



**AAUW SAN RAMON
TECH TREK FUNDRAISER**

**Wednesday, February 19
5:00 PM-8:00 PM
Virtue + Vice Restaurant
267 Hartz Ave., Danville**

Dine in or take out and raise funds to support
Tech Trek, a STEM-themed summer camp for
7th-grade girls

Make your reservation online at
<https://www.virtueandvicedanville.com/reservations>
or call (925) 406-4867

Take-out orders can be placed by calling the restaurant



See Page 3 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.

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Game Night cancelled
2	3	4 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Margo James	5	6	7	8 9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff
9	10 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James	11	12	13	14 	15 1:00 PM Bocce Kathy Senti
	6:30 PM Board Meeting via Zoom					
16	17 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	18 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	19 1:00 PM Women in History Margo James	20	21	22
	Presidents Day		5:00–8:00 PM Dine for a Cause, Virtue+Vice, Danville See page 3			
23	24	25 6:00 PM SRVUSD School Board meeting See page 6	26	27	28 Fourth Friday Flicks cancelled	

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

- March 17–18 Fundraiser at the Habit Burger Grill, San Ramon
- March 20 Program
- April 12 Quest Science Center at Tri-Valley Innovation Fair (see page 4)
- April 17 Program: Presentation by Fund recipient
- May 3 End of Year Celebration, Rancho Amador

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

Presidents' Pen



The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day. After all, a movement is only people moving.
— Gloria Steinem

I often find quotes like this to be uplifting, motivating, and encouraging. Given the sad and devastating news impacting so many people in Los Angeles, it feels like we need some positive messages. If you or your family are facing challenges because of the fires, please reach out to let us know how we can help.

February focuses on love and heart health. Doing what you love is an important component of good heart health. As members of AAUW, we are all the heart of AAUW as we find ways to support our mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Whether you attend a program or webinar to learn more about what we do or provide time and money to support one of our causes, you are making a positive change for women and girls. For that, I thank you.

Our branch continues to provide opportunities for you to support AAUW in different ways:

- ◆ Please see the details (at right) about the Tech Trek “fun”draiser on February 19 and join us for a delicious meal at Virtue+Vice in Danville.
- ◆ Our Local Scholarship committee offers fun ways to raise money for scholarships in our community (page 5).
- ◆ AAUW shares a lot of information about topics relevant to our mission through informative and interesting webinars. You can find more about the webinars [here](#).

However you choose to enjoy the benefits of being an AAUW member, do it with heart!

The Nominating Committee was elected at the January 16 program. Many thanks to our committee members Fran Bartholomew, Elaine Graves, and Harvaley Grimm. They will work hard to identify people to fill our leadership positions. This is another way to share your talents and keep our branch moving forward. I encourage you to say yes if asked to help lead our branch.

Cindy Alpert,
Co-President

Program

**Dine for a Cause Fundraiser
Wednesday, February 19
5:00 PM–8:00 PM**



**267 Hartz Ave., Danville
(925) 406-4867**

Call to reserve a table or reserve online:
<https://www.virtueandvicedanville.com/reservations>

This is the primary fundraiser for Tech Trek

Encourage your friends, neighbors, and family to join you while you all enjoy a delicious meal. Proceeds from the evening will help fund the cost of 7th-grade girls selected to attend Tech Trek camp at Sonoma State.

Virtue+Vice supports local non-profits by generously donating 10% of the evening's proceeds and 100% of the tips to AAUW San Ramon Tech Trek. Please mention AAUW San Ramon when you call to make your reservation. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you cannot make the event and still wish to donate, please mail a check payable to “AAUW CA SPF” with “**Tech Trek San Ramon**” in the memo line to PO Box 336, San Ramon CA 94583. Or donate online by clicking [here](#) and selecting AAUW CA Projects—Tech Trek—Sonoma Franklin Camp 5037 in the drop-down menu

Our committee is beginning our efforts to receive nominations for Tech Trek camp. Middle schools in San Ramon have been contacted, and we will begin the application review process in February! Thank you to the members who graciously offered to be on the committee.

Thank you in advance for all your support. Looking forward to a fantastic 2025!

Cindy Alpert & Kathy Senti
Tech Trek Co-coordinators

Program cont'd

January Program Starts Year off Right

Our January 16 program was a delightful success. The 37 attendees—including guests, Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek members, Tech Trek alumni and parents, as well as our own San Ramon branch members—joined in for an energetic evening presentation.



CEO Monya Lane Introduces Quest Science Center

Attendees learned about the Quest Science Center, which was founded by engineers from Lawrence Livermore Labs. Monya, Chief Executive Officer and Board President for this East Bay treasure,

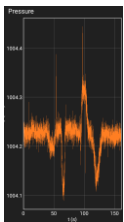
explained that Quest's vision is to "Connect everyone to the value of science" while "pursuing the mission of inspiring and nurturing everyday exploration for lifelong engagement with science and technology." Learning for all ages from students to "seasoned" students (aka adults) is part of this mission.



Quest serves the community with a selection of activities and events, including exhibits at:

- Tri Valley Innovation Fair
- Science @ Stockman Park
- Community Events (at local libraries and cultural festivals)
- School Programs
- High School Intern Program
- Youth Client Summit

Physics, Fun, and Phones



Monya treated us to an exercise to better understand our favorite tool, the cell phone. Everyone took out their cell phones and experimented with learning about sound waves, barometric pressure (at left), and audio amplitude. Members were invited to test the sensors on their phones by whistling, singing, and moving about the room to view the readings on our phones. It was a great and fun physics lesson!

Tech Trek Campers

We also enjoyed presentations by three Tech Trek campers, who described their camp experience and how it affected their worldviews.



Tech Trek campers recall impact of camp experience.

Coming to an Event Near You

To enjoy some of the upcoming Quest events, mark your calendars for the Tri-Valley Innovation Fair on Saturday, April 12. The fair is held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds for one day only, and it's filled with hands-on science activities for young and old.

Members also suggested the San Ramon Art and Wind Festival as another opportunity for the community to get to know Quest.

For More Information: Check out the Quest website: <http://www.quest-science.org>

Mark Your Calendars

February Program

We will be supporting the Teck Trek Fundraiser on Wednesday, February 19. Check page 3 in this newsletter for details on how to participate.

March Program

We plan to celebrate Women's History Month on Thursday, March 20. Stay tuned; plans are still in the works!

April Program

In conjunction with the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch, we will hear from one of the Fund recipients, who is going to speak about her work. Join us on April 17!

May Program

May 3 is the date for our end-of-year celebration. We will again celebrate in the Russell Room at the Amador Rancho Center.

See you at the next event!

Janice Colby
VP, Program

Tech Trek



Tech Trekker Sends Her Thanks

We received this touching letter from one of our 2022 Tech Trekkers, whose interest in STEM has grown since attending camp. Enjoy her story!

Tech Trek: A Journey Into the Infinite Possibilities of STEM

Over two years ago, in the summer of 2022, I had the incredible opportunity to attend Tech Trek at Sonoma State College. As a studious 8th grader who had never spent a week away from her parents, I was an equal mix of excited and intimidated by this chance. However, as soon as I arrived at the camp and met my amazing dorm mom, Katy, and counselor, Isabella, I immediately felt at ease.

My subject of focus was math, a subject I had always excelled in but had never fully explored in depth. With the help of my exceptional teachers, I discovered that math was far more than complicated calculations and lengthy word problems. Through various experiments, discussions, and lectures, I realized that math could be used to model nearly everything—from the human body to the structure of buildings and even the workings of the solar system. It opened my eyes to the beauty and versatility of mathematical models.

Beyond math, I had incredible opportunities to explore other STEM fields. Inspiring panels and lectures from professional women in STEM, hands-on experiments in the college laboratory, and engaging engineering challenges with my roommates sparked a newfound curiosity about the vast possibilities in science and technology. These experiences, combined with the incredible dorm mates, counselors, organizers, and teachers I met, made my Tech Trek experience truly unforgettable.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizers of Tech Trek San Ramon branch members of the AAUW, my dorm mom, Katy, counselor, Isabella, dorm mates, and teachers for giving me and so many other girls this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This amazing summer camp opened my eyes to a new world full of possibilities that I am forever grateful for!

Regards, Sahana Nagandla

Local Scholarship



JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 7 GIFT CARD EMAIL AUCTION

This fun event is a win-win for both Local Scholarship and the winning bidder. Since all gift cards are donated and all winning bidders get something in exchange for their participation, **EVERYONE IS A WINNER!** In October alone, we raised \$385!

You've already received the email blast from Carol Lombardi listing the gift card(s) or certificate(s) available along with the rules, face value for each, and the time for the auction. Now, just contact Loranne Weir [before 8:00 PM February 7](#) with your BEST bid or bids being sure that it is **NO LESS THAN THE FACE VALUE** of the card or certificate up for auction. **SUPER EASY!**

Look at the wonderful items up for auction:

★ **Gift Card #1: Certificate for 2 complimentary tastings at Bent Creek Winery in Livermore, plus 1 bottle of 2016 Petite Sirah (my favorite!)
Face Value: \$100**

★ **Gift Card #2: Pacific Catch gift card
Face Value: \$50**

★ **Gift Card #3: Danville Chocolates gift certificate for your CHOICE of 1 candy apple per month for a year! Yum!
Face Value: \$95**

★ **Gift Card #4: Livermore Wine Trolley certificate good for \$100 toward a SUNDAY SIP & SAVOR WINE PAIRING TOUR. Sure to be a unique experience with friends. Expires 3/1/25.
Face Value: \$100**

★ **Gift Card #5: Macy's gift card
Face Value: \$50**

★ **Gift Card #6: Safeway gift card
Face Value: \$50**

★ **Gift Card #7: Costco
Face Value: \$100**

Local Scholarship cont'd

- ★ Gift Card #8: Yersen Gelato Cakes
Face Value: \$40
- ★ Gift Card #9: Hazy Barbecue
Face Value: \$50
- ★ Gift Card #10: Esin
Face Value: \$40
- ★ Gift Card #11: Pressed Juicery (Danville)
Face Value: \$25
- ★ Gift Card #12: Luna Loca
Face Value: \$100
- ★ Gift Cert. #13: Country Waffles
Face Value: \$20
- ★ Gift Card #14: Danville Chocolates
Face Value: \$25

The participation of our members and their family/friends helps us to award scholarships to deserving young women.

IF THESE AUCTION ITEMS DON'T INTEREST YOU AND YOU STILL WISH TO DONATE, please mail a check payable to AAUW SAN RAMON with "Local Scholarship San Ramon" in the memo line to PO Box 336, San Ramon CA 94583. Or make a tax-deductible donation online by clicking here: <https://specialprojectsfund-ca.aauw.net/donate/> and scrolling down on the drop-down menu to select San Ramon Local Scholarship 4600 (it's the last entry).

And as always, Local Scholarship thanks you in advance for your generous support.

Loranne Weir with Susan Walker-Christensen,
Co-VPs, AAUW Local Scholarship



School Board Project

You're Invited!

I'm inviting all fellow San Ramon members to attend—with our sister branch, AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek—the monthly San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board Meetings (BOE). All board meetings are held on Tuesday evenings (usually the second or third Tuesday) at the administration offices on [699 Old Orchard Drive](#), in Danville (right off of Sycamore Valley Road across from Greenbrook Drive).

The DAW branch has been attending school board meetings for 1 1/2 years as part of the CA AAUW School Board Project. We have had 5–17 members at the meeting, depending on the agenda. Several AAUW Bay Area branches regularly attend their school district meetings, including the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch.

By attending BOE meetings, our members have had the opportunity to meet other community members—teachers, parents, staff, and PTA leaders—who are working to make our school district one of the best districts in the state. We learn firsthand about the issues facing the district, hear discussions by the staff and board trustees, and are able to form our own educated opinions about the issues we increasingly hear discussed at the state and national levels. These contacts have made it easier for our branch to create local programs for our members and the public about education. This past election we worked with the PTA, the League of Women Voters, and this branch to host three successful non-partisan candidate forums.

We usually designate one branch speaker to address an issue before the board and to present the official AAUW position from state and national. This past month, Monika Witte, our past co-president and current program co-chair, spoke on the superintendent's proposed plans to address the budget deficit.

We encourage all San Ramon Branch members to join us and to share the values of AAUW in promoting strong public education opportunities for all children. The meetings are always an opportunity to learn more about the community we all live in and to support education. We are currently working on recognizing the 2025 Tech Trek students and (supporting science) teachers. We'd like the district to recognize and include girls from both of our branch programs. Please reach out to me if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Laurinda Ochoa

Membership



New Member

It is a pleasure to welcome new member **Cyn Coulouthros** to our branch. Some of you may have met her at the presentation by Quest. We look forward to sharing our good works and fun with her.

Membership Overview

Our San Ramon branch remains strong with 103 members. In the past year, together we have welcomed 9 new members. We've grown because we've invited others to share our camaraderie and our branch mission. The programs we are passionate about have interested new members as well. One of our newest members is the mother of one of our Tech Trek 2023 campers. Two of our members are 2024 Renaissance Scholar recipients, whom we annually sponsor as student affiliates. Some members have heard about us through contacts in the community, others rejoin after time away, and several stay with us even after moving out of the area in order to remain active in our Special Interest Groups. Working together, we've grown. Let's keep up these good works and continue reaching out to share our fun and purpose.

Your National Account

We've found data mistakes in some of our members' national accounts. Please activate and/or check your individual account on the national website by going to [aauw.org](https://www.aauw.org). Select **Membership**, then **AAUW Community Hub**. You'll need to use your current email address, which should be the same as the one for our branch communications. Remember that your contact information on your national account needs to match what we have in our branch directory. Please share changes with Margo James. Contact Harvalee Grimm for assistance with your online national account.

AAUW National Dues Increases Proposed

Please read the email that you received from AAUW National on or about January 9, 2025 (and the January 21 email from Carol Lombardi titled "Please Read!"). Both highlight proposed changes to bylaws, including increases of national membership dues of \$5 per year for 5 years. Though the comment period ended January 29, 2025, it is best to be informed.

Happy Valentine's Day from Your Membership Team
Harvalee Grimm and Margo James

Public Policy



Why Public Policy Priorities Matter

By Nancy Major, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

From *AAUW California Public Policy News*

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls. Our Public Policy Priorities guide how we encourage active citizenship toward the goal of advancing our mission. There are four branches to our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security, Equal Access to Quality, Public Education, Social and Racial Justice, and Increased representation of Women in Leadership roles. Each of these priorities is further broken down into several action-oriented subcategories, such as enforcement of Title IX and passage of the ERA. Our 2023-25 priorities can be found at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities-ppp-revised/>

As active participants in society we can help shape the laws and society that govern us, such as healthcare, environmental policies, sex education, curriculum and book banning, housing, childcare, voting rights, immigrants' rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence, racial and LGBTQ discrimination, and Title IX enforcement. We "advocate" or promote our mission through research, education and lobbying for legislation on the international, national, state, and local levels.

History has shown that our advocacy has made a big impact on national, state and local laws. In California alone, you can see the laws that AAUW sponsored, authored, and/or promoted, including those that were passed in the most recent session by going to AAUW California Bill Tracking Report 2024. AAUW is also doing impactful work internationally, working to curtail human trafficking and promote civil and human rights for all immigrants, including through participation in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Over the next four years, there will be a lot of opportunities to use this legislative advocacy to push back against attempts to overturn long standing human rights and civil rights protections.

Public Policy cont'd

Our Public Policy Priorities also shape our efforts to push forward programs that break through educational and economic barriers for women such as speaker programs, scholarships, oversight of local school boards, leadership and salary training, STEM opportunities for students, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Why do our Public Policy Priorities matter? They make us the most effective advocates for our collective mission to protect and expand gender equity. At the branch and individual levels, we can take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to operationalize our Public Policy Priorities, and through this work to actively promote AAUW's mission. AAUW as an organization relies on the branches to stay informed and to keep track of where our Public Policy Priorities may fall short, to form coalitions with local allies who have similar missions, and to assign branch members to focus where we can have the most impact.

Submitted by Catherine Lewis, Public Policy

2023–2025 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
- Increased representation of women in leadership roles

Happy AAUW Anniversaries!

Karen Van Zino **15 years**
Mary Venkat **30 years**

Save the Date!

Local Scholarship Fundraiser
March 17–18 **11 AM–9 PM**
Habit Burger Grill
3121 Crow Canyon Place, Unit D

We will receive **20 percent** of the sales from this event. Simply show the cashier the promotion flyer with our special code (coming in the March newsletter) on your smart phone or as a printout when ordering. If you place an online, mobile, or phone order, tell the Habit staff about the promotion so they'll know the order should go toward our fundraiser. You can help Local Scholarship by telling your friends, neighbors, colleagues, family, and organizations that you belong to about this exciting fundraiser. More information will be coming!

Questions? Call Julie Gin

Happy February Birthdays!

Carol Lombardi
Sarah Scholl
Margo James
Kathy Senti
Victoria Bissell
Lynda Gann

Interest Groups

GAME NIGHT First Saturday

Game Night is cancelled for this month.



LUNCH BUNCH First Tuesday

Tuesday, February 4; 11:30 PM

We'll meet at The Gurkha Kitchen, 2475 SRV Boulevard, San Ramon, between Safeway and CVS in the Diablo Plaza: [The Gurkha Kitchen menu](#). To join the email reminder list, contact Margo James



LOCAL WALKING GROUP Second Saturday

Saturday, February 8; 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, February 10; 1:00–3:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

Kathleen Schaub will lead our discussion of *The Checklist Manifesto* by Atul Gawande. If you have questions or wish to be put on the email list to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact Margo James



Interest Groups

BOCCE Third Saturday

Saturday, February 15; 1:00–3:00 PM
(Assuming no rain)

Sunrise Ridge Park at 7500 Faria Preserve Parkway: a brand new park with two pristine bocce courts! Unfortunately there is no shade, so we'll try it out in the winter. Please let me know if you plan to come so I can make sure:

1. you'll know if we have to cancel due to weather and
2. someone can pick up my bocce balls to play with (I can no longer carry them). RSVP to Kathy Senti



THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP Third Monday

Via Zoom videoconference
Monday, February 17; 7:00 PM

Cheri Ng will lead our discussion of *The Life Impossible*, by Matt Haig.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng



TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE Third Tuesday

Tuesday, February 18; 7:00–9:00 PM or so
Virtual and/or in Person

Hostess: Lucy Weed, 1639 St. Norbert Dr., Danville We will play bridge via Zoom teleconference and BridgeBase and/or in person.

Kindly RSVP to Chris White and let me know:

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



LET'S GO!

Nothing planned. Let Chris White know if you would like to organize a visit to some location and invite AAUW members to join you.

Interest Groups

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Third Wednesday

Wednesday, February 19; 1:00 PM

Via Zoom teleconference

Rebecca Said will lead a discussion about Lucille Ball.

This is a two parter, so make sure you allow enough time:

[Episode 82: Lucille Ball part 1](#) and [Episode 83: Lucille Ball part 2](#).

Margo James



FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

No Friday Flicks in February as some of us will be attending San Ramon's Foreign Film series. Usually some of us meet before the film for dinner that coordinates with the country being featured. If you are interested in joining us, let me know.

Contact Chris White



(L to R): Linda, Harvalee, Claire, Helen, Kathleen, Lorraine, Lois, Susan, and Andree.

We had a beautiful clear crisp Saturday morning with the AAUW walkers. We had a wonderful time catching up and celebrating the start of 2025 walking around Lake Annabel.

FRIDAY FOREIGN FILM SERIES

7 PM at The Front Row Theatre in San Ramon



The City of San Ramon is again hosting its Foreign Film Series on these dates: 2/7, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7. Tickets can be purchased through the city at tickets.sanramon.ca.gov

Price is \$15.95/show or \$59.68 for the 4-film series. Movies are from Japan, India, Kosovo, and China.

Usually some of us meet before the film for dinner that coordinates with the country being featured. If you are interested in joining us, let me know.

Chris White



At The Great Greek on January 4, 10 Lunch Bunch members enjoyed the delicious food and lively company.

2024–2025 Board

CO-PRESIDENTS

Cindy Alpert
Judy Bracken

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Kathleen Schaub

VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM

Janet Colby

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERSHIP

Harvalee Grimm
Betsy Hoffmann
Margo James

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, SCHOLARSHIP

Susan Walker-Christensen
Loranne Weir

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, FINANCE

Claire Mailhiot
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

Webmasters: 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