the Membership Team (L to R): Margo James, Betsy Hoffmann, and Harvalee Grimm

Public Policy



This month we are sharing information from AAUW California regarding Lobby Days in March of 2023. Mark your calendars, and we will continue to update this information!

Catherine Lewis, Public Policy

Lobby Days Are Here Again....

By Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee Member

Save the Dates March 21st and March 22nd are the AAUW CA scheduled Lobby Days, so mark your calendars and be sure to sign up to participate when our Lobby Day registration arrives in your January mailbox.

Advocating for our top 3 priority bills is fundamental to achieving our legislative priorities by addressing economic security for all women, providing equal access to public education and insuring social and racial justice for all members of society. We need all members on board and will be counting on you to reach out to our elected officials in the CA legislature.

Our Public Policy Committee will make it easy for you to do so. This year instead of a full week, Lobby Day will consist of two days and will occur while the legislature is in session, not on break. Hopefully, this will provide more opportunity to actually speak with a member in lieu of a staffer. Our plans are to make it hybrid – virtual and in-person. Those branches in and around Sacramento would have the option of in-person meetings at the Capitol with

the remaining branches meeting virtually or in-person with staffers in the district. So, a bit more flexibility this year as the committee feels it's beneficial to establish relationships with our elected leaders' local staff.

Our AAUW Legislative Advocate will be scheduling meetings with the member offices willing to participate, and once you return your Lobby Day survey, the committee will begin to assemble branch participants and match them with Assembly and Senate districts in order to assign teams. We will provide you with material on the bills we are supporting and have scheduled a mandatory training webinar for March 20th, so you'll have the information at your fingertips. If you have participated in Lobby Day in the past, we would love to hear from you on what worked and what didn't, please send your comments to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Lobby Day is our chance to make a concerted impact on the priorities and values we, as AAUW members, hold dear. It brings out the "advocates" in all us for improving the economic and educational lives of women and girls. And goodness knows, we need that commitment now more than ever. So, mark those calendars and join us on Lobby Days.

Source: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/lobby-days-are-here-again/>

Fund



World Day of Social Justice Save the Date: February 20, 2023

World Day of Social Justice recognizes the need to promote efforts to address issues such as poverty, exclusion, and unemployment. Many organizations, including the UN and the International Labor Office, make statements on the importance of social justice for people. Many organizations also present plans for greater social justice by tackling poverty, social and economic exclusion, and unemployment. The United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February annually, approved on 26 November 2007 and starting in 2009, as the World Day of Social Justice.

More to come...
Pamela Bugbee

continued next page



Use Your IRA for Charitable Donations

**Consider giving part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for 2022 and beyond to charity.
You may be eligible for a tax benefit!**

Normally, distributions from an IRA are taxed. However, an individual who is age 70½ or older may donate to a qualified charity [those with Sec. 501(c)(3) status such as AAUW FUND, Scholarships and Tech Trek] and not pay tax on the distribution. Even better, the donation can be counted as part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).

Making such a Qualified Charitable Distribution may also help lower your Adjusted Gross Income—which may affect your Social Security taxes and Medicare premiums.

Before recent tax law changes, a donor could offset the tax on her/his RMD by claiming an itemized deduction for the donation. However, under current tax rules, most people no longer itemize deductions (because the standard deduction is higher) and therefore they no longer get a tax benefit from a direct donation to charity. For many people, the RMD distribution is a better idea.

Here's how to donate to AAUW FUND from your RMD: **The donation must be paid directly from the IRA to AAUW** (the check drawn on the IRA must be payable to the charity). For example, Hilda wants to donate \$1,000 from her RMD to AAUW FUND. Hilda directs her IRA administrator to issue a check for her \$1,000 donation to AAUW (Tax ID 52-6037388). Then, either Hilda or her IRA administrator sends the check to:

**AAUW DEVELOPMENT DEPT
PO BOX 98045
WASHINGTON DC 20090-8045**

Hilda should note the Donor Name and branch designation (San Ramon CA-0189) on the Memo line. The distribution is not taxed, and AAUW gets the entire \$1,000 without being taxed.

Please consult your tax adviser to determine if this strategy works for you.

Communication

Social Media in the News

AAUW CA Terminates Its Twitter Account

“On November 9, 2022, the AAUW California Board of Directors voted to terminate its account with Twitter effective immediately. This proposal was brought forth by the Public Policy Committee and approved following thoughtful and careful discussion.” For background on this decision, please visit <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-california-terminates-twitter-account/>

As a point of information, AAUW San Ramon has never had a Twitter account.

Subscribe Today!

Check out the CA AAUW YouTube Channel, where you will find webinar recordings, videos of Tech Trek speakers and camper presentations, helpful training videos, and more. If you missed any of the four amazing Fund Events showcasing California scholars and grantees in a variety of topics, you can watch them on the AAUW California YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChLq8I6Tw48yDgVo3Go9afQ>

Extraordinary Happenings at National AAUW

Branch websites WILL be updated to a new look and feel early next year. We've been waiting for this for a few years. AAUW California will be working with National to ensure the rollout is smooth and well coordinated. New branch logos are also promised.

Isabel Lau, Communication
With Carol Lombardi



Happy Holidays

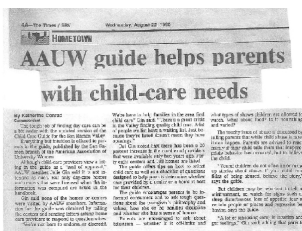
★★ Happy 40th Anniversary ★★

AAUW San Ramon Celebrating Community Service and Fun Times

The November 2022 newsletter featured information about an early project in our branch: raising money to support the opening of the San Ramon Library. Community service has always been a key focus of our branch.

Another major project that we managed was the publication of our *Child Care Guide*. Long before we all had access to the internet, paper directories were a great way to share a lot of information. In our first 1988 edition, the guide offered tips on how to select child care as well as a checklist of questions designed to help parents determine whether care provided by a center or a home is best for their children.

Each guide listed local child care centers and in-home facilities. The first committee, chaired by **Julie Gin**, worked hard to raise funds, gather the information, and publish the guides. It truly was a team effort, culminating in our sixth and final edition in 2002. Our branch received many accolades for this work.



Fundraising has always been paired with socializing in our branch. Early fundraisers to support the Educational Foundation (now known as AAUW Fund) included auctions and Monte Carlo nights.



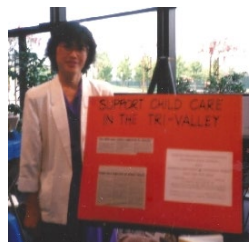
Fran Bartholomew and Lois Kamoroff
At Monte Carlo Night



1994/1995 Membership Brunch: (L to R) Margie Goldware and Diane Griffiths, Co-VPs Membership, Jennifer Roberts Past President



1993/1994 May Celebration: (L to R) Jennifer Roberts, Kristin Ivani, Anne Hayden, Patty Fairchild, Mary Salmon



1989/1990 Interest Groups: Julie Gin, Chris White, Margie Goldware

From Membership Brunches to End of Year Celebrations to Interest Groups, we have enjoyed meeting people and establishing long time friendships. It's hard to believe it has been 40 years since a group of women decided to create this branch.

We are still strong, we are still active, we are still very committed to the AAUW Mission.

Congratulations to us!

Interest Groups

GAME NIGHT

First Saturday

Saturday, December 3; 7:30 PM

In-person!

Host: Chris White, 94 Lewes Court, San Ramon

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed

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### LUNCH BUNCH

#### First Tuesday

Tuesday, December 6; 11:30 AM

We will meet at On Fire Pizza, 2005 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon (in the Ulta/See's/Baskin-Robbins shopping center). To join the e-mail reminder list, contact:

Margo James

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LOCAL WALKING GROUP

Second Saturday

Saturday, December 10; 9:00 AM

We'll walk around the lake at Bishop Ranch. The walkway is gravel and paved in some areas and an easy flat terrain. Parking should be easy at the Target parking lot. Everyone is welcome, including your dogs!

RSVP if you would like to be a part of this interest group.

Contact:

Andrée Chagnon

Lois Kamoroff

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### DAYTIME READERS

#### Second Monday

Monday, December 12; 1:00–3:00 PM

#### Via Zoom videoconference

We are reading the Read Contra Costa book, *Portrait of a Thief* by Grace D. Li. For more information and activities centered around this book, go to <https://ccclib.org/read-contra-costa/>

If you have questions or wish to be put on the e-mail list to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact

Margo James

## Interest Groups

### THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

#### Third Monday

Via Zoom videoconference

Monday, December 19; 7:00 PM

Karen Van Zino will review *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng

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TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Tuesday, December 20

Via Zoom: 7:00–9:00 PM

In Person: 7:00–10:00 PM

We will play bridge via Zoom/teleconference and BridgeBase and/or in person.

Our in-person get together is at Heather Taapken's home 540 Rolling Hills Lane, Danville (in Crow Canyon Country Club). Please bring, if you wish, an appetizer to share to help celebrate the holidays.

If you would like play, please RSVP and let me know if you are interested in virtual or in-person.

Contact Chris White:

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### FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, December 30; 7:30 PM \*\*Special Date\*\*

Via Zoom videoconference

We need a volunteer!

Contact Chris White



Walking Group rocks on

## 2022–2023 Board

### CO-PRESIDENTS

Janice Colby  
Kathleen Schaub

### IMMEDIATE PAST CO-PRESIDENTS

Janice Colby  
Kathleen Schaub

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, PROGRAM

Cindy Alpert  
Karen Rice

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERSHIP

Harvalee Grimm  
Betsy Hoffmann  
Margo James

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, THE FUND OPEN

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, SCHOLARSHIP

Julie Gin  
Susan Walker-Christensen  
Loranne Weir

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, FINANCE

Claire Mailhot  
Patty Nobles

### CO-RECORDING SECRETARIES

Judy Bracken  
Beth Robertson

## AAUW San Ramon Information

### **Websites:**

Branch Website: [www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net](http://www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net)  
Webmaster: Isabel Lau  
Association website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
CA State website: [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)  
CCC IBC website: [cbc-ibc-ca.aauw.org](http://cbc-ibc-ca.aauw.org)

### **Branch mailing address:**

P.O. Box 336, San Ramon, CA 94583

### **Branch email address:**

[aauwsr@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsr@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** San Ramon University Women/AAUW

**Instagram:** @sanramonaauw

## Appointed Officers

### ART & WIND FESTIVAL

Janet Williams

### COMMUNICATION

Isabel Lau

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

*Duties have been assumed by Membership*

### HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP

Andrée Chagnon

### NEWSLETTER

Carol Lombardi

### PUBLIC POLICY

Catherine Lewis

### TECH TREK

Stella Hadjimarkos  
Cordelia Hwang