



**AAUW Fremont Branch**  
*Annual Holiday Party*  
**December 15th 5pm- 7pm**  
*Join Us at:*  
**Niles Discovery Church**  
36600 Niles Blvd,  
Fremont, CA 94536

Bring an Appetizer or \$10 cash at the door; All Guests are welcome!

Come and enjoy live classic holiday music, food, and socializing

**RSVP By Dec. 9th: to Jo Szeto, [joszeto1e9@gmail.com](mailto:joszeto1e9@gmail.com) or call 510-793-9901**

**Live music provided by *Daily Beats Band***





A FREE event co-sponsored by:  
League of Women Voters of Fremont-Newark-Union City with American Association of  
University Women Fremont Branch

**Analysis and Impact of the 2024 Election with  
LARRY GERSTON**

**Political Science Professor Emeritus, San Jose State  
University; Political Analyst on NBC Bay Area**



NOW that the 2024 election is over, WHAT does it all mean for our country, our region, our state and cities, our individual lives, and the lives of our fellow Americans?

The League of Women Voters Fremont, Newark, and Union City is proud to co-host with the American Association of University Women Fremont Branch as we welcome San Jose State Professor Emeritus of Political Science Larry Gerston. He will analyze the election results, share his insights, and answer our questions.

Professor Gerston is a distinguished scholar, author, and media commentator, having written more than a dozen books, many journal articles, and more than 150 op-ed pieces for major California newspapers. Additionally, our guest is a frequent on-air political analyst on local, state, and national levels. How timely it is that just a year ago, Professor Gerston published the book, Trumpism, Bigotry, and the Threat to American Democracy. You won't want to miss this FREE program that is open to all community members.



**Sat, December 7, 2024  
10:00 am – 11:30 am**



**Niles Discovery Church  
36600 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA**

Founded in 1881, the American Association of University Women is the nation's leading voice in promoting education and equity for women and girls. The LWV of Fremont, Newark, and Union City sponsors the [Youth Voter Movement](https://youthvotermovement.org), a project focused on increasing voter registration among young people in the Tri-Cities area.

<https://fremont-ca.aauw.net/>      <https://lwvfncuc.org>      <https://youthvotermovement.org>



## Co-President's Message

THE END IS NEAR—the end of the year 2024, as well as the end of my service as presiding co-president of the Branch. It has been a privilege as I worked my way through the responsibilities of acting as president. The COLLECTIVE VOICES and KNOWLEDGE of this BOARD has been a tremendous help. I didn't do this alone. Knowing this, I encourage each of you to think ahead to 2025. How will you provide an even more active voice and presence to our collection of women and men who support AAUW Fremont's Mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy?

The opportunities for you to help plan an activity, attend a gathering concerning world foods, books, art, yoga, world politics, or a newcomers luncheon are all here in Fremont AAUW. You will be welcomed, gain friends and knowledge, and the satisfaction of knowing you may become the example of COLLECTIVE involvement for a young person seeking a mentor in today's world.

*Jeanne Delp, Co-President*

### Public Policy:

## Collective Voices Will Be Heard

By Jeanne Delp

Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW president, has this to say about the results of our November National Election.

"I write to you today with conviction and resolve, even though for the second time, our country has decided it wasn't ready to have a highly qualified woman hold our nation's highest office. I am grateful for everyone who stood up and used their voices for the rights of women and girls, and for the significant wins across states on key issues. To anyone feeling uncertainty about what lies ahead — know that you are not alone. . . . **Our strength comes from our collective voice, and together we will continue the work to support women's education and economic empowerment.**"

Photos courtesy of Library of Congress



Collective Voices! We women raised our voices in the 19th Century at the Seneca Falls Convention, regarded by many as the birthplace of American feminism, which was held in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19 and 20, 1848. This was the catalyst for women's rights conventions that became annual events, where women met to discuss educational opportunities, divorce reform, property rights, and sometimes labor issues. Sounds like AAUW!

## *News from National*

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is changing. National is outsourcing the program in 2025 to NASPA, which is an organization of student affair administrators. National says the cost of the conference was no longer sustainable. AAUW will still have exhibition space, along with the keynote speech or other presentations at the conference.

In other news, National has been updating branch websites that it hosts. The Fremont branch website (<https://fremont-ca.aauw.net>) was updated in early November, and it now looks quite a bit different. Several glitches are still being resolved by the branch webmaster, most notably that the text changes from one size to another without warning. Take a look.

Speaking of updating, the Community Hub has been streamlined to simplify the membership sign-up process, and finance officers are now notified when a member renews their membership online. As a side note, dues for fiscal year 2025 remain unchanged.

## *State of the State*

*From the Board to Board Newsletter:* The 2024-2025 Fellow List is now on the AAUW-CA website (<https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-2024-fund-fellows-and-grant-recipients/>). This list, made up of graduate students sponsored by AAUW and living in California, is where we get our speaker for the AAUW Fund luncheon, scheduled this season for February 1. This year, our fellow branch, Hayward-Castro Valley, will choose the speaker and Fremont branch will choose the restaurant. . . . You are invited to a Zoom meeting, “AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election *Results*,” featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW senior director of policy and member advocacy. The meeting is hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley and will be held **December 4th from 4-5 pm**. You can register [here](#). . . The California Online Branch asked the Public Policy co-directors to present a branch program regarding Project 2025. There was such great interest in this subject that the branch asked AAUW California if their Zoom account could be used, allowing for more attendees and a webinar. Next they asked if the entire California membership could be invited, then they invited Online branches of other states. Thanks to Amy Hom, Missy Maceyko, AAUW California, and all the work behind the scenes by the Communication Committee, what started out to be a program for maybe 30 branch members ended up being an **outstanding webinar** on *Project 2025 and How it Would Impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities* with about 225 attendees! Click [here](#) for the video and the presentation. . . AAUW-CA had a successful legislative session. All three of our A-priority bills were signed into law, along with two of our B-priority bills and one C-priority bill, a success rate of 86.2%.

## Changemakers



**Deb Haaland**

**U. S. Secretary of the Interior**

**By Phie Dai**

In spite of our agonizing history, Native American people find much to celebrate. The songs, dances, culture, and traditions surrounding planting and harvest, the prayers sent upward for healing and peace, and the welcoming of children into our families are all reasons for us to keep moving forward with optimism.

I am a proud member of the Pueblo of Laguna tribe, which has lived on the land that is now New Mexico since 1200. When President Biden appointed me as Secretary of the Interior in 2021, I became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. My responsibility is to oversee public lands and manage the U.S. government's treaties and legal obligations to 574 Native American tribes.



I was born into a military family. My mother, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna tribe and a Navy veteran, served 25 years at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. My father was a 30-year combat Marine who was awarded the Silver Star Medal for saving six lives during the Vietnam War. We moved 13 times before we settled in Albuquerque!

After graduating from high school, I spent 10 years earning minimum wage decorating cakes for a living. But one day, I looked in the mirror and realized I wanted more, for me and my people. I saw too many Native Americans struggling, and I realize we should have a voice in who our elected officers are. When I was 28 years old, I enrolled at the University of New Mexico to earn a BA degree in English.

I became interested in politics because I really wanted more Native Americans to get out and vote. I started a business to sell homemade salsa to put myself through law school. In 2018, I won a seat in the House of Representatives and became the first Native American elected to Congress. I served on the House Committee of Natural Resources, championing environmental protection, climate action, and universal health insurance before President Biden appointed me to my current position which also oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Growing up in my mother's Pueblo household, I never imagined a world in which I would be represented by someone who looked like me. I think it's important to always have diversity in all walks of life. If anyone can say, "Go back to your country," it's the Native Americans. However, we would never ask anyone to go back to where they came from because it contradicts the ideals we stand for.

## BRANCH NEWS

*Editor's Note: Due to security concerns, members' home addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses are not printed in the Twig unless permission has been explicitly granted. Check your roster for member information.*

### *Death by Chocolate Bingo Huge Success*

**By Randy Fewel**

Nobody died, and everybody had lots of fun. Our Death by Chocolate Bingo fundraiser for Ohlone College scholarships was a huge success. We brought in over \$3000 to fund future scholarships.

Our AAUW interest groups went over the top on their donations of gift baskets and chocolate for the Bingo prizes.

Each Bingo winner got some Ohlone College swag with their chocolate prize such as an umbrella, lunch box, water bottle, or hat.

We had contingents of Bingo players from the Niles Canyon Mobile Home Estates, the Methodist Church, Niles Discovery Church, the Fremont Free Wheelers Bicycle Club, Cogir. Aegis, and from AAUW Hayward-Castro Valley Branch. The Fremont Freewheelers Bicycle Club stepped in to help with setup and cleanup.

The feedback we have received is very positive with players wanting to know when we will do it again. Save your Bingo daubers!



**Baskets Donated by the branch Interest Groups!**

### **Leadership Team**

#### **Board of Directors**

Co-Presidents - **Alice Manfredi & Jeanne Delp**

Vice President - **Jo Szeto**

Secretary - **Carolyn Hedgecock**

Branch Treasurer - **Phie Dai**

Program Chair - **Judy Wolf**

Membership Chair - **Jo Szeto**

Membership Treasurer & AAUW Fund Chair - **Jennifer Foster**

Public Policy Chair - **Jeanne Delp**

*Note: Co-presidents include Jennifer Foster, Carolyn Hedgecock, and Remy Parmar*

#### **Foundation for Local Scholarships**

President - **Kathy Garfinkle**

Secretary - **Randy Fewel**

Chief Financial Officer - **Bonnie Kellogg**

Programs Officer - **Sowjanya Vutukur**

Development Officer - **Judy Wolf**

#### **Special Interest Group Chairs**

Afternoon Lit - **Joyce Ruiz**

Book Talk - **Margery Leonard**

Cultural Cuisine - **Judy Wolf**

Exploring the Arts - **Karen McCready**

Gifts to Give - **Shelley Bartley**

One Book, One Community Read - **Margery Leonard**

Tuesday ESL Chat - **Jui-Lan Liu**

Yoga for Body and Spirit - **Jo Szeto**



**Bingo player enjoying a chocolate prize!**

## *Kudos to Judy*

By Randy Fewel and Kathy Garfinkle



Judy! Judy! Judy!

We can all thank LaVonna Neiman, one of our founding members, for inviting Judy Wolf to join AAUW in 1976. Judy has been a champion of our Local Scholarship Foundation by creating it and continuing to be the largest donor for our scholarships year after year. Judy is single-handedly responsible for sending many of our Tech Trek girls to camp and our college girls off to a four-year college. At our Fall

Brunch this year, Judy gathered the Tech Trek girls at her feet and passionately told the story of Marie Wolbach's vision for Tech Trek. This was also Judy's very personal connection as a first-year dorm mom the summer of 1999 with 21 girls under her wings. Judy also served as president of our branch from 1995 to 1997.

Judy is a role model for all of us. She lives her life fully and passionately engaged while making a difference in the lives of women and girls. Judy is currently our program chair, and she heads the Cultural Cuisine special interest group. She just recently volunteered to be the development chair for the Foundation For Local Scholarships!

Our Fremont Branch is fortunate to have Judy as a member and friend all these years. She displays a remarkable wit and isn't afraid to tell you what she honestly thinks.

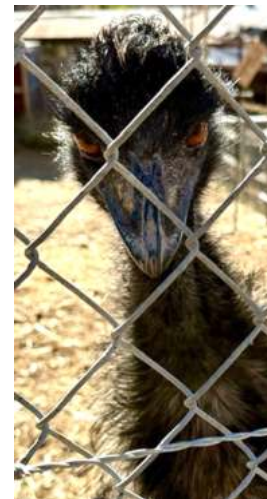
Judy, you make AAUW Fremont look good!

## *Fremont Branch Raises Money for AAUW Funds*

Fremont's first fundraiser in several years for the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund brought in nearly \$1700. Billed as a casual breakfast/walk to see Kevin and Kiki, the nearby emus, the event brought forth a small group of women, each of whom brought a breakfast goodie to share.

The fundraiser brings the total raised by the branch for the Greatest Needs Fund this year to \$4254, well above National's goal of \$2550 for our branch. Donations to the Greatest Needs Fund are keyed to the number of women we can nominate as Named Gift Honorees. We will be able to honor at least five women for their extraordinary efforts to the branch in the past year.

In attendance at the breakfast, held at Randy Fewel's house, were Carol Easter, Randy Fewel, Jennifer Foster, Kathy Garfinkle, Remy Parmar, and Judy Wolf.



## *"Friendsgiving" Enjoyed by Yoga Group*

By Kathy Garfinkle

The AAUW yoga group led by Jo Szeto enjoys eating and socializing as much as they enjoy yoga. So, with Thanksgiving approaching they decided to prepare a Thanksgiving feast to be enjoyed after yoga on Thursday, November 21st, at the home of Jo Szeto. Jo immediately volunteered to prepare the turkey, and everyone joined in and volunteered to prepare a dish for our feast.

The members of the yoga group attending that day Caroline Harris, Judy Wolf, Kathy Scrivani, PhieDai, Shirley Gilbert, Kathy Garfinkle, Carolyn Hedgecock, Donna Schroder, and hostess Jo Szeto were thankful for the opportunity to share food and friendship together.

There was a special love for Jo and appreciation of her generosity which was so



beautifully expressed by Shirley Gilbert. "Today's pre-Thanksgiving feast and celebration was a celebration of friendship and of our eternal goodness. Your home with all its hospitality is like a home away for all of us and I had such a great time with true friends who love each other. We often don't say that to you but Jo you are so very special in our lives, and we love you dearly."

Partaking of the "Friendsgiving" were, from left, Judy Wolf, Caroline Harris, Kathy Scrivani, Jo, Phie Dai, Shirley Gilbert, Kathy Garfinkle, and Carolyn Hedgecock.

Kathy Garfinkle was inspired to write a message of thanks. "What a memorable "Friendsgiving" celebration we had yesterday. I can't thank you enough for your

generosity and the love you share with all of us. Your home is a safe harbor and respite from the chaos and disfunction in our world today."

This memorable gathering reminded us that we should be so very thankful for the special people in our lives and the opportunity to gather together.

Oh yes, the turkey with all the trimmings was delicious!



**New Members:** 



*Kathi Cyphers*

Hi, I'm Kathaleen (Kathi) Cyphers, I've been married to a wonderful man for 42 years. We have two amazing adult children.

I recently retired from a school district accountant position. Going into retirement, I am hopeful that we will be able to travel. I would love to drive across the United States and visit all 50 states. In the process of visiting Alaska I would like to explore Canada. My dream is to one day visit Australia, Ireland, and the Galapagos.

I love to read, volunteer, and sew gifts for my family and friends.



*Diane Ross*

I hold a BA in Human Development, and an MS in Psychology. I am a licensed marriage and family therapist currently working as a clinical supervisor for a non-profit. I have decided to renew my membership with AAUW with the Hayward-Castro Valley branch with a secondary membership with the Fremont branch where I was formerly a member.

I love hiking, reading, live theatre and all types of music from rock to opera. I have been married for the last 21 years and have two grandchildren who I see on a regular basis. I am passionate about mentoring students and interns, particularly women, to pursue their passions. I am also passionate about increasing access to education and mental health services to our most vulnerable populations. I enjoy fun events like bunco and bingo and love to plan luncheon events when I am able. I love meeting new women and look forward to connecting with AAUW members.

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS** 

*Exploring the Arts*

**By Karen McCready**

**December 7 & 8, 11 am to 4 pm:  
Adriane Dedic and Simone Archer Open Studios**

Be inspired and have fun shopping for holiday gifts by these outstanding area artists. Glass artist Emelie Rogers will also be at Adriane's studio and fiber artist Helen Nielsen will be at Simone's studio. The artists always look forward to sharing their techniques, displaying their newest art, and offering unique gift items for the holiday season including jewelry, handmade purses, fashion scarves, decorative ceramic tiles, glass platters, vases, and gift sets. Enjoy holiday cookies and hot cider as you browse the array of art and chat with the artists.

Artist Studio Locations in Newark:

36541 Cherry St.: Artists: Simone Archer, Helen Nielsen

35911 Ruschin Dr.: Artists: Adriane Dedic, Emelie Rogers



**Thursday, December 12th, 12 noon:**

**“Collecting Cuts, A Papercut Exhibition” at Olive Hyde Art Gallery, Washington Blvd at Mission Blvd.**

Enjoy this current exhibit before it goes away. After a casual stroll through the galleries on a quiet afternoon, let's go to Cantaritos' Mexican Restaurant nearby on Washington Blvd.



**Tentative for Tuesday, December 17th:  
Wicked, Part I (the movie)**

*Wicked* opened in theaters on Friday, 11/22. If it's still running on this date, let's meet at Cinemark in Pacific Commons at the earliest matinee for reduced prices and go to lunch after. Text Karen McCreedy if you're interested.



**Sunday, December 15th, 3 pm:**

**BayPhilharmonic's *Holiday Spectacular* at Chabot College in Hayward.**

Hope to see you there and then later at the AAUW Holiday Party at Niles Discovery Church.

## *Gifts to Give*

**By Shelley Bartley**

AAUW members Joyce Ruiz (from left), Kathi Cyphers, Linda Pearson, and Shelley Bartley take a break after filling 100 drawstring backpacks for the homeless!

Section Leader Linda Pearson hosted the sorting and packing party, along with her helpful husband Terry. Each backpack contained a warm fleece scarf, a handmade crocheted/knitted hat, a washcloth, a pair of socks, toiletry items, and dental products.

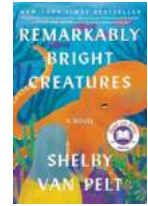
We appreciate the donations we have received to help make this project so successful. Please save unused toiletry items from your travels. Linda will start collecting items again in July 2025



## Interest Group Meetings

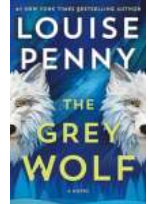
Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet December 17 at 2 pm at the home of Shirley Gilbert. She will review *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Please let her know if you are attending.



Book Talk

Return with us to idyllic Quebec— except for the crime. After a short break, Book Talk will meet January 13 from 3-4:30 pm at the home of Marge Leonard when Avis Kresin will review Louise Penny's most recent novel, *The Grey Wolf*.



Cultural Cuisine

Cultural Cuisine takes a Holiday. There will be no restaurant scheduled for December.

Tuesday Chat  
With ESL  
Students

Tuesday Chat meets every Tuesday afternoon from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library, 4200 Stevenson, Fukaya Room A, to chat with ESL speakers about everyday topics. For more information, call Jui-Lan Liu at the Fremont Main Library at 510-745-1467, or email her at [jliu@aclibrary.org](mailto: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.



### Money, Money, Money:

## "Snowballing" Can Reduce Debt

By Judy Wolf

The Holiday Season is here and the snow is falling up in the Sierras.

So let's discuss snowballing. With Christmas the time of extravagance, how do we reduce and perhaps get our credit cards to a zero balance?

Are you ready for the battle? Snowballing is an approach to reduce credit card debt.

How to approach it: First look at your credit card balances. If you pay all of them off every month, you do not have to try snowballing. But for some of you who have balances that never seem to go down, this might be your way to a better financial future.

First, find the card with the lowest debt. Get that card paid off. When that card is finally down to a zero balance, then start to get the next card paid off completely. Every card you manage to get to a zero balance will no longer have interest charges. Eventually your balances on your credit cards will melt away.

Now the big hurdle is to completely pay your balances in full every month and never carry a balance over and pay any interest again.

## Important Dates

**Deadlines for articles:** 25th of the month before publication

Send items for The TWIG to Jennifer Foster at [jejenfo@yahoo.com](mailto:jejenfo@yahoo.com)

- The board of directors meets on **December 6th** at 9:30 am at Jo Szeto's house. If you want to attend a board meeting, but can't meet at 10 am on a Friday, email us at [aaufremontbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aaufremontbranch@gmail.com) and let us know your availability.
- Our holiday party is coming up on **December 15** at Niles Discovery Church. Bring an appetizer or \$10 cash at the door. Contact new member Leslie Wang for appetizer recipes.
- Looking to next year, we have a book signing by AAUW member Katryn Bury at Banter Bookshop on **January 28**; the AAUW Fund luncheon on **February 8**; Women's History Month, scheduled for **March 8**, and a new program, Dinner with a Scientist, on **April 12**.
- The Speech Trek student recruitment period is in progress. The Branch competition will be on **March 1, 2025**. Please contact Remy Parmar, co-president and Speech Trek chair, if you'd like to become involved as speech writing and presentation mentors.

## 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*. Katryn's third title, *We Are Not Alone*, hit shelves October 29th.

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 by email or text to book a session.



### Need a Notary?

AAUW Member Nkechi (Bridget) Uzoegwu has joined the National Notary Association and is ready to meet your notary needs.



# December 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 ESL	4 AAUW PRIORITIES CONSIDERING ELECTION RESULTS ON ZOOM VOTE	5 YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	6 BOARD MEETING AT JO SZETO'S	7 LWV EVENT WITH FREMONT BRANCH ANALYSIS & IMPACT OF ELECTION VOTE
8	9	10 ESL	11	12 YOGA AT JO SZETO'S CONNECTING CUTS	13	14
15 FREMONT BRANCH HOLIDAY PARTY	16	17 AFTERNOON LIT ESL	18	19 YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	27	28
29	30	31				

## Calendar Legend

	<b>AFTERNOON LIT</b> At the home of Shirley Gilbert, starts at 2pm, See Pg. 11
	<b>BOARD MEETING</b> Monthly board meeting starts at 9:30am at Jo Szeto's home, branch members are welcomed
	<b>CONNECTING CUTS</b> At the Olive Hyde Art Gallery a papercut exhibit at 12pm, See Pg. 10
	<b>AAUW PRIORITIES CONSIDERING ELECTION RESULTS</b> Hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley Branch on zoom, from 4- 5pm register by link See Pg. 4
	<b>FREMONT BRANCH HOLIDAY PARTY</b> At the Niles Discovery Church from 5- 7pm, See Flyer on Pg. 1
	<b>LWV EVENT WITH FREMONT BRANCH: ANALYSIS &amp; IMPACT OF THE 2024 ELECTION</b> SEE PG. 2
	<b>TUESDAY CHAT WITH ESL STUDENTS</b> Meets every Tuesday from 4- 5pm, at the Fremont Main Library, See Pg. 11
	<b>YOGA AT JO SZETO'S</b> Yoga is every Thursday from 11:15 am- 1pm & lunch is included, See Pg. 11
	<b>BODHI DAY</b>
	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
	<b>FIRST DAY OF HANUKKAH</b>
	<b>KWANZAA</b>
	<b>NEW YEARS EVE</b>