

THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

SRVUSD School Board

Candidate Forum
Tuesday, Oct. 1
10:00-11:30 AM

AAUW
SAN RAMON (CA)

AAUW
DANVILLE-
ALAMO-WALNUT
CREEK (CA)

AAUW San Ramon and AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branches are pleased to present a Candidate Forum for the SRVUSD Board of Education Trustee seats. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the candidates before voting.

Candidates

Shelley Clark, Area 2 Candidate
Karin Shumway, Area 2 Candidate
Laura Bratt, Area 3 Candidate
Sukriti Sehgal, Area 3 Candidate

To view the SRVUSD Trustee Area Map, visit the SRVUSD website.

This moderated Forum will take place at the San Ramon Community Center, Terrace Room, 12601 Alcosta Blvd

VOTE

Moderated By:
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley

See Page 4 for More Information

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.

OCTOBER (in pink, recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM School Board Candidate Forum	2 6:00 PM San Ramon Mayor and City Council Forum	3	4	5 7:00 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
6	7	8 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Margo James	9	10	11	12 9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff
13	14 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James 6:30 PM Board Meeting via Zoom	15 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	16 1:00 PM Women in History Margo James 6:30 PM School Board Candidate Forum	17	18	19 1:00 PM Bocce Kathy Senti
20	21 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	22	23	24	25 Fourth Friday Flicks Chris White	26
27	28	29	30	31 Boo! 		

Snippets

Wednesday, October 2; 6:00 PM:The candidates for San Ramon Mayor and City Council District 1 will share their thoughts on key city issues during this free public forum at the Roundhouse, 2600 Camino Ramon, Bishop Ranch. Moderated by Gina Channell and Jeremy Walsh of the Embarcadero Media Foundation East Bay Division. More information here: <https://members.sanramon.org/events/details/san-ramon-mayor-and-city-council-candidate-forum-debate-9247>

Save the Dates

- November 21 Friendsgiving Event, 4:30–6:30 PM, Bollinger Hills Cabana, 2951 Morgan Hills Drive
- February 19 Tips for Change, Virtue and Vice Restaurant, Danville

Watch for more information about our 2024–2025 events in future newsletters.

Presidents' Pen



Let's Get Educated!

Happy October! I hope you all enjoyed our inspirational Membership Tea in September, where we launched our plans and goals for the 2024–2025 year. We now have a fun new branch poem (at right), which chronicles our activities over the year.

October is the month before elections, and we therefore focus on learning about the issues and candidates for whom we are voting. I have always felt it was a great privilege to cast my vote and take advantage of our free democracy. However, I must admit there have been many times where I had little or no clue about whom or what I was voting for! Either lack of time, priorities, or other commitments kept me from becoming informed and aware of what was on the ballot. That being said, I do so appreciate AAUW and other groups such as League of Women Voters for giving us the opportunity to delve into important issues and learn about candidates at local, state, and national levels.

As the years have passed, I've come to realize that all the slogans such as "Your Vote Counts" and "You Can Make a Difference" really do ring true—especially when one is educated about the issues. Not only does it increase our value as citizens, but we may tend to discuss these topics with our friends and neighbors, who in turn may spread the word to their friends and neighbors. Just as social media posts can become viral, so can our knowledge of pertinent election issues!

While we are all hearing much about the upcoming national elections, you'll see in this newsletter many events to inform us about the elections at the local and state level. This is an extremely important election, so plan to attend as many of the offered educational events as you are able. Let's get educated!

Judy Bracken
Co-President

San Ramon Branch Limerick

by Judy Bracken

August, 2024

AAUW is awkward to say
Yet we have fun raising funds until May
We love September's event
Student baskets are sent
Good company and food make the day.

There are groups having all kinds of fun
Reading books, eating lunch and mahjong
Some go for a walk
Others meet for a talk
We have interests for most everyone.

In October our focus is election
We seek to impart information
We strive to educate
'Bout policies and legislate
For our schools, for our state, for our nation.

Friendsgiving is our event in November
Time for fun and a chat with our members
To express gratitude
Always lightens the mood
As we prep for a busy December.

Through the year there is always good news
Social media, newsletters, you choose
It's important to read
So you get what you need
It's the bonus after paying your dues.

Come new year we must buckle down
Tech Trek, Scholarship projects abound
At restaurants we dine
Auctions, raffles and wine
While our treasurer keeps track of accounts.

March and April we start to wrap up
Selecting campers and scholars and such
We might hear from a Fund fellow
Or gather for a good demo
Or sort papers to shred into mush.

May's event is the end of our year
We're not done as it may appear
We elect a new Board
As our work brings rewards
Adding value to all volunteers.

There's a couple more things that we do
They come end of May and in June
Ice cream at Wind Fest
County fair is the best
To watch pigs race or listen to tunes.

Gender equity for all is our goal
For each member and group as a whole
We use our best skills
To aid women and girls
On their journeys to take on new roles.

Program

October Features Election Programs

October is filled with thought-provoking programs to help you make informed decisions when voting this November.

October 1 School Board Candidate Forum

Where: San Ramon Community Center, Terrace Room, 12601 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon

Doors Open at 9:45 AM

Event starts promptly at 10:00 AM and ends at 11:30 AM.

Please support our branch, in conjunction with the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch, as we present a candidate forum for the SRVUSD Board of Education Trustee seats. It will be moderated by the League of Women Voters. Learn about the candidates' positions on important education issues affecting children, families, and property values. AAUW California's School Board Project encourages all our members to become vigilant observers of their local districts. This event is open to the public.

Candidates:

SRVUSD School Board Candidates



Shelley Clark, candidate for Trustee Area 2



Karin Shumway, candidate for Trustee Area 2



Laura Bratt, candidate for Trustee Area 3



Sukriti Sehgal, candidate for Trustee Area 3

- Shelley Clark, Area 2
- Karin Shumway, Area 2
- Laura Bratt, Area 3
- Sukriti Sehgal, Area 3

If you cannot make it to the October 1 event, please support the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch as it presents the same candidate forum, as follows:

October 16 School Board Candidate Forum

Iron Horse Middle School, 12601 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon

Doors Open at 6:00 PM

Event starts promptly at 6:30 PM and ends at 8:00 PM

September 7 Welcome Tea Recap

It was a spirited gathering for our Welcome Tea in September. We heard of the plans and programs for this year, learned about our Special Interest Groups, and heard from our delightful and accomplished Renaissance Scholars and Tech Trek campers. Check out the photos on page 8.

We can't wait to see you all in October!

November Save the Date!

We will reprise the very popular Friendsgiving event on Thursday, November 21. Join us at 4:30 PM at the Bollinger Hills Cabana at 2951 Morgan Drive, San Ramon for a potluck with friends! More details will follow in the November newsletter. You won't want to miss this opportunity to start off the holidays with a joyous celebration.

Karen Rice and Janice Colby
Co-Vice Presidents, Program

Tech Trek



We heard from three Tech Trek 2024 campers at the September Welcome Tea. They impressed us with their stories about camp and their enthusiasm for STEM. Thank you again for supporting this great project!



(L to R) Cindy Alpert, Tech Trek Co-Coordinator; campers Ela Top, Anjana Bollapinni, Anjana Parvathala; Kathy Senti, Tech Trek Co-Coordinator

We will start the selection process for the 2025 campers in December. If you are interested in joining our committee as an application reader or interviewer, please let us know. You will be inspired by the enthusiasm of the student applicants!

Save the Date: February 19, 2025

Our primary branch fundraiser is the Dine for a Cause event, which will be held at Virtue and Vice restaurant in Danville. Our members graciously serve as waitstaff to take your food and drink orders and serve your meal. Our branch receives a portion of the sales and 100% of the tips! More details to come!

We appreciate your support and look forward to another successful Tech Trek year!

Cindy Alpert & Kathy Senti
Co-Chairs, Tech Trek

Local Scholarship



A Local Scholarship Welcome!

We are so grateful that our branch continues to support the Renaissance Scholars Program at California State University East Bay (CSUEB). This year, we presented \$1,500 scholarships to two very talented and impressive young women. They have demonstrated significant determination and focus to achieve their academic and personal goals.

Each recipient also receives a Student Affiliate Membership to AAUW along with a Back to School gift basket. I hope everyone at the Welcome Tea had a chance to meet or hear about these exceptional young women.



Leslie (left) and Nicole (right) with gift baskets

Following are their brief profiles:

Leslie Hernandez is a senior this fall and plans to graduate in the spring of 2025 with a major in Sociology. Leslie was raised in Hayward and has AA degrees in both Social Science and Language Arts from Laney College. After graduation, she hopes to work with foster youth and/or young women as a case manager. Leslie currently works as a resident advocate for a women's shelter in San Leandro. Previously she worked as a peer advisor at Laney College for 6 years. Additionally, Leslie has participated in many volunteer activities, including food distribution and legal immigration support. She is currently a member of the StARS (Student Advisory for Renaissance Scholars) team at CSUEB.

Nicole Silliman is a second-year student this fall in the Master of Social Work program at CSUEB and plans to graduate in the spring of 2025. Her concentration in this program is Child Welfare, and she hopes to work as a child welfare social worker after completing her degree. Nicole currently lives and works in San Mateo County. She has worked for several agencies in this area as a counselor, financial support specialist, and peer mentor. Nicole is currently a family partner/youth specialist for an

agency that deals with youth actively experiencing mental health crises in San Mateo County. She was notified that this agency was closing in June and that her position will end. Nicole has been involved in many volunteer activities, including as an advocate with the California Youth Connection and distributing personal products to homeless families during the holiday season. She also shared many of her personal interests: animal care, holistic healing practices, and somatic-based therapies.

Thank you again to all of our members for your continued support, which enables us to provide financial support and recognition for these deserving young women.

Additional special thanks to members who contributed to the gift baskets. We filled the baskets with gift cards and cash donations, in addition to useful or personal items. Gift card donations from Target, Amazon, Safeway, and Lucky's—plus cash—provide them with options for groceries, school/office or household supplies, school expenses, and personal needs. In addition to laundry supplies, the cash and gift cards totaled over \$900 for each recipient.

Susan Walker-Christiansen and Loranne Weir
Local Scholarship Committee

Happy October Birthdays!

Marjorie Goldware
Isabel Lau
Harvalee Grimm



Membership



Membership Matters

New Members—Renaissance Scholars

We are pleased to welcome our newest student affiliates, **Leslie Hernandez** and **Nicole Silliman**. Every year our branch awards our outstanding Renaissance Scholars not only a scholarship and other assistance, but also a one-year membership in AAUW. We enjoyed meeting them at the Welcome Tea and hope to see them again at other programs and events.

What Can We Do for You?

Remember, it's your **Membership Team** who keeps the directory current, updates the Evite list, sends thoughtful words to members experiencing life events, and sends invitations to guests or prospective members. Just let us know how we can help YOU. We are only a call, text, or email away.

Your National Online Account

Please activate your online national account if you have not already done so. Follow these steps:

- Go to: aauw.org
- Select: Log in (upper right of screen)
- Welcome: *"If you're an AAUW member logging in for the first time, or if you've forgotten your password, click forgot password"* (in blue near the bottom of the screen)
- Reset your password: Use your same email address as in the branch directory

Honoring Cheri Ng: 50 Years with AAUW



Cheri Ng was born in Massachusetts and grew up in Connecticut. She attended college at the University of Rhode Island and at Marietta College in Ohio. After graduation, she moved to San Francisco to explore the "happening place" of the 1960s. She lived in a residence club (which was a fancy term for a boarding house), where

she met her husband-to-be. They moved to San Ramon in 1972. Cheri wanted to make friends and get involved in the community. She saw an advertisement for an AAUW New Member Brunch in Danville-Alamo, decided to attend, and joined. When San Ramon started a branch, she became a dual member for a short time.

Cheri's earliest memory of AAUW was in college when the dean of women came to her sorority house to speak with the seniors about AAUW. She received an introductory card from AAUW, which she kept—and the rest is history.

Cheri has always been an active member. She has worked with Membership, Programs, Education, Community, the Travel Group, and Tech Trek. She is the current leader of the Night Book Group. Remembering being co-president with Lucy Weed in 2008–2009 brings a big smile to her face. They did not know one another and had only met by phone before deciding to take on the leadership roles. It was a year of many laughs and a lot of learning.

Looking to the future, Cheri says, "I love that our branch encompasses more than just San Ramon. I think that Valley issues concern us all, and we should focus on the community problems we all face—over-building, climate, education, and the future of our area." Congratulations Cheri! We appreciate all of your contributions to AAUW.

Your Membership Team
Harvalee Grimm and Margo James

Happy AAUW Anniversaries!

Julie Gin	40 years
Claire Mailhot	15 years
Kathleen Schaub	10 years



**Thank you, newsletter volunteers
Nancy Vandell and Lucy Weed!**

Public Policy



AAUW California Public Policy Update

Source: AAUW-CA Public Policy Newsletter, September 2024, page 4

Highlight: Reproductive Rights

AAUW, nationally and in California, has long made a commitment to ensuring that every person has the freedom to determine their own reproductive health. One of AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities (PPPs), which are voted on by our membership biennially, states that we seek to advance "social and racial justice for all members of society, including self-determination in reproductive health." While AAUW has long been active in the fight for reproductive rights, this fight has become newly pressing since 2022, when the Supreme Court, newly realigned under the Trump Administration, overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) via their decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022).

In the wake of *Dobbs*, 14 states have banned abortion completely, while others have made access all but impossible by criminalizing abortion early in pregnancy. In 2023, more than 171,000 people were subject to the emotional and financial cost of traveling beyond their home state to gain abortion access, an increase of 100% from data collected in 2019.

In a post-*Dobbs* world, pregnancy has also become more dangerous for many people, including those who need emergency care access, those with less comprehensive healthcare coverage, and those with more problematic pregnancies. Black women, and Indigenous women, who have historically higher maternal mortality rates, are particularly at risk given these developments, even as abortion bans disproportionately negatively impact people of color for a variety of reasons, overall.

Problems of medical access to reproductive healthcare are further exacerbated by the decrease in medical school graduates applying for residency in states with abortion bans where providers of care are also criminalized. Collectively, this means that a countless number of people are now forced to carry a pregnancy to term against their will, even as many are also unable to access comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortions as emergency medical care, putting their lives, wellbeing, health, and future fertility in danger. *Dobbs* has also emboldened legislators and activists who seek to further limit reproductive rights. This has already led to active attempts and stated desires to ban IVF and

contraception through fetal personhood amendments; to resurrect the 1873 federal Comstock Act to challenge abortion medication, equipment, and access at the federal level; and to generally challenge federal laws protecting individual rights to privacy on which *Roe* was built, such as through increased tracking of menstruation and pregnancy outcomes, and even criminalization of miscarriage. A powerful anti-reproductive freedom movement also seeks to enshrine a 15-week abortion ban, federally.

In response, a bipartisan group of federal legislators have taken action to attempt to walk back the worst impacts of *Dobbs* and prevent a federal abortion ban through proposing legislation, such as the Women's Health Protection Act and Reproductive Freedom for All Act, which would enshrine a right to abortion access into federal law. In a similar vein, the Biden-Harris Administration has thrown the weight of the federal government behind investigation and action to mitigate some of the negative post-*Dobbs* impacts, including pushing back against state-level bans for emergency abortion access and strengthening contraception access. If YOU want to take action now to urge your federal legislators to advance the Women's Health Protection Act, check out the Two Minute Activist from AAUW National HERE: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/reproductive-rights/>

And vote for state and federal candidates that will advance this kind of legislation once in office!

In the fall of 2022, in line with the PPP stating that we seek to advance "social and racial justice for all members of society, including self-determination in reproductive health," AAUW California joined with coalition partners to advance and pass Proposition 1, which amended the California Constitution to prohibit the state from "denying or interfering" with an individual's reproductive freedom. In line with our PPPs, in the 2023 and 2024 legislative cycles, AAUW California has continued to advance legislation that not only protects but expands on self-determination in reproductive health, including expanding contraception access and sex education for young people; creating healthier conditions for pregnancy, including championing pregnancy-related leave benefits and healthier conditions while incarcerated; seeking greater protections from increased surveillance of menstruation and pregnancy; and seeking protections for health care workers and doctors who offer reproductive healthcare in California, in part by protecting providers from the enforcement of laws enacted in other states.

Submitted by Catherine Lewis, Public Policy

For guidance on additional ballot measures that are adjacent to, but not directly within, the scope of AAUW California's PPPs, please see this excellent guide provided by the League of Women Voters of California: <https://lwvc.org/ballot-recommendations/>

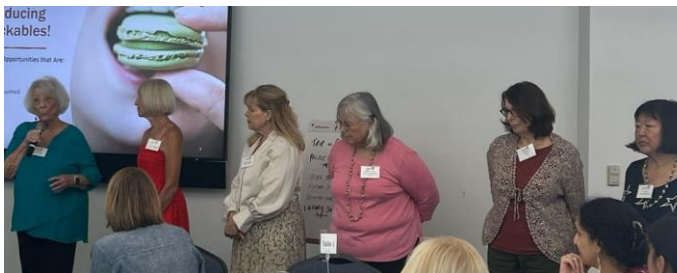
September Welcome Tea



AAUW in Action: The Advocacy Component



Co-Presidents Cindy Alpert and Judy Bracken surround Membership Chairs Harvalee Grimm and Margo James, with 50-year membership honoree Cheri Ng in the center.



Interest Group leaders describe what each group is about and when it meets. (L to R): Chris White, Cheri Ng, Andree Chagnon, Margo James, Kathy Senti, Lucy Weed



Roshawn Campbell, dedicated coordinator of the Renaissance Scholars program at CSUEB, expresses gratitude for continued support from San Ramon AAUW.

Speaking of Interest Groups....

Local Walking Group



On a beautiful Saturday morning, six of us had a lovely walk around Lake Annabel. Some of us walked around the lake 3 times (2.4 miles) and then enjoyed the amazing San Ramon Farmer's Market. Thank you, walkers: (L to R) Lois Kamoroff., Beth Robertson, Loranne Weir, Andree Chagnon, Susan Volsky, Helen Rozman.

Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch enjoys dining at Athen's Burgers in Dublin.



Interest Groups

GAME NIGHT

First Saturday

Saturday, October 5; 7:00 PM

We will play at the home of Lucy Weed. Please RSVP to Lucy Weed



LUNCH BUNCH ****Special Date****

First Tuesday

Tuesday, October 8; 11:30 PM

We will meet at Cha Thai Bistro, 21001 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Suite E-1, San Ramon. To join the email reminder list, contact:

Margo James



LOCAL WALKING GROUP

Second Saturday

Saturday, October 12; 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



DAYTIME READERS

Second Monday

Monday, October 14; 1:00–3:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

Carolyn Fishel will lead the discussion of *The Sleeping Dictionary* by Sujata Massey. If you have questions or wish to be put on the email list to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact

Margo James



Interest Groups

TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Third Tuesday

Tuesday, October 15; 7:00–10:00 PM or so

Virtual and/or in Person

Hostess: Ann Skudlark

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

Please RSVP to Chris White and let her know:

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



WOMEN IN HISTORY

Third Wednesday

Wednesday, October 16; 1:00 PM Via Zoom

Cindy Alpert will lead the discussion of [The History Chicks Episode 154: Fannie Lou Hamer](#). Mrs. Hamer was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi.

To join the email reminder list, contact:

Margo James



BOCCE

Third Saturday

Saturday, October 19; 1:00–3:00 PM

We'll meet at Annabel Lake, 2600 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Please bring your bocce balls if you have them. Kathy will email the people who have notified her they are interested in this group to let them know what to expect. If you have questions, please call or text

Kathy Senti



Bocce players at their September game (L to R):Loranne Weir, Pam Justin, Harvalee Grimm, Kathy Senti, Janet Williams, Linda Walker

Interest Groups

THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

Third Monday

Monday, October 21; 12 noon ****Special time**

Potluck Lunch and Book Selection

Via Zoom videoconference or in person

In a break from tradition, the Night Book Group will meet in person at **noon** to enjoy a potluck lunch and to select the books to read and discuss during the coming year.

Each group member is asked to send the title and author of up to three (3) books to Cheri Ng ahead of the meeting so she can compile the list and send it out to anyone who is interested in participating. Armed with the list and space for taking notes, traditionally, each person “pitches” their choices by telling a bit about the book and/or author.

It may be a book they’ve heard about or one they’ve read or picked up because it looked interesting. After the potluck, in-person attendees vote for their top 11 choices. Those who cannot attend can send their top 11 choices to Cheri via email. Cheri compiles the votes, and the top 11 are our books for the year. You can submit any genre—fiction, non-fiction, biography, mystery, classics, etc.

Please get me your choices by October 15 so I have time to type and share the list before the meeting. Once the final 11 titles are chosen, we decide when to read each book. Typically, busy months tend to be shorter or faster reads, and books in hardcover we save for later in the year in hopes they’ll come out in softcover or digital mode. Lastly, we need volunteers to review each book each month. This is not a difficult job, as everyone pretty much jumps into the discussion and we are very non-judgmental.

It is perfectly fine to participate in the group even if you have no suggestions...some of us have plenty! If you submit book choices but are unable to attend, let Cheri know a bit about why you are recommending the books so she can include that in the notes section of the list.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng



Interest Groups

FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, October 25; 7:30 PM

Via Zoom

Discussion Leader: TBD

Watch: TBD

We need volunteers for these dates: 10/25, 11/22, 12/27.

Please contact

Chris White



LET'S GO!

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

2024–2025 Board

CO-PRESIDENTS

Cindy Alpert
Judy Bracken

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Kathleen Schaub

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, PROGRAM

Janet Colby
Karen Rice

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERSHIP

Harvalee Grimm
Betsy Hoffmann
Margo James

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, SCHOLARSHIP

Susan Walker-Christensen
Loranne Weir

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, FINANCE

Claire Mailhot
Archana Vashneya

CO-RECORDING SECRETARIES

Alice Miller
Nancy Vandell

OPEN POSITIONS

President Elect
Vice President, The
Fund Gov Trek Co-Chair

AAUW San Ramon Information

Websites:

Branch Website: www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net

Website managers: Isabel Lau & Beth Robertson

Association website: www.aauw.org

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

ART & WIND FESTIVAL

Janet Williams

COMMUNICATION

Isabel Lau

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Duties have been assumed by Membership

GOV TREK

Leela Gopal

HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP

Andrée Chagnon

NEWSLETTER

Isabel Lau
Carol Lombardi

PUBLIC POLICY

Catherine Lewis

TECH TREK

Cindy Alpert
Kathy Senti