THE TWIG - MAY 2024

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Fremont Branch Founding Members June 1961 See Phie's President's Message for the Story



President's Message

I was working on a project that required submitting the founding date of our branch, so I emailed National for help. I was thrilled to receive a copy of Fremont's new Branch Membership Report.

AAUW officially recognized the Fremont Branch on June 14, 1961. Six members transferred from the Hayward Branch to help thirteen Fremont sisters set up a new branch. I was puzzled as to why most founding members used their husbands' names to apply for membership. Our *Twig* editor, Jennifer Foster, brought me up to date. She told me this was a common social practice at that time.



Jennifer is well versed in social etiquette because her first job out of college was writing for the society section of a local newspaper. She covered weddings, birthday parties, club meetings, and obituaries. She even covered a visit from Pat Nixon that made it to the front page!

I googled this practice and learned that the Law of Coverture was created in the Middle Ages. When a woman married, she became a "covered woman." Her legal identity and rights were covered by her husband's, and her own became nonexistent. How quaint that a women's organization that has fought for gender equity for over a century was following a law created in the Middle Ages!

I wanted to learn more about the "covered women" who established our branch. I found a treasure trove of our history on Newspaper.com. My first discovery was that in 1971, fifteen forward-thinking environmentalists, including our very own Public Policy Chair, Mrs. Robert Delp (huzzah to Jeanne!), founded the Tri-City Ecology Center of Fremont. This pioneering reclamation and recycling center was one of the first to promote climate protection in the Tri-Cities. Its current Chair, Caroline Harris, joined our branch last year after she became an enthusiastic member of Jo Szeto's yoga class!

Our early branch leaders also forged close alliances with local community groups, including the League of Women Voters Fremont (LWV). In 1967, the two sisters-in-arms sponsored a forum on the Chinese Cultural Revolution led by Dr. Edward LeFevour, Mills College History professor and the host of a KPIX television program on China. In 1971, LWV moderated a Legislative Workshop Conference for seven Alameda County AAUW branches. In 1997, Rev. Sally Smith of AAUW and Judith Zlatnik of LWV co-authored a strong rebuke published in *The Argus* newspaper against ERA opponents who falsely argued the adoption of this amendment would allow the hiring of homosexual teachers. They clarified to the readers that if the ERA is passed, discrimination against women will become illegal.

As I was uncovering the history of our branch's leaders, it struck me as serendipity that this exercise coincided with Mother's Day. What a fitting tribute to these remarkable women who laid the foundation of our branch!

I wish you and your family a content and happy Mother's Day!

Phie K. Dai



Public Policy

19 Bills Targeted for Lobby Days

By Jeanne Delp

One Hundred fifty-four AAUW CA members from 63 branches represented all of us on April 2 and 3 during Lobby Days—a time to present our support for 3 bills before the California State Legislature. Ten teams met in person in Sacramento while 36 teams zoomed into meetings with an elected legislator or a staff member. A total of 68 meetings were held to lobby for 3 "A" AAUW CA's priority bills. Excellent work by Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, co-chairs of AAUW California Public Policy Committee, made the presentations a success!

So what does this mean? Well, a lot of hard work, for one thing. The Public Policy Committee met in March and reviewed 67 bills, considering potential cost, benefits AND alignment with our Public Policy Priorities. The end result: the top bills consist of 3 "A" priority bills, 4 "B" priority bills, and 12 spot bills that are being watched.

All chosen bills on the Public Policy agenda fall under at least one of our PP pillars. Click: AAUW PP Priorities.

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The following articles have been edited for length:

"Excitingly, our signature 'A' priority bill AB 2843 'Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors' was authored . . . and sponsored by AAUW California and falls under two of our Public Policy Priorities, 'Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society' and 'Economic Security for All Women'. The bill eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the cost of medical care with no copay. This bill ensures that those individuals who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence to secure more convictions for acts of sexual violence. In addition, they can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.

"Our second 'A' priority bill, AB 2326 'Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act.' is also sponsored by AAUW California. This bill. . . 'Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students'. . . champions something that AAUW California has long supported: Title IX

enforcement. This bill requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and State Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, with the report to be presented publicly and orally to the Senate and Assembly Budget Sub-committees on Higher Education Finance, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders more

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Curator: Alice Alfaro Manfredi

Editor: Jennifer Foster

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publication

Send items for The TWIG to Jennifer Foster at

jejenfo@yahoo.com



publicly accountable."

"Our third 'A' priority bill is **AB 2099**, 'Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics' . . . The bill makes it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury. With violence against abortion providers continuing to raise, this bill is more important than ever."

####

So again, what does this mean? Lobby Days prepares you via a Zoom session from the AAUW-CA Public Policy committee. All of the information is then posted on AAUW-CA for you to download as needed: Complete Short Scripts for the presentation of each of the bills (usually you present just one) as well as Background Materials for your own understanding. You receive information concerning your teammates, your designated legislator/staff, and time of your Zoom meeting. The team is allowed a total of 20 minutes for the presentation and discussion of the three bills. When completed you are individually asked to evaluate the process in order to make improvements for the next year.

So, once again, what does this mean for you? Remembering the suggested words from my column on Finding Words That Get Results (June 2023), I recommend that you become a volunteer on Lobby Day, because you just might become the key influencer who makes a difference in the life of your daughter, granddaughter, or a future AAUW member!

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Book Talk - Margery Leonard

Cultural Cuisine - Judy Wolf

Exploring the Arts - Karen

McCready

One Book, One Community Read
Margery Leonard, Jeanne Delp, Jo

Szeto Kris Sandoe Carolyn

Margery Leonard, Jeanne Delp, Jo Szeto, Kris Sandoe, Carolyn Hedgecock, Phie Dai, and Becky Denevan

Tuesday Chat - Jui-Lan Liu Yoga for Body and Spirit - Jo Szeto



Changemakers

Roxanne Quimby

Entrepreneur, Burt's Bees

My name is Roxanne Quimby. My natural, earth-friendly skincare line, Burt's Bees, created the clean beauty movement and changed the cosmetic industry forever. My 100% natural lip balm is a favorite of

Hollywood stars like Margot Robbie, the director of Barbie, and

contestants on the Bachelor TV series.

I grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was the artistic star of my family. I loved making jewelry and selling it to my neighbors to earn pocket money. I left home to attend the SF Art Institute. After I graduated with a BA in Fine Arts, I decided I didn't want a career. I just wanted to move to Maine and live off the land.



I met a beekeeper neighbor named Burt Shavitz after I hitched a ride from him. He had a lot of beeswax saved up, so I found a

book on candle making and started making beeswax candles in my kitchen. We sold our candles and honey at craft fairs and sometimes didn't sell enough to cover the gas cost. and I'd come home pretty discouraged. When I created a recipe for an all-natural lip balm using beeswax, oil, and peppermint, our business really took off. I named our company Burt's Bees and designed a label with Burt's picture on it.

I was proud that all our products used only natural ingredients and all our packaging could be recycled. After 20 years of running the business, I decided it was time for a break. I sold Burt's Bees to Clorox for more than \$900 million. With this money I bought 90,000 acres of land in northern Maine with the intention to create a National Park. On the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, President Barack Obama officially designated Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as the 413th site within the National Park System!

I recently started a new business called Happy Green Bee. We make children's clothing from natural, organic materials. You may think it's strange for someone who didn't even want a career in her earlier life to start a second company. Well, it's not about money. I'm just a very ambitious person by nature, and I always like a challenge. I hope you do, too!

Adapted from AAUW Thousand Oaks Profiles of Women Past and Present, 2018



AAUW-CA HAPPENINGS

From the Board to Board newsletter: AAUW-CA canceled their election when they only had four applications for the four director positions. The new board was introduced during the annual convention/event held over Zoom on April 27. . . 49 branches sent in Named Gift nominations honoring branch members, Fremont among them. To learn the name of the Fremont Named Gift Honoree, come to our annual installation event. planned for June 15. . . Three new social media campaigns have been launched to inform current members and attract new ones. If you see a post, be sure to like and share it. Help get the word out. . . Gov Trek concluded with Team Vote Eliana winner of the grand prize. Team Vote Eliana was made up of 4 girls from San Ramon, 2 girls from Roseville-South, and 1 girl from Santa Cruz. To view the campaigns, click **here**. All participants received awards and certificates of completion. Team Vote Eliana also received internships. . . Now that Lobby Days are over, the top 3 bills that AAUW-CA is tracking this year are AB2326 and AB2843--authored or sponsored by AAUW-CA--and AB2099. You can follow these bills and others through the bill tracker. For more information, see Jeanne Delp's Public Policy column. . . Tech Trek is still in search of a virtual camp director and treasurer, and there's always room on the Tech Trek Committee for visionaries who are excited to engage more girls in STEM studies. . . Applications for one-year terms to the 12 AAUW-CA committees, including Tech Trek. Gov Trek, and Speech Trek, are being accepted now. For more information, click here.

BRANCH NEWS

Board Doings

Your board of directors has been busy, with several activities taking place behind the scenes.

- We are now incorporated. Until recently, we were unaware that branch officers could be held personally liable for actions taken by the branch. We investigated, led by President Phie Dai, and discovered that incorporation would protect officers from lawsuits filed against the branch, not that lawsuits have ever happened to us. We became a corporation in April.
- It's election season in Fremont. In addition to the AAUW National election that closes May 15 (see <u>Important Dates</u> for voting instructions), we are planning an election ourselves to choose several new officers. An email went out to all members on April 23 seeking volunteers. If you are interested, contact <u>Randy Fewel</u>, <u>Kathy Garfinkle</u>, or <u>Judy Wolf</u>. Check your email to vote in this election from May 20 to June 3, and attend the annual meeting on June 15 to see the installation of our new officers, along with the announcement of our Named Gift Honoree and the presentation of 50-year pins to several members. Our keynote speaker will be Preston Metcalf, executive director of the Triton Museum in Santa Clara. The title of Preston's art presentation is "Goddess: The Portrayal of Feminine Power in Art."



• The branch bylaws and policies are being updated with a deadline of June. Carolyn Hedgecock and Jeanne Delp are leading the effort.

Another Successful Discovery Day

By Harshini Sanjay, STEM Intern

Just around a month ago, the Fremont branch hosted their 29th Discovery Day event at

Caesar Chavez Middle School in Union City. Originally founded by dedicated AAUW member Miriam Keller, Discovery Day's purpose specifically is to inspire girls from third to fifth grade and expose them to the variety of STEM subjects. Led and organized by Randy Fewel, with help from other women from AAUW and STEM organizations, and supported by high school volunteers, over thirty teams of mothers and daughters and their female relatives were able to experience four interactive and sensational workshops, with a general theme centered around climate change.



Bee Habitats, courtesy of Dr. Richard Godfrey, offered an interactive lesson on the importance of bees in a world where they are

dwindling out of existence. Especially with most children's fears of such creatures, these



girls were immensely fascinated by how bee societies, or more formally, hives, operate solely around a gueen and how they contribute to human survival. Even the adults were involved with the discussion of honey and its medicinal properties, emphasizing the role of bees in today's civilization. At the very end, Dr. Godfrey brought in his own bees and graciously allowed the girls to view them in real time. This exhibit was incredibly popular, and many girls were able to leave with a changed perspective on these extremely significant creatures of our ecosystem.

Textile Wastes, conducted by Dr. Joanne Brasch, was another informative workshop. Especially with the deadly rise in climate change effects across the world, the excess trash that is a result of human consumption begs the question of where it goes. As Dr. Brasch explained, newer clothes are being made with repurposed materials that often are discarded without another thought. She stressed the importance of learning the difference between recycling and trash. And with the greater interest in STEM, apps and



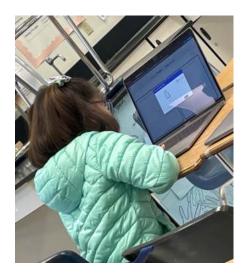
devices have now been developed and are in the process of being advanced to detect the specific material and amount used in any given piece of clothing. The girls were able to test their own clothing and discover what materials they had purchased. Many, ironically including the adults in the room, were surprised to discover that not all materials were completely authentic and were repurposed with recycled materials.

Mathnasium's **City Temperatures** workshop beautifully combined science with math, by getting the girls to solve a worksheet with their mothers or guardians and understanding why city temperatures



operate the way they are. The girls analyzed cloud types and also determined whether they were real, getting prizes -- such as candy, stuffed animals, and even an iPad -- for correct answers. Enjoying more bonding time with their guardians, the girls were also able to learn plenty more about the areas in which they themselves lived in and how the weather functions, all through the lens of mathematics.

Lastly, Code for Fun's **Coding for Recycling** workshop was definitely a success. Each pair of mother and daughter was given a computer with a specific coding software



revolving around art, specifically drawing. All the girls were able to participate in a hands-on activity at the beginning, using a guessing software to describe what they were drawing on a computer. Later, they were given an opportunity to recreate drawings and pictures on an individual screen to better understand elementary coding and software.

After all four workshop sessions were completed, the thirty mother-daughter teams reconvened in the general meeting area. Door prizes, much thanks to AAUW and Mathnasium, were handed out to the winners and a photo booth was opened for pictures! More opportunities for young girls, such as Tech Trek, Speech Trek, Government Trek, and other scholarships, were discussed and offered for the

mother-daughter teams attending Discovery Day. With an entire morning devoted to bringing joy in education for young girls and inspiring them to believe that anything is possible, Discovery Day was a monumental success and a testament to the sheer effort and brilliance of women.



New Member:

Vinita Verma



I have a Master's degree in Ancient Indian History, Buddhism, Asoka, and Modern World History from an Indian university. History has been my passion, and I strongly believe that one needs to learn history for a better tomorrow. History can teach you about how great things can happen, but it can also teach you what can result in disasters and what should be avoided. It is also important to learn world history in this global economy and intermingling world.

I am a social activist and an active member and leader in many organizations. My passions and activism have resulted in many laws being changed, and bills passed that continue to serve people throughout the country. I have been a leading voice in flavored tobacco bans throughout the country, especially in

have been a leading voice in flavored tobacco bans throughout the country, especially in California, including many cities in Alameda County, Santa Clara County, and the City of Fremont. I was also a strong voice behind the menstrual equity bill that made it possible for all public schools to make menstrual products available in public bathrooms for free.

I am a fierce advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, and love that AAUW is actively participating in the causes that I am passionate about. I am honored to be part of an organization that promotes women's rights and teaches young women to be independent, strong citizens. As a mother of two, I strongly believe that women need to be better educated and taught about equal rights, self-awareness, data-based science, and independence. Stronger-educated women enrich a stronger-educated society.

I currently serve as Peralta District PTA president, Chair of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee for the Measure E bond in Fremont, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee in the California Association of Bond Oversight Committees, Resolution committee member at the National PTA, Health and community concerns commission member at California state PTA, Advisory board member for FemTruth, and I have recently stepped down from serving as a lead on Fremont for Everyone leadership body.

Happy Birthday??

The *Twig* wants to know If you would like to have your birthday listed in the newsletter. Other branches publish this information and interest has been expressed by our board of directors. The format would be:

February Birthdays

Feb. 17 Jennifer Foster

If you are interested, send your birthdate (not the year!) to Jennifer Foster at **jejenfo@yahoo.com**.



It's Almost Membership Renewal Time

With the majority of Fremont branch AAUW memberships expiring in June, it's time to realize that many of you are about to be bombarded with mail from both Fremont and National. One email has already been sent from National, with two more to go, and then the snail mail starts from Fremont. In light of that, you might want to go ahead and renew your membership early. It's \$108, which includes local, state, and national dues.

This is the preferred form of payment. For one thing, the money gets to where it's supposed to go much faster, which is important to National. For another, it's easier on your poor membership treasurer than writing a check, because if you write a check, the membership treasurer has to keep track of the money and enter it on the Community Hub for you.

To renew by check: make the check payable to AAUW Fremont Branch and mail it to:

AAUW Fremont Branch Attn: Membership Treasurer P.O. Box 8254 Fremont. CA 94537-8254

Alternatively, you can write a renewal check at the annual meeting event on June 15 and give it to Jennifer Foster or Kris Sandoe, co-membership treasurers, or any officer you see.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Afternoon Lit

This month Afternoon Lit will select the books for reading and review for our coming year. Bring your suggestions for a vote. Bring a snack for our tea. The meeting will be at the home of Joyce Ruiz on May 21 at 2pm. Please let her know you are attending.



Book Talk

On May 20 at 2pm, Shirley DeLucchi will host the Book Talk group at her home when Holly Walter leads the discussion of *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.



Cultural Cuisine

Yes, it is time to celebrate a belated Cinco de Mayo.

Cultural Cuisine will visit the recently-opened El Rodeo at 4949 Stevenson Blvd on Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30pm. This is in the shopping center where Dollar Tree and Grocery Outlet are located. Hasta la vista.

RSVP to Judy Wolf at 510-657-5589 or judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com by Sunday, May 19, at 5pm.



By Karen L. McCready

A Movie to Watch For:



Sasquatch Sunset

A winner at some independent ("indy") film festivals, this film opened recently to very limited showings at the area theaters. We can't predict how long it will stay in the theaters. Let's just keep it in mind and try to watch it together on a Tuesday in May. It features two actors, Riley Keough and Jesse Eisenberg, who have made a career out of unusual films. For me, a 1 hour, 29 minute show time makes it even more

appealing than this caption, "In the misty forests of North America, a family of Sasquatches find themselves on a collision course with the ever-changing world around them."

Its film classification is "comedy." You may find it's also a fable or parable and has a message to convey.

Follow the link for more information: https://www.sasquatchsunset.film/

Leave a message on my new landline at Acacia Creek if you'd like to join me on a Tuesday afternoon. 510-441-3786

What's happening in May at Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara?



1505 Warburton Avenue Santa Clara, CA 95050

Tequila Tasting, Friday, May 10, 2024, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Experience the warmth that the finest Tequilas have to offer alongside friends at the Triton Museum of Art this spring. Learn the secrets and history of Tequila distilleries by top-shelf vendors, enjoy lively music, and take part in a silent auction--all while supporting the arts in our community.

Tickets at https://www.tritonmuseum.org/events

I expect this one to live up to the one Avis and I attended a couple of years ago!



Salon at the Triton, Saturday, May 25, 2-4:00 pm.

The annual 2-D juried show presents an impressive, varied showcase of some of the best art in our region.

To join my carpool, leaving Fremont at 1:00 pm, leave a message at 510-441-3786.



Tuesday 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. During the covid pandemic, the group met on Zoom. Now the ESL chat is back at the library.

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 <code>iliu@aclibrary.org</code>.



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

May in the Garden



By Kris Sandoe

If you would like to plant some of the vegetables that grow best in the hot summer, now is the time to get those seeds or transplants into the ground. We covered planting tomatoes last month, but cucumbers, corn, beans, eggplants, peppers, squash, melons, and other heat-loving plants can go into the ground now. For some of those, especially melons, finding the hottest part of your yard is important.

Beans are quite productive. You can plant bush beans or pole beans. I always plant cucumbers because I love them in salads and I also enjoy making pickles! To your left is a photo of a cucumber plant on a trellis.

I've planted corn only a few times because it takes a lot of room. But it is satisfying to watch fully-grown corn stalks wave in the breeze. I grew a red corn one year and dried and ground the kernels to make red tortillas. Another favorite was "Glass Gem" a gorgeous, multicolored corn.

Whether you plant transplants or seeds, grow in the ground or in containers, enjoy the bounty from your summer gardens.

Money, Money, Money

Redeem Your CRV Purchases

By Judy Wolf

Benjamin Franklin said over two hundred years ago "A penny saved is a penny earned." Now so many of us are letting nickels and dimes escape our grasp.

Did you know that now we are being charged CRV dimes and nickels on our plastic and glass bottled juices, wines and other alcoholic beverages.?

What is most disturbing about this: almost a thousand places charge us CRV, but there are only 1 or 2 places where you can redeem your plastic or glass containers for cash.

Search out the redemption places: one is Jado Recycling, 39200 Paseo Padre, Fremont, in the parking lot near the former businesses of The Counter, Sweet Tomatoes and 24 Hour Fitness. Another is Tri-CED Community Recycling, 33377 Western Ave., Union City. Don't let your pennies, or in this case, your nickels and dimes, escape your pocketbook, REDEEM!



THIS 'N THAT

Important Dates

- All members are welcome to attend the next Branch board of directors meeting on June 7 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? Last chance. Voting closes May 15 at 9am.
 To vote, find your email, with the subject of AAUW Election 2024, scroll to the bottom
 of the email, and click on the link. You must use this email; it has the information that
 identifies you to the polling place.
- Don't forget to vote in Fremont's election of new officers May 20 to June 3. Watch your email for candidates and voting instructions.
- The installation of new officers for fiscal year 2024-2025 will be held June 15. Our keynote speaker will be Preston Metcalf, executive director of the Triton Museum in Santa Clara. The title of Preston's art presentation is "Goddess: The Portrayal of Feminine Power in Art." Check your email for an invitation.
- TechTrek Ice Cream Social is planned for June 2 from 2 to 4pm at Artist Walk Common. Come out and meet the seven girls you are sending to the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Support Our Members



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.



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.



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!