

# THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 40, Number 3

November 2023

## *Celebrate Friendship*

**Thursday, November 16**

**4:00 PM-6:00 PM**

Bollinger Hills Cabana  
2951 Morgan Drive  
San Ramon

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



***It's a Friendsgiving  
Celebration!***

*Guests are welcome too!*

*Look for the Evite  
Please RSVP by November 12*

**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.

## NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4    7:00 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
5 	6	7    11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Margo James	8	9	10	11    9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff
12	13    1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James  7:00 PM Board Meeting via Zoom	14	15    1:00 PM History Chicks Margo James	16    4:00– 6:00 PM Friendsgiving Celebration (See page 4)	17    7:30 PM *Special Date Friday Flicks Chris White	18
19	20    7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	21    7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	22	23  Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28 Giving Tuesday	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.

Pauline Nolte will be visiting the Bay Area in November and just in time for the Friendsgiving event on November 16 from 4:00–6:00 PM. She hopes you can stay a while after the Friendsgiving get-together to chat!

## Save the Dates

**Thursday, January 18: Program details to come**

## Monday, February 5: Gianni's Tech Trek Fundraiser

Watch for more information about our 2023–2024 events in future newsletters.

## President's Pen



### Both Thanks and Giving

Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow

— Melody Beattie

November is a great time to take stock—to be grateful for how far we've come and become energized for the road ahead. A case in point is education, which is women's path to freedom and power. Let's be grateful for progress! In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, education prospects for women were dismal. On November 28, 1881, Marion Talbot, Ellen Richards, and 15 other women college graduates met in Boston, MA to initiate the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (AAUW's predecessor group) to support the tiny fledgling group of women college graduates.

Things improved slowly. By 1940, still only 3.8% of American women had graduated with a four-year college degree (the rate among men wasn't much higher). But by 2022, the percentage of adult women with degrees had risen to 39%, according to Statista. A huge improvement to be grateful for! The rate of graduation rose similarly for men.

Education remains the "tide that lifts all boats," and helping women continue schooling is one of the most valuable things we can do. On average, bachelor's degree holders are half as likely to be unemployed as those with a high school diploma and make \$1.2 million in additional income throughout their lifetime. The education/income gap continues to widen as new technologies drive the need for advanced skills higher.

If November puts you in a giving frame of mind, please consider these ways to support our branch community action projects:

**AAUW Branch Fall Fundraising Campaign:** You recently received an email from our board outlining how you can give. Please find your favorite project and method of donating. If you need another copy, please [contact me](#).

**Giving Tuesday, November 28:** Remember AAUW on Giving Tuesday. Check to see if you are part of an organization that matches charitable contributions. Tech Trek, Local Scholarships, and the National Fund are all 501(c)3 and are tax deductible.

**Give from Your IRA:** For those of you at the age to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you may be able to avoid ordinary income taxes by giving part to AAUW via a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). QCDs don't increase your Adjusted Gross Income, your taxable income, or anything related to Medicare. Timing and details are critical, so check with your financial advisor or the IRS.

Blessings to you and yours during this season of thanks and giving!

Kathleen Schaub, President



### Happy November Birthdays!

**Carolyn Fishel  
Janet Kleyn  
Pauline Nolte  
Linda Louie  
Pamela Justin**

## Program

**AAUW San Ramon Friendsgiving Event**  
**Thursday, November 16**  
**4:00 to 6:00 PM**  
**Bollinger Hills Cabana**  
**2951 Morgan Drive, San Ramon**

**Cost: Free to all, guests welcomed!**

**Please RSVP to the email invitation**  
**coming soon:**  
**Deadline to RSVP November 12**

What better time than now to recognize our gratitude for all we have—most especially our near and dear friends and family? Join us for our first Friendsgiving-style holiday event!

This is a no-cost, all friends-and-fun celebration with social time, games, snacks, and loads of cheer!

### **Followup on The School Board Project**

We also thank our SR AAUW members and guests for your ongoing support by attending the October program “The School Board Project,” shared with the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch. We learned much about the initiative. There will be ongoing discussions along with a program we will sponsor in early spring.

Want to learn more about this initiative? Scroll past the signatures below for a link to a selection of detailed resources. More information will be available at the beginning of 2024.

### **Save the Dates:**

**Thursday January 18: Program details to come**  
**Monday, February 5: Plan an evening out for our**  
**annual Gianni’s Tech Trek Fundraiser**

Please remember to RSVP for all AAUW events and programs to ensure we have all the proper materials and goodies for our attendees.

Excited to see you ALL at these upcoming events.

Karen Rice & Cindy Alpert  
Co-VP’s Program

PS: To learn more about the AAUW CA School Board Initiative, click this [link](#) to find links for multiple resources.

## Membership



### **Membership Matters**

Our membership continues strong with **102** members. We welcome our newest general members, **Robin Klau** and **Helen Rozman**, and our student associates, **Ruth Clay**, **Jessenia Cohen**, **Felecia Hubbard**, and **Ashley Middlebrooks**. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you at our branch activities.

### **Supporting Our Special Interest Groups**

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are an ongoing source of fun and fellowship. Let’s support our newest SIGs: Women in History podcast, Hidden Brain podcast, Bocce, and Let’s Go. Invite a friend and or family member to participate and let us know if they are interested in joining our branch.

### **Shape The Future**

AAUW National continues to offer its branches The Shape the Future membership campaign. The branch is able to extend a 50% discount off national membership dues for one year to a new member who joins at or soon after an AAUW meeting or event. That is a discount of **\$36**.

### **Corresponding Secretary**

It’s always nice to be remembered. Let us know if we can send words of support to one of our own.

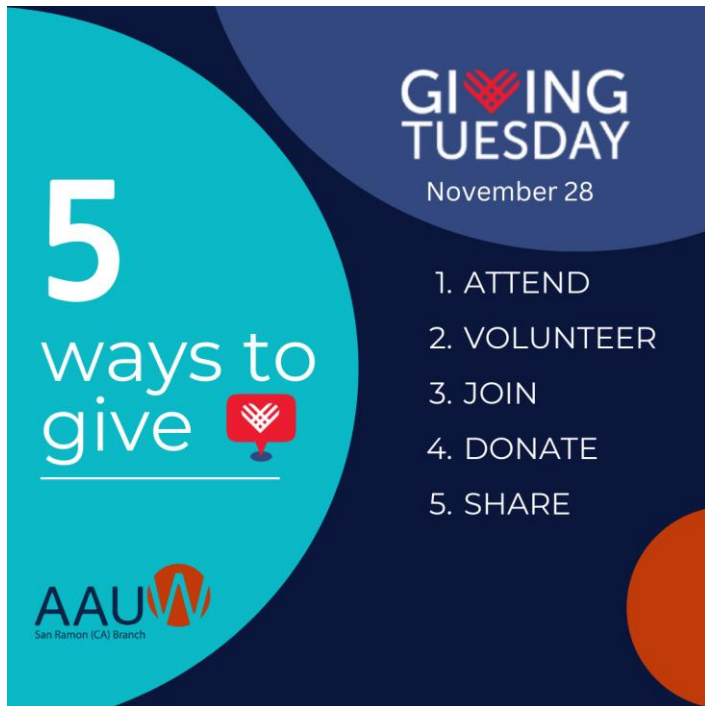
Your Membership Team:

Harvalee Grimm, Betsy Hoffmann, Margo James

### **Happy AAUW Anniversaries!**

<b>Elaine Baldwin</b>	<b>20 years</b>
<b>Sally Scholl</b>	<b>20 years</b>
<b>Margaret Batesole</b>	<b>15 years</b>
<b>Linda Louie</b>	<b>10 years</b>

## Communication



Isabel Lau, Communication  
With Carol Lombardi



### Foreign Film Festival Series February 2024

Don't forget to buy tickets to the San Ramon Foreign Film Series, showing every Friday in February 2024. Tickets can be purchased at [www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com](http://www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com) or 925 973-3343.

Single Tickets: \$12 (plus ticketing fees)  
Season Ticket: \$44 for all 4 Films (plus ticketing fees)

## Public Policy



### Update: California Bill Outcomes

*From AAUW Public Policy IBC Group:*

First the great news: Governor Newsom signed AB 1394 (Wicks), our co-sponsored "A" bill which will hold big tech accountable for design features that knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitate, aid or abet child exploitation. This is a huge win given the stiff opposition from tech groups. You can find the press release here: [Gov. Newsom Signs AB 1394](#).

The Governor also signed several "C" bills:

- AB 230 (Reyes) will provide menstrual products in public schools with classes from grades 3-12 (was previously grades 6-12).
- SB 667 (Dodd) will make it easier for nurse-midwives to provide essential healthcare services.
- AB 789 (Berman) will add flexibility to requirements for students to maintain their Cal Grant or federal financial aid.
- AB 1194 (Carillo) will add protection to those seeking reproductive care in California, especially for consumers from out of state.
- SB 521 (Smallwood-Cuevas) will require a "good cause" exemption from CalWORKS sanctions imposed on pregnant, parenting, and lactating students.

Now the disappointing news: The Governor unfortunately vetoed our "B" bill AB 524 (Bauer-Kahan) which would prohibit discrimination against employees based on their status as a family caregiver. You can find his veto message here: [SFresno Biz23100819580 \(ca.gov\)](#).

He also vetoed two "C" bills:

SB 257 (Portantino) would provide for no out-of-pocket costs to an individual when breast imaging is recommended after a routine mammogram.

AB 1057 (Weber) would give local health jurisdictions more flexibility to administer more California Home Visiting Programs (CHVP).

For all the latest on our supported bills, see the link to the Bill Tracker on page 1 of the October *Public Policy Newsletter* on the [AAUW-CA website](#).

Catherine Lewis, Public Policy



## Gov Trek



*Reminder:* This exciting virtual program is designed to encourage the next generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office. Over seven 2-hour Saturday morning sessions beginning February 3, students will engage in interactive and inspiring activities with exposure to women legislators, career options, and the inner workings of a political campaign. The program will culminate in a team competition to create a realistic campaign simulation on March 16. All meetings are held via Zoom, and the program is free.

The AAUW California (CA) Gov Trek 2023–2024 program was launched on October 16. High school junior and senior girls can begin to apply to the program.

### **Orientation November 12, Volunteers Needed**

Interested prospective students and volunteers are asked to attend an online orientation meeting on November 12 to learn more about the program. This year, AAUW CA wants us to recruit 140 students. Adult volunteers are also needed to monitor Zoom breakout rooms at each session.

Last year, AAUW San Ramon sponsored Hailey Godin as our representative, and she was on the team that won the competition. Hailey continues to be involved with the Gov trek program by serving on the state advisory board and as a mentor for new students. Hailey spoke positively about her experience at our May membership meeting and also at the peer group meeting for branch coordinators on October 16. She said that AAUW tries to maintain positive contacts with the students it recruits. A highlight of last year's program was a video address by Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi.

### **Next Steps**

Our branch will begin the recruitment process by contacting school representatives and other community members who may know students who would be interested in Gov Trek. We will use materials provided by AAUW CA, which include flyers, press releases, and social media posts. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

AAUW CA: [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org)

AAUW CA Gov Trek: [aauw-ca.org/gov-trek/](http://aauw-ca.org/gov-trek/)

Rebecca “Becky” Said and Leela Gopal

## Local Scholarship



### **Gift Card Email Auction for November**

This fun event is a win-win for both Local Scholarship and the winning bidder. All gift cards are donated, and all winning bidders get something in exchange for their participation—everyone is a winner! Our October auction raised \$393!

So, look for an email blast next week outlining the available gift card(s) or certificate(s), along with the rules, face value for each, and the ending day and time for the auction. Then, just contact Lorraine Weir with your **BEST AND ONLY** bid and be sure that it is **NO LESS THAN THE FACE VALUE** of the card or certificate up for auction. **EASY!**

The winning bidders will be contacted by Lorraine to arrange for delivery of the gift card and payment, and the results will appear in the December newsletter. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by random drawing by Lorraine.

Again, thank you for your support of Local Scholarship!

### **Renaissance Scholar Update**

#### **Michelle May, recipient for 2020, 2021, and 2021**

We're elated to report this recent message from Michelle: "My Bone Marrow biopsy results show that there are no signs of Cancer!!!!"

Although she continues to deal with additional health challenges, Michelle remains strong and positive. Please keep her in your thoughts. Susan has her contact information and additional details if you'd like to get in touch.

Susan Walker-Christensen and Lorraine Weir  
Local Scholarship Committee



## HIDDEN BRAIN PODCAST



Hidden Brain Podcast helps curious people understand the world and themselves. Using science and storytelling, Hidden Brain's host Shankar Vedanta reveals the unconscious patterns that drive human behavior, the biases that shape our choices, and the triggers that direct the course of our relationships. Each week Shankar interviews a different expert who has done research on an interesting topic.

Kathy Senti has been listening to these podcasts for a while now and finds them fascinating. She would love to meet with other people who are interested in human psychology and would like to discuss the various topics.

Kathy will set up a meeting for all interested people to decide when is a good time to meet and how to structure the meetings. She imagines meeting once a month and the group selecting which podcast topic to discuss for each one. (The podcast has an episode each week, so there are many topics to choose from.) We could possibly have a different group member lead each discussion.

If you are interested, please contact Kathy Senti.

## BOCCE, ANYONE?



It doesn't matter if you've never played Bocce! Come participate in this friendly, fun activity. It is NOT physically taxing: Some people play in wheelchairs or wearing oxygen masks. Don't let limitations get in the way of having a great time. And the rules are easy to learn.

We'll have a Zoom meeting with all interested people to decide what day and time would work once a month on a regular basis, where to play, and how long.

We might play for one, possibly two hours. We have four free places to choose from:

1. San Ramon Senior Center on Alcosta Blvd.
2. Annabel Lake in Bishop Ranch (across from Target and Whole Foods)
3. Souyen Park on Watermill Road
4. Ramona Park on Murdock Way.

We could play with 2 people or as many as 16 people (and maybe even more).

If you are interested, please contact Kathy Senti.

## Walking Group



L to R: Lois Kamoroff, Chris Burchik, Fran Bartholomew, Kathleen Schaub, Andree Chagnon, Harvalee Grimm

Our October 14th walk started out under cloudy skies during the "Ring of Fire" solar eclipse. By the time we finished twice around Lake Annabel, skies were sunny and temperatures had warmed up. A healthy, fun time was had by our walkers. Afterward, some of us enjoyed a stroll through the local Farmer's Market. We look forward to seeing our AAUW walkers on Saturday, November 11.

Warmly,  
Lois Kamoroff and Andrée Chagnon

## Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch dining at Plucked in October  
Join us at Pho Hoa in November!

## Thank you to all volunteer editors and proofreaders

**Judy Bracken, Cindy Ferrin, Cathy Nisen,  
Nancy Vandell, Lucy Weed, Chris White**

## Interest Groups

### GAME NIGHT

#### First Saturday

**Saturday, November 4; 7:00 PM**

Game night will be at Heather Taapken's home. Please RSVP to Heather.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed

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### LUNCH BUNCH

#### First Tuesday

**Tuesday, November 7; 11:30 AM**

Lunch Bunch will meet at

Pho Hoa Noodle Soup

3205 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon (next to Rite-Aid)

To join the e-mail reminder list, contact:

Margo James

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### LOCAL WALKING GROUP

#### Second Saturday

**Saturday, November 11; 9:00 AM**

We'll walk around the lake at Bishop Ranch. The

walkway is gravel, 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, November 13; 1:00–3:00 PM**

**Via Zoom videoconference**

We are reading *I, Mona Lisa* by Natasha Solomons. Pat Kelly will lead the discussion.

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

Margo James

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### LET'S GO!

The focus of Let's Go! is to suggest and arrange visits to interesting places: If you have a location/event that you'd like to visit, please let me know! Questions?

Chris White

## Interest Groups

### WOMEN IN HISTORY

#### Third Wednesday

**Wednesday, November 15; 1:00–3:00 PM**

**Via Zoom videoconference**

We will discuss Queen Charlotte Part 2 (Episode 230), on The History Chicks podcast. You can listen to the podcast online (<https://thehistorychicks.com/?s=230>) or on your phone or tablet by downloading The History Chicks app and searching for Episode 230.

Please contact Margo James to be added to the email information group or if you need help accessing the app or this particular podcast.

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### THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

#### Third Monday

**Monday, November 20; 7:00 PM**

**Via Zoom videoconference**

Alice Miller will review *The Ride of Her Life*

by Elizabeth Letts.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng

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### TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

**Tuesday, November 21; 7:00–10:00 PM or so**

Hostess: Chris White

RSVP to Chris

We will play bridge via Zoom teleconference and BridgeBase and/or in-person. Please RSVP and let me know:

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

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### FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF) \*Special Date

**Friday, November 17; 7:30 PM**

**Via Zoom videoconference**

**Organizer: Mary Venkat**

We'll discuss this timely topic—Israel/Palestine—as presented in *Wrestling Jerusalem*. "It's complicated."

From that understated opening line through its hopeful conclusion, Aaron Davidman captures the competing narratives around the conflict. Here is a link for more information: <https://jfi.org/year-round/jfi-on-demand/wrestling-jerusalem>

It is available on a variety of platforms for a nominal fee. Let Chris White know if you wish to receive a Zoom link for the above event.

Please Volunteer to Be an Organizer!

Contact Chris White

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## 2023–2024 Board

### PRESIDENT

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

### VICE PRESIDENT, THE FUND OPEN

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, SCHOLARSHIP

Susan Walker-Christensen  
Loranne Weir

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, FINANCE

Claire Mailhot  
Patty Nobles

### CO-RECORDING SECRETARIES

Judy Bracken  
Nancy Vandell

## 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)

### **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*

### GOV TREK

Rebecca Said  
Leela Gopal

### HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP

Andrée Chagnon

### NEWSLETTER

Isabel Lau  
Carol Lombardi

### PUBLIC POLICY

Catherine Lewis

### TECH TREK

Cindy Alpert