

THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 41, Number 5

January 2025

**Boldly Go Where Few Women
Have Gone Before!**

Learn About



At an immersive, hands-on presentation by CEO Monya Lane

Thursday, January 16, 2025

6:30–7:30 PM

San Ramon Community Center

Free

Open to the Public

Bring a Friend

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.

JANUARY

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 6:30 PM Board Meeting via Zoom	14 6:00 PM SRVUSD School Board meeting (see page 3)	15 1:00 PM Women in History Margo James	16 6:30 PM Program: Monya Lane, Quest Science Center (See page 4)	17	18 1:00 PM Bocce Kathy Senti
19	20 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	22	23	24 7:30 PM Fourth Friday Flicks Chris White	25
26	27	28	29 Lunar New Year 	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

February 19 Tips for Change, [Virtue + Vice](#) Restaurant, Danville, to benefit Tech Trek
 April 8–9 Lobby Days (See page 7)

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

Presidents' Pens



Let's Be Present!

Whoa! Did someone say it was 2025?

Back in my youth, "2025" invoked a futuristic scenario, with phasers and tricorder devices. Oh wait, we already have laser guns and personalized portable phones! The future is NOW!

In December's newsletter, Cindy talked about change and how AAUW is focused on changing the lives of women and girls. I know my life has changed since becoming involved with AAUW: I've brushed up on many skills to conduct business and learn more about the state and national AAUW, and I've been impressed with all the good work being done by our organization at all levels. I hear many of you expressing similar sentiments, such as "I'm learning so many new skills to keep up with the digital world," and "I keep doing this work because it keeps my brain active," and "I like feeling that I'm making the world a little bit better."

With change in mind, I recently attended a webinar hosted by Silicon Valley AAUW, entitled "AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results." Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy for national AAUW, emphasized that, given possible drastic changes to the Department of Education, it is time to focus even more on our foremost [policy priority](#): to promote educational opportunities for women and girls.

We need to keep working on the basics of education because that is where AAUW is most informed. Ms. Kissell suggested local-level action to ensure school curricula are focused on unbiased, fact-based learning. This is where we can have an impact that will ripple out to larger communities. One way we can do that is to attend the San Ramon school board [meetings](#), held on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM. The next one is January 14, at 699 Old Orchard Drive in Danville (at the corner of Sycamore opposite Greenbrook).

As we start this new year and begin projects for scholarships and Tech Trek, let's not lose sight of the fact that our efforts in San Ramon do have a large impact, and we are making changes happen.

We start with ourselves: as Karen Rice quoted at our Friendsgiving event:

If you are depressed you are living in the past. If you are anxious you are living in the future. If you are at peace you are living in the present.

—Lao Tzu

Let's make 2025 full of our presence!

Judy Bracken, Co-President

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Hello 2025!

As we begin a new year, the song "Headed for the Future" by Neil Diamond comes to mind. The part of the song that resonates with me is this: "We're headed for the future and the future's now..." The future has become the present!

The start of a new year often motivates us to set new goals, try new things, or make personal changes. It is a time to reflect on the past and look to the future. AAUW continues to focus on ways to make lives better for women and girls. They support legislation, provide fellowships and grants, and conduct research on topics to bring equity for all. You can learn more about all these opportunities by joining one of the many [webinars](#) presented by AAUW CA. You can also find more about what happens at the national level [here](#). There are many resources available to help you support our mission.

January will be another busy month for our branch. We will elect the nominating committee at the January 16 Membership meeting so they can begin their **search for members to serve on the 2025–2026 Board**. Serving on the board is a great way to meet people and contribute to our growth. We hope you consider saying "yes" if asked to share your time and talents with our branch.

See page 4 for the details on our January 16 program, where we will hear more about a local organization promoting fun ways to learn about STEM topics. It ties in nicely with our selection of Tech Trek campers. I hope to see you there.

Wishing you a great year ahead. Make it the best year yet!

Cindy Alpert, Co-President

Program

Boldly Go Where Few Women Have Gone Before!

**Thursday, January 16, 2025
6:30–7:30 PM
San Ramon Community Center
Terrace Room
12501 Alcosta Blvd.**



Join us to participate in an immersive, hands-on engineering event brought to us by Monya Lane, CEO of the [Quest Science Center](#) in Livermore

Monya will share information about her personal background and recount how the Quest Science Center was formed. As the CEO of Quest Science Center, Monya will explain the science center “without walls” concept—which is on the road to becoming a permanent science center serving the Tri-Valley region and beyond.

Quest Science Center Programs and Mission

The Quest Science Center presents inspiring hands-on activities that engage people of all ages and backgrounds with the science and technology all around us.

In 2023, over 20,000 visitors had the opportunity to experience a wide range of exciting activities, including

- Quest Tri-Valley Innovation Fair at the Alameda County Fairgrounds,
- Science@Stockmen’s Park in Livermore, and
- Engineering Explorations family science nights at schools from Castro Valley to Tracy.

Quest also partnered with Science in the Park at Cal State East Bay and at Danville Veterans Museum Open House.

Monya will describe how these programs fit the mission of Quest Science Center and share a fun hands-on activity we can experience together at the meeting.

Monya Lane has 30+ years of experience working in Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory programs. As Associate Director for Engineering, she was responsible for leading a diverse organization of approximately 1,600 people that provided engineering science and technology to ensure the success of the laboratory's programs and institutional goals.

Much of the work involved the simultaneous integration of multiple technologies—from large-scale, complex applied physics systems to microscale engineering.

Look for an Evite invitation! Please RSVP so that we know how many people may be participating!

Janice Colby
VP, Program



Help, please!!!!

Tech Trek Committee would like **7 people** to be helpers at our Dine for a Cause event.

Dine for a Cause is a “fun”draiser where we volunteer as waitstaff. Guests of the restaurant are served by us, and our branch receives 10% of food and drink sales and **100% of the tips**. Training is provided on the day of the event. This is a one-time, short commitment where you get to meet a lot of AAUW members and friends in the community!

WHEN: February 19, 2025; 4:00–8:00 PM

WHAT: Waitstaff Wanna Be: Take dinner orders, serve food, bus tables

WHERE: Virtue + Vice restaurant in Danville

WHY: Support this fundraiser for Tech Trek!

Let Cindy Alpert or Kathy Senti know if you want to help.

Tech Trek



If you volunteered to be on our Branch Tech Trek committee, please look for an email from us. We will meet in January to review the schedule and process for the 2025 camp applications.

SAVE THE DATE: February 19, 2025 Virtue + Vice Restaurant, Danville

This is our “Dine for a Cause” fundraiser, where 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. Make a date with your special person, family, or friends. It is a fun way to support Tech Trek and enjoy a tasty meal. **Look for a flyer with more details later this month.**

Tech Trek Alumni Group

Steps are underway to develop the Tech Trek Alumni Group for our branch. The purpose of the TTAG is to connect with former Tech Trek campers and help them continue to pursue STEM-related topics. The committee created this mission statement:

1. We want to build a community to help Tech Trek alumni continue their STEM journey through high school and set them up for success in the future. We will provide opportunities for them to speak and/or write about their experiences, connect with each other and with other STEM-minded students, and participate in educational activities to further their STEM interests.
2. We want to help the eighth-grade campers become ambassadors to their schools. We will mentor them and provide opportunities for them to speak with teachers and seventh-grade girls to share their experiences about Tech Trek.

As we move forward with this effort, we hope to engage the former campers in other branch activities.

2025 Camp Update and Volunteer Opportunities

Tech Trek Camp Sonoma will be held June 22–28, 2025. We begin the selection process in January by contacting the middle schools in San Ramon seeking teacher nominations. Our goal is to send at least one girl from each middle school.

We realize it is a few months away but if you're interested in volunteering at camp itself, please let us know. Dorm moms, classroom aides, and camp committee volunteers are much needed.

Looking forward to a fantastic 2025!

Cindy Alpert & Kathy Senti
Tech Trek Coordinators

Local Scholarship



Gift Card Email Auction January 31–February 7

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!

Look for an email blast from Carol Lombardi during the last week of the January 2025 sharing the gift card(s) or certificate(s) available that month, along with the rules, face value for each, and the time for the auction. Then just contact Lorraine Weir at laweir4@aol.com 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 how many items are up for auction!

- \$50 Macy's gift card
- Danville Chocolates Candy Apple of the Month card for 1 year
- \$25 Danville Chocolates gift card
- Bent Creek winery tasting and bottle of wine
- Livermore Wine Trolley Sip and Savor Pairing Tour
- \$50 Pacific Catch gift card
- \$50 Safeway gift card
- \$100 Costco gift card
- \$40 Yersen Gelato Cakes gift card
- \$50 Hazy Barbecue gift card
- \$40 Esin gift card
- \$25 Pressed (Danville) gift card
- \$100 Luna Loca gift card
- \$20 Country Waffles gift certificate

and possibly more!

The participation of our members and their family/friends helps us to award scholarships to deserving young women. And as always, Local Scholarship thanks you in advance for your generous support.

Susan Walker-Christensen and Lorraine Weir
Co-VPs, Local Scholarship

Communication

Out with the Old, In with the New! Welcome to Our Fresh, Updated Website!

Hello, fellow members and happy new year!

We're thrilled to announce the *updated and improved* AAUW San Ramon website, just in time for 2025! It's a fresh, vibrant, and user-friendly space that's designed to make your online experience smooth and more enjoyable.

Say goodbye to that vintage 1970s avocado green (though we'll always love the nostalgia) and hello to a sleek, modern look!

Don't worry—while our website may have fresh colors, the information you know and love is still front and center. Whether you're looking for upcoming events or valuable resources, it's all there and ready for you to explore and stay up to date on AAUW's important work.

Here's what's new:

- **A modern, responsive design** that adapts to any device—because we know you're on the go!
- **Streamlined navigation** so you can quickly find what you need.

The “migration” (that's a fancy tech term for “transition”) went much more smoothly than we expected thanks to the hard work of California AAUW. We've waited many years for this update, and we can't wait for you to explore the site. Please let us know if you find anything that needs our attention.

[Visit the website now to see for yourself!](#)

Cheers to a bright new chapter in 2025 with the new AAUW website!

Best,
Your Communication Team
Isabel Lau, Carol Lombardi, and Beth Robertson

Happy January Birthdays!
Arlene Chang
Stella Hadjimarkos
Nancy Vandell

Membership



Membership Matters

Corresponding Secretary

Thanks to all who signed the Holiday Greetings cards at our Friendsgiving. We sent them to twelve members who live out of our area and to those who live locally and have not been able to attend meetings and events. We want them to know we remember and miss them. We appreciate all of you who have let us know when a member has had an important life event, is ill, or just needs a cheery note. Thank you!

Prospective Member Guests & 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.

New Member Mentors

When new members join us, we match them with a member who welcomes and acquaints them with our Branch. Being a mentor is a “snackable” position without any particular time commitment or format. Let us know if you are interested in mentoring a new member. We promise you will make a new friend.

Helping Hands: A Snackable Opportunity

Thanks to all of our willing volunteers, Membership has helped Programs and Hospitality with events and programs. We assist with setting up, cleaning up, decorating, and organizing food. “Helping Hands” is another snackable position. Truly “many hands make light work” so please let Harvalee know if you are interested.

We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Your Membership Team:
Harvalee Grimm & Margo James

Public Policy



Lobby Days 2025: Save the Date!

By Rhonda Skipper, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an in-person meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8 and a virtual meeting day over Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

Starting in January, the Public Policy Committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. In mid-March, the committee will meet to select 30–35 bills to make up AAUW California’s 2025 Legislative Agenda, including the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, 2025, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

A registration form will arrive in your inbox in early January 2025. Please be sure to complete and return the form so that you get necessary updates about Lobby Days, including your team and meeting details.

After you register, you will be assembled into teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members and matched with Assembly and Senate districts. For in-person meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with at least 3 legislative offices while for Zoom meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with 1 to 3 legislative offices. Regardless of whether you are in-person or online, each meeting will last for 15 to 30 minutes.

Because legislators have many commitments during the busy legislative season, most Lobby Days meetings will be held with legislative staffers and it is not always possible to schedule AAUW members with their own legislators. However, be assured that these meetings are always impactful: because teams will be representing AAUW California as a bill sponsor and/or supporter,

legislative offices will consider these meetings to be as important as constituent meetings.

Lobby Days 2025 is scheduled to take place just before the legislature adjourns on April 10th for Spring Recess. AAUW members are encouraged to participate in-person on April 8, 2025, and directly advocate at the State Capitol as these in-person meetings are the most effective way to advance our priority legislation. Even though we know that being in-person is impactful, AAUW California is not able to pay for your travel to Lobby Day in Sacramento. For those who are not able to come to the Capitol, there will be an opportunity to meet with legislative offices virtually via Zoom on April 9, 2025.

We understand that travel incurs a cost, and we appreciate you considering the in-person option. If you can afford to take a road trip, consider carpooling with your fellow members, and if driving a long distance, sharing accommodations to make in-person Lobby Day a more budget friendly event.

In addition to our members, this year some of your Lobby Days teams will include college students who have been invited to join in via a college outreach pilot project. Through this project, we will be distributing Lobby Days event flyers to several colleges and universities from November to February. Increased college student participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices; however, most importantly, we hope that this introduction to AAUW will inspire advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislative offices and advance bills to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to promote our values.

If you would like to be notified about opportunities to advocate for AAUW California’s priority legislation in 2025, please sign up [here](#).

Submitted by
Catherine Lewis, Public Policy

**Thank you
to our volunteer proofreaders
Nancy Vandell, Lucy Weed**

Self Care Is a Political Act

Looking Forward to the New Year

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy Committee

We would like to take this moment to wish you a happy holiday season and to extend our deepest gratitude for your hard work, passion and commitment to advance gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls.

With the looming post-election threat of an uptick in policies and enforcement actions that run counter to our core values, including the promise to advance Project 2025, many of you may be feeling a range of emotions including exhaustion, anxiety, fear, and despair. Please take time during this holiday season to practice self-care-- as Audre Lorde teaches us, <https://hunter.cuny.edu/news/audre-lorde-now-series-self-care-as-political-welfare/> this is, indeed, a political act. Unplug if you have to, spend time with your loved ones, and recharge so that we can continue to work together to advance and protect the communities that we care about.

When you feel ready to take action, we are here to support. We will have opportunities on the ground, including via Lobby Days and the School Board Project. We will have opportunities within our organization, including through solidifying and expanding our Public Policy Priorities. And we will continue to build new opportunities, including through partnering with organizations and individuals that share our priorities. We are gathering resources, projects, and outlets that will streamline our collective efforts.

With this in mind, we wish you all the best. Warm wishes for a peaceful holiday and a resolute New Year.

In Solidarity,
Missy & Amy



Interest Groups

GAME NIGHT

First Saturday

Saturday, January 4; 7:00 PM

Game night will be at Chris Burchik's home. Please RSVP to Chris.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed



LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesday

Tuesday, January 7; 11:30 PM

We will meet at at The Great Greek Mediterranean Grill, 2475 San Ramon Valley Boulevard (between Safeway and CVS). Here's the [Great Greek Menu](#). To join the email reminder list, contact:

Margo James



LOCAL WALKING GROUP

Second Saturday

Saturday, January 11; 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, January 13; 1:00-3:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

We will be deciding on the books we will read in 2025. I will contact members to propose books before the meeting so we can vote at the meeting.

Margo James



LET'S GO!

Contact Chris White if you have an idea for a great outing to a museum, lunch spot, or other Bay Area event. She'll give you ideas about navigating tickets, ride-share, and other details.

Interest Groups

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Third Wednesday

Wednesday, January 15; 1:00 PM

Via Zoom teleconference

Our topic has not yet been decided. Please contact me for the information.

Margo James



BOCCE

Third Saturday

Saturday, January 18; 1:00–3:00 PM

Please let me know if you plan to come so I can make sure

1. you know if we have to cancel due to weather or
 2. someone can pick up my bocce balls to play with.
- RSVP to Kathy Senti.



THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

Third Monday

Via Zoom videoconference

Monday, January 20; 7:00 PM

We will have a two-part presentation covering *James* by Percival Everett and *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng



TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Third Tuesday

Tuesday, January 21; 7:00–9:00 PM or so

Virtual and/or in Person

Host: Lois Kamoroff

1056 Canyon Hills Rd., San Ramon

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

Please 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

We need a volunteer for February 18.

Please volunteer!

Interest Groups

FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, January 24, 7:30 PM

via Zoom teleconference

Discussion Leader: Diane Griffiths

Watch: *Lee*, the story of photographer Elizabeth “Lee” Miller, a fashion model who became an acclaimed war correspondent for *Vogue* magazine during World War II. **It is available to stream on a variety of platforms for \$5.99**

****No Friday Flicks in February as some of us will be attending San Ramon’s Foreign Film series (see below).****

**We need volunteers for these dates:
March 28, April 25, May 23.**

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.

Contact Chris White



December Bridge group made it festive!

L to R Standing: Joy, Lois, Margo; seated; Lucy, Heather, Fran, and Susan.

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