

THE TWIG - MARCH

AAUW Fremont Branch & New Haven Unified School District

present:

Mother / Daughter STEM Discovery Day

For 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade girls

AAUW
Fremont (CA) Branch



C O D E
for FUN

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center



NEW HAVEN
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Attend four, 40 minute, hands-on activities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)
 - Dress warmly & comfortably
 - Beverages, Snacks, and door prizes
- Adult participant can be mother, grandmother, aunt, or other adult female caregiver

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

8:30 A.M - 1:00 PM — CESAR CHAVEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL
2801 Hop Ranch Rd. Union City, CA 94587

\$30 per mother/ daughter team
\$20 for additional child

Scan the QR Code
to reserve your
space



Financial assistance is available
for qualified students.
Please Contact: Randy Fewel at
jailteacher@comcast.net

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

President's Message

My college-age daughter joined our branch last fall. She belongs to a highly desirable demographic group that AAUW and other nonprofit and for-profit organizations are actively pursuing.

Gen Z, representing 21% of the US population aged 18-26, is a tech-savvy generation that embraces social responsibility, environmental sustainability, and racial equity. They are leading the country in adopting AI innovations, mobile banking, online shopping and social media technologies. The biggest challenge of wooing these young adults is appealing to their digital sophistication. It takes just 1.3 seconds for Gen Zs to lose active attention to ads, less time than any other age group!



When I write this column every month, I often wonder what Instagrammable and TikTokable content I can create to get my daughter to open her *Twigs* as soon as they land in her inbox. I found the answer last week when I spotted an article from AAUW Thousand Oaks.

Our enterprising SoCal sisters have been writing and performing monologues of outstanding women of the past and present since 1985. Teaching women's history using Instagrammable first-person narratives and TikTokable live character enactments since the 1980s? What an ingenious idea, light years ahead of its time! I just had to learn more.

In response to my inquiry, Donna Langley, Thousand Oaks Women's History Project Committee member, shared: "The idea originated in 1985 when seven-year-old Stacey Hindy, the daughter of one of our branch members, broke her arm. At the doctor's office, Stacey indicated she could be a nurse when she grew up, 'but only men could be doctors.' Her mother, Sandy, immediately saw a need to show her daughter, and other children, that women's aspirations need not be limited by gender stereotypes. She researched, wrote and then presented first person monologues highlighting the lives of women from history to students in grades one through six at her daughter's elementary school. One of the women she presented was Elizabeth Blackwell, America's first woman physician, demonstrating that girls could, indeed, be doctors. [An update: Sandy's daughter, Stacey, went on to become a doctor!]

The next year, the Thousand Oaks Branch of AAUW formed a committee to build on what Sandy had accomplished. Over sixty branch members became involved as researchers, writers, editors and presenters. During National Women's History Month in March of 1987, AAUW members and friends dressed in costume and portrayed five women in all 18

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Editor: Jennifer Foster
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 Send items for The TWIG to Jennifer Foster at jejenfo@yahoo.com

public elementary schools in the community. And, so, our Women's History Project was born. The project eventually expanded to include intermediate schools and private schools, as well as school districts in other communities...As of 2024, our members have written 129 monologues, which are now mostly presented by students, during Women's History Month in March."

You may purchase any of these 129 titles online at Barnes & Noble by clicking [HERE!](#)

To honor our SoCal sisters' innovative approach to teaching younger generations about women's achievements during Women's History Month, we are debuting a new Twig column titled **Changemakers**. Every month it will showcase an outstanding woman from Thousand Oaks' *Profiles of Women Past and Present Monologue* series. "Changemaker" is a term popularized by Hillary Clinton's husband during her presidential bid. I hope this new column would appeal to Gen Zs and get them on board with AAUW's mission of social equity and responsibility.

Since college and university students at AAUW member schools such as Ohlone College can join for free, I'd love to hear your ideas on how we could invite more Gen Zs to join our branch. Please drop me a line at aauwfremontbranch@gmail.com

In sisterhood,

Phie K. Dai

Public Policy 

Activities for AAUW Members

By Jeanne Delp

March—in like a lion, out like a lamb? March is a busy month for AAUW members!

OPEN BOOKS—OPEN DOORS The School Board Project is still going strong! AAUW provides information on how to address school boards when the topic of book banning is on the agenda as has happened in several districts in California. Do look at the School Board Project Tool Kit provided by our AAUW-CA Public Policy. It is so well constructed that Kathi Harper, chair, School Board Project, was asked to present a Zoom session to AAUW members in several states. Information on the role of local school boards and their limitations, as well as the responsibility of our State Board of Education (SBE) as the controlling structure and policy-making body of the state for public education, is found in the following well-written article by AAUW member Seena Trigas.

Please copy or click the websites.

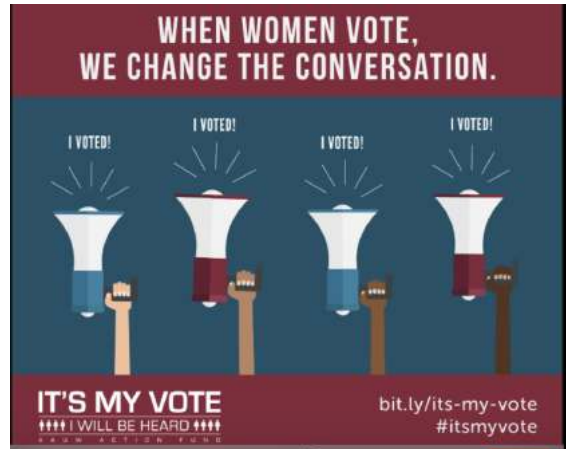
<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2024/01/public-policy-news-february-2024.pdf/>

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/school-board-project-toolkit/>



“Diverse stories provide kids with different perspectives and help them see how others think and feel.” —Marley Dias, Read Across America Ambassador 2021-23, NEA

VOTING--We know you know the California Primary Election will be March 5. We also know you voted, because **When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation**, but did you know that a low turnout in California’s elections is typical? “Low participation in primaries is a persisting problem in California”. . . with 2014 ‘winning’ by having the record-low turnout of about 4.46 million people, or 25.1% of the registered voters casting their ballots. (Tom Coulter-*Palm Springs Desert Sun*) Speculations about reasons for this low turnout range from the lower turnout for voters of color, low-income voters and younger voters, to just plain apathy. Various solutions have been provided. For instance, California Motor Voter Law allows 16- and 17-year-olds to automatically pre-register to vote when they apply for a driver license at the Department of Motor Vehicles. AND the League of Women Voters regularly provides for student registration at the local high schools and most recently, Ohlone College. AND the AAUW has a **Tool Kit** for just such an activity! Please paste or click on the link.



<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-registration/gotv-tool-kit/>



The following is provided by the National Women’s History Museum:

“Susan B. Anthony was a teacher, a speaker and an American civil rights leader who fought for rights for African Americans and women. She spoke out against slavery and fought for suffrage, or the right to vote for African Americans and women. Susan cast her vote in the 1872 presidential election and was arrested for doing so. Women were finally given the right to vote in 1920 with the

19th amendment. Although Susan B. Anthony had passed away in 1906, it is sometimes called the Susan B. Anthony amendment in honor of her arduous work and steadfast beliefs regarding suffrage.”

Thank you, Susan, and all the women whose voices and votes changed the conversation about all of the rights for women!

To quote William Marshak, publisher of the *Tri-City Voice*, “While national politics may be beyond local control, the strength of our system relies on a solid foundation of local government. It is through this base that we, the people, can exert influence on the actions of representatives at regional and national levels.”

Tea and Talk!

Each of Us Has a Unique and Special History Let's Share Our Stories Together

- Most years in March, Women's History Month, AAUW has highlighted a well-known woman who has made her special mark on our culture.
- This year we would like to put the spotlight on our members who have exciting and interesting journeys of their own.
- Join us and share the road you have traveled to become the fascinating and amazing woman you are today.



Date: Wednesday March 13, 2024

Time: 2 to 4 p.m.

Place: Kathy Garfinkle's home, 32924 Monrovia St., Union City

Kindly RSVP to Kathy Garfinkle by Saturday March 9th

Email: kgarfinkle@hotmail.com

Changemakers

Helen Greiner

Robotist and Startup Entrepreneur

My name is Helen Greiner (GRAY-ner). When I was ten, I saw the movie "Star Wars," and it changed my life. My favorite character was the spunky little robot, R2D2. When my brother told me it was just an actor wearing a plastic costume, I vowed to build a real R2D2 someday.

Math and science came easy to me, so when I heard about students building robots at MIT in Cambridge, MA, I knew that was the school for me. I earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering and an MS in Computer Science. After graduation, I worked at NASA, where I helped develop a robot that could grasp objects more easily in outer space.



A robot is any mechanical device that does things automatically guided by computer instructions called algorithms or by remote control. I founded three startups to build robots to help people do difficult, dirty, and dangerous jobs. At iRobot, we invented the Roomba that goes around vacuuming homes and the Packbot that sniffs out bombs and removes them to save soldiers' lives during wartime. At Aria Insights, formerly CyPhy Works, we developed drones fitted with cameras and sensors to help inspect more than 600,000 bridges in the US. To combine my love for robotics and gardening, I am now the CEO and Chairman of Tertill, a startup dedicated to help people enjoy the health and wellness benefits of gardening. Tertill's Weeding Robot lives in a garden, runs on sunshine, and prevents weeds from growing everyday.

I am a shy person and often become ill before giving a speech. I don't care much for flying, either. However, I made a conscious effort to overcome these obstacles and decided never to let them stop me.

Today there are robot labs in every major university and even in some high schools. Engineering is a great field for women (and men). Building a robot allows you to use your imagination and gives you a sense of accomplishment because you can see your creation come to life. What's cooler than that?

*Adapted from AAUW Thousand Oaks *Profiles of Women Past and Present Monologue Series*, 2018.

Bi-Branch Luncheon Held

By Kathy Garfinkle

Members of the Fremont and Hayward/Castro Valley branches, along with guests, embarked on a culinary adventure when they attended the Bi-Branch luncheon at Ghazni Afghan Restaurant on Saturday, February 3. Delicious smells permeated the air, and the long table was carefully set and decorated with artificial flowers and chocolate hearts. There was a feeling of anticipation as those attending visited while waiting for the meeting to begin and Joyce Weaver, recipient of the Career Development Grant, to present her work and discuss her passions.



The group of about 21 attendees was smaller than past years but there was a sense of closeness and intimacy that allowed for an even freer and more comfortable exchange of ideas. Everyone had an opportunity to introduce themselves. The group was even more focused as Linda Slater introduced our guest speaker.

Joyce Weaver is a student at the Academy of Art, where she is working on her master's degree in Game Development. Joyce shared many slides of her sketches and amazing art sculptures. Her goals are to secure an

internship, obtain an entry-level job and create her own company. She also hopes to inspire young girls and women, especially those who look like her, to enter the gaming industry.

Joyce has managed to blend her passions as she pursues her career. She was always interested in art and was a serious dance student and performer. Joyce went to nursing school but found that she was interested in something more creative. Art is her true love. While completing her master's degree Joyce works as a gymnastics instructor teaching Zumba and she is a florist. She also volunteers as a baby cuddler holding babies whose very lives depend on being held close and having skin to skin contact.

We were very impressed with our multi-talented and ambitious speaker. Fremont President Phie Dai rose to give the closing remarks. She thanked Joyce for speaking to us about her fascinating work. Phie then looked directly at Joyce and with great emotion thanked her for being a baby cuddler. Phie's two children were born prematurely and both were nurtured by baby cuddlers while in NICU. Phie's husband Albert used to work for a video



Phie Dai, president of the Fremont branch (left), and Linda Slater, president of the Hayward-Castro Valley branch (right), stand with Joyce Weaver, AAUW career development grantee, who was the speaker at the Bi-branch luncheon.

game company, and he has offered to help Joyce secure an internship in the gaming industry. The best news is that Joyce joined our Fremont Branch that very afternoon before she left!

There was a whole lot of love for and celebration of our aspiring Game Developer at our annual AAUW Fund Luncheon. We will continue to follow and nurture Joyce as she pursues her career goals.

One Book, One Community Read 🌸

City Council Supports Reading Project

The Fremont City Council passed a resolution supporting the One Book, One Community Read (OBOCR) Project and its latest book, *The Hill We Climb*, by Amanda Gorman.




Members of the One Book, One Community Read Project receive their proclamation from the Fremont City Council. From left are Kris Sandoe, Carolyn Hedgecock, Jeanne Delp, Margery Leonard, Fremont Mayor and AAUW member Lily Mei, Phie Dai, and Jo Szeto.

Fremont Mayor and AAUW Member Lily Mei presented the proclamation on February 13 to the group, headed by Chair Marge Leonard.

OBOCR, now in its 14th year, has always fostered diversity, inclusion, and equity by frequently choosing books written by prominent Latin American and African American authors.

The Hill We Climb was written by Gorman, the first national youth poet laureate, and featured a genre never explored before by the OBOCR group--poetry. It was chosen as a way to showcase the youthful voices of the Tri-Cities.

"We also chose this book," said Branch President Phie Dai as she thanked the Council for its support, "because the last lines resonate so strongly with the AAUW mission: 'For there is always light if only we are brave enough to see it. If we are brave enough to be it.'"

New Member: 

Joyce Weaver

Joyce Weaver came as our speaker at the Bi-branch AAUW Funds luncheon in February and stayed to become an AAUW member. Joyce, an AAUW career development grant winner for 2023, joined the branch "because I want to be a part of a supportive community."

"I first learned about AAUW when I applied for and received their Career Grant Scholarship. When I gave my speech for the Davis and Fremont branches, I was overwhelmed by all the feedback and love I received from the members. Being a part of this community has helped me network with other members and get closer to my dreams. Being an African American woman trying to enter a male-dominated industry, it's nice to find a community of women working toward equality."



Joyce, a cum laude graduate of Notre Dame de Namur University with a bachelor of arts in arts and interdisciplinary arts/theater, is currently working toward her master's degree in game development at San Francisco Academy of Art University, with an emphasis on character modeling. In addition to her schoolwork, she works full time at a flower shop on Russian Hill and volunteers one day a week as a "baby cuddler" at California Pacific Medical Center.

Upon graduation in 2025, she hopes to work for a company where she can create both realistic and stylistic characters. In the meantime, she hopes to intern this summer with a company that can utilize her skills in the computer software she's been learning, combining her love of gaming with artistic talent.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

New Special Interest Group—What is AI?

ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE WORLD OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ITS APPLICATIONS? Look no further! A new AAUW group is in formation to explore the fundamentals of AI. Join in on a journey to demystify AI and its implications for our society. We'll explore questions such as: What is AI? How does it work? How can I use it? What are its ethical issues? And how can it shape our future?

Don't miss out on this opportunity to expand your knowledge and connect with others who share your curiosity about AI. This will be an active study group with engaging discussions and informative presentations. For more information please contact Joyce Ruiz by phone or email to let her know that you are interested in joining the group, your availability, any suggestions for its format, or if you know someone who has AI background knowledge or expertise and may be willing to give a presentation.



Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet Tuesday, March 19, at 2pm at the home of Joyce Ruiz. She will review *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. Please let her know if you plan to attend.



Book Talk

On April 8, 1 p.m., Book Talkers will meet at the home of Carol Ramos for Carol's discussion of *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn. The novel is a historical fiction account of a Russian woman who had more than 300 kills as a sniper during World War II.

Cultural Cuisine



Papillon cuisine Francois—Mas oui!

After so many Asian restaurants, this month the group will celebrate French cooking by going to Papillon for dinner on Tuesday, March 26, at 5:30 pm. Restaurant Week hours are only from 5 to 6 pm, that's why we are meeting earlier than usual. Papillon is located at 37296 Mission Blvd. in the Niles area of Fremont. You will have a choice of a starter or dessert plus your entrée with a salad for \$42.00. This does not include tax, tip or beverages.

You can Google Fremont Restaurant Week 2024. The week goes from March 22 through March 31. There you can see the selections for Papillon, as well as for other restaurant participants.

Please RSVP to Judy Wolf by Sunday evening, March 24, at judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com or call her at 510-657-5589.



Exploring the Arts

By Karen L. McCready

Watch all the nominated Oscar movies, including short features, before Oscar night. Either buy the full package (Digital Festival Pass for \$40) or select individual movies.

<https://www.cinemark.com/movieweek>

Both the NewPark and Pacific Commons theaters will be showing the full repertoire.

Oscar Night: Sunday, March 10th, 4 pm on ABC

Take a look at the trailers for all the movies. <https://abc.com/shows/oscars>



No better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

The Bay Philharmonic presents all of the beauty, culture, and passion of Celtic music and dance in one unique show. You'll see fiery Irish step dancing, soulful Scottish fiddlers and singers, and colorful Celtic storytelling. You'll enjoy favorites like Danny Boy and John Williams' beautiful score to "Far and Away" . . .

<https://bayphil.org/celtic-celebration> Sunday, March 17, 3 pm at Chabot College.

Note: I love the vantage point from the front row of the balcony, but you must climb two flights of stairs—no elevator.

Chat With ESL Students



Tuesday Chat meets every Tuesday afternoon from 4pm to 5pm at the Fremont Main Library, 4200 Stevenson, Fukaya Room A, to chat with ESL speakers about everyday topics. The program is to help people from foreign countries improve their English conversational skills.

People new to the USA living in the Tri-City area come to the library and meet with native English speakers and work on conversation. Several of the tutors have been AAUW members.

If you enjoy talking and meeting people of other cultures, this is a way to expand your world-wide experiences. Please consider joining the group.

For more information, call Jui-Lan Liu at the Fremont Main Library at 510-745-1444, or email her at jliu@aclibrary.org.



Yoga for Body and Spirit

This group meets every Thursday at 11:15 at Jo Szeto's house. Lunch is included. For more information, call Jo.

MEMBER COLUMNS

What's New in the Garden 🌸

What Can We Plant in March?

by Kris Sandoe

Although we need to wait until it is warmer to plant tomatoes, eggplants, squash, corn, and other summer vegetables, March is a great time to plant other flowers and vegetables outside! When there are a few days' break in the rain, prepare your beds.

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



You can continue planting spring-planted bulbs and tubers. Dahlias, gladiolus, ranunculus, and anemones can all be planted this month. Plants of pansies and primrose can also be put outside in your garden now. (Anemones, also known as windflowers, photo at left.)

In the vegetable garden area (or throughout your yard if you are trying edible landscaping) it is time to plant root crops, such as beets, radishes, chard, turnips, potatoes, and carrots. Radishes take only 30 days to grow, so they will soon be a welcome addition to your spring salads. You can even grow them in a pot! (Radishes in photo.)



It is also a good time to plant seeds of peas, lettuce, green onions, bulb onion seeds and sets, parsley, and strawberry plants! One can have vegetables galore with some early spring planting.

Money, Money, Money

SCAM SCAM SCAM

By Judy Wolf

By internet, email, landline mailings, smart phones, etc., they are out to get us.

The “Do not call list” is a complete failure.

The calls supposedly come from Spectrum, AT&T, Direct TV, Medicare, Social Security, Microsoft, FedEx, Infinity and Comcast. Perhaps some I have not mentioned nor am I aware. They are all trying to get your personal information to eventually have access to your money.

FedEx has been sending me a package that they have for delivery at least twice a week for the past six months. There is postage due before they will deliver it. Nothing is ordered so no delivery is expected. Payment for \$1.95 delivery charge expected would have to be put on a credit card or paid by a debit from a bank account.

Microsoft stated there was a problem with the computer. Unfortunately, after rebooting the computer for over three months. I fell for that scam. I could see the mouse going all over the screen and knew something was wrong. I shut down the computer and then received two notices from my bank’s bill paying site that there were requests for an \$11,500 and \$16,750 withdrawal from my checking account. I was hacked!

It is now six weeks later—new checking account, new checks, numerous hours with new credit card updates, time spent updating my regular bills to be paid and having to update

all the information for direct deposits and what ever else needed to be done. Oh, and then there were the fees that were charged for not paying my utilities.

Of course, I felt ridiculous having fallen prey to this. But when you hear on the news that really savvy money people have fallen for these scams also, you realize how easy it is to be scammed.

If you do not recognize the phone number and/or the name, do not pick up the phone.

And on Thursday, March 7th "SLAM THE SCAM DAY," There should be lots of tips about how to avoid scams on TV and radio through out the day. Tune in and learn.

Important Dates

- All members are welcome to attend the next Branch board of directors meeting on March 1 from 10am to noon at Artist Walk, 3888 Artist Walk Common, Fremont. If you would like to attend but can't meet at 10am on a Friday, please email us at aauwfremontbranch@gmail.com and let us know your availability.
- Should we open AAUW membership to any individual who supports AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls? Vote online from April 3 to noon on May 15. Results will be announced online May 15. For more information, see the February issue of the *Twig*.

AAUW-CA HAPPENINGS

Preliminary California donations to National's Greatest Needs Fund for 2023 (the total of all AAUW donations) is \$512,514, which is \$65,000 above our projected amount! **Fremont contributed \$935** . . . Gov Trek, our second annual leadership program for girls in their junior and senior years of high school, is underway. More than 60 girls from California with diverse backgrounds have enrolled, **three from Washington High School**. . . The board approved the addition of TechTrek Camps Hopper at Santa Clara University and Carson at CSU Monterey Bay in northern California. **Fremont TechTrekks will be attending Carson**. Lots of volunteers are needed for the new camps. Branch members can check out roles on the [Volunteer page](#) and click the link at the top to apply. . . The Branch Tools section of the website has been reorganized, hopefully making things easier to find. The webinar recordings have been renamed, placed into a searchable table, and each now contains a brief description. . . The Public Policy section has also been reorganized. Let us know your feedback and suggestions at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org. . . The AAUW California Board of Directors came together with one powerful voice, voting unanimously to champion inclusion by supporting open membership for AAUW. **Branch members will vote from April 3 to May 15.**

Support Our Members



Katryn Bury is the author of the tween detective series *Drew Leclair Gets a Clue* (nominated for 3 book awards), and *Drew Leclair Crushes the Case*. Click on the image to learn about Katryn's third title, debuting Fall 2024!



Enjoy new and bestselling titles for all ages personally curated by Amy and her staff at Banter Bookshop in downtown Fremont! **AAUW Fremont book club titles receive a 15% discount.** Click on the photo to browse Banter's in-store events.



Contact your friendly Farmers Agent Nkechi Comfort Uzoegwu : nkechi.prodriguez2@farmersagency.com



Alice's Photoland, your Twig Curator Alice Manfredi's professional portrait studio, covers all types of shoots such as: Family, Mother & Child, Maternity, Engagement, Graduations, and more. Click on the logo to see samples of her work.