

THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 39, Number 10

Summer 2023

Enjoy Your Summer!



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.

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7:00 PM Game Night Diane Griffiths
4	5	6 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Margo James	7	8	9	10 9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff
11	12 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17
18	19 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng Juneteenth	20 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	21 First Day of Summer	22	23 7:30 PM Friday Flicks Chris White	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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.

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, September 9, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM
at San Ramon Community Center
for our 2023–2024 kickoff!
Details for this afternoon “Happy Hour” celebration will follow.

July

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

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August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Margo James	2	3	4	5 7:00 PM Game Night Fran Bartholomew
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff
13	14 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James	15 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	16	17	18	19
20	21 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	22	23	24	25 7:30 PM Fourth Friday Flicks Chris White	26
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Co-President's Pen



Wow, we are at the end of our AAUW year already! The year has swept by so quickly. I'm often reminded that the days pass slowly but the years fly by.

That's What Friends Are For

This past year, we've celebrated our 40th year as a branch. We've learned about health and wellness and political initiatives; we've heard from a talented AAUW grant recipient. We met our Tech Trek campers and our high school and Renaissance scholarship recipients. Our interest groups brought members together to enjoy books, walking, lunching, and playing games.

Did you know that in-person gatherings contribute to healing—as individuals and as a community? Attending in-person gatherings helps prevent dementia, promotes better mental health, and instills a sense of safety and security.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at our end of the year celebration on May 20! It was wonderful to have a healthy lunch and to boost our mental and emotional health by gathering together in a joyous celebration.

You Can Always Count On Me

The San Ramon Branch of AAUW wouldn't be able to function without the many volunteers who make up your board and who make pursuing our initiatives possible. Interest groups couldn't function without someone to organize them. A HUGE thank you to the members who stepped up this year to serve in branch leadership. These members have given their time so that our members could have a branch with activities to enjoy.

Our Membership Committee has done an outstanding job of bringing new members into the branch. While other

community groups are languishing, our branch has been able to grow, despite some natural attrition, and we now stand at 102 members.

While I'll not be returning as co-president next year, the branch will be led by the capable Kathleen Schaub. I've enjoyed serving with Kathleen and am grateful for the opportunity to work with her while getting to know her better.

The branch is in excellent hands for the coming year with our incoming board. However, the board does need your help and support. As a relatively new member in 1999, I was asked just what leadership role I planned to take in the coming year. I'm so glad I stepped up.

I'm passing that question on to each one of you. What role are you going to take to keep our branch vibrant? Why not invest in our branch with your time and your energy. Remember, it's good for San Ramon AAUW and good for you, too.

While I won't be on the board, I still intend to support our leadership by helping where possible. It's been my honor to serve all of you.

I hope you will join our journey.

Janice Colby
Co-President with Kathleen Schaub



Happy June Birthdays!

Beth Robertson
Cindy Ferrin
Purvi Rawal
Elaine Baldwin
Karen Van Zino
Joyce Gunn
Pamela Bugbee
Carol Rowley
MaryJane Keogh
Patricia Leong
Renae Buckser
Nancy Powers
Sally Blackwell
Elaine Graves
Sandra Budde
Jo Anne Barron
Jane Young

Program

End-of-Year Celebration!



The Gang's All Here!

A cheer-filled gathering was held on Saturday, May 20 for our end-of-year reflections, "Time After Time." We met the high school scholarship recipients, who inspired us all as we learned of their aspirations and plans. We were delighted to learn about Gov Trek, a new AAUW program from participant Hailey Godin. She came to share about her experience: Gov Trek is a program for us to continue to engage in and grow our participation in during the coming year (see Hailey's comments on page 12). We heard an overview of the many branch accomplishments during the past year, and the 2023–2024 board members were introduced. A moment of recognition and thanks was addressed to our co-presidents, Janice Colby (who has served four terms total) and Kathleen Schaub (who has served one term and will carry on into the new year).



Carol Rowley, Fran Bartholomew, Diane Griffiths

We honored Fran Bartholomew, Diane Griffiths, Cheri Ng, Carol Rowley, and Diane Schinnerer—who have been members since our branch inception—with commemorative AAUW 40 Years of Service pins. Many thanks for their years of service to the branch and the community!

Phew, all that and we had sweet, in-person time to socialize with our AAUW friends!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 9, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at San Ramon Community Center for our 2023–2024 kickoff! Details for this afternoon "Happy Hour" celebration will follow. It is sure to be another amazing AAUW San Ramon year!

Cindy Alpert, Co-Vice President, Program
with Karen Rice

San Ramon AAUW Ice Cream Sale Fundraiser



The San Ramon Art & Wind Festival over Memorial Day weekend was attended by 40,000 guests despite some challenging weather (it rained Sunday morning) and cooler temperatures. AAUW volunteers sold ice cream, educated the public about the mission of AAUW, provided brochures about our branch, and shared smiles with guests.

Thank-you to all our volunteers: Cindy Alpert, Pat Baran, JoAnne Barron, Pam Bugbee, Chris Burchik, Ashley Cherry, Susan Walker-Christensen, Cindy Ferrin (and her husband Dave), Stella Hadjimarkos, Nancye Harder, Cordelia Hwang, Lois Kamoroff, Mary Jane Keogh, Becky Lou, Linda Louie, Claire Mailhiot, Patty Nobles, Kathleen Schaub, Sally Scholl, Karen Rice, Rebecca Said, Susan Volsky, and Loranne Weir.



Kathleen Schaub, Claire Mailhiot, Susan Volsky

As the weather was predicted to be cooler than normal, we purchased fewer ice cream items than in the past but sold all items!

This event raised about \$1,400 for our branch operations.

Janet Williams
Art & Wind Festival Chair

Membership



Membership Matters

We are always looking to add to our 102 members, and recruitment has added 9 new members this year! Let us know of interested friends, family, and colleagues, and the Membership team will reach out to them. Or you can direct prospective members to our branch website to complete the Member Profile found on the Membership tab “Join”. The Membership team will take it from there.

The Shape the Future Membership Campaign

The Shape the Future membership campaign is offered by AAUW National to its branches as incentives toward recruiting and maintaining memberships. The branch can extend 50% off national membership dues to a new member who joins at or soon after an AAUW meeting or event. Branches also earn 1 free national membership for every 2 new members they recruit. Our branch qualified for the maximum 3 free national memberships due to our successful recruitment of 9 new members during the campaign period! The board is honoring the following members with free national memberships for 2023–2024:

- **Julie Gin** for her service on the Local Scholarship committee
- **Pamela Justin** for her grant writing for the Local Scholarship committee
- **Carol Lombardi** for her work producing our newsletter

Membership Renewal

Starting late June, AAUW National will begin sending membership renewal notices to your email prior to your expiration date. You’ll have plenty of time to renew online or by mail.



New Member Spotlight



Ashley Cherry

Ashley Cherry was born in Houston, Texas and grew up in southern California. She now lives in San Ramon with her husband, Ben, and twin sons.

Ashley began her college career at Chico State. Marriage, work, and a move back to the Bay Area came next. Realizing she needed to further her education in order to excel in the financial industry, she enrolled at Cal State East Bay. Little did she know she would soon be pregnant with twins. Ashley earned her degree in Liberal Studies and says, “It was a really hard time to have babies and a full-time job and finish school, but I’m so glad I persevered. I graduated when my boys were 1½ years old, and I’ve never looked back!”

Ashley works for Merrill Lynch in Walnut Creek, where she is a Senior Relationship Manager. She enjoys learning about healthy living, finding fun new recipes to try, and testing kitchen gadgets. She and her husband enjoy trying local breweries, going for long walks, and attending their boys’ sports and school events.

Happy Summer from your Membership Team!
Betsy, Margo, & Harvalee

Happy July Birthdays!

Patricia Baran
Robin White
Barbara Blalock
Jennifer Fish
Cordelia Hwang
Vicki Turbeville
Brodie Hilp
Cheryl Ng
Vineetha Nair
Susan Walker-Christensen
Christina Burchik
Julie Plaisance
Patricia Campbell

Local Scholarship



High School Scholarship Recipients

The 2023 scholarship recipients have been selected! We have awarded \$1,000 scholarships to three outstanding young women from our two San Ramon high schools. This year's recipients present a wide range of skills and interests. They have demonstrated significant academic success and achievements in music, art, science, athletics, world languages, and leadership. They have also been involved in community volunteer or social activities, participated in internships, or held part-time jobs. We are confident that they will accomplish their academic and personal goals.



Anisha Gupta is from Dougherty Valley High School and will attend UC Santa Barbara in the fall. She plans to major in Psychology and aims for a career in this field, possibly as a psychiatrist. Anisha states that recent coursework in psychology and neuroscience has led to this career interest, along with personal experiences with friends and family of "burnout, stress, anxiety, and depression" during the recent shutdown. Anisha has been very involved with musical activities for all of her high school years, participating in several choral groups (women's ensemble, treble choir, concert choir, and chamber singers). She has also competed in racquetball tournaments, including the Junior National Olympic Championship. Additionally, she plays the piano, performs with an Indian Kathak classical dance group, enjoys baking "to relieve stress," and makes greeting cards using calligraphy. She has volunteered with CSF and Open Heart Kitchen and has worked part-time.



Local Scholarship



Mia Rabuco is from California High School and will attend Oregon State University in Corvallis, majoring in Sociology/Pre-Law with the goal of becoming a lawyer and an advocate for women and girls. Mia has demonstrated outstanding focus and leadership skills since middle school. She currently serves as the ASB Secretary and has been a member of both the varsity softball and soccer teams at Cal HS, as well as recreational/competitive teams in both sports for several years. She has held leadership positions (captain) on her sports teams and with several on-campus clubs or committees (homecoming, Best Buddies, Orange and Black Attack Club) and was honored with awards for her efforts starting in middle school. In addition to volunteer work with several on-campus clubs, Mia has been a sports camp coach and is currently working at two jobs.



Eunice Shen is also from California High School and will attend UC Santa Cruz this fall. She plans to major in Computer Science/Engineering with a desire to use technology to "democratize education and bridge the digital divide," especially relating to gender inequality and social justice. Eunice emigrated from Taiwan with her mother and siblings as a 10th grader in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. Eunice has demonstrated significant motivation and adaptability to become an academically successful high school senior. She has been part of the Interact and Philanthropy clubs and has participated in several technology programs involving coding, creation of non-fungible tokens, developing mobile apps, and designing logos. Some of these programs have included competitions. Eunice is also a tutor for Mandarin and works part-time.

Continued next page

Local Scholarship

Renaissance Scholar Updates

Amy Nguyen, Renaissance Scholar from 2022, is currently attending the Nursing Program at San Francisco State. She has received a \$3,000 grant from the San Francisco Branch of AAUW. Congratulations, Amy!

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Hilda Arriaga Delgado, MPA

The following email is from **Hilda Arriaga Delgado** (RS Scholarship recipient 2016). Many of you might recall this wonderful young woman who attended our September 2016 event and brought her children with her:

I just want to share with you that as of May 9, 2023, I accomplished my master's degree in Public Administration. My son is starting college this summer and my daughter is starting 7<sup>th</sup> grade on August.

We will forever be grateful for all the support you give us.

Sincerely,  
Hilda Arriaga

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The photo below is from the CSUEB Renaissance Scholars Luncheon that we attended at CSUEB on April 21—a very inspiring event. The students and staff are passionate about the program and the support they receive. We felt honored to be a part of this community.



L to R front row: Renaissance Scholars Felecia Hubbard, Ruth Clay, Jessenia Cohen
L to R back row: Kathleen Schaub, Lorraine Weir, Susan Walker-Christiansen, Janice Colby, Roshawn Campbell (Program Coordinator & Counselor), Julie Gin

Local Scholarship

Popular Gift Card Email Auction Fundraiser to Continue

The May Email Gift Card Auction was a success, yielding \$212! Add that amount to the April auction, which raised \$308, and this new fundraiser brought its total earnings for Local Scholarship to \$520! Thank you to all who participated and, since we are forever optimistic, to future participants.

The winning bidders for May were Judy Bracken and Pat Campbell.

We appreciate these local businesses and individuals for their generous gift card donations:

- [Chamois Car Wash](#) in Danville
- [San Ramon Habit Burger](#)
- [Ma Jolie Salon and Spa](#) in San Ramon
- Julie Gin, who donated the Ultimate Eats gift card

If we collect additional gift card donations, we'll continue this Email Gift Card Auction in the fall. Not only is it a fun fundraiser, but it is a win-win for Local Scholarship AND the winning bidder(s).

Trader Joe's Basket Drawing a Success: Due to the generous participation by the attendees at the May 20th End-of-Year Celebration, the Trader Joe's basket drawing raised \$375! Congrats to the lucky winner, Lucy Weed!

The 2023 Shredding Event Results Are In!

Many thanks to Janice Colby and Barb Ellul for sponsoring the shredding truck and again to Janice Colby (through friends and business contacts) for helping to publicize this ever-successful fundraiser.

We raised a whopping \$1,765—much more than we had anticipated. Carlos of Jessica's Shredding, a woman-owned business, went above and beyond in his helpfulness and enthusiasm. The lovely sunny day included a mix of members, neighbors, and friends, all connecting with each other and the community, while raising funds. It was the perfect backdrop in which to share information about AAUW and, in particular, Local Scholarship.

We thank Joy Perkins of Omnibus Organizing for providing advertising and sharing with her clients about our event. Additionally, we are again grateful for the efforts of our web mistress, Isabel Lau, who posted information about our Shredding Event on multiple platforms (which was most effective), along with Carol Lombardi, our newsletter editor.

Continued next page

Local Scholarship

Not to be forgotten, thank you to our hardworking committee members: Julie Gin, Susan Walker-Christensen, Sally Blackwell, and Loranne Weir, along with additional enthusiastic volunteers Janice Colby, Alice Miller, and Patty Nobles, for their invaluable help working the event. And finally, thank you to Claire Mailhiot for processing the funds we collected. It takes a village, right?

We do so appreciate our members who contributed to our success by bringing their shredding and sharing information about our fundraiser. We anticipate repeating this shredding event next spring....so watch for it!

San Ramon AAUW Awarded \$3,750 in Grants!

This year under the guidance of **Pamela Justin**, grant coordinator for Local Scholarship, our branch received generous grants totaling \$3,750 from businesses located throughout the Tri-Valley. Pam's diligent research and hard work helped us win these wonderful grants. These funds will go toward high school and Renaissance scholarships for 2023–2024. With these grants, Local Scholarship has reached their goal of \$10,000 for 2023.

Our branch received the following grants: \$250 from Smart and Final, \$500 from Costco, \$1,000 from Robert Half in San Ramon, and \$2,000 from the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance in Livermore.

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance in Livermore awards \$10,000 to Tri-Valley organizations quarterly to reach their funding goals. Our branch was honored to receive \$2,000 for Local Scholarship. We were invited to a reception to receive our award. Co-Presidents Kathleen Schaub and Janice Colby and Co-VPs of Scholarships Julie Gin, Loranne Weir, and Susan Walker-Christensen attended this event. See the photo below, showing the group receiving the check. We thank the TVNPA for their generous award!



L to R: Julie Gin, Kathy Young (TVNPA CEO), Kathleen Schaub, Janice Colby, Marti Sutton (TVNPA staff), Loranne Weir, Susan Walker-Christensen

Local Scholarship

A huge shout-out to Pamela for raising these funds for AAUW. She spent many hours researching and applying for these grants. We're keeping our fingers crossed as she's waiting to hear from several other companies.

A Few More Words of Thanks...

This year, Local Scholarship has been blessed by the generosity of many. First, thank you to all members who generously supported us financially throughout the year either directly or through SPF. Thanks also to all who participated in our many large and small fundraising events. We are also deeply grateful to the businesses who recognized the importance of lifting up young women through education. Their generous grants allow us to award scholarships to the most deserving.

And finally, a sincere thank-you to the Local Scholarship Committee who worked so hard, not only to raise funds, but also to read and process the high school and Renaissance Scholar applications. With assistance from many board members and the Communications committee, you made this year a success. Know you are appreciated!

Julie Gin, Susan Walker-Christiansen, Loranne Weir
Local Scholarship Co-VPs

Happy August Birthdays!

Sindhura Putumbaka

Mary Venkat

Lucile Weed

Dayna Hannum

Linda Yoshizawa

Rebecca Said

Judy Bracken

*Thank You to Volunteer
Editors and Proofreaders:
Judy Bracken, Cindy Ferrin,
Rebecca Said, Lucy Weed*

Tech Trek



The preparation for the Tech Trek summer camps is nearly complete. Five of our selected students registered for the residential camp at Sonoma. The other three will attend a virtual camp.

Thank You for Stepping Up

We have asked and you listened. We filled all remaining positions that Tech Trek expected of us. Yay!

Judy Bracken and Elaine Graves volunteered to be class monitors at the Sonoma Tech Trek camp in June. Camp directors rely on class monitors to help provide guidance and structure for the young campers.

Judy and Elaine, we appreciate your continued, excellent support of girls' STEM education. Your participation is great optics for our branch.

Harvalee Grimm and Becky Said volunteered to represent our branch at the Orientation Session (commonly known as Ice Cream Social), on June 11 at the Pacheco Community Center. Delicious ice cream bars and fun mixer activities should make for a pleasant and informative outing for the campers and their families. So far three girls plus their mothers have responded yes.

Our campers will be invited to our September 9 event, so you will have a chance to meet them and hear about their camp experiences.

Once again we would like to thank all the people on our Tech Trek committee, who gave their precious time generously and all the members who contributed funds to our valued cause.

Looking Ahead

As this AAUW year comes to a close, Cordelia and I are getting ready to say good bye to Tech Trek coordination. Other members have signed up for new board positions replacing the old guard. We wish Cindy Alpert—who will be the new Tech Trek Coordinator, as well as the new Tech Trek Committee that she will form—great success.

As each one of us is contemplating how we can get involved next year, let's hear from our distinguished lecturer and inspirational leader Tara Mohr (www.taramohr.com).

The following excerpt can express what we might be feeling right now:

I think one of the most uncomfortable feelings we experience in life is also one of the most glorious.

That sense of, "There is something more. Something more I'm meant to contribute. Something in me that wants to be expressed. Some impact I am meant to make."

These thoughts can seem highly individual, highly personal, when they come to us. That can trip us up because it takes us into, "But am I good enough for that? Who do I think I am?" But the sentiment "I'm meant for something greater" reflects a universal truth. All of us have greater creativity than we use. All of us have more power to do good than we imagine.

But how do we do that, when we are so depleted from this difficult year?

We let ourselves shed the tears we need to shed. We collapse when we need to collapse. We give ourselves permission to rest.

But we also stay in touch with the truth that we can find new ways of giving in this most difficult time. After all, the tender needs of our fellow human beings are everywhere, all around us. And there are new truths to speak, listeners open to those truths in new ways, people longing to be met with an intimacy and kindness they may have not been longing for before.

We are expressions of life, of creativity itself, meant to give, invent, bring forth, and heal. We're designed for that, and so we long for it. You can forget all the inner critic narratives and personal questions about your readiness to play bigger, because it's just not a personal matter. It's for all of us.

As we step into our authentic callings, we bring the sanity and compassion that our world so desperately needs.

It's true. You are called to bring forth what is in you.

About the Author Tara Mohr

I first met Tara at the AAUW California Conference in Santa Clara, on 2012, where she was a distinguished speaker. I got on her email list and have been following her ever since.

Tara is a groundbreaking women's leadership expert and popular conference speaker. She gives women the practical skills to voice and implement the changes they want to see—in themselves and in the world. She is the author of *Playing Big*, an audiobook offering tools to help every woman play bigger—whether she's an executive, community volunteer, artist, or stay-at-home mom.

Well, my friends—farewell and have a great summer!

Stella Hadjimarkos and Cordelia Hwang

INTRODUCING GOV TREK 2023



Hailey Godin

Gov Trek is an exciting new virtual program administered by AAUW California. It is designed to gain young women's interest in pursuing careers in public service and elected office. In its inaugural year, Gov Trek trained 40 young women leaders of tomorrow, and we are fortunate that **Hailey Godin** represented our San Ramon branch.

Gov Trek is for junior and senior high school girls throughout the state. They participated in five 2-hour Saturday sessions, learning from current and former legislators, staffers, and consultants from all over the country. The program was designed to help women prepare to run a political campaign via a team competition.

Hailey was on Team Alaina, which won the Grand Prize. You can read about the program at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/introducing-gov-trek/> and view the final competition videos at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/category/aauw-ca-projects/gov-trek/>

"It is a possibility for young women everywhere"

Hailey's comments: "For me, the program was exactly what I needed at precisely the right time. About a year ago I realized I wanted to pursue a career invested in human rights. What stood out most was the diversity of government positions represented by the speakers. I saw that I didn't have to limit myself to a specific career or major going into college as my path could wander elsewhere within the broad spectrum of government jobs. Of course, we got to hear of the hardships faced by women in a male-dominated field, but these were not sob stories, they were clearly a call to action. The program was truly amazing through its empowerment and its simplification of such a detailed process. I remember going into the campaign simulation concerned that I would have no idea how to do my part. However, the program laid out the process well and allowed for freedom and creativity which showed me just how realistic the process was. It is a possibility for young women everywhere. It is something that I can do if I so desire. The possibilities are endless, not just jobs, but also the passions supplied and supported by government and political positions as well. We need new ideas and fresh minds in politics. We need innovation and empowerment. We need more women in government."

Public Policy



Following is a synopsis of recently published reports regarding AAUW California's Legislative priorities and initiatives for 2023–2024. The text has been edited for brevity and clarity. We also include an uplifting and historically interesting celebration of Pride Month!

AAUW California State Public Policy Committee Sets 2023–24 Legislative Agenda by Kathi Harper, State Public Policy Chair; March 20, 2023

The State Public Policy Committee, in conjunction with our Public Policy Advocate Kathy Von Osten, has completed their selection of the 30 bills that the committee and Kathy will be prioritizing this year. These bills fall into the following categories from the Three Pillars of our Public Policy Priorities:

- 8 "Economic Security"
- 11 "Public Education"
- 21 "Social Justice"
- 8 "reproductive justice"
- 5 "healthcare"
- 5 "freedom from violence" including sex exploitation, DV, stalking
- 1 "gender-identity protection"
- 2 "voting rights"

The committee then selected our top three priority bills, including at least one bill that we will co-sponsor: "A" bills. Efforts to promote these bills will involve working with the authors' offices, attending committing hearings, and writing letters of support. We then selected three next-level bills, or "B" bills, which are important but not as resource-intensive. The remaining 24 bills will be handled as "C" level bills. Here is a look at our top three bills:

AB1394 – This is our co-sponsored bill. It would allow victims of child sexual exploitation and trafficking to sue a social media platform for between \$1 million and \$5 million if the victim can prove the platform design knowingly, recklessly, or negligently facilitated the use of code words for sexual predators to describe the type of child and the type of sexual activity that resulted in the act of exploitation.

SB287 – Would prohibit a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or should know, causes child users to: purchase fentanyl; inflict harm on themselves or others; develop an eating disorder or engage in dangerous dieting; purposely

Continued next page

Public Policy

take their own lives; and/or experience addiction to the social media platform. A victim of any of these consequences can sue the platform for up to \$250,000 for each violation.

AB549 – Requires all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all their departments to ensure the state does not discriminate against women, and report their findings every two years.

AAUW California Promotes its Priorities with the Legislature, Prepares for a Vote on New Ones by Ginny Hatfield, Amy Hom, and Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee; April 1, 2023

If you participated in this year's Lobby Days on March 21st and 22nd, you know it was a whirlwind of activity. . . . While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff, we were able this year to schedule 10 meetings with the members themselves—6 Assemblymembers and 4 Senators. In addition, Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Chair, and Kathy Van Osten, our AAUW CA Legislative Advocate, met with the Governor's staff and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's office. . . .

A sterling endorsement came from none other than Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant for Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, whose mother was an AAUW member in the 1940s in Orange County. He credits her involvement in AAUW for "making me the man I am today."

There seemed to be a general consensus favoring our "Top 3" bills—AB 1394, SB 287, and AB 549—especially the two social media bills. Both staff and legislators could identify with the pervasive problem of having children who are or will be targeted by social media. AB 549 needed a bit more explaining, as some were unfamiliar with CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/03/bill-tracking.pdf/>

During our Lobby Days event, we were able to get our message across to those who make our laws and to highlight AAUW, our mission, accomplishments and the benefits we bring to our communities throughout California. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy and for those of you who participated, AAUW CA thanks you!

As to the Public Policy Priorities for 2023–25, and in response to input from 466 members, the state Public

Public Policy

Policy Committee has recommended and the Board has approved 11 changes, which can be viewed here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-proposed-public-policy-priorities/>

Highlighted additions include support for: civics education, access to diverse staff and curriculum, safe infrastructure and access to technology in our schools, gun violence prevention, and a fourth pillar to support women in leadership roles.

Happy Pride Month! by Kim Talbert, AAUW California Public Policy Committee; May 5, 2023

Every June since 1970, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ+) Pride Month is celebrated to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. At the time, The Stonewall Inn was the most popular gay bar in Manhattan. Until 1966 it was illegal to serve alcohol to a gay person, and until 1969, homosexuality was a criminal offense. On the morning of June 28, 1969, police raided the bar for the sale of illegal alcohol. . . . [T]housands of protestors came out, and the protests lasted for six days. These protests sparked the beginning of the Gay Liberation Movement.

The Stonewall Inn is now a National Monument. In 2016, President Obama established the first LGBTQ+ National Park in the 7.7 acres surrounding The Stonewall Inn, and in 2019, the city of New York honored LGBTQ+ activists Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, with a statue for their activism. They were prominent in the Stonewall Uprising, and according to the city of New York, this was the "first permanent, public artwork recognizing transgender women in the world."

Since the Stonewall Uprising, there have been many significant advances for the LGBTQ+ community, like same-sex marriage and the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. There is still a long way to go for equitable treatment for all, but that's why it's exciting to work with an organization like AAUW on its mission of achieving a more equitable society.

For further information, the Library of Congress has compiled a wonderful resource guide: <https://guides.loc.gov/lgbtq-studies/> *LGBTQ+ Studies: A Resource Guide* serves as an introduction into the excellent collection of LGBTQ+ resources available at the Library of Congress.

Catherine Lewis, Public Policy

Interest Groups

GAME NIGHT

First Saturdays; 7:00 PM

June 3: Diane Griffiths will host. RSVP to Diane.

July 1: Heather Taapken will host. RSVP to Heather.

August 5: Fran Bartholomew will host. RSVP to Fran.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed



LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesdays; 11:30 AM



At Dos Coyotes for Cinco de Mayo

Lunch Bunch meets at 11:30 AM on the first Tuesday of each month at a different local restaurant. It's a great way to meet new people, reconnect with friends, catch up on the latest activities, and perhaps try a new restaurant. We always get separate checks, so you pay for only what you order! We would love it if you'd join us!

Lunch Bunch will meet on the following dates this summer:

June 6: The Roundhouse, 2600 Camino Ramon, San Ramon (enter through the main lobby at 2600 Camino Ramon and follow the signs to Bishop Farms Café). If the weather is nice, we will eat outside with a lovely view of Lake Annabel.

****Since July 4 is the first Tuesday, we will meet on July 11 instead!**

****July 11:** The Noshery Food Hall, 2426 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, San Ramon

August 1: Dare Devil Dogs, 2550 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Suite D, San Ramon

To join the email reminder list, please contact Margo James.

Interest Groups

"NEW" COOKIES & CAREERS

Summer meeting will be in-person

Date, time, location to be announced

Our first event was a great success! The theme was "Transitioning from Elementary to Middle School," and our guest speakers included a 6th grader—Vineetha Nair's son, Anvay; 8th grader (former Tech Trek participant) Naisha; and our own Sandy Budde (retired middle school principal). A total of 9 fifth-grade girls and their moms spent the afternoon asking questions about what to expect in middle school while enjoying cookies together. Moms and daughters all had a wonderful afternoon and learned so much about middle school culture.

Our next event will be this summer, and we will focus on college students and their experiences. Currently, we have a chemistry student from Yale University as one of our guest speakers. If you are interested in helping out, attending, or donating cookies, please contact Michelle. We are so excited to offer these young girls information about the great opportunities available to them in the future and to acquaint their mothers with AAUW!

Contact: Michelle Wong Ritenour



DAYTIME READERS

Second Mondays; 1:00–3:00 PM

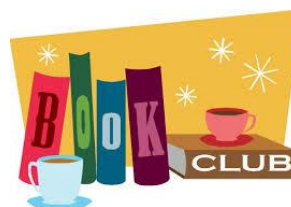
Via Zoom videoconference

June 12: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt; Nancy Vandell will lead the discussion.

July 10: *The Murder of Mr. Wickham* by Claudia Gray. Marielle Boortz will lead the discussion.

August 14: *The Magician* by Colm Toibin. Lynn Davies will lead the discussion.

If you have questions or wish to be put on the email list to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact Margo James.



Interest Groups

LOCAL WALKING GROUP

Second Saturdays, 9:00 AM

June 10, July 8, August 12

The AAUW Walking Group had a warm beautiful morning on Saturday, May 13 to walk twice around Annabel Lake. There were 9 of us including a prospective member and new member Ashley Cherry. Walkers included Kathleen Schaub, Susan Walker-Christiansen, Chris Burchik, Harvalee Grimm, Lorraine Weir, Andrée Chagnon, and Lois Kamoroff. We look forward to seeing you on another pretty walk day this summer!



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



THE NIGHT BOOK

GROUP Third Mondays;

7:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference—but watch your email! We may schedule an in-person outside meeting.

June 19: Marielle Boortz will review *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin.

July 17: Kathleen Schaub will review *Dinners With Ruth: A Memoir of the Power of Friendships* by Nina Totenburg.

August 21: Judy Bracken will review *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng

Interest Groups

TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Third Tuesdays; 7:00–10:00 PM or so

RSVP to Chris White. We will play bridge via Zoom/teleconference and BridgeBase and/or in person. Kindly RSVP and let me know:

1. if you are interested in playing or not
2. if you wish to play in person or virtual.

June 20, Virtual and/or in Person

Hostess: Sandy Budde.

July 18, Virtual and/or in Person

Hostess: Brenda Hill.

August 15, Virtual and/or in Person

Hostess: Margo James.



FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF) Fourth

Fridays, 7:30 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

June 23, July 28, and August 25

Organizer: TBA

Film/Series: TBA

Let Chris White know if you wish to receive a Zoom link for the above events.

Please Volunteer!

We need volunteers to pick a films for our 3 summer meetings.

Contact Chris White



2023–2024 Board

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AAUW San Ramon Information

Websites:

Branch Website: www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net
Webmaster: Isabel Lau

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CA State website: www.aauw-ca.org
CCC IBC website: cbc-ibc-ca.aauw.org

Branch mailing address:

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

Branch email address:

aauwsr@gmail.com

Facebook: San Ramon University Women/AAUW

Instagram: @sanramonaauw

Appointed Officers

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Janet Williams

COMMUNICATION

Isabel Lau

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Duties have been assumed by Membership

HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP

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