THE TWIG - JUNE 2024

AAUW Fremont Branch welcomes members & guests for our: Celebration & Installation Juncheon Saturday, June 15th Time: 11 - 2pm Program Included Location: **Branch Officers for 2024-25** • Four-Star Branch Recognition Cogir of Fremont 50 Years of membership to 2860 Country Dr. (2) honorary members Fremont, CA 94536 Named Gift Honoree for '24 **Preston Metcalf** Our keynote speaker, is currently **Executive Director of the Triton** Museum of Art in Santa Clara. He will be speaking on "The Portrayal of Feminine Power in Art". **RSVP By: Monday, June 10th** \$25 Lunch; which includes salad*, rolls, dessert, and beverages. *Choice of Chicken or Shrimp for salad* Use link below to register & pay or reach out to: Kathy Garfinkle, 510-489-4779 or kgarfinkle@hotmail.com https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauwfremont-installation-with-triton-senior-4 Star Branch curator-preston-metcalftickets-903378598707?aff=oddtdtcreator

Advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy



President's Message

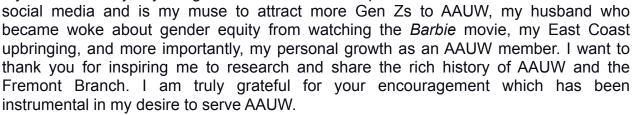
Dear Readers,

We are now the largest branch in the AAUW East Bay District, which includes Alameda, Berkeley, Hayward-Castro Valley, Livermore-Dublin-Pleasanton, and Oakland-Piedmont.

When I first assumed my current role in July 2022, I had hoped to meet all of you during my two-year tenure. I quickly realized it was wishful thinking for a branch our size with 90+ members! My best option was to develop a parasocial relationship with you through *The Twig*.

The parasocial theory describes one-sided, non-reciprocal interactions between two parties, in this case, my relationship with the readers of *The Twig*. Two social science professors, Donald Horton and Richard Wohl, introduced this in 1956.

Through our award-nominated newsletter, you learned about my love of history, my daughter who launched our presence on



I also want to acknowledge my two parasocial role models. I joined AAUW right before the pandemic, but stayed as a member even when all in-person events were canceled. Kathy Garfinkle's uplifting, cheerful "we CAN get through this together" President's Messages and Jeanne Delp's clear and thoughtful Public Policy Blog sustained my interest in weathering the crisis with AAUW.

During my tenure, I am proud to be a fellow parasocial contributor for *The Twig* alongside Jeanne Delp, Randy Fewel, Jennifer Foster, Kathy Garfinkle, Avis Kresin, Marge Leonard, Karen McCready, Remy Parmar, Ameya Ravi, Joyce Ruiz, Kris Sandoe, Harshini Sanjay, Jo Szeto, Judy Wolf, and more. Our parasocial relationships with you would not have been possible without Alice Manfredi who has consistently published and upgraded *The Twig* in the last 15 years with the guidance of Mary Lynn Pelican.

Please consider joining the parasocial movement by contributing to *The Twig*. Social scientists believe forging close ties through online communities such as *The Twig* sustained the world through the isolation of the pandemic. Or better yet, join a committee and/or our leadership team and develop fun two-sided, reciprocal friendships! Even though I'm leaving my current role as the Branch President, I'm staying on as Branch Treasurer in the new fiscal year because I truly value the friendships I have made. I believe in the sisterhood of AAUW and still hope to meet all of you in person!

With deepest gratitude,

Phie K. Dai



National, State, and Local Priorities for AAUW

By Jeanne Delp

New members, longtime members, active members and baby-step members, here is a quick review of why you are a member of a more than 140-year-old national organization that proudly advocates for WOMEN! Your membership in our local branch—Fremont AAUW—is a tangible expression of your concern that WOMEN—locally, nationally as well as internationally—be consciously elevated to prominent places of relevance within society, be it in the home, the workplace, the community, or a national /international stage. In the parlance of today's younger generations: AAUW has your back. AAUW has your interests as its purpose. Members, your activities, your involvement, your dedication may have a direct effect on your life, on the lives of WOMEN you know personally—daughters, granddaughters, partners, friends, and that darling little baby girl you have welcomed into your family.

When asked what AAUW does, here is your elevator speech that is easy to memorize:

AAUW ADVANCES GENDER EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY

Research provides the basis for our priorities; from there we educate members and society about our concerns, and then AAUW advocates for the changes that will, in turn, change the research results.

OUR PRIORITIES:

Removing Bias from Education

Startling inequalities persist in American education. Gender, economics, race and ethnicity should not limit our opportunities.

- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary.
- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Removal of barriers for girls to access instruction in STEM fields
- Civics instruction in all CA high schools
- · Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards



Fighting for Fair Pay & Economic Equity

- · Equity in the workplace
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes
- · Security in retirement
- · Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality, affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures
- · Protection and expansion of voting rights
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns.

Advancing Women in Leadership

- Proportional appointment to publicly-held corporate boards
- Access to leadership skills training
- · Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers

Both our National and California websites provide excellent information, examples, and activities that will astound, educate and encourage you to voice your concerns. AND don't forget our local website. Get to know Fremont's activities, your fellow members, and where you can find the information that will help set your journey towards Advocacy for Women.

National AAUW https://www.aauw.org Vol. 3 Issue No. 6

<u>California AAUW</u> <u>https://www.aauw-ca.org/</u> **Editor**: Jennifer Foster **Deadlines**: 25th of the month before publication

Send items for The TWIG to Jennifer Foster at

jejenfo@yahoo.com

Curator: Alice A Manfredi

AAUW Fremont (CA) Branch https://fremont-ca.aauw.net



Changemakers ?

Oprah Winfrey Entertainment Executive, Actor, Author, Philanthropist



My name is Oprah Winfrey. I am considered the most influential African American woman in the world today. However, being rich and powerful was never my goal. I grew up very poor, living with my grandmother on her farm in rural Mississippi. We didn't have much, but I was taught to read as soon as I could talk. By age three, I'd recite stories out loud, and I discovered my talent for entertaining.

When I was 17, I found a job at a radio station and became a news reporter. I knew I needed to have more schooling

before I could get a better job, so I enrolled at Tennessee State University, majoring in Speech Communications and Performing Arts. I continued working as a news reporter until I was 30 and was hired to host my own talk show called *AM Chicago*. In less than a year, it was renamed *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. My show was well-received and won many awards. In fact, I was the youngest person to ever win the Broadcaster of the Year Award!

When I was only 32, I formed my own production company called Harpo Studios (my first name spelled backward). I started an on-air Book Club on my show to encourage a love of reading, and a magazine, *O*, to promote healthy lifestyles for women. When Director Steven Spielberg casted me in his new movie, *The Color Purple*, I put all my heart into it and received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress!

After meeting Nelson Mandela, I realized there was a serious lack of educational opportunities for girls in poverty. I opened an all-girls Leadership Academy in South Africa. I also founded the Oprah Winfrey Foundation, giving away millions of dollars in scholarships and supplies for needy people.

I am a survivor of child abuse, so my proudest moment was when President Bill Clinton signed the National Child Protection Act, also known as the Oprah Bill, into law in 1993. Congress established a national database of convicted child abusers to protect children from being taken care of by criminals.

I want to dedicate my time and energy to as many positive global efforts as possible. There are many important changes to be made in this world if we all do our part. I famously once said, "It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, the ability to triumph begins with you. Always." What if each of us brought a smile, a dream, or a chance back to someone who had lost it? Can you imagine what the world would be like? I can!

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



AAUW-CA HAPPENINGS 🖣

From the Board to Board newsletter: The 2024 State Named Gift Honoree is Jane Niemeier, a dual member of the San Diego and LA Mesa/El Cajon branches who has served most branch positions and held a variety of state board positions. To learn the name of the **Fremont Branch Named Gift Honoree**, come to our installation lunch June 15 at Cogir. See page 1 for the flyer.

Petaluma took the honor as the top Branch Activity of the Year award winner for their program on gun violence and protection. .. Other awards announced at the annual AAUW-CA event in April were Equity Champion (LA County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell), President's Award (Mary Isaac), 18th Speech Trek Competition Winner (Addison Horn from the Auburn Branch), and Gov Trek Winning Team (Vote Eliana).





It's Membership Renewal Time 🔻

With the majority of AAUW Fremont memberships expiring this month, many of you are about to be bombarded with mail from both Fremont and National. Two emails have already been sent from National, with one more to go, and then the email and snail mail starts from Fremont. In light of that, you might want to go ahead and renew your membership now. It's \$108, which includes local, state, and national dues.

To renew by credit card: go online and make payment on the AAUW Community Hub using this link: https://my.aauw.org/NC__Login. You must reset your password.

This is the preferred form of payment. For one thing, the money gets to where it's supposed to go much faster, which is very 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, get it to the bank, and enter it on the online 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 co-Membership Treasurer Jennifer Foster, or any officer you see.

AAUW National Election Results 7

More than 65% of voters (65.1%) thought we should drop the degree requirement for membership, but 66.6% was required for the measure to pass. So we will continue to be



known as the American Association of University Women (AAUW). This is the second time this measure has failed. The first time, the measure passed, but a quorum was required and not reached.

The electorate did choose a new slate of directors, ushering in the first board transition since 2017.

On a related note, you still have time (until June 3) to vote in the Fremont Branch board election.

Brandon Stewart, institutional advancement officer for the Ohlone Scholarship Foundation, receives the AAUW check for \$7,000 from Alta Jo Adamson. Looking on are Marge

Leonard (from left), Karen Fong, Randy Fewel, and Avis Kresin. The money was awarded during the Ohlone Scholarship Winners Ceremony held May 1.



Scholarship Winners Announced 🔻



Alexis Gonsalves



Skylesha Marcel

Four hardworking Ohlone College students took home \$7,000 in scholarships from the Fremont branch of the AAUW during the May 1 Scholarship Awards ceremony held at Ohlone.

Alexis Gonsalves, of Fremont, received our \$4,000 scholarship and will be continuing her education in the fall at San Jose State. She plans to major in communication studies. She's going to get her master's degree and join the graduate teaching associate program, eventually becoming a college communication professor.

SkyLesha Marcel, also of Fremont, received our \$1,500 scholarship and plans to attend UCLA this fall, studying cognitive science. She hopes to go into artificial intelligence.

Winners of \$750 scholarships for continuing students at Ohlone are Alain Morel and Aunyae Campbell, both of Fremont.

Several AAUW members were at the ceremony to cheer for our Scholarship winners. Kathy Scrivani represented the committee that reviewed the applications of transferring students, and Becky Denevan represented the committee that analyzed the applications for continuing students.

Behind the scenes were the AAUW members who reviewed and analyzed the scholarship applications. Reviewing the applications for students who are transferring from Ohlone to a four-year school in the fall were Avis Kresin, Kathy Garfinkle, Kathy Scrivani, Judy Young, Karen Fong, Jennifer Foster, Nkechi Uzoegwu, Joyce Ruiz, and Janice Longo.

Reviewing applications for students continuing at Ohlone were Jeanne Delp, Becky Denevan, Carolyn Hedgecock, and Randy Fewel.



Aunyae Campbell



Alain Morel



Cookie Distribution Team at Ohlone Gender Fair 🔻





The cookie distribution team this year at Ohlone College's Gender Sex Fair in April featured Marge Leonard (from left), Avis Kresin, Alta Jo Adamson, Karen Fong, and Randy Fewel. Every year, we provide dozens of delicious cookies to hungry students--with 20 percent of the cookie removed to highlight the disparity between salaries for men and women. Bakers of the 16 1/2 dozen cookies that were distributed this year were Jeanne Delp, Linda Pearson, Marge Leonard, Randy Fewel, and Avis Kresin. Avis said the outing was successful as they educated the student body. Not only did they see Alexis Gonsalves, our newest scholarship recipient, who had her own booth at the fair, but a former TechTrekker, Margaret Oviatt (2017), came up and introduced herself.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS 🐬



New Special Interest Group—What is A!?

(Editor's Note: Rerunning article to gauge interest)

ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE WORLD OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ITS APPLICATIONS? Look no further! A new AAUW Fremont 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?

The first presentation will be this fall. Don't miss out on this opportunity to expand your knowledge and connect with others who share your curiosity about Al.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 Al background knowledge or expertise and may be willing to give a presentation.







Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet <u>June 18 at 2 pm</u> at the home of Holly Walter. She will review *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. Please let her know you are coming.



Book Talk

Our next read is *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See. Jo Szeto will lead the discussion at the home of Carol Ramos on July 1 at 2pm. Please call Carol if you can't attend.



Cultural Cuisine

This month in honor of June and the Roman goddess Juno, we will be going Italian. The restaurant is the <u>Taverna Vesuvio</u> at 39965 Mission Boulevard just south of Las Palmas, where Lucky's used to be located.

Note: we will be meeting on Wednesday, June 19, at 6:30 pm (not Tuesday as the restaurant is closed).

Please RSVP to Judith Wolf: <u>510-657-5589</u> or <u>judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com</u> by Monday evening, June 17. See you there. Ciao!



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 iliu@aclibrary.org.



Exploring the Arts ARIS

By Karen L. McCready

Fremont Art Association Gallery, June 5, 1-3pm 37697 Niles Blvd, Fremont

The Fremont Art Association (FAA) is delighted to have Susan Harding as the guest artist at its virtual General Meeting and Art Demo on Wednesday, June 5, 1-3 pm.



Harding is an award-winning photographer whose thought-provoking body of work masterfully captures the essence of life's fleeting moments with immense respect and compassion for her subjects. In her demo, "Photography—the Creative Realm," Harding will showcase her intriguing approach and technique in creating collages that integrate her spellbinding photographic portraits with her intricate photorealistic charcoal drawings.

Said Alice Manfredi, curator of the *Twig,* "Susan Harding's work is absolutely stunning."

Go to **fremontartassociation.org** to register for the Zoom meeting.

About the Fremont Art Association: The Fremont Art Association is a unique, long-lived institution in Fremont. Since 1959 it has offered local artists, collectors, students, and art enthusiasts a venue that combines a showcase storefront gallery and a working studio. As a cooperative enterprise, The Gallery is staffed by member volunteers who bring in new work on a quarterly basis. At the same time, the FAA mounts special exhibits throughout the year. Each monthly meeting offers a demonstration or speaker free of charge.

Bay Philharmonic presents *Tchaikovsky Gold,* June 23, 3 pm Chabot College Performing Arts Center 25555 Hesperian Blvd, Hayward

The music of Tchaikovsky has sparked the imagination of the world. From the dramatic 1812 Overture to the beloved Nutcracker, his music always touches the heart. For this concert we're presenting two of his most famous pieces alongside International Van Cliburn Piano Competition gold medalist, Jon Nakamatsu. Heralded as the "pianist's pianist," Jon's touch on the keyboard is sophisticated and masterful, and he'll perform the most famous piano concerto ever written. Jung-Ho and the Bay Philharmonic will share their passion for Tchaikovsky's ultra dramatic 4th Symphony, his musical biography of a hero overcoming fate to triumph with hope and victory.



Tickets: https://ci.ovationtix.com/36812 No elevator to the balcony, which is two flights up.

Kevin Costner's Latest Movie

Stay tuned for information about an early July group Tuesday matinee of Kevin Costner's latest: *Horizon: An American Saga*, his risk-it-all Western epic, rode into Cannes on Sunday, earning a seven-minute standing ovation.

Costner was visibly emotional as the film received huge applause and chants of "Kevin! Kevin! Kevin!" During his speech, Costner thanked the audience and promised "three more" installments of the "Horizon" franchise, which is already due to get a sequel in August.

Gifts to Give

Gifts to Give, for Abode Services (Homeless Shelter) and adults in homeless camps in Fremont, is ramping up for another year, while celebrating the success of their 2023 campaign. "Last year, our members," says Shelley Bartley, founder of the organization 39 years ago, "crocheted or knitted 468 colorful hats, made 220 warm scarves, and created 71 beautiful blankets, as well as donating over 1,000 gifts to Abode Services."

The Gifts to Give season began June 1, and the group is still in need of volunteer leaders to head up sections for high school students and adult men and women. The section leaders can be an individual or several people. Section leaders from the Fremont branch include Sharon Yool, in charge of kindergarten through third grade; Mary Fuchs, 2024 fleece scarf project; Karen McCready, who is involved in three projects (Gifts for Women, Gifts for Teens, and Toiletries for Abode's Homeless Camps); and Linda Pearson, who worked with Karen to provide packs for Abode Services' unhoused folks. If you can donate items or want to knit or crochet hats or scarves, contact Shelley.



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.





Money, Money, Money

How Do You Have It Labeled?

By Judy Wolf

You can have retirement accounts such as 401ks, 503Bs, IRAs, Roth Iras, insurance policies and others. In these types of accounts, you name your beneficiaries in these accounts and name the stock or mutual fund the beneficiary is to receive by amount or percentage.

Percentage might be the better option as the actual amount in the account changes frequently so specifying dollar amounts may cause a shortage of funds or money left over in the account.

If you have a trust, make sure the assets you listed are really in the trust. For real estate, for example, you must have the property deed naming the trust as owner recorded in the county office. This needs to be done in the county where the property is located. Make sure you have copies of these recorded deeds to be put in your trust portfolio.

Most likely you also have a lot of personal things such as home furnishings, jewelry, art work, and other collectibles. Talk with your family and friends and see who wants what. List the item and the intended recipient so these items are not forgotten.

Make a list of your retirement assets, trust assets, and personal items annually and update regularly during the year by crossing out or adding to the list.

What's New in the Garden

June in the Garden

By Kris Sandoe

So much is in bloom this month! The garden is bursting with vibrant greens and colorful flowers. Everything is growing, it seems. Life is just bursting forth!



If you did not get a chance to plant or transplant your warm season vegetables, you still have time to get tomatoes, squash, peppers, cucumbers, and eggplant into the ground (or pots on your deck or porch). If you have more room, a patch of corn grows quickly and is fun to watch develop over the summer months.

Other vegetables and flowers can still be planted by seed, including carrots, beans (bush or pole), lettuce (pick a shadier spot), radishes, zinnias, cosmos, and much more.



My own tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants are now in the garden or grow box and are off to a good start (except for the one entire tomato plant pulled underground by a gopher). I am even spotting tiny peppers and tomatoes on my plants. It is a joy to go outside and water them and check on them every day.



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 4116 Thornton Avenue, 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.
- Last chance to vote in Fremont's election of new branch officers. The election ends
 June 3. See your email, dated May 27 from AAUW Fremont and titled Reminder:
 2024-2025 Branch Board Election and Bylaws Changes for the nominated slate
 and voting instructions.
- The installation of new officers for fiscal year 2024-2025 will be held June 15 at Cogir, 2860 Country Dr, Fremont, where the installation lunch was held last year.
- TechTrek Ice Cream Social is planned for June 2 from 2 to 4pm at 3888 Artist Walk Common, Fremont. Come out and meet the seven girls you are sending to the University of California at Santa Cruz this summer.



Board of Directors

President - Phie Dai
Vice President - Kathy Garfinkle
Secretary - Carolyn Hedgecock
Branch Treasurer - Kimmi Tang
Program Chair - Kathy Garfinkle
Membership Chair - Jo Szeto
Membership Treasurers - Kris Sandoe
and Jennifer Foster
Public Policy Chair - Jeanne Delp
AAUW Fund Chair - Jennifer Foster

Special Interest Chairs

Afternoon Lit - Joyce Ruiz
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 Hedgecock,
Phie Dai, and Becky Denevan
Tuesday Chat - Jui-Lan Liu
Yoga for Body and Spirit - Jo Szeto

Foundation for Local Scholarships

President - Randy Fewel
Chief Financial Officer - Ashlee Nelson

Secretary - Avis Kresin
Programs Officer - Sowjanya Vutukur

Development Officer - Mary Lynn Pelican

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.



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!

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. Reach out to her either email or text to book a session.

