



April 2025



DINE WITH A SCIENTIST
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12 APRIL 2025

6 PM TO 9 PM

Irvington High School Cafeteria

41800 BLACOW RD,
FREMONT, CA 94538

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[HTTPS://DWAS2025.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://dw2025.eventbrite.com)

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UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DINE AND CONNECT WITH EXPERTS IN A CASUAL SETTING

GET READY TO ASK ALL YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS ABOUT SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

OPEN ALL TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM FREMONT, NEWARK, AND UNION CITY

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Co-President's Message



Welcome to the Spring quarter of this AAUW year.

One of your co-presidents gave birth to a darling baby boy in February. We give Alice and her family our congratulations, wishing them all the happiness they will enjoy with this sweet addition.

We just completed Women's History Month in a big way.

Our branch co-sponsored the League of Women Voters program on Reproductive Freedom, with the speaker, Stacey Cross, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood for our huge district, Mar Monte. She opened our eyes to the many reproductive health problems coming from the federal level at this time.

Later in the month AAUW educated us with the program Boxed in By Abuse. A panel including two survivors, a Washington Hospital nurse, and representatives from SAVE and Maitri explained what their assault involved and the trouble breaking free, how domestic violence is handled medically in this community, and how assistance is given to get away from a tormentor.

Finally, three remarkable high school students demonstrated their amazing speaking talent at our Speech Trek competition with the theme being the Effect of Climate Change on Women.

Carolyn Hedgecock
Co-President

Twig Highlights

To read a story, click on the link

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Public Policy:

WHAT?? School Homework?

By Guest Contributor Laurinda Ochoa with Jeanne Delp

Editor's Note: Jeanne and Laurinda are both public policy chairs for their branches, Jeanne for Fremont Branch and Laurinda for the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch. Laurinda is also a member of the AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee.

Timeline in my inbox from the AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee:

Fall 2024: "Project 2025 is the most dangerous thing you've never heard of"

October 2024: "Project 2025 and How it Would impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities"

February 2025: "Project 2025 is Becoming Reality"

March 2025: "School Board Project takes on new emphasis"

What is the School Board Project and Why Should I Be Concerned?

The revised School Board Project, developed by AAUW CA Public Policy team, is available [here](#). Its purpose is to encourage the monitoring of school boards by local AAUW branches to ensure the Boards are not being affected by organizations whose objective is to ban books, censor educational materials, and provide public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards. This is happening in numerous other states and has occurred in several school districts in California, including our neighboring Sunol Glen Elementary.

Across the country, we have seen school boards, and candidates for school boards, taking up controversial policies that have led to banning books from school libraries, the censorship of curriculum in school classrooms due to individuals finding content "objectionable," and policies leading to the prevention of safe school climates for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

AAUW's Equal Access to Quality Public Education for ALL students stands in opposition to:

- The Executive Order eliminating federal funds for schools that recognize transgender identities or teach about structural racism, white privilege, and unconscious bias.
- The Executive Order directing federal agencies to look for ways to expand access to private school vouchers. (Ohio grants vouchers to all students to attend religious, private, or public schools).

Local School Board Meetings

All school board meetings are open to the public. They also allow for remote viewing. Dates and times are listed below.

Fremont Board of Education Meetings

Meetings start at 6:30 pm unless otherwise specified and are held at 4210 Technology Dr., Fremont.

The tentative meeting schedule for the rest of the school year is

April 16

May 14 and 24

June 11 and 25

The public can attend in person, observe the meeting via live stream on the District's Website, view the Board Meeting via Fremont Comcast Cable channel 26 (and 1084), or on Zoom (registration required).

<https://fremontunified.org/about/board/>

New Haven (Union City) Board of Education Meetings

Meetings start at 5:30 unless otherwise specified and are held at the Educational Services Center at 34200 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City.

The tentative meeting schedule for the rest of the school year is

April 15

May 6 and 20

June 3 and 17

Meetings can be viewed in the Board Room, Live on Zoom, and Streaming on YouTube.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/nhusd/Board.nsf/Public>

Newark Board of Education Meetings

Meetings start at 7 pm unless otherwise specified and are held at 5715 Musick Avenue, Newark.

The tentative meeting schedule for the rest of the school year is

April 1 and 15

May 6 and 20

June 10 and 24

Members of the public may observe the meeting via the [NUSD YouTube Channel](#) or in person inside the NUSD Boardroom.

<https://www.newarkunified.org/district/board-of-education>

State of the State

(From the Board to Board newsletter) Highlights of AAUW National's 2024 annual report:

- 6.3 million dollars went to 285 AAUW Fellows and Community Organizations
- 6157 women received Work Smart, Money Smart, and Start Smart training
- 500 college women went to NCCWSL
- 47,000 messages were sent to our elected officials via the 2-minute activist

For complete information, see the annual report [here](#). . . . Take the [Social Change Ecosystem Quiz](#) to see what role you tend to play in social justice organizations like AAUW. You can discuss the results during our AAUW California Annual State Meeting on April 26th. . . . Election of officers will be held from April 26th through May 16th. Every person with an email address will receive a ballot. Those without email addresses will receive a ballot mailed to their home. All ballots must be returned by May 16th to be counted. If you don't see your email on the 26th, first search your spam file and inbox for an email from siteadmin@aauw-ca.org before contacting webteam@aauw-ca.org. . . . 77 people have signed up to lobby our state representatives on April 8th, and 107 will lobby representatives virtually as part of Lobby Days this year. . . . AAUW California is building out our own action-items database to counter the Republican administration implementation of Project 2025. The database is being released this month. . . . **Shanvi Gupta**, AAUW Fremont's intern, was the winner of our annual Speech Trek competition, and her video has been forwarded to AAUW-CA for the statewide competition. The winner will be announced April 26th at the state virtual event. For more information on Shanvi, click [here](#). . . . Tech Trek season is well underway with more than 70% of the 1,000 applications processed. Staff selections are also underway with more than 300 applicants. At least 200 will be placed by early April.

Changemakers. . .

. . . Will return in May

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.

Speech Trek 2025:

Congratulations to our Winners!

By Remy Parmar

This season's timely Speech Trek topic considered how climate change affects women. Standing before a rapt audience, each student shared a unique perspective, in under six and half minutes. And no one envied the job our judges had to do. Our winners were as follows:

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

Shanvi Gupta: First place (\$750 and a chance to compete at the State level), ninth grader at Kennedy High. One of Shanvi's speech highlights was this line: "Even climate change isn't gender neutral!"

Aarav Dixit: Second place (\$550), tenth grader at Washington High. One of Aarav's speech highlights was this line: "If women are suffering, if women are not empowered, all of us suffer."

Aishwarya Gogi: Third place (\$350), twelfth grader at American High. One of Aishwarya's speech highlights was this line: "Behind every statistic is a personal story-- of struggle and hope for a future where environmental factors don't determine our place in



Speech Trek Winners--Aarav Dixit (from left), Aishwarya Gogi, and Shanvi Gupta pose in front of Mia Mora's quilt.



Guest Speaker--Mia Mora stands in front of her environmental quilt.

society or our sense of self-worth."

O u r generous donors, Pauline Weaver, Judy Wolf, and Jo Szeto, have made Speech Trek possible over the years.

This event requires a lot of coordination, and I'd like to thank our timekeeper and overall co-chair of Speech Trek, Becky Denevan. I also thank both boards and volunteers for supporting Speech Trek over the years. Both Becky and Jo helped us review the student essays and presentations. This work was invaluable!

The speeches were very close, and I acknowledge the hard work of our judges: Caroline Harris (head judge), Pauline Weaver, Shirley Gilbert, Judy Wolf, Rick Hood, Mia Mora, and Anusha Dube.

As an added treat, our event included a lifelong environmentalist and Fremont's community garden (LEAF's) first president, Mia Mora. Mia shared stories from her career as a sustainability researcher for SRI and a LEED Architect.

She also brought her beautiful environmental quilts, which displayed how plastics harm oceans. Mia's current project is as the founder of a Facebook group called Do More.

She shared that two of the most significant ways to reduce climate change are to stop eating meat and stop flying. Both, points to seriously consider.

Dine with a Scientist Planned for April 12th

By Fahria Khan

AAUW Fremont and Irvington High School (IHS) Girls in Stem Club invite high school students from Fremont, Newark, and Union City to an exciting and inspiring evening at *Dine with a Scientist* on April 12th, from 6 pm to 9 pm at Irvington High School Cafeteria (41800 Blacow Rd, Fremont, CA 94538).

This event, hosted by AAUW Fremont for the first time and sponsored by Cargill, offers students the chance to engage with accomplished scientists in a relaxed and interactive setting. Over dinner, participants will have the opportunity to ask burning questions about science, research, and career paths, gaining valuable insights into the world of STEM.

If you know a high school student in the Tri-City area who would be interested, have them register now at <https://DWAS2025.eventbrite.com> to secure their spot!

Please note that this event is open to high school students ONLY. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate parents or other adults, including AAUW Fremont members..

Hello to Baby Anakin

By Alice A. Manfredi, Co-President and Twig Curator

Alice and Matt Manfredi are delighted to welcome their baby, Anakin Xander Manfredi, born on February 20th at Washington Hospital.

Anakin is irresistibly cute and makes the most adorable facial expressions.

Alice is enthusiastic about sharing photos and eagerly awaits introducing him to the branch.



"I am profoundly grateful and feel truly blessed to have my heart feel whole again. While I sorrowfully miss my mother and sister, who cannot share this experience with us, I am eagerly anticipating this new phase of life and aspire to thrive as a first-time mother."



The Advancement Star is Ours!

AAUW National's five-star program consists of five components: advancement, public policy and advocacy, governance and sustainability, programming, and communications and external relations. In the last fiscal year, which ended June 30, we earned all five stars.

Halfway through the 2025 fiscal year, which ends June 30, we have official word from National that we earned the advancement star, meeting the criteria in the following categories:

- We raised at least \$30 per member for the Greatest Needs Fund.
- We increased our donations to the Greatest Needs Fund by 15% over fiscal year 2024. In fact, we did better than that. We needed to raise \$1256.95, and we raised \$2508.
- We have to maintain our membership at 85 members or remain within 80% of that number. We've lost a few, but we have recruited at least 17 new members, and there's still the last quarter of the fiscal year to go.



Fremont City Council--The Fremont City Council honored AAUW Fremont during women's history month with a proclamation. Receiving the award from Mayor Raj Salwan were AAUW members Lily Mei (from left), former mayor of Fremont; Jo Szeto, and Jennifer Foster,

New Member:*Chao Lee*

I was raised in Taiwan and came to the United States as an exchange student at the age of 16, later pursuing my bachelor's degree in Public Relations at the University of Maryland. Fast forward a decade, I relocated to the Bay Area, where my work at a domestic violence agency provides me with immense fulfillment as a domestic violence survivor. At SAVE, my main roles involve fundraising, marketing, and organizing events.

In my spare time, I love to play the piano, practice yoga, meditate, and enjoy nature with my family. Moreover, I am a member of the Advisory Committee for the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area and volunteer as a content creator for the Isha Yoga Foundation.

I became a member of AAUW because, as a survivor of domestic violence, I learned firsthand the critical roles that education, gender equality, and economic stability play in the lives of women. Thankfully, I hold a bachelor's degree and managed to secure employment within months after escaping the abusive situation, allowing me to rebuild my life with my daughter due to a reliable income. However, I recognize that many women are unfortunately in circumstances where they lack the financial security needed to leave. I am motivated to take action to promote gender equality and make a positive impact.



Women's History Month--Judy Wolf chaired "Boxed in By Abuse," an AAUW Fremont-sponsored panel presentation at Washington Hospital on abuse and how to escape it. Panelists were (from left) Lucy R. Rodriguez, author of the book, *Rebirth of a Lotus, Escaping Domestic Violence*; Nandini Ray, from Maitri; Betty Goodwin, from Washington Hospital's emergency department; new AAUW member Chao Lee, from SAVE, and AAUW member Bridget Uzoegwu, who told her story. The link to the recording is [here](#).

Late-Breaking News From National

Effective April 1, our national dues increased, from \$72 to \$74, while the fee for those buying a lifetime membership has risen from \$1440 to \$1480. Dues for students remain unchanged at \$18.81.

For Fremont, that means our total dues will now be \$110: \$74 for National, \$20 for AAUW-CA, and \$16 for Fremont. Keep in mind AAUW-CA is planning a dues increase of its own, which, if passed in the April election, will kick in July 1. It makes sense to renew your membership before that date.

You won't have any difficulty remembering the month you joined. Starting four months before, National will remind you to update your membership. They will keep reminding you every month until your membership expires or you renew.

Exploring the Arts

By Karen McCready

Events in Fremont's Art Galleries This Month



In-Person Olive Hyde Art Gallery Exhibit Dates:

April 3 – May 24, 2025

Don't miss the Opening Reception from 7-9 pm on Friday, April 11th. View the MJS Gallery Exhibition, mingle in the courtyard, enjoy live music by NSQ-Newark Saxophone Quartet,

sample the special array of appetizers and sweets, and visit the friendly wine bar servers.

Grab a ballot and vote for your favorite artwork. The program will begin at 8 pm with presentation of awards for Best of Show, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, Merit Awards, and People's Choice Award.

Congratulations to the 46 artists selected for the show, including AAUW member Edie Christensen. **Fremont Art Association, Wednesday, April 2nd, 1-3 pm, at the FAA Gallery, 37697 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536**

Thomas (Thom) Cory, the artist whose work is featured on the OHAG poster above, will be creating a work of art in person. Admission is free, but you must register by April 2nd: <https://www.fremontartassociation.org/event-details/april-2025-artist-in-person-demonstration>

In his demo, "Painting Birds in Acrylic," Thom, whose paintings primarily focus on nature, mostly wildlife, will highlight his process and various stages of development in creating dazzling bird paintings. He will also share his five-decades-long journey as an artist.

Money, Money, Money:

Who's on Your Bank Account?

By Judy Wolf

What are the considerations that should be explored before adding a second person to your bank account?

- Can that person be trusted?
- Does that person have credit issues? The funds could be taken to pay their debts.
- Is that person going through a divorce? That bank account could be considered part of the divorcing couple's assets to be split.
- Will naming that person cause a conflict of interest with other family and friends?

Whoever you name actually becomes an additional owner of your bank account. Upon your death, this person becomes the sole owner. Will that person respect your funds? In finance, when husband and wives sometimes abuse money and are not honest about their own fiduciary responsibilities to each other, just imagine what havoc an outsider could cause.

Remember to name your account in the name of your trust.

If you have a trust, your successor trustee can take over your account if you can no longer manage your finances. Then your beneficiaries will receive any remaining funds.

Anusha's Corner:

Beyond Women's History Month: Celebrating Women Every Day

By Anusha Dube

Editor's Note: Anusha Dube is a student at Ohlone College, majoring in data science. She is deeply committed and passionate about empowering underprivileged girls through education.

March may be over, but the impact of women throughout history doesn't stop when the month ends. Women have shaped every part of our world, from groundbreaking discoveries in science and medicine to leadership in politics, activism, and education. Their contributions are not confined to a single month of recognition but is significant to every moment of progress made.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of women, it is important to recognize that there is still work to do. Gender inequality, wage gaps, underrepresentation in leadership, and barriers to education continue to keep many women from reaching their potential. There

is more to true progress than the recognition of history; it is also about action. Supporting women should be a year-round commitment.

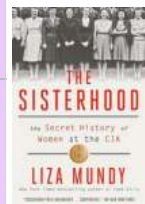
So, how can we continue to uplift and empower women beyond Women's History Month? It starts with our everyday choices—mentoring and advocating for women in the workplace, supporting women-owned businesses, fighting for equal opportunities, and amplifying the voices of women who are making a difference. It means challenging stereotypes, calling out bias when we see it, and ensuring that women have a seat at every table where decisions are made. It's about investing in girls' education, pushing for policies that protect and uplift women, and celebrating their achievements consistently. True empowerment comes from continuous action—big or small—that creates an environment where every woman has the chance to thrive.

Women have always been at the forefront of change, and their contributions don't stop when the calendar flips to April. Let's keep celebrating, supporting, and fighting for a future where every woman has the opportunity to thrive—not just for one month, but every single day.

Interest Group Meetings

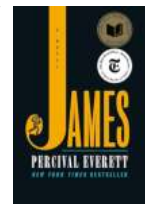
Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet at Joyce Ruiz's home on April 17th at 2 pm. We will discuss *The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA* by Liza Mundy. Please let Joyce know if you are attending.



Book Talk

James is Percival Everett's retelling of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the point of view of the slave, Jim. Becky Denevan is to lead the discussion when Book Talk gathers at Shirley DeLucci's home on April 7th from 3-4:30 pm.



Mirchi, not Merci

We will be going to a Pakistani restaurant. The address is 40900 Fremont Boulevard, Suite H, Fremont. It is at the back of the strip. Not much to look at, but it was written up in the *SF Chronicle* a few weeks ago.



Cultural Cuisine

Time is 6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 15th.

Please RSVP to Judy at 510-657-5589 or email at judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com

Interest Group Meetings

Great Decisions

Europe is frightened and frightening for the first time since the 1980's"! Learn more at the Great Decisions group on April 23 when we will discuss: The Future of NATO and European Security. The meeting will be held from 10 am to noon at Suju's on Thornton Ave. For more information contact Shari Whitaker or Joyce Ruiz.



Yoga for Body and Spirit

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



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 **April 4th at 9:30 am** at Suju's Coffee and Tea on Thornton Avenue. If you want to attend a board meeting, but can't meet at 9:30 am on a Friday, email us at aauwfremontbranch@gmail.com and let us know your availability.
- Dine with a Scientist 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. For more information, click [here](#).
- The annual Gender Sex Fair at Ohlone College is planned for **April 16th**. We participate by handing out cookies with 20% of the cookie removed, representing the disparity between men and women's salaries.
- The Annual Event of the AAUW-CA will be **April 26th**. The event, which is virtual, will focus on social change and on how we can pivot to be sure the branches survive.
- Learn flower arranging on **May 18th**, Jan Van De Werfhorst will host a flower-arranging seminar with flowers from your garden. Call Judy Wolf at 510-657-5589 for more information.

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		APRIL FOOL'S DAY NEWARK BOARD OF EDU MEETING	2	YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	BOARD MEETING AT SUJU'S THORNTON AVE.	5
6	BOOK TALK	8	9	YOGA AT JO SZETO'S	11	PASSOVER DINE WITH A SCIENTIST AT IRVINGTON H.S.
PALM SUNDAY	14	AFTERNOON LIT NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDU MEETING CULTURAL CUISINE NEWARK BOARD OF EDU MEETING	OHLONE COLLEGE GENDER SEX FAIR FREMONT BOARD OF EDU MEETING	17	18	19
20	21	EARTH DAY	GREAT DECISIONS AT SUJU'S THORNTON AVE.	24	25	AAUW-CA STATE ANNUAL MEETING
27	28	29	30			

Calendar Legend

AAUW-CA STATE ANNUAL MEETING

AFTERNOON LIT ON 4/15
Meets at the home of Joyce Ruiz's, starts at 2pm

BOARD MEETING ON 4/4
Monthly board meeting starts at 9:30am at Suju's on Thornton Ave., branch members are welcomed

BOOK TALK 4/7
Meets at the home of Shirley DeLucci's, starts at 3pm

CULTURAL CUISINE 4/15 AT MIRCHI
RSVP with Judy Wolf, dinner starts at 6:30pm

DINE WITH A SCIENTIST AT IRVINGTON H.S. 4/12
RSVP see Pg 1, from 6-9pm, open to high school students

HOLIDAYS

APRIL FOOLS DAY

PASSOVER

PALM SUNDAY

EASTER

EARTH DAY

FREMONT BOARD OF EDU* MEETING 4/16
See Pg 4, open to the public and starts at 6:30pm

GREAT DECISIONS ON 4/23
The future of NATO discussion: at Suju's on Thornton Ave., from 10-12pm

NEWARK BOARD OF EDU* MEETING 4/1 & 4/15
See Pg 4, open to the public and starts at 7pm

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDU* MEETING 4/15
See Pg 4, open to the public and starts at 5:30pm

OHLONE COLLEGE GENDER SEX FAIR 4/16
10am- 3pm, at the Main Campus, handing out our infamous cookies with 20% piece missing! 🍪

YOGA AT JO SZETO'S
Yoga is every Thursday from 11:15am- 1pm with a lunch

EDU- EDUCATION