

THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 40, Number 5

January 2024

January Program: Girls Garage with Guest Speaker Kristy Higaes



Learn about Girls Garage, a nonprofit design and construction school for girls and gender-expansive youth. See the projects built by the students and gain insight into the classes that empower students to build the world they want to see.

Thursday, January 18, 2024
6:30 PM–7:30 PM
San Ramon Community Center
Terrace Room
12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon



This event is open to the public!
Members, look for the Evite in your email and please RSVP by January 15
More info on page 4

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.

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Margo James	3	4	5	6 7:00 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
7	8 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James 7:00 PM Board Meeting via Zoom	9	10	11	12	13 9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff
14	15 Martin Luther King Day Newsletter deadline 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	16 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White 7:00 PM Hidden Brain Podcast Kathy Senti	17 1:00 PM Women in History Margo James	18 6:30 PM Program: Girls Garage (see page 4)	19	20 1:00 PM Bocce Kathy Senti
21	22	23	24	25	26 7:30 PM Fourth Friday Flicks Chris White	27
28	29	30	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.

Save the Dates

Monday, February 5 Gianni's Fundraiser for Tech Trek

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

President's Pen



Having Your Say

The greatest threat to the planet is the belief that someone else will save it.

Robert Swan, explorer and activist

Governance: Although the term may not spark fireworks in most people's brains, chances are that most of us care deeply about the implications of governance, which refers to the way an organization (i.e., a country, a business, an NGO, or a branch) sets its objectives and strategies, manages its risk, and optimizes effective outcomes.

This spring our branch members will have several opportunities to have a say in governance. I invite you to speak up and contribute. Here are some projects to pay attention to:

Branch Bylaws: Bylaws are the basic governing rules regulating the conduct of an enterprise, and we are required to have them. Bylaws are different from policies: Bylaws describe things like who branch officers are and who can vote. Policies define the branch's day-to-day operations. Our current bylaws were last updated in 2014, and the board has undertaken a project to amend them this year. Chris Burchik and Nancy Vandell are leading the charge.

To improve the consistency and quality of branch bylaws, AAUW National has developed seven standard articles that all the branches (or "affiliates" as AAUW National calls the branches) must adopt. Chris, Nancy, and the board are looking at whether we need additional articles and what those might be.

Your action: If things go as planned, this spring you'll get a copy of the updated bylaws to comment on if you wish, and the membership will vote on whether or not to accept them at the year-end celebration on May 18.

Public Policy: AAUW continues to give members chances to have a say in matters that count. Here are a few opportunities:

- The School Board Project: Good news! Candidates seeking to ban books lost bigtime nationwide in the November elections. Only 50 of the 139 candidates endorsed by Moms for Liberty were elected. That's still too many. AAUW members from Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek have been attending the SRVUSD school board meetings to support our current board. They invite our members to attend.
- Lobby Days: The annual AAUW CA Lobby Days will be held April 2 and 3. Both in-person and virtual options for meeting with state legislators are available. Watch for interest emails coming your way in January.
- Social Media Education: In the new year, the Public Policy Committee will launch a social media education program. Sign up for Legislative Action Alerts [HERE!](#) Share the sign-up link with anyone you think may be interested. AAUW members and non-members are welcome.

AAUW Governance: This spring, it's possible you'll be asked to vote on changing the national bylaws to accept open membership (i.e., no college requirement). If this occurs, please consider voting to accept this change. Today, AAUW is viewed by many possible funding grantors to be a discriminatory organization (*GASP! What, us?*) and therefore not qualified for funds despite our good work. Some branches report that interested prospective members, including Tech Trek moms and small business owners, have been turned down for membership because they didn't have degrees. This has been voted on several times over the years and, while each vote brings it closer to passing, it hasn't yet passed. Let's cross the threshold in 2024.

Kathleen Schaub, President



Happy January Birthdays!

Arlene Chang
Arla Barnes
Stella Hadjimarkos
Nancy Vandell

Program



FEAR LESS. BUILD MORE.

Join Us for Our Third Thursday Program:

Kristy Higaes Presents Girls Garage

January 18, 2024

6:30 PM-7:30 PM

**San Ramon Community Center
Terrace Room**

In Person, Free, and Open to the Public

Kristy Higaes of **Girls Garage** will share background and detailed information about this extraordinary, first-of-its-kind organization. She will wow us with descriptions of the great design projects their students have built at their local site, where the girls learn to “Fear Less. Build More.”

Kristy is an educator, writer, and arts administrator who has worked for over 20 years serving schools and communities in Oakland. She is inspired by the intersection of arts, education, community, and impact. Her passion and vision have been motivated by her work with Bay Area teens at The Crucible, an industrial art school in West Oakland, where she worked for 12 years.

In 2010, Kristy was honored with a Jefferson Award in Public Service for her work at The Crucible, which included managing educational programs, teambuilding, volunteer and workforce development programs, studio operations, public art, and events.

She was an YBCA Equity Fellow in 2016 and created a photojournalism exhibit, interviewing and documenting residents in Oakland along International Boulevard.

Girls Garage is a nonprofit design and construction school for girls and gender-expansive youth ages 9–18 in the Bay Area. Founded in 2013, Girls Garage is the first-ever design and building workshop for female, non-binary, trans and gender-expansive youth in the United States.

Through after-school and summer pathways, Girls Garage provides free and low-cost programs in carpentry, welding, architecture, engineering, and activist art to a diverse community of 200 students per year. Their programs equip youth with tools to build the world they want to see through integrating technical skills, college and career guidance, and community leadership.

To date, participants have built 184 projects ranging from a geodesic dome for the Eames Institute, book benches, shelves, and displays for a transitional housing shelter, furniture for a domestic abuse shelter to a greenhouse for a community garden and 500 square foot chicken pavilion for an urban farm. Learn more about Girls Garage here: <https://girlsgarage.org/>

Look for your Evite for this program in your inbox. Please share this with anyone you think might be interested. This event is public and free—and we welcome guests.

AND don't forget to **RSVP by January 15, so we have an accurate count of attendees. Thanks!**

Cindy Alpert & Karen Rice
Co-Vice Presidents, Program



Tech Trek

Update: Camp Dates, Volunteers Needed, and Save the Date for Gianni's



Thank you to all who donated to the Tech Trek fund! Donations made online currently list two Sonoma State camps. Choosing either one and writing "San Ramon AAUW" in the notes will properly apply your donation.

We appreciate your support!

Camp Sonoma will be held June 23–29, 2024. I realize it is a few months away, but if you're interested in volunteering at camp, please let me know. Dorm moms, classroom aides, and camp committee volunteers are much needed.

If you volunteered to be on our Branch Tech Trek committee, please look for an email from me. We will meet in January to review the schedule and process for the 2024 camp applications.

SAVE THE DATE: February 5, 2024 Gianni's Restaurant

[See the flyer on page 11](#)

This is our "Tips for Change" fundraiser: We receive 10% of the sales and 100% of the tips for meals served that evening. It is a fun event, where our members fill in as the waitstaff. Enjoy a tasty meal, catch up with friends, and support Tech Trek!

Reservations can be made online or by calling Gianni's at (925) 820-6969.

Looking forward to a fantastic 2024!

Cindy Alpert
Tech Trek Coordinator

Thank you to all volunteer editors and proofreaders

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

Membership



Membership Matters

New Member

It is a pleasure to welcome new member **Ann Skudlark**. Many of you were able to meet her at our Friendsgiving celebration. We're so glad Jo Anne Barron invited Ann to join our festivities!

Prospective Member Guests and Shape the Future Discount

We welcome prospective member guests to all of our activities. Consider inviting your friends and family who might be interested in joining AAUW to our programs, events, and interest group meetings. We participate in the **AAUW Shape the Future** campaign: Any new member who joins at or soon after attending one of our activities may receive a 50% discount on AAUW National dues for the first year—a \$36.00 savings!

Corresponding Secretary

The holiday greeting cards that everyone signed at the Friendsgiving were sent to 22 of our members who live out of the area as well as to those who live locally and have not been able to attend meetings and events for a long while. We miss and remember them.

We wish you all a Happy New Year.

Your Membership Team:
Harvalee Grimm, Betsy Hoffmann, Margo James



Happy AAUW Anniversaries!

Jo Anne Barron
Brenda Hill

5 years
10 years

Public Policy



Public Policy California Newsletter Highlights

Lobby Days 2024: Save the Date! April 2–3, 2024

By Amy Hom, Co-chair AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Look for an interest survey including a registration form to arrive in your inbox mid-January. Be sure to complete and return the form to be added to the communications list for the event.

Mark your calendars! AAUW California will hold our 2024 Lobby Days event on April 2 and 3, 2024. An interest survey including a registration form will arrive in your inbox mid-January. Please be sure to complete and return the form to be added to the communications list for the event.

We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this act of advocacy that is essential for achievement of our legislative priorities. In addition to our members, we plan to invite college students to join the event. Their participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices, and we hope that this introduction to our organization will inspire these advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

Starting in January, our committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature that are aligned with our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security for All Women, Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, and Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles. In early March, our committee will meet to discuss our evaluations and select 30-35 bills for our 2024 Legislative Agenda that best represent our priorities. We will also choose the top 3 bills to advocate for during Lobby Days.

Lobby Days 2024 is scheduled to take place when the legislature returns to session after their Easter break and will span two days to provide flexibility so that we can secure as many meetings as possible. We are planning a hybrid event with meetings scheduled virtually over Zoom as well as in-person at the Capitol. Members who live in and around Sacramento will have the option to participate

in person. Legislative offices are equally willing to meet virtually or in person, and the virtual option makes it easier for AAUW members around the state to participate.

Our AAUW California Legislative Advocate will schedule meetings with the legislative offices. The committee will assemble teams of AAUW members and college students, matching them with Assembly and Senate districts. Training materials on the bills and the event will be posted on the state website in mid-March, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 25, 2024.

If you have participated in Lobby Days in the past, we would love to hear your feedback on what worked and what didn't. Please send your comments to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org. Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with your legislators and advocate for legislation to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to advance our values.

Useful Links

This link to AAUW California Public Policy is helpful for upcoming events and other initiatives:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/>

Here is a link to the AAUW California Public Policy Newsletter for December 2023:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/12/aauw-public-policy-newsletter-december-2023.pdf/>

Catherine Lewis, Public Policy

Lunch Bunch Interest Group



Our lively Lunch Bunch enjoyed meeting at Hazy BBQ in Danville. Join us in January—see page 8.

Communication

Information about Our Website for Members

When was the last time you visited our website?

Ever need to find the complete newsletter or details on a Special Interest Group—and did you know there are *two* versions on our website?

Here's how:



When you click on “Membership” a menu drops down (see above). Then by hovering your cursor over “Members Only,” you’ll see another menu drop down. You will need to insert a password to access this part.

*Don't know the password?
Check your latest member directory or
contact our Membership Committee*

In this section you will find

- ❖ Our directory
- ❖ Complete newsletters (I remove emails and phone numbers from the “public” newsletter)
- ❖ Details on the Special Interest Groups (leader contact information is removed from the “public” version)
- ❖ Our organization’s policies & procedures and bylaws

You may also find links for donating, details on events, advocacy information, and general information on our projects (Tech Trek, Gov Trek, Local Scholarship).

Make sure you visit <https://sanramon-ca.aauw.net/> soon!

Isabel Lau, Communication
With Carol Lombardi

Local Scholarship



Coming in February: Last Chance to Participate in Our Gift Card Email Auction

(Our last one for this fiscal year!)

This recurring fun event is a win-win for both Local Scholarship and the winning bidders.

This year’s winners of the various gift cards were Claire Mailhot, Kathy Senti, Nancy Vandell, Karen Van Zino, and Lorraine Weir. Since all gift cards were donated and all winning bidders got something in exchange for their participation, everyone was a winner! We have raised \$518 this fiscal year AND since this is the last Gift Card auction until next fiscal year, we will include a few gift card surprises!

So look for an email Blast from Carol Lombardi in early February 2024 outlining the gift card(s) and certificate(s) available that month 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 PEASY!**

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

As always, thank you for your support of Local Scholarship!

Lorraine Weir with Susan Walker-Christensen
Co-VPs, AAUW San Ramon Local Scholarship



Fund



Update on FUND Contributions

If you were one of the many AAUW SR branch members who recently contributed to FUND during our Fall Giving Campaign, thank you very much! We only get updates quarterly so we don't have the update for Q4 yet.

Our branch goal is \$5,000 each calendar year for our current membership level. As of the end of September, we were two-thirds of the way to that goal. FUND donations at the AAUW CA level were \$231,804 at last report with a couple months to go for the 2023 total.

Keep in mind that without AAUW FUND, the organization (and our branch) would not be able to operate. AAUW Fund supports national programs—including fellowships and education—and gives AAUW the dexterity to act quickly and responsibly in the wake of any new challenges facing women and girls.

If you'd like to help our branch get a head start on our 2024 goal, you can [Give to AAUW Fund](#) (Select [DONATE] button to give).

Walking Group



L to R: Lois Kamoroff, Carol Moore, Kathleen Schaub, Andrée Chagnon, Harvalee Grimm

We shared a leisurely walk at our December meeting. The weather was cool and brisk, and the fall foliage was just lovely. We shared some fun conversation, and a few of us went to The Glass House and Forest Home Farms for their open house, where our own AAUW walker and member Helen Rozman was a docent for the holiday event. Have a great holiday and see you in 2024!

Lois Kamoroff and Andrée Chagnon

Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesday

Tuesday, January 2; 11:30 AM

We'll meet at Urban Plates, 5111 Martinelli Way, Dublin (in the Persimmon Place Shopping Center off Hacienda).

To join the e-mail reminder list, contact:

Margo James



GAME NIGHT

First Saturday

Saturday, January 6; 7:00 PM

We'll meet at Chris Burchik's home.

Please RSVP to Chris

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed



DAYTIME READERS

Second Monday

Monday, January 8; 1:00–3:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

We will be deciding on our list of books to read for 2024, so please come prepared to propose a book! If you have questions or wish to be put on the e-mail list to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact:

Margo James



LOCAL WALKING GROUP

Second Saturday

Saturday, January 13; 9:00 AM

We'll walk around Annabel 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



Interest Groups

THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

Third Monday

Via Zoom videoconference

Monday, January 15; 7:00 PM

Chris White will review *The Audacity of Inez Burns* by Stephen G. Bloom. Questions? Contact Cheri Ng

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### TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

**Tuesday, January 16; 7:00–9:00 PM or so**

##### Via Zoom or in person

Host: Lucy Weed,

RSVP: Chris White

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

Please RSVP and let me know (1) if you are interested in playing or not and

**(2) if you wish to play in person or virtual.**

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HIDDEN BRAIN PODCAST

Tuesday, January 16; 7:00–8:30 PM

Via Zoom teleconference

Kathy will send a Zoom invite in advance for you to join. We will discuss *Paradox of Pleasure*, which was released July 10; Kathy Senti will host. You can find it on your favorite podcast application.

At this meeting, we will look for volunteers to host other sessions in the following months. Kathy will provide a list of the hosts and their selected episodes for all people who are interested in this group and will post them each month in the newsletter.

We will reassess the day and time after our first session.

If you have any questions or difficulties listening to the podcast, please call or text Kathy.

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### WOMEN IN HISTORY

**Wednesday, January 17 at 1:00 PM**

##### Via Zoom videoconference

Rebecca Said will lead a discussion of Ruth Handler and Barbie. Search “Barbie” on their website; on the app look for “Barbie and Ruth Handler: A History” or use this link: <https://thehistorychicks.com/episode-116-barbie/>.

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

### BOCCE

**Saturday, January 20; 1:00–3:00 PM**

We’ll play at the Annabel Lake courts at in San Ramon. There is nearby parking in the Target/Whole Foods lot.

If the weather is bad or the courts are too wet, Kathy will see if we can play on the indoor courts at DaBoccery in Livermore. If not, we will skip this month. Kathy will email the people who have notified her they are interested in this group to let them know what to expect.

Future games will be held the third Saturday of each month. If you have questions, please call or text Kathy Senti.

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FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, January 26; 7:30 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

We will again coordinate with the Podcast interest group: Becky Said will lead our discussion of *Barbie*.

For February (or perhaps March 1), Lucy Weed will discuss *Maestro*.

We need volunteers. Please volunteer for March 22, April 26, or May 24!

Contact Chris White

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### LET’S GO!

Nothing is planned for January. If you would like to organize a visit to some location and invite AAUW members to join you, let Chris White know.



## 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)

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*

### GOV TREK

Rebecca Said  
Leela Gopal

### HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP

Andrée Chagnon

### NEWSLETTER

Isabel Lau  
Carol Lombardi

### PUBLIC POLICY

Catherine Lewis

### TECH TREK

Cindy Alpert



## Tips For Change Event benefitting



San Ramon (CA) Branch

# MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

**DINING & PICK UP AVAILABLE BETWEEN 4:30 PM-8:00 PM**  
**GO TO [WWW.GIANNISSANRAMON.COM](http://WWW.GIANNISSANRAMON.COM) OR CALL 925-820-6969**  
**TO MAKE A RESERVATION OR PLACE A TO-GO ORDER**

The San Ramon Branch of AAUW promotes equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and scholarships. We build relationships among local women and support our purpose through community engagement, events, activities, and educational programs that enrich our lives.

As always, all tips and 10% of sales go to support the organization. You will enjoy a wonderful dinner and support a worthy cause. It's a Win-Win!

2065 SAN RAMON VALLEY BLVD.  
SAN RAMON, CA. 94583  
[WWW.GIANNISSANRAMON.COM](http://WWW.GIANNISSANRAMON.COM)  
925.820.6969



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ITALIAN BISTRO