

June 2025



Installation and Awards Luncheon

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DESRIE CAMPBELL FREMONT COUNCILWOMAN JULIE DEL CATANCIO







EVE MARIE LITTLE NEWARK COUNCILWOMAN

Come meet our new Board of Directors and celebrate 50-Year Members and Named Gift Honorees!

> SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 12:00 - 2:00 PM

THE ROSE GARDEN RESTAURANT 33348 ALVARADO-NILES BOULEVARD, UNION CITY

TICKET PRICE: \$30 - PAY JUDY WOLF BY ZELLE @ BIGBADWOLFIE@JUNO.COM OR 510-468-2002



Co-President's Message

With this AAUW year coming to a close, it is important to look back and be thankful for



all of the members who took part in this successful adventure. It took many of us to keep the AAUW spirit alive. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes activity that takes place.

Much of what our branch is known for has been led by the Foundation with so much help from all of us. We are appreciated for the many Ohlone scholarships each year, paying the way for several girls to go to Tech Trek camp each summer, and a financial award to Speech Trek participants. We have put on valuable educational programs and co-sponsored some with League of Women Voters.

Many have expressed appreciation for the *Twig*. Credit for that goes to the contributors and Alice and Jennifer, our hardworking newsletter "staff."

Thank you to all of the members for being a valuable part of this organization.

Garolyn Hedgecock Go-Dresident



To read a story, click on the link

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Public Policy:

Final Update of Lobby Days

By Amy Hom, co-chair, California Public Policy Committee Italics added by Jeanne Delp

A Final Update on our 2025 Lobby Days--

AAUW California advocates came out in full strength on April 8th and 9th to participate in Lobby Days 2025. A total of 197 people representing 66 branches, including our Public Policy Interns and other college students, turned out to advance our priority legislation. 84 people came to Sacramento on April 8th to meet in-person with legislative offices; 104 people held virtual meetings via Zoom on April 9th; and 9 people met with district offices. Because many offices prefer to keep their calendars open until the last minute, our committee worked furiously right up until the day of the event to schedule meetings. Meetings were requested with all 120 legislative offices, and 94 meetings were secured. In other words, we met with 78% of all legislative offices --a record for AAUW California!

ALSO:

Shortly after our Lobby Days event, we learned that AB 579 was dead. (AAUW lobbied the *legislators to oppose*) The bill was held in the Assembly Rules Committee and was not referred to a policy committee, effectively killing the bill. (AAUW had lobbied the legislators to OPPOSE this bill). We quickly replaced AB 579 with AB 1098 (Fong) "Title IX and the California Sex Equity in Education Act" as our third "A" priority bill. AB 1098 would expand protections for pregnant graduate students and institute protections for pregnant undergraduate students, prohibiting secondary educational institutions from discriminating against a student based on their current, potential, or past pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.

AND:

We invite you to track the progress of our top three bills, and all of the bills on our Legislative Agenda, by viewing the <u>2025 Bill Tracking Report</u>. The report will continue to be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you can always check back to see the latest status. *SUGGESTION: Reduce the print size to 50% to view the full script.*

BUT:

HOW does a Bill become a LAW? AAUW to the rescue!

https://www.aauw-ca.org/path-of-a-bill/



(From the Board to Board newsletter) The big takeaway from our annual event, said State President Charmen Goehring, was that even small pivots can transform our organization into something stronger and more sustainable. More information on the "4 Pivots" will be coming this summer. . . . The Berkeley Branch won first place in the branch activity of the Year competition, followed by Danville7-Alamo-Walnut Creek, which came in second, and Sunnyvale-Cupertino in third. . . . This was Speech Trek's 18th and final year. The **Fremont Branch** participated during the last five years, finishing in the top five each time. . . . Almost 780 Tech Trekkers have signed up for camp this summer, leaving most camps near capacity. There are still available spots for the virtual camp.



Changemakers Sarah McBride

Delaware State Senator

Researched and Written in First-Person Narrative by Phie Dai

My elementary school teachers nicknamed me the "little president" because of my in lifelong fascination with history and politics. When I was six, I built my first model of the in White House and spent hours reading about its presidential inhabitants.

I was born in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1990, and I always refer to my home state as the First State and the best state in the union. I am the youngest of three children; my father was a lawyer, and my mother co-founded Cab Calloway School of Arts. When I was seven years old, I had a chance encounter with my idol at a local pizzeria. Senator Joe



Biden had just gotten off the Amtrak train on his way home, and I was dumbfounded when he knelt down to speak with me. He tore a page from his planner and gave me an autographed message: "Remember me when you become President."

This encounter changed my life! I began volunteering on a political campaign when I was just 14 years old. At 17, I led the Delaware chapter of Young Democrats and a year later, I got my first paid gig as the field organizer for Delaware Governor Jack Markell after helping him win the gubernatorial race. When I enrolled at American University as a political science major, I successfully ran for Student Government President. I met Mr. Biden again when I started working as a White House intern for President Barack Obama in my senior year. Vice President Biden encouraged me to actively pursue a career in

politics and wrote the foreword to my autobiography Tomorrow Will Be Different, six years later.

When I turned 30, I was ready to serve. I successfully ran for the Delaware State Senate. During my first term, I passed the landmark Healthy Delaware Families Act, which provides paid family and medical leave to workers, marking the most significant expansion of Delaware's social safety net in decades. I also enacted laws that expanded access to healthcare, required mental health and media literacy education in public schools, promoted green technologies, and aimed to prevent lead poisoning in youth.

I take pride in serving as the chair of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Education Committee, Banking, Business, Insurance, and Technology Committee, and Executive Committee.

Every day, I carry the hopes, dreams, fears, and concerns of my community with me. None of us know how long we have, but we can choose whether to love or to hate. Every day that we deny people the ability to live their lives to the fullest, we undermine the most precious gift we have as humans.



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.

Tech Trek Ice Cream Social June Ist!





AAUW Installation of Officers on June 7th

The Rose Garden Restaurant is the venue for a varied Chinese meal on Saturday, June 7th, at noon.

We will host four current/former councilwomen - Carol Dutra-Vernaci, the former mayor of Union City; Julie Del Catancio and Eve Marie Little, councilwomen from Newark, and Desrie Campbell, councilwoman from Fremont - as our guests and speakers. Also, you will have a chance to meet our new and continuing officers, members who have been with the Branch 50 years or more, and our AAUW Named Gift Honorees.

The Rose Garden is in Union City at 33348 Alvarado-Niles Boulevard. Go to Central Avenue and enter the parking lot at the side and drive to the front of restaurant for parking. It is in the same mall as Mexico Lindo Restaurant.

The cost is \$30, and you can make your reservation by Zelle to Judy Wolf, bigbadwolfie@juno.com, 510-468-2002.

Congressman Ro Khanna to Speak

By Gene Wang

For the second year in a row, Congressman Ro Khanna will be speaking to AAUW. He will be addressing us on Saturday,

June 21st, from 4:45 pm to 5:15 pm over Zoom. To hear the perspective of this leader and have a chance to ask questions, register for this virtual meeting by clicking on the link below. You will then receive an email from Zoom containing a JOIN MEETING button.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/ register/RRGb-rN8RIGEkDwkT3_rLg

Ro Khanna was born in Philadelphia in 1976 to Indian immigrant parents and has built a career bridging Silicon Valley innovation with progressive policymaking. A graduate of the University of Chicago (BA) and Yale Law School (JD), Khanna began his public service as a clerk and later as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Commerce under President Obama (2009–2011) (Wikipedia).



Khanna's tenure in Congress has centered on tech, economic justice, and systemic reform. Khanna authored an ambitious

Internet Bill of Rights, championing data privacy and net neutrality, which gained support from luminaries like Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, and endorsements from Hillary Clinton.

Khanna has proposed bold social policy: his 2024 initiative would cap childcare costs at \$10/day for families earning under \$250K annually and lift pay for childcare workers. In health care, he introduced Medicare telehealth expansion and anti-corruption bills earlier this year. Khanna also publicly criticized Palo Alto Unified School District's decision to eliminate honors tracks for biology and English, calling it "an assault on excellence."

His advocacy for economic revitalization has taken him beyond Silicon Valley. On his "Benefits Over Billionaires" tour, Khanna held town halls in Republican districts like Bucks County, Pennsylvania, promoting programs to counter corporate power and enhance Medicaid and drug pricing affiliation.

Congressman Khanna continues to bridge Silicon Valley innovation with progressive governance—pushing for democratic reforms, economic populism, and accountability—and is a rising young star who is actively improving the future of our great nation.

Honoring our Lifetime Members:

Joyce Ruiz

By Remy Parmar

Editor's Note: This is one in an occasional series about the most senior women in our membership--those with at least 55 years of service to AAUW.



On May 15, I had the pleasure of interviewing one of our longest-serving AAUW Fremont members. I spent a fascinating afternoon learning about Joyce Ruiz - her remarkable life, education, career, and history in AAUW Fremont. What an inspiring woman! We sat in her family room, which overlooks a beautiful, peaceful garden in an idyllic, parklike setting.

Joyce, who was born and raised in Santa Barbara, officially joined AAUW in 1962, beginning her membership in Hayward; she transferred into AAUW Fremont once our branch was established. In fact, Joyce voted for the Fremont branch to be established. She watched our nonprofit grow and thrive; at its

peak, AAUW Fremont had 350 members. She has enjoyed many interest groups and close friendships in our pioneering women's organization. Some groups she has been part of include: bridge, travel, book, gourmet food, arts groups, and Great Decisions (which she recently relaunched with Shari Whitaker).

Right away, it was clear to me that Joyce is a lifelong learner who is ready for new interests as she has evolved as a person.



Officially, she holds three degrees: a Bachelor's degree in Math and Physical Science and two Master's degrees: a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and a Master's Parapsychology (which she earned when her children were older). She has also studied electrical engineering and had started a Ph.D. program in theoretical mathematics. In her first job at Standard Oil, Joyce (who calls herself a problem solver) applied quantum physics to the development of greases and had to learn the programming language of Fortran and how to debug in it.

Additionally, Joyce shared that her real interest involved people, not being stuck programming in a cubicle. When she had the opportunity to go back to school, she was drawn to parapsychology - specifically the aspect of holistic healing and healing people physically, emotionally, spiritually. Joyce had always had an interest in the health of others and medicine. She became a licensed therapist, worked in a pain clinic, and opened a private practice that helped people manage and heal pain (including stress management); she utilized biofeedback and noninvasive electric brain stimulation.

Of importance, before embarking on parapsychology, Joyce spent introspective time even though women, usually caretakers of their families, don't often get this chance. She gave herself the time to meditate and learn about herself fully.

In her personal life, Joyce married Carl Ruiz, a nuclear chemist. She has two children, five grandkids, and four great grandkids. Joyce has visited 135+ countries. She is an avid swimmer who swims three days a week. Joyce learned gardening from her father, who grew award-winning chrysanthemums. Gardening has remained a passion and Joyce volunteers at Shinn Historical Park and Arboretum. She has also joined Urban Forest Friends, aiming to plant more trees.

Membership Dues Increasing; Renew Early

The membership dues for AAUW National have already risen by \$2. The membership dues for AAUW-CA will rise by \$10 on July 1. Therefore, the time to renew your membership is now,

Until July 1, your total dues are \$110: \$74 for AAUW National, \$20 for AAUW-CA, and \$16 for Fremont Branch.

You can renew your membership in one of several ways:

- Go online to AAUW National by clicking <u>here</u>. This is the recommended option.
- Go online to our own site by clicking **here**, look to the right-hand side of your browser, and scroll down to the PAY HERE button.
- Write a check and send it to Post Office Box 8254, Fremont, CA 94537-8254. This option is the most work for your membership treasurer and is not recommended.

If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Foster at jejenfo@yahoo.com.



A Beautiful Time Was Had by All at the Flower Workshop











<u>To advance gender equity for women and girls</u> <u>through research, education, and advocacy.</u>











Scholarship Surprise at Ohlone College

We outdid ourselves at handing out Ohlone College scholarships this year. Instead of handing out three scholarships worth \$5,500, we gave away five scholarships worth \$13,500.

"This year, we found ourselves moved by the stories and potential of three exceptional transfer students. Rather than choose just one, our scholarship committee boldly decided to fund them all," said Randy Fewel.

The \$13,500 that AAUW Fremont donated to Ohlone was the biggest donation awarded to the college this year and brings our total donations to Ohlone - since 1970 - to \$122,650.

The large donation to Ohlone won't slow us down.

"Every year when we give away Foundation funds, it greatly depletes our bank account," said Randy. "We always have to do fundraising for next year. That's the way it is and is meant to be."

Obituary:

Margaret Kingery

Margaret Kingery, our longest-serving AAUW Fremont Branch member, died April 5 in Moraga at the age of 95. Margaret joined AAUW in July 1952, nearly 73 years ago. She didn't, however, originally join the Fremont branch, since she was going

to school in Colorado at the time. Also, the Fremont Branch didn't come into existence until 1961.

She met and married her husband Pat while teaching high school in Colorado. They eventually moved to Oregon for Pat's graduate school studies and later to Newark, where Pat taught at the new Newark High School.



Margaret, along with Judy Wolf, was chosen to be the AAUW Named Gift

Honoree in 1985 for her outstanding service to the Fremont branch. In addition to her service to the branch, Margaret enjoyed the couples' bridge and travel special interest groups. "She was a very sweet lady," said Linda Pearson.

Margaret was also a founding member of the UF chapter of the PEO Sisterhood and was very active in the Irvington United Presbyterian Church.

Margaret and Pat, who died in 2020, are survived by four children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandson. A celebration of life for both Margaret and Pat will be held June 14th at 1 pm at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

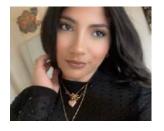
Donations may be made in Margaret's name to the California Cottey College Scholarship Fund, PEO Executive Office, 3700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312.



New Members:

Merna Morcos and Hadia Shahid

Merna Morcos



I joined AAUW because I believe in the importance of women supporting one another, especially in spaces where we are underrepresented. I'm a second-year chemistry major at Ohlone College with aspirations of becoming a neurologist. I'm passionate about science, leadership, and building a future where women, especially those in STEM, feel seen, heard, and empowered to lead.

What inspires me most about AAUW is its commitment to action. This isn't just a place where change is talked about—it's where women come together to make it happen. I'm excited to be part of a network of strong, driven women who are breaking barriers and lifting each other up.

As a proud Egyptian-American and first-generation college student, I carry with me the strength of my family, my faith, and my culture. I believe that every challenge is a chance to grow, and every connection is a chance to inspire. I'm looking forward to learning from this community, contributing where I can, and growing into the kind of leader I've always looked up to.

Looking forward to being part of this amazing group of women!

Hadía Shahid



I joined AAUW because I care about supporting women in education and leadership. As someone studying Business Administration, Economics, and Accounting at Ohlone College, I'm passionate about creating spaces where young women feel encouraged to grow, lead, and take up space confidently. I believe in the power of women coming together—with purpose, with heart, and with the courage to imagine more for themselves and each other. For me, it's not just about breaking barriers but also building bridges between generations, experiences, and dreams.

I'm drawn to spaces where bold ideas are born, where creativity meets action, and where voices that have been quieted are given the room to rise. I see AAUW as that kind of space—where we don't just talk about change, we live it.

I find inspiration everywhere—in conversations that shift perspectives, in stories that stay with you, and in the quiet resilience of people who keep going. I carry that energy into everything I do and am excited to grow, learn, and contribute alongside a community of women who are just as passionate about making an impact.

June 1, 2025





By Karen McCready

Fremont Art Association, 37697 Niles Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94536 (510) 792-0905 June 4, 2025, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM "Capturing Light in Soft Pastel"

Fremont Art Association is delighted to feature prolific painter Debbie Wardrope at its June virtual General Meeting and Art Demo. Painting has been a lifelong passion and endeavor for Wardrope. While soft pastel is her primary medium of choice, she also paints with oils and acrylics. Her conviction that art should be beautiful, accessible and elicit an emotional response compels Wardrope to paint the familiar and bring into focus some of what is missed in the pace of daily life. Her creations are marked by a strong sense of place and time and characterized by her masterful use of light and color.



Register in advance: fremontartassociation.org/monthlymeetinganddemo

Olive Hyde Art Guild, 123 Washington Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539 55th Annual Textile Exhibition

Exhibition Dates: Thursday, June 12–Saturday, August 2 (Gallery is open Thursday through Saturday from Noon to 5 to enjoy on your own.)

Opening Reception: Friday, June 20th (7–9 pm): Lovely setting, tasty food, friendly crowd, and a variety of textile art from local artists.

Triton Book Club: *Maus* by Art Spiegelman Triton Museum, 1505 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050 June 4, 2025, 9:30 - 10:30 am

In 1992, *Maus* (published serially from 1980 to 1991), a written/visual story of the Holocaust, as imagined in the lives of mice, electrified the literary world by winning a special Pulitzer Prize for Letters.

This supreme literary recognition marked the elevation of an art form combining the written word and illustration: the graphic novel. What was once the purview of popular, but low-brow comics, became a serious art form. Before long, other artists, combined

serious story-telling literature with illustrative images, such as Alan Moore's *Watchmen* (1986-1987), which would turn the superhero trope into a serious consideration of social values, to help establish what was now considered to be both popular and high art.

In this lecture, Triton Curator Vanessa Callanta will explore the works of literature influencing--and marrying—the image to create a unified literary/visual art genre.

NOTE: Call Karen McCready, 510-304-6844, about carpooling to a Triton event.

tı	nterest Group Meetings
Afternoon Lít	Afternoon Lit is taking the summer off. The next meeting will be September 16th.
Book Talk	Our next gathering will be June 30 at 3 pm at Marge Leonard's house as Joyce Ruiz leads a discussion of <i>Spoken Bones</i> , a mystery by N. C. Lewis.
Cultural Cuísíne	Cultural Cuisine will visit The Kebab Shop (TKS) at Paseo Padre Parkway and Walnut on Tuesday, June 17th, at 6:30 pm. This is the location where "The Counter" was. TKS also has a branch at Pacific Commons. Whether that location will remain open is still to be seen.
	Please RSVP to Judy Wolf at judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com or 510-657-5589.
Great Decisions	The topic is: Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil.
	We will look at where we are on emissions of greenhouse gases, the current state of global cooperation on climate change, geopolitical impediments to future progress, and how the U.S. can potentially contribute to international efforts going forward.
	The Great Decisions discussion group meets on June 25th at Suju's on Thornton Avenue 10 am- noon. For more information contact Shari Whitaker or Joyce Ruiz.



Yoga for Body and Spírít

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

Money, Money, Money:

Your Money and the Stock Market

By Judy Wolf

How much of your investments should be in stock?

Use the rule of 110.

Take the number 110 and subtract your age. The difference is the percent of your investment money that should be in stocks and/or mutual funds. The remaining percentage should be in bonds and liquid accounts.

So if I use the number 110 and subtract my age of 85, that number is 25. That means only 25% of my investment funds should be in the market.

Of course, this percentage depends on your own personal tolerance for the market-which is something you must decide.



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 June 6th 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 <u>aauwfremontbranch@gmail.com</u> and let us know your availability.
- Ice cream social for this year's Tech Trekkers will be June 1st at 3375 Country Dr., Fremont. Check <u>here</u> for more information.
- Installation of new officers will take place June 7th at the Rose Garden Restaurant in Union City. For more information, click <u>here</u>.
- Assemblyman Ro Khanna will hold a virtual town hall June 21st. Click <u>here</u> for the story.
- Starting July 1st, our dues to AAUW-CA increase by \$10, to \$30 per year. Click <u>here</u> to learn more.
- On **August 11th**, the Book Talk special interest group will meet at Carol Ramos' house to hear Avis Kresin lead a discussion of *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan.



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.

NOTARIZED NOTARILIS

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

Need a Notary?



