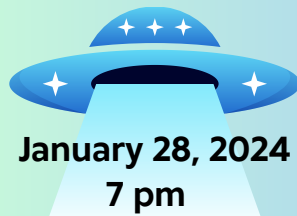




AUTHOR EVENT
KATRYN BURY
IN CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL LEALI



January 28, 2024
7 pm

Banter Bookshop
3768 Capitol Avenue, Fremont
Registration is required:
banterbookshop.com under
Events or call 510-565-1004



To see the story, [click here](#)

Co-President's Message



What a year it has been with 2024! I am most proud and honored to be part of this AAUW group and to be recognized as a top-performing branch in the country! This accomplishment was not only contributed to by our branch's board but also with the help of our members. Pat yourself on the back for all that you do!

We had a very successful year for our programs and events, including the OBOCR, the Fourth of July outreach, and the cookie distribution at Ohlone College. We had a blast at the Death By Chocolate Bingo night, the Tech Trek Ice Cream Social, and the lovely Holiday Party at the Discovery Church in Niles; see review of the party [here](#). Our branch also gained lots of knowledge with the League of Women Voters and the OBOCR event about the dangers of prescription drugs.

The branch will start the 2025 year with a bang! Our Speech Trek and Meet The Author events are coming up quickly! I am looking forward to the year 2025 and the continuation of uplifting the Tri-City communities.

Alice A Manfredi



Annual Bi-Branch Luncheon Fremont with Hayward-Castro Valley Branch

FEBRUARY 8, 2025 ←❤️→ 11:45 A.M.

Join us for an afternoon of meaningful conversations and hear one of our scholarship recipients from the University of California, Berkeley, explain her studies funded by AAUW.

📍 **FEDERICO'S GRILL**- 37804 Niles Blvd, Fremont ✂️ **MENU**- Bruschetta Appetizer, Chicken Piccata or Pasta Primavera, Vegetables, Potatoes, Salad, Cannoli, Coffee & Tea

💰 **\$ 32.00 PER PERSON**- includes tip & tax (Payment through Zelle: Judith Wolf 510-468-2002 or bigbadwolfe@juno.com) For Note: Your Branch, H-CV or FMT & food selection: Chicken or Pasta

❤️ Curated by: Alice Manfredi (FMT) ❤️

Twig Highlights

To read a story, click on the link

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Public Policy:

New Year's Reflections

By Jeanne Delp

The New Year is a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. That's exactly what both AAUW National and State have been doing. AAUW priorities and where to place our emphasis have changed in light of the election. We Public Policy Chairs attended two Zoom sessions that outlined these new perspectives. The following note from the Silicon Valley Branch will give you a snapshot of the redirected priorities. (Permission granted)

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES AT THE National Level: (Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Public Policy)

MUST DO bills for this 119th Congress: Major emphasis by National

1. Focus on Higher Education level: College-level grants are made for women studying for higher degrees:
 - concern money will be taken from the grants and placed at lower college level with focus on preparation for the work place
 - STEM to the exclusion of liberal arts and research
2. TITLE IX:
 - concern that TITLE IX protections for women stripped away to promote the very least that can still be described as protecting women
 - concern promote belief women lie about rape
3. Gender Equity under TITLE IX: concern testing the regulation of trans gender persons--example: San Jose State Volleyball Team. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) is becoming weaponized
 - National and State to become more involved
4. Education Department under threat:
 - concern doing away with department and /or reducing staffing
5. BIBLES in classrooms: AAUW stands for separation of church and state
 - Local-level constituents have more control over what is taught in classrooms than National
6. BILL introduced: Concern
 - Withdraw Public monies to any college with students taking part in protest against Israeli/Hamas War
 - AAUW National will follow but probably not involved

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES AT THE State Level: (California Public Policy Committee)

1. State action: TITLE IX most forceful at the state and local level.
2. State priorities: revised/rewritten every two years based on National priorities—State received 680 responses with suggestions
 - January-Study and write suggested priorities
 - March-State Board input
 - April-Membership votes
3. Public Policy Partnership formed with University of Long Beach:
 - Internship provides learning opportunity with non-profit AAUW
 - Learn process of advancing gender equity
 - 29 applicants to be interviewed
4. School Board Project new emphasis:
 - Partnered with Public School Defenders Org.
 - Teaches monitoring school boards approach to TITLE IX and adherence to legal issues.
5. DEI issues:
 - Public Policy Chairs proposed local branches go beyond awareness to action
 - Suggest high school groups involved
 - Zoom presentations.

State of the State

From the Board to Board Newsletter: Results from the election were mixed, says Charmen Goehring, AAUW-CA president, and AAUW members need to continue to be the "bright lights" that Michelle Obama once called us as we continue to work for equity and equal opportunities for all. . . . All year long, we urge you to donate to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Now you can see where some of the money goes, as reports on this year's fellowship recipients from California are posted [here](#). You can review qualifications and see videos of these hardworking women. . . . If you unsubscribed from an email from AAUW-CA, you might want to resubscribe. Unsubscribing from one email thread prevents any and all future emails from AAUW-CA from reaching you. To resubscribe, send an email to webteam@aauw-ca.org. AAUW National has the same problem: unsubscribing from one thread means you've unsubscribed from everything. To resubscribe to AAUW National emails, use this [link](#). . . . Five new state team leaders--president-elect, chief financial officer, and three board members--will be elected in the spring. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, click [here](#) for more information. . . . Lobby Days 2025 will take place over two days in early April, with

registration occurring early this month. Lobby Days provides AAUW members with the opportunity to interact directly with state politicians to advance important legislation. . . . Two important Zoom meetings are coming up: A virtual meeting on **2024 Revisions to Title IX** will be held January 9th from 3-4 pm, led by Kathi Harper, member of the Public Policy committee and chair of the School Board project. You can register [here](#). Later in the month, on January 22nd, from 1-2 pm, the Silicon Valley branch will host **Step Up for Pro-Choice 2025** to mark the 52nd anniversary of Roe v Wade. Watch your email for the invitation.

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.

Authors Katryn Bury, Michael Leali to Speak

Join AAUW members at Banter Books in Fremont at 7 pm on January 28 for a conversation between authors Katryn Bury, herself an AAUW Fremont member, and Michael Leali, a veteran educator and author of books aimed at middle schoolers.

Katryn is the author of the critically acclaimed Drew Leclair mysteries. Katryn works with middle grade readers as a library technician by day and writes mysterious coming-of-age stories for those same readers by night.

Michael Leali earned his MFA in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Together, they will discuss *We Are Not Alone*, Katryn's latest entry, which is out now, about a young cancer survivor hoping to uncover the truth about alien life.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling Banter Bookshop at 510-565-1004 or going online [here](#) and

Leadership Team

Board of Directors

Co-Presidents - **Alice Manfredi & Jennifer Foster**

Vice President - **Jo Szeto**

Secretary - **Carolyn Hedgecock**

Finance Officer - **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 Jeanne Delp, 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**

scrolling down to the Katryn Bury event, where you can register. Attendance is limited to the first 35 participants.

A Good Time Was Had by All. . .



Comet, the reindeer, as portrayed by new member Diane Ross.



Putting the final touches on an appetizer are, from left, Leslie Wang, Sue Wang, and Aimee Wiley.

. . . At the Holiday Party



Dancer, the reindeer, as portrayed by Kathy Garfinkle.

By Jo Szeto

This year's AAUW annual Holiday Party was held on Sunday, December 15th, at Niles Discovery Church! The Church was a lovely venue, and they gave us a great discount! Many thanks to John Smith, Mark Twist, and Jim Thomas for helping with moving chairs, displaying song lyrics, etc. We had about 100 people at the Holiday Party, making it one of our best-attended events.

Phie Dai, our finance officer, wrote this email to me and since she said it so eloquently, allow me to just quote her:

“What a memorable Holiday Party! Many of our guests enjoyed having two dedicated spaces for singing and dancing, and mingling and snacking. Our newer members particularly enjoyed the Fremont Reindeer performance. It showed them a fun side to our serious mission. Personally I couldn't be prouder to be an AAUW member and Chinese American. Four generations of your family came to celebrate with our AAUW family. It's AAUW sisterhood and Confucianism at its best. The values of unity and harmony that you uphold will stay with our branch members long after the holiday season!”

And Phie addressed this to Gene Wang, my son, AAUW member and band leader!

“Gene - I'm unaware of any sister branches or Tri-City nonprofits that I follow on social media treating their fellow members to a 12-piece band with a spirited sing-along. You were so generous in inviting our newest member and trombonist, Keith Wiley, to play with your band. Thank you for your gift of music, altruism, and filial piety!”



I would like to thank all the people who helped with the Holiday Party! It is your efforts and expertise that make our events so successful! Guests were so generous in bringing beautiful and delicious appetizers and making donations!

Lastly, thank you, Reindeer! I told you we could memorize the whole poem!



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Exploring the Arts

By Karen McCready

January 8th, 2025, 9:30-10:30 am

Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Kicking off the first of the monthly Book Club presentations for 2025, Triton's Executive Director, Preston Metcalf, has suggested pre-reading *Hamlet*, part of his literary inspirations to explore an era of great change.

"In the 16th and early 17th Centuries, our view of humanity, and what it means to be human, were irrevocably changed, in no small part due to three great creators: William Shakespeare, Michel de Montaigne, and Michelangelo.

"*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare is a classic tragedy that delves into themes of revenge, corruption, madness, betrayal, and family ties. This play follows the story of Prince Hamlet of the Kingdom of Denmark who is struggling to move forward after the sudden death of his father, King Hamlet. The play conveys Hamlet's internal and external struggles as his suspicions of how his father died begin to unravel before him. Throughout the play, Hamlet's various actions and inactions delve into the complexities of morality, vengeance, and justice.

"Join us as the Triton Museum's Executive Director, Preston Metcalf, shows how Hamlet, Montaigne's Essays, and Michelangelo's David changed the way we see ourselves, and in doing so, altered the portrayal of the human in art and literature from then on."

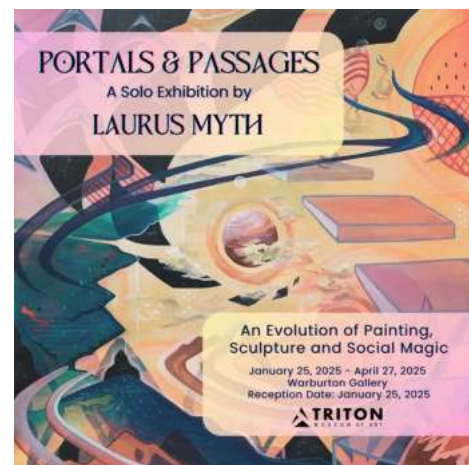
Contact Karen McCready at 510-304-6844 to arrange for a seat in a carpool. To arrive by 9:30, we depart Fremont by 8 am.

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Triton Museum of Art, hours TBA: "Portals and Passages: An Evolution of Painting, Sculpture, and Social Magic," a solo exhibition.

Contact Karen at 510-304-6844 to join her there.

Tuesday Matinees at the Movies: Check your email regularly for updates from Karen. Contact her to add or subtract you from her email list.



Gifts to Give Gives 1,000 Gifts

Abode Homeless Shelter was thrilled to receive over 100 boxes filled with more than 1,000 gifts from Gifts To Give. The boxes had gifts for Fremont Abode Homeless Shelter and for the homeless camps. Our boxes contained Christmas gifts for the children, women and men who reside at the shelter. The children received toys, games, crocheted/knitted hats, blankets, books, school supplies, pajamas, book bags, etc. The adults received crocheted/knitted hats, blankets, books, socks, underwear, scarves, puzzle books, gift cards, stationery, etc. The boxes also held 100 drawstring backpacks that were filled with toiletry items, socks, washcloths, warm crocheted/knitted hats, fleece scarves, and dental products for the homeless camps.



Muriel Rodrigues (from left), Terry Pearson, Shelley Bartley, and Sharon Yool deliver over 1,000 Christmas gifts to Fremont Abode Homeless Shelter.

Thank you to our AAUW members who made much-needed hats, scarves, and blankets. In addition, several members donated gift cards, clothing items, toiletries, books, toys, and school supplies. Your gifts will help to bring joy to those who are less fortunate.

A special thank you to AAUW members Mary Fuchs, Linda Pearson, and Sharon Yool for being section leaders for this worthwhile project.

Great Decisions Discussion Group Is Back!

By Joyce Ruiz

What is Great Decisions? Great Decisions is a program created by the Foreign Policy Association that promotes informed discussion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Each year, a set of timely and critical topics are selected for discussion. This year's topics will cover a range of issues from international security to environmental challenges and the evolving geopolitical landscapes.

How does it work? Each month, members gather to discuss a specific topic based on the 10-12 page informational article that members have read in the Great Decisions briefing book that provides comprehensive background and analysis. Following the readings, we will engage in thoughtful discussions, guided by questions and prompts from the Foreign Policy Association.



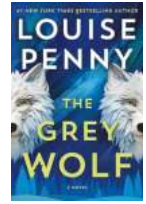
The first meeting is Wednesday, January 22nd, at Suju's meeting room, 3602 Thornton Avenue, from 10 am to noon. This is an organizing meeting to decide the monthly date, time, and place, choose the topics, and arrange for purchase of the briefing book. You will have an opportunity to learn the 2025 topics and view the 2025 briefing book.

This is a wonderful chance to connect with like-minded individuals, expand your understanding of global issues, and make your voice heard on critical matters that affect our world. To join the Great Decisions group, or for more information, please contact coordinators Joyce Ruiz and Shari Whitaker. We hope you will join us for this exciting and thought-provoking program!

Interest Group Meetings

Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet January 22 at 2 pm at the home of Joyce Ruiz. She will review *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry. 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

To celebrate the lunar new year, the group will dine at Toro Sushi Stone Grill and Bar. The group ate there a year ago and enjoyed the private dining room that is again reserved for us. The restaurant is located at 43785 Boscell Road. Meeting time is 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 21st. Please RSVP by Sunday, January 19th, to judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com



Monday and Tuesday Chat With ESL Students

ESL Chat meets every Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon at the Fremont Main Library to chat with ESL speakers about everyday topics. Monday Chat meets from 7-8 pm in the Van Doorn Room; Tuesday Afternoon Chat meets from 3-4 pm in Fukaya Room A. For more information, call Jui-Lan Liu at the Fremont Main Library at 510-745-1467, 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.



Money, Money, Money:

End of the Year Money

By Judy Wolf

It's the end of another year with all the ups and downs of the stock market and other indexes.

Now it is time to count your money to see how you have fared.

Your various categories of money might include pensions, social security, retirement funds and your own money. Well, really, all of it is your money.

Pension funds from your jobs usually come in monthly as does Social Security. There are really no changes to be made here.

However, in your retirement funds some changes might be made.

First, figure if you must take out an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) amount. This is based on your age--now starting at age 72. Try to take out your first RMD as soon as possible so you do not end up taking two in the second year. This could really play havoc with your taxable income.

Second, look at what is in your retirement. A lot of people have this money in mutual funds or stock. Look at the performance of these. Inside your family of mutual funds you can make changes usually at no charge to you as you already paid the commission. So look at what is available in that family of funds and perhaps make some changes.

Keep track of the end of year marker for the DJIA, S&P, or the Nasdaq. See the change from the previous year. The one you follow should be the one that mirrors your holdings.

Third, you named beneficiaries for your retirement accounts so they should not be listed as a trust asset or in a will.

Next is your money that you might have registered in a trust or will you have created. This would include bank checking and savings accounts, mutual funds and stocks held outside of retirement accounts, your real estate holdings, antiques, artwork, jewelry and other possessions.

You should update these lists on a regular basis but at least once a year. My suggestion is to use the end-of-the-year statements and do your counting of the numbers. If you have a trust, updating the assets in it is very important. You want to keep your successors knowledgeable.

Important Dates

Deadlines for articles: 25th of the month before publication

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

- The board of directors meets on **January 10th** at 10 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 aauwfremontbranch@gmail.com and let us know your availability
- Katryn Bury will be in conversation with Michael Leali at 7 pm at Banter Bookshop on **January 28th**. Click [here](#) for the story.
- Members of the Hayward-Castro Valley and Fremont branches of AAUW will meet for our annual Bi-branch luncheon at Frederico's in the Nilas District at 11:45 am on **February 8th**. For more information, see the banner on page 2.
- The Speech Trek Branch competition will be on **March 1st**. Please contact Remy Parmar, co-president and Speech Trek chair, if you'd like to become involved as speech writing and presentation mentors.
- Our Women's History Month event is scheduled for 2 pm on **March 8th**. The topic is domestic violence, and the event will be held at Washington West, where the One Book One Community Read Project took place last fall.
- Dine with a Scientist/Engineer is a new STEM program planned for 6 pm on **April 12th** at Irvington High School, and is open to all high school students in the Tri-City area.

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.



Need a Notary?

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

AAUW Fremont Inc. (CA) Branch Est. 1961 The TWIG		January 2025					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	3	4	
5 EPIPHANY	6	7 ESL	8	9 ZOOM MEETING FOR TITLE IX YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	10 BOARD MEETING AT JO SZETO'S	11	
12 BOOK TALK	13 ESL	14 ESL	15	16 YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	17	18	
19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY	20 ESL	21 CULTURAL CUISINE ESL	22 GREAT DECISIONS ZOOM MEETING STEP UP FOR PRO-CHOICE '25 AFTERNOON LIT	23 YOGA AT JO SZETO'S FOUNDATION MEETING AT SUJU'S THORNTON	24	25	
26 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY	27 ESL	28 LUNAR NEW YEAR BANTER BOOKSHOP EVENT ESL	29	30 YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	31		

Calendar Legend

- AFTERNOON LIT ON 1/22**
Will be at the home of Joyce Ruiz, starts at 2pm
- BANTER BOOKSHOP EVENT**
Meet the Author Katryn Bury at 7pm, flyer on front page
- BOARD MEETING ON 1/10**
Monthly board meeting starts at 10:00am at Jo Szeto's home, branch members are welcomed
- BOOK TALK ON 1/13**
Meets at the home of Marge Leonard, from 3- 4:30pm
- ESL CHAT WITH STUDENTS ON MONDAYS & TUESDAYS**
Mondays from 7- 8pm, Fremont Main Library: Van Doorn rm
Tuesdays from 4- 5pm, Fremont Main Library: Fukaya rm
- CULTRUAL CUISINE- TORO SUSHI GRILL & BAR**
43785 Boscell Rd, Fremont at 6:30pm
- GREAT DECISIONS ON 1/22**
Organizing Meeting: at Suju's on Thornton from 10am- noon
- FOUNDATION MEETING ON 1/23**
For Local Scholarships: at Suju's on Thornton from 7- 8:30pm all are welcomed
- YOGA AT JO SZETO'S**
Yoga is every Thursday from 11:15 am- 1pm with a lunch
- ZOOM MEETINGS**
On 1/9: Title IX revisions in the State of the State column
On 1/22: Step Up for Pro-Choice 2025, anniversary of Roe v Wade

NEW YEARS DAY
 EPIPHANY
 MLK JR DAY
 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
 LUNAR NEW YEAR