

THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 41, Number 8 April 2025

Meet STEM Trailblazer and AAUW FUND Grant Recipient Adamaka Ajaelo





Thursday April 17; 6:00–8:00 PM Danville Congregational Church 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville

Adamaka will fill us in about her work with Self-eSTEM, a remarkable organization she founded that is dedicated to empowering women and girls by creating equitable access to STEM opportunities, fostering innovation, and cultivating the next generation of changemakers

The Advocate
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch

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, rkforce, 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.

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Margo James	2	3	4	5 7:00 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff Quest Science Center at Tri Valley Innovation Fair Passover
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	17 6:00 PM Investing in Innovators: Adamaka Ajaelo See page 4	18	19 1:00 PM Bocce Kathy Senti
Easter	21 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	22 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White 6:00 PM SRVUSD Board Meeting ———— Earth Day	23	24	25 7:30 PM Fourth Friday Flicks Chris White	26
27	28	29	30			

Save the Dates

May 3 End-of-Year Celebration, Amador Rancho Center, Russell Room. 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

May 10 Shredding Event, Bollinger Hills Cabana, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

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

Presidents' Pen



The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also. Harriet Ann Jacob

April feels like the time of year to refresh, renew, and rejuvenate. Flowers are blooming, days are longer, and the weather is warmer. I hope you find opportunities to enjoy this time of year.

You will have an opportunity to renew your knowledge about AAUW California by attending the virtual AAUW California Annual Event on Saturday, April 26, 10 AM–2 PM. This year's theme is Pivoting 4 Our Future. We'll gather on Zoom to recap accomplishments, be inspired by speakers, applaud the winners of state awards, hear the Speech Trek finalists, chat in multiple breakout rooms, and think about how AAUW—and YOU—can respond to today's dramatic social changes. Watch for registration information. The only gift you need to bring is you.

At the national level, AAUW shared their many accomplishments and provided an overview of the past year in their 2024 Annual Report. There is a lot of great information to refresh your understanding of what AAUW does to help women and girls. Read about it HERE.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee members Fran Bartholomew, Elaine Graves, and Harvalee Grimm for identifying members to fill our board positions. We look forward to rejuvenating next year's board with some new officers. Please vote and support these women!

We have a lot of fun activities planned for the next couple of months. Please find information about the April Program, our May End-of-Year celebration, the Shredding Event, and the San Ramon Art & Wind Festival ice cream sales in this newsletter.

We appreciate your support in all these areas to help keep our branch strong! Have a great April! Remember to refresh, renew, and rejuvenate at one of our branch events.

Cindy Alpert, Co-President

Save the Date **AAUW SAN RAMON** SHREDDING & E-MEDIA* **ON-SITE RECYCLING FUNDRAISER** Saturday, May 10 Suggested Donation: 10 AM to 1 PM

\$15 per Banker's Box or Paper **Grocery Bag (Shredding)** \$20 per Banker's Box or Paper

Grocery Bag (E-Media)

All Proceeds Benefit Scholarships for Local Students



*E-Media is limited to: monitors. electric cables (cat 5), TVs under 50", remotes, VCRs, speakers, routers, radios, stereos, cameras, telephones (no cellphones), printers and items related to a . computer (mouse, keyboards, cables, etc.).

Bring it to: Bollinger Hills Cabana Parking Lot 2949 Morgan Drive San Ramon



Thank you to our volunteer proofreaders: **Lucy Weed and Nancy Vandell**

Program

Tech Trek

Meet STEM Trailblazer Adamaka Ajaelo



Thursday April 17; 6:00–8:00 PM Danville Congregational Church 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville

Adamaka Ajaelo, an AAUW FUND Grant recipient, will talk about her initiative to transform the lives of more than 1,300 young women. In 2014, she founded Self-eSTEM, an organization that gives young women opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math. Self-eSTEM provides culturally relevant education, training, and mentorship with a network of support.

Adamaka is an Oakland native. She worked for Visa, where she provided insights and recommendations influencing global workforce plans and talent development strategies. As the Director of Strategic Workforce Planning and Analytics, she had a unique tech role that gave her experience to grow and develop a passion for helping others. Adamaka brings her passion to her presentation, and we hope you will join us!

We're co-hosting this "Investing in Innovators" program with the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek and Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branches.

Save the Date! End-of-Year Celebration
Saturday, May 3 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
Amador Rancho Community Center
1998 Rancho Park Loop, San Ramon
Russell Room

Save the date as we acknowledge and celebrate our success this past year. We will meet our high school scholarship recipients, hear about the many branch accomplishments, introduce the new 2025–2026 board members, and socialize with our AAUW friends. It's a great time to gather and reconnect in person! Watch for final details in the upcoming Evite this month! Kindly respond so we can get an accurate count. We look forward to seeing you at both our program and celebration!

Janice Colby, Vice President, Program



Update: Campers Selected

We received 17 nominations from the four middle schools in San Ramon and selected 12 girls to interview. We selected 6 girls to attend camp at Sonoma State and 2 girls to attend virtual camp. The students shared a lot of enthusiasm and interest in STEM, making it a real challenge to select only 8 girls.

Thank you to the Tech Trek Committee members for their support and interest in selecting the campers. Our School Outreach Coordinator was Margo James. Our Application Readers were Ashley Cherry, Purvi Rawal, Becky Said, and Kathy Senti. Our Interview Team was led by Karen Rice and included Ashley Cherry, Sindhura Putumbaka, and Nancy Vandell. We appreciate all you do to make this a success!

Our next task is to have the campers complete their forms and get ready for camp.

Dorm monitors and camp volunteers are still needed for the residential camp! Coaches are still needed for virtual camp! Please let us know if you are interested in joining the campers for a week of fun, exciting adventures. Camp at Sonoma State is June 22–28 and Virtual Camp is July 20–25. Volunteers can choose to go for a day or two—it's a great way to see how much these girls enjoy their Tech Trek experience!

Cindy Alpert & Kathy Senti Co-Tech Trek Coordinators

Happy April Birthdays!

Leela Gopal Loranne Weir Patty Nobles Patricia Kelly Elizabeth Hoffmann Karen Rice Ashley Cherry

Local Scholarship



Renaissance Scholars Update

General Information Roshawn Campbell (Renaissance Scholars Coordinator) has shared with us that they will have 20 graduates this year from this program. This is the largest number to date. It's nice to feel that, with our branch's support, we have been a part in these students' successes.

On February 18, Loranne Weir and Susan Walker-Christensen met with our two CSUEB Renaissance Scholars to present them with their second \$750 check and to update their progress toward their personal and academic goals.

Both of these young women were very positive and reported that they are doing well in general and that they very much appreciate the support from our organization. A brief summary of their current status follows:



Leslie Hernandez

Leslie reported that she did well last semester and is eagerly looking toward her graduation. Her official date will be fall semester, but she is very excited to be eligible to walk in the May graduation ceremony. She will be completing her Bachelor's degree in Sociology. Although she has not made a specific commitment yet, her interests following graduation include pursuing a career in the criminal justice field or working as a case manager with youth services. Currently, she continues to work in San Leandro as a Resident Advocate at a housing facility for women who are victims of domestic violence.



Nicole Silliman

Nicole was very excited to report that she has qualified for the Honor Society at CSUEB! She will graduate in May with a Master's in Social Work. Nicole will continue to pursue the hours and coursework needed to qualify for her license as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She is currently working as an intern in San Mateo County and is applying for positions in several Bay Area counties following graduation. She is most interested in working in a smaller county like San Mateo, as she feels like there is a greater opportunity for personal contact and success with clients and programs in this setting.

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

> American Association of University Women Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch

23rd Annual Garden Tour

Friday, May 9 & Saturday, May 10, 2025 10 AM – 4 PM

Escape to Serenity







Immerse Your Senses and Restore Your Spirit

Proceeds support AAUW Local Community Projects including college scholarships for local students, STEM for middle school girls, and branch programs advancing equity for all. DAW AAUW is a 501(c)(13) organization and donations are tax deductible. Ell # 99.2-3233415

https://daw-ca.aauw.net/2025-garden-tour/

Membership



Let's Keep Our Membership Growing

Our branch remains strong with 103 members. Our monthly program events and special interest groups keep us thriving. Let's continue to spread the word and share our fun. Consider inviting a guest to the FUND program on April 17 and to our End-of-Year general meeting on May 3. It's a great way for them to see what AAUW is all about. Register your guest(s) when you RSVP to the Evite.

The AAUW Shape the Future campaign is ongoing. Any new member who joins at or soon after attending one of our activities may receive a one-time 50% discount on AAUW National dues for the first year: a \$37.00 savings. Your membership team is always eager to meet with prospective members. We welcome the opportunity to share our mission and good works. Please share their contact information with us, and we'll reach out to schedule a meeting with them.

National Membership Dues Increase

AAUW National is raising its annual dues to \$74 beginning April 1, 2025 and again on April 1, 2026 to \$76. That is a \$2 increase each year for the next two years. Please refer to the email that Shannon Wolfe sent to all members on March 12, 2025. The subject line reads: "Membership Dues Update."

Branch Directory and Evite List

The updated directory was sent to you via email in mid-February. Please direct any changes of your contact information to Margo James, who maintains the branch directory and Evite list. Thank you to the members who took the time to send us their changes. You can also access the directory on our branch website under the password-protected section "Members Only." The password is noted on our directory. You can also contact us to get a copy.

Correspondence

Thank you to members who inform us of life events for themselves or other members. We appreciate the chance to send a note to let them know we are thinking of them.

We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our activities.

Your Membership Team Harvalee Grimm & Margo James

Communication

AVOID EMAIL SCAMS THAT APPEAR TO COME FROM FRIENDS OR FAMILY

By Michelle Baer and Donna Holmes, Directors, Communication Committee Co-chairs, communications@aauw-ca.org

Email scams don't always pretend to be large corporations; sometimes they impersonate people you know – family, friends, or even colleagues. These scams can be especially dangerous because they are working to exploit established trust.

Here are four tips to recognizing and avoiding email scams.

- Be suspicious of unusual requests. If a friend or family member suddenly emails you asking for money, gift cards, or sensitive information, be skeptical.
- 2. Look at the writing style. Proceed with caution if you encounter unusual wording, spelling or grammatical errors, or phrasing that just doesn't "sound like" the person.
- 3. Stay calm. Scammers frequently rely on urgent language to drive immediate action. Do not rush to respond to the request until you determine its validity.
- 4. Look carefully at the sender's email address. Many email systems just show you the sender's display name, which is easy to manipulate. The email address itself must be inspected. In most systems you can hover your mouse over the sender's name to reveal their email address. Check the email address carefully. Frequently, the email address is entirely wrong and easy to dismiss as fraudulent. In more sophisticated scams, the email address may be only slightly different.
- 5. If you have identified the email address as incorrect, then delete the message (optionally, report as spam). However, if after reviewing an email message, you still have some doubts, how do you proceed? First, it is very important to NOT reply to the message and do NOT click on any links or attachments.

Then, reach out to the purported sender directly, such as by a phone call or text, to validate whether the message is authentic.

With a bit of knowledge and careful attention, it is possible to avoid many email scams.

Submitted by Isabel Lau, Communication Chair

Public Policy



Source: From AAUW California Public Policy News, March 2025

In addition to the article below, please see this link for other important news and action from AAUW California Public Policy: https://www.aauw-

ca.org/documents/2025/03/public-policy-news-march-2025.pdf/

Calendar of AAUW Events is located here:

https://www.aauw-

 $\frac{ca.org/calendar/action{\sim}month/exact_date{\sim}1743490800/cat_ids{\sim}22,30,20,27,24,141,28,491,187/tag_ids{\sim}21/request_f_ormat{\sim}json/$

Prepare for Sexual Assault Prevention Month in April

By Claire Noonan, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Sexual assault violence prevention calls for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multipronged approach, including improving street and housing conditions, providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities.

Official channels for raising awareness about sexual assault violence and creating and implementing the policies needed for prevention has a long history in the United States; however, given the current administration's attack on "DEI," much of this work is now under threat of being dismantled.

Violence awareness began officially when the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) became law in 1984, providing the primary federal funding for domestic violence victims and their children via emergency shelters and related assistance. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), passed by Congress in 1994, is comprehensive federal legislation to end violence against women. In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first national Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), building on years of advocacy and awareness-building. In 2009, President

Barack Obama officially declared April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which presidents have proclaimed by every year since then.

As part of this wider federal push, awareness-raising and prevention efforts around sexual assault violence have been more firmly embedded in core policies and practices. For instance, the Department of Defense has been trying to create a culture to eliminate sexual assault, requiring a personal commitment from all Service members. Educational institutions have benefitted as well: the final Title IX revisions in April 2024 by President Joe Biden reflected the stronger shift to prevent assault actions on school campuses. These revisions also sought to protect more people, expanding the definition of "sex-based harassment" to include harassment based on sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, and pregnancy. At the state level, in September 2024 Governor Newsom signed eight bills on domestic violence. The legislation created a new victims' services fund using penalties from white-collar crimes and expanded the ability of victims to access restraining orders.

While all of this movement has been positive, by the second week of President Donald Trump's current administration, the Office of Management and Budget had ordered a freeze of all federal financial assistance in all agencies including those that oversee government programs and funding for organizations that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services, such as Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, and the Department of Justice. Multiple court orders have blocked the freezes from taking effect, but in some cases funds haven't been received for programs aimed at preventing sexual violence.

In addition, the current Administration has attacked the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and the Office on Violence Against Women, who must now disclose information that may further eliminate funding and resources, such as whether grants are being used to support "removable or illegal aliens or immigrants;" to "promote gender ideology;" or to advance "illegal DEI" programs—although at the time of writing, early challenges have signaled that enforcement of these provisions and denial of funding may be unconstitutional.

As individuals and non-profit organizations, we can take action. We can contact our Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence.

We can also act in our local communities to reduce sexual assault violence. We can ask to improve lighting to make continued next page

Public Policy cont'd

streets and other public spaces safer. We can make sure our city, county, and public health officials promote policies for families and children, address economic security, and provide access to safe, stable housing. We can collaborate with community-led organizations that

coordinate resources and services that help with trauma, mental health and substance use, all of which lead to sexual abuse. (from CDC-Violence Prevention)

Overall, we can all work to support the organizations country-wide that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence. Click here https://www.dvawareness.org/free-materials for downloadable free materials to share from the Domestic Violence Awareness Project.

Submitted by Catherine Lewis, Public Policy Chair

Lunch Bunch



A total of 15 lunchers enjoyed dining and conversation at the Hula Wok in March. Join us next month!

Save the Date Art and Wind Festival Ice Cream Sale Sunday & Monday, May 25 & 26

The FUNdraiser supports administrative needs, programs for our branch, and community action projects. It's a FUN and easy way to meet members of our community!

Teens are welcome to assist, but must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up early to volunteer for your favorite shift.

The shifts are: 10:45 AM-1:00 PM 1:00 PM-3:30 PM

3:30 PM-6:00 PM

Contact: Janet William

Art & Wind Festival Chair

Vote to Elect 2025–2026 Officers at April 17 Program, 6:00 PM Danville Congregational Church

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the nomination of the slate of officers listed below. The election will be held at the annual branch meeting immediately <u>before</u> the program on Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 PM. As stated in our bylaws, "*Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.*"

We hope you will join us for this event and important vote.

Proposed AAUW San Ramon Slate of Officers 2025–2026

Proposed Elected Positions: 2025–2026Co-Presidents: Judy Bracken & Cindy Alpert

President-elect: OPEN

Finance Co-Vice Presidents: Claire Mailhiot & Janet

Kleyn

Co-Recording Secretaries: Nancy Vandell & Alice Miller Program Co-Vice Presidents: Janice Colby & Kathleen

Schaub

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Harvalee Grimm &

Margo James

Scholarship Co-Vice Presidents: Ashley Cherry & Helen

Rozman

FUND Vice President: Margie Goldware

Appointed Positions: 2025–2026

Art and Wind Festival Chair: Janet Williams

Communication Co-Chairs: Isabel Lau & Beth Robertson Tech Trek Co-Chair: Cindy Alpert & Co-Chair OPEN

Public Policy Chair: Catherine Lewis

Newsletter Co-Editors: Vineetha Nair & Co-Editor OPEN

Hospitality Chair: Jo Anne Barron

Please contact a nominating committee member if you are interested in one of these roles, particularly **President-elect** and **Tech Trek Co-Chair.**

Additional volunteer opportunities will be shared at the September meeting.

Your 2025 Nominating Committee Fran Bartholomew, Elaine Graves, and Harvalee Grimm



Interest Groups

Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH First Tuesday

Tuesday, April 1; 11:30 PM

We will meet at Curry Pizza House, 12191 Alcosta Boulevard, San Ramon. To join the email reminder list, contact:

Margo James

GAME NIGHT First Saturday

Saturday, April 5; 7:00 PM

We will play at Heather Taapken's home. Please RSVP to taapkenh@yahoo.com

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed

LOCAL WALKING GROUP Second Saturday

Saturday, April 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, April 14; 1:00–3:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

Jane Young will lead our discussion of *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. If you have questions or wish to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact Margo James

LET'S GO!

This member-driven interest group can go anywhere, anytime! Just 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, rideshare, and other details.

TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE Third Tuesday

Tuesday, April 15; 7:00–9:00 PM or so Virtual and/or in Person

Host: Heather Taapken

We will play bridge via Zoom teleconference and

BridgeBase and/or in person.

Kindly 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, April 16; 1:00 PM

Via Zoom teleconference

Cindy Alpert will lead a discussion about Dr. Mary Edwards Walker: Episode 211: Dr. Mary Edwards

Walker. Margo James

BOCCE

Third Saturday

Saturday, April 19; 1:00-3:00 PM

Come join us for our next day of bocce at Faria Preserve Park. You don't have to have to experience—just come and enjoy a fun game with fun people!

Questions? Call or text Kathy Senti

THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP Third Monday

Via Zoom videoconference Monday, April 21; 7:00 PM

Karen Van Zino will review *The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle & Flying Club* by Helen Simonson. Questions? Contact Cheri Ng

FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday April 25; 7:30 PM via Zoom

Organizer: Lucy Weed. Film: *Conclave*Watch for a fee on several platforms. To join the discussion, contact
Chris White

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