



July 2025

The Future Belongs to Us



Our Tech Trekkingers

(See page 8 to learn
about Behind the
Scenes at Tech Trek)

Our Scholarship Winners

(See page 10 to learn
more about Ohlone
Scholarship Winners)



Co-President's Message

It's a new (fiscal) year, and we are happy to welcome several new board members.



Filling the gaps in the co-presidency ranks are Shirley Gilbert and Syeda Inamdar. Shirley has been branch president before, way back in 2011. Syeda has never been AAUW president, but has been president of our frequent partner, the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City.

Maritza Nevarez is taking over the secretary role from Carolyn Hedgecock, who is stepping down after a long reign. Carolyn is moving on to be our parliamentarian, so she's not through with the board just yet.

Kimmi Tang has stepped up to help Judy Wolf as co-program chair. Kimmi formerly served the board as our treasurer.

Eileen Yap has agreed to serve as our Diversity chair, and Fahria Khan is our new STEM Chair.

Jennifer Foster

Co-President

Twig Highlights

To read a story, click on the link

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Public Policy:*Trivia Time!***By Jeanne Delp**

You never know when you might need to use the following information!

1. Why is 2025 a special year in the world?

2025 is a special year—not just because of world events or personal milestones, but mathematically! It's a perfect square: $45 \times 45 = 2025$. Perfect square years are rare, and given typical human lifespans, 2025 is likely the only one most people alive today will experience to prove they themselves are not square!

2. Which date is the 100th day of the year?

April 10 is the 100th day of the year (101st in leap years) in the Gregorian calendar; 265 days remain until the end of the year. Remember the 100th day celebrations in kindergartens celebrating the fact that 4-5-6 year olds had counted to 100? Fun times.

Google aauw-first 100-days-fact-sheet

3. Who are the elected Public Policy Directors at the State level?

A shoutout to Amy Hom and Melissa (Missy) Maceyko, co-chair directors reelected to serve for two more years. They keep us up to date on all things that apply to Public Policy at both National and State levels. A HUGE workload!

4. Are there new Public Priorities for 2025-2027?

NO, but, the wording of some items was changed to make the priorities more specific.

Priority 1. Economic Security for All Women no changes

Priority 2. Equal Access to Quality Public Education for all Students, including:

Vigorous enforcement of Title IX (New Wording: **provisions that protect against discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational progress or activities**).

(New Wording: **Increased support for and protection of STEM programs for girls and women**)

Opposition to (New Wording: **diversion**) of public funds to nonpublic elementary and secondary schools and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards.

Priority 3. Social and Racial Justice for ALL Members of Society, including:

Equal access to quality affordable housing, a healthy environment (New Wording: **and health care, including gender affirming care**)

Guarantee of civil and constitutional right for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures; (New Wording: **support for efforts to resist anti-immigrant policies which infringe on those rights, including protection of students from privacy violations and immigration raids on campus**).

Priority 4. Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles no Changes

Google AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities revised to view the full document

5. What is our Mission Statement?

If you have forgotten, practice right now: "AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy."

6. WELL DONE!

Membership Dues Increased: See New Cost

The membership dues for AAUW National rose by \$2 on April 1st, and the membership dues for AAUW-CA rose by \$10 on July 1st. Now, your total dues are \$120: \$74 for AAUW National, \$30 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 [here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the screen to log in and change your password (you have no choice about changing your password). When the next screen appears, scroll down to the RENEW button and follow the instructions. 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.

Did You Know?

Honorary 50-year Members do not pay national, state or local dues. If they want to donate their dues amount or make other donations, they should send a check to AAUW-CA, AAUW National, or AAUW Fremont Branch. Paid Life Members may continue to use the Community Hub or our portal to pay state and local dues, which total \$46.

Changemakers Opal Lee

Educator, Author, Presidential Medal of Freedom Awardee

Researched and Written in First-Person Narrative by Phie Dai

Did you and your family and friends enjoy a day off and do something good for your community on Juneteenth?

In 2016, when I was 89 years old, I walked more than 1,400 miles from Fort Worth, TX, to Washington, DC, to urge lawmakers to recognize June 19 as a federal holiday. I became known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth" when President Biden honored the Emancipation Proclamation by signing the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June 17, 2021!



Juneteenth holds a special place in my heart because, when I was 12, my home was vandalized and burned down by a mob of approximately 500 white neighbors on June 19, 1939. Although my parents never talked about this family trauma, I knew from a young age that I had to do something to help unite this country.

I have always loved learning and wanted to become a teacher to inspire children, so I earned a BA in Elementary Education from Wiley College, a historically Black college in Texas, and an MA in Counseling and Guidance from the University of North Texas. I raised four wonderful children and founded Unity Unlimited with one of my granddaughters in 1994. This nonprofit is committed to helping communities overcome racial and cultural divisions through education and grassroots activism.

When I retired from teaching, I devoted full time to community activism. I joined various community organizations and started an annual tradition of leading bus tours for political leaders through the impoverished neighborhoods of Fort Worth, pointing out what needed to be fixed and the landmarks important to these minority communities.

I have always believed that if people can be taught to hate, they can be taught to love. To promote this idea, I wrote a children's book titled *Juneteenth: A Children's Story*. I enjoy touring schools around the country to read my book aloud to students.

For my activism, I was voted Texan of the Year in 2021, nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022, and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2024. However, I don't want to slow down, I've got work to do. When God calls me, I don't plan to be in a rocking chair waiting for Him. There's too much to be done!

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.

Annual Installation Lunch Held

By Kathy Garfinkle

AAUW members and guests met on Saturday, June 7th, at the Rose Garden Restaurant in Union City for the Installation and Awards Luncheon. The restaurant was charming, the Chinese meal delicious and the mood was amiable and very cordial. Attendees heard from local women in politics and congratulated the Named Gift Honorees for their outstanding service to AAUW.



Enjoying themselves at the installation luncheon are (from left) Shirley Gilbert, incoming co-president; Jo Szeto, vice president and membership chair; Kimmi Tang, incoming co-program chair, and Kathy Garfinkle, Foundation president.

Guest speakers were Desrie Campbell, Fremont City Council member; Julie Del Catancio and Eve Marie Little, Newark City Council members; and Carol Dutra Vernaci, former mayor of Union City. They spoke about issues we can all relate to: homelessness, housing, health, and transportation. They also explained how they are working with our city leaders to address some of these issues.

Members welcomed Shirley Gilbert as our new co-president, Maritza Nevarez as our secretary, and Kimmi Tang as our co-program chair.

Kathy Garfinkle presented a proclamation from the Associated Students of Ohlone College recognizing AAUW for our contributions to the community. The proclamation stated: "AAUW is an example of the many volunteer organizations working in our community which significantly enhances the quality of life for all community residents." Kathy also presented the Past President pin to Jennifer Foster. Jennifer generously agreed to be co-president again next fiscal year.

The Named Gift Honorees are: (as stated by the Named Gift Chair Randy Fewel)

- **Jennifer Foster** for her leadership as co-president in 2024-25, editing the *Twig*, updating the AAUW website, and for volunteering on a State committee.
- **Jo Szeto** for her generosity to AAUW, including hosting the popular yoga classes with lunches included, new member lunches, and for donating and coordinating with Gene Wang the music for the holiday party and the Zoom meeting with Congressman Ro Khanna.
- **Judy Wolf** for a year's worth of outstanding AAUW events with speakers.
- **Linda Pearson** for her excellent work on producing the AAUW membership roster each year, for pitching in at a moment's notice, and for her generosity with the dozens of cookies, cakes, and cupcakes baked for AAUW events.
- **Carolyn Hedgecock** for her many years as branch secretary, her leadership as co-president in 2024-25, and her diligent work on the newly updated bylaws for the Fremont Branch.
- **Margery Leonard** for her forethought and leadership spearheading the One Book, One Community Read project.

Judy Wolf announced that Kathy Garfinkle is now a 50-year member of AAUW. Joyce Ruiz was our honorary attendee at the luncheon due to her 50+ years of membership and because she was one of the founding members of our Fremont Branch.

It was inspiring to hear from local women who are leaders in our community and to recognize and honor members of AAUW Fremont. Thank you to Judy Wolf for presenting an engaging program and an enjoyable afternoon.

Leadership Team

Board of Directors

Co-Presidents - **Jennifer Foster and Shirley Gilbert**
 Vice President - **Jo Szeto**
 Secretary - **Maritza Nevarez**
 Finance Officer - **Phie Dai**
 Program Chair - **Judy Wolf and Kimmi Tang**
 Membership Chair - **Jo Szeto**
 Membership Treasurer & AAUW Fund Chair - **Jennifer Foster**
 Public Policy Chair - **Jeanne Delp**
 Parliamentarian - **Carolyn Hedgecock**
 Diversity Chair - **Eileen Yap**
 STEM Chair - **Fahria Khan**

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**
 Great Decisions - **Joyce Ruiz**
 One Book, One Community Read - **Margery Leonard**

Behind the Scenes at Tech Trek

By Sowjanya Vutukur, Tech Trek chair

Another year of coordinating Tech Trek is winding down, with the camp being held July 13th-19th at UC Santa Cruz. Tech Trek is a week-long STEM camp organized by AAUW CA for girls who will be in eighth grade in the fall. This gives many young girls the opportunity to explore their interests and to understand if this is the path they want to pursue in high school and beyond. When AAUW member Randy Fewel asked me to help out with Tech Trek in 2023, I didn't realize that this program would win my heart.

Randy had all the contact information of the schools and teachers compiled and thoroughly organized. I only had to contact the teachers and ask them to nominate two students. I started this process around October of the new school year. One would think that teachers would be very forthcoming in nominating the students. Not really! I had to remind them multiple times before getting my nominations.



After the nominations were processed, the girls began writing an application with the help of the Tech Trek parents. As part of the application process, students have to write an essay and a short answer, all STEM-related, as well as list their academic achievements.

I had an amazing team of select AAUW members, who graciously offered their time to read essays and to brainstorm ideas about the rest of the selection process. Committee members were Clara Divino, Anusha Dube, Remy Parmar, Randy Fewel, Linda Pearson, Jo Szeto, Kathy Garfinkle, and AAUW Fremont Interns

Attending the ice cream social were (from left) Lama Ahmed, from Cesar Chavez Middle School; Shambhavee Tulpule, Centerville; Iris Chuang, Horner; Annette Winson, Itliong-Vera Cruz; and Arni Adusumilli, Walters. Yukti Dipesh Gorasia, Walters, was at the ice cream social but missed the picture taking. Unable to attend the event were Lydia (Zhixuan) Zhou, Cesar Chavez; Caitlyn Luu, Itliong-Vera Cruz, and Rakshana Srinivas, Horner.

Shanvi Gupta and Keertana Srinivasan.

Similar to the Ohlone College scholarship application process, we also used a holistic approach when scoring the applications. We didn't focus solely on the academic

achievements but the overall application and the passion that each student displayed through their writing. I also had to vigorously check each essay for any ChatGPT usage.

From there, we narrowed the pool to nine girls who qualified for the interview segment. This year, we organized three stations for the interviews: the interview committee, Tech Trek Alumni and interns, and AAUW members who would meet with the parents and explain our process to them. After the interviews were completed, members from all three stations compared notes to reach a collective decision.

This year, we are sending nine girls to the UC Santa Cruz Tech Trek Camp, our largest batch yet! While our initial quota was eight students, all nine who made it to the interview process left a lasting impression on the interview committees, who strongly believe that Tech Trek will help these girls further develop a voice and identity of their own. We cannot wait to see all that our girls will accomplish and their growth, both as Tech Trekkers and as brilliant, young minds.

A Growing Journey Through AAUW

By Shanvi Gupta

Hello reader!

First, I want to thank you for taking the time to read this column. It means so much to me.



Now let me start off by telling you a bit about myself! My name is Shanvi Gupta, and I'm currently a rising sophomore at John F. Kennedy High School and AAUW Fremont's STEM Intern.

I was first introduced to AAUW three years ago when I was nominated to attend Tech Trek — a weeklong summer camp for rising 8th-grade girls. That experience truly changed my life. First, because I had never been away from my family for more than a few hours, and second, because I became part of the most amazing group of people I've ever met.

The camp was truly an unforgettable experience — I got to experience college life six years early, learned so much more about biology, and ate some really yummy food!

At the time, I thought that was the end of my AAUW journey. But a year later, I found myself reaching out to Remy Parmar because I wanted to participate in AAUW's annual speech competition, Speech Trek. To my surprise, she offered me a yearlong STEM internship along with help for my speech.

For about eight whole months, Remy and Becky Denevan worked tirelessly to make my speech the best it could be. From helping me refine my message to listening to my endless drafts, Remy and Becky were truly my biggest supporters throughout the journey.

But the internship didn't stop at just speech coaching. Through AAUW, I got to attend a research presentation, go to incredible local events, and write a variety of articles on

topics I care deeply about. Somewhere along the way, I discovered that I loved writing — the kind of writing that inspired me to start this column.

Now, I've renewed my internship and am so incredibly honored to be part of this organization once again. This wonderful group of women has done so much for me — they've listened to my ideas, encouraged my passions, and helped bring so many of my goals to life. One of those goals was starting a financial literacy program for youth, and Randy Fewel has been working tirelessly with me to help get it approved and off the ground. I couldn't be more grateful.

I'm beyond excited for what's to come and can't wait to continue growing, learning, and giving back — thanks to the incredible support of AAUW. I hope that somewhere along the way of reading this column, you've gotten a glimpse of how empowering this organization truly is.

Ohlone Scholarship Winners



Holding their award certificates from Ohlone College are our three \$4,000 scholarship winners: Ishita Bhardwaj (from left), who will transfer to UC Berkeley in the fall; Hadia Shahid, transferring to San Jose State; and Neveah Heard, transferring to UC Davis. Students continuing at Ohlone are Suzanne Chen (front) and Merna Morcos. AAUW member Anusha Dube (far right) also received a scholarship, although not from AAUW.

Book Chosen by One Book, One Community Read

One Book, One Community Read is a Fremont Branch community project. Currently in its 17th year, this season's showcased book is *The Coming Wave* by Mustafa Suleyman. Planning team member Marge Leonard states, "Selections have included fiction, nonfiction and poetry. *The Coming Wave* is a nonfiction book that takes us into the brave new world of artificial intelligence." The official "launch" will be in October.

What Happened at the Ro Khanna Town Hall?

The virtual town hall with Congressman Ro Khanna on June 21st was canceled due to an unexpected crisis.

At 4:38 pm, Mr. Khanna's campaign manager informed us that the meeting, scheduled for 4:45 pm, would start approximately five minutes late, as the congressman was finishing a call with a federal committee. However, at 4:58 pm, the campaign manager called back to extend Mr. Khanna's apologies for canceling the town hall because the Republican administration had just announced the deployment of weapons of war targeting Iranian nuclear sites.

Although Mr. Khanna was absent, participants from the hosting branches--Alameda, Berkeley, Hayward-Castro Valley, Oakland-Piedmont, San Jose, and Sunnyvale-Cupertino--stayed until 6 pm to discuss the unfolding crisis.

"It was AAUW sisterhood at its best," said Phie Dai, one of the organizers of the event. "I am so grateful that we have our 144-year mission to anchor us during these tumultuous times."

Mr. Khanna is committed to rescheduling the town hall.

New Member:

Marguerite McInnes

I have attended several Universities, two were in foreign countries. I have degrees from: UCLA, CA State EB, and Stanford University (PhD.) Two of the universities were in foreign countries, the National University of Vienna and the State University of Mexico.

My doctorate is in linguistics and I have been fluent in six languages. My current language is Russian.

In addition to studying in Europe, I have also worked there and also in Mexico City. I have traveled to all European countries. In addition I have made five trips to Russia. Probably my most exotic trip started in Mongolia (loved it) and ended in Moscow. This was via the famous Trans Siberian Railroad. However, as long as Putin is in power, I will not return to Russia.

I love opera, ballet, classical music, museums and international travel, and giving presentations about Victorian clothes and the Civil War.

I look forward to meeting and making friends with many members of AAUW.



Exploring the Arts

By Karen McCready

Triton Book Club: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

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

July 2, 2025, 9:30 - 10:30 am



A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has delighted audiences for more than 400 years, humoring us with the impish Puck, the regal gods Tatiana and Oberon, and the buffoonish Rude Mechanicals, but as with all of Shakespeare's plays, the metaphors of the poetry belie the surface readings of the four intertwined tales. In this lecture, Museum Executive Director Preston Metcalf will show the folk art traditions underlying the words, and how they would be elevated from images of local traditions to art of Royal justification.

Triton Museum

Friday, July 25th, 2025, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Free*

Ages 21+

Ain't no party like a Y2K party. Yes, that is an S Club 7 reference. Let's throw it back about 20 years: back to the days of cheap gas and enough eggs on the market that kids ran around and threw them at each other's homes.

We're inviting you to a social event with nostalgia, artist demos, group/solo art stations, and more! Put on your old boy band tees, your low rise and baggy jeans, and come hang out! *Admission is free as well as snacks and light refreshments. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.



Be sure to sign up via Eventbrite: <https://>

www.tritonmuseum.org/events

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

Money, Money, Money:

Charitable Gift Annuities: Are They the Answer?

By Judy Wolf

Happy with a 4% CD? What if you could get about 6% to 7% on your money and benefit a charity of your choice such as your former college or university, the Salvation Army or your favorite cultural group like an opera or a symphony group?

Charitable Gift Annuities might be the way to go for you.

Here's an example to explain how it could work. Suppose you are about 70 years of age and you want to make a \$25,000 gift annuity contribution. You would choose what charity you would like to fund. You place the money with the charity and you immediately have a charitable deduction of between \$12,000 and \$14,000 to put on your schedule A when you prepare your taxes.

And it only gets better: you will get about 6% income on the whole \$25,000--that's about \$1500 a year, generally paid out quarterly at \$375. And it even gets better still--not all of that \$1500 is fully taxable until about more than 10 years down the line. And when the time comes and you are not here to continue receiving payments, the balance reverts to your named charity.

You can name a second person to receive the annual payments when you no longer receive them. This does change the interest rate and the charitable deduction you would receive.

It is something for you to think about. It is a win-win situation for you and a charity that you would like to support.

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 **July 11th at 10 am** at Jo Szeto's home on Thornton Avenue. 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
- Our virtual town hall with Congressman Ro Khanna was canceled. Click [here](#) for the story.
- Starting **July 1st**, our dues to AAUW-CA increased by \$10, to \$30 per year. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The official title for the One Book, One Community Read Project's 17th year will be *The Coming Wave* by Mustafa Suleyman. The launch date is tentatively planned for October.

Interest Group Meetings

Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit is taking the summer off. The next meeting will be September 16th.

Book Talk

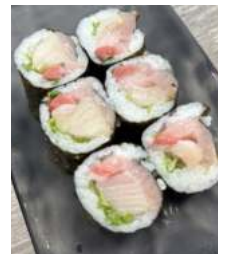
On August 11th, the Book Talk special interest group will meet at Carol Ramos' house to hear Avis Kresin lead a discussion of *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan.



Cultural Cuisine

On Tuesday, July 15th, Cultural Cuisine attendees can taste the very varied Japanese specialties at Kakuna Sushi, 43272 Grimmer Boulevard. This is just north of Auto Mall. We will meet at 6:30 pm.

RSVP to Judy at judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com



Great Decisions

The topic is: Current Events
What is going on locally, nationally, globally? What are your concerns?

The Great Decisions discussion group meets on July 23rd at Suju's on Thornton Avenue 10 am-noon. For more information contact Shari Whitaker or Joyce Ruiz.



Yoga for Body and Spirit

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.



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.

<div>  <h1>July 2025</h1> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 TRITON MUSEUM- A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM @ 9:30AM 	3 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY	5
6	7 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	8	9	10 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	11 BOARD MEETING @10AM AT Jo SZETO'S 	12
13 TECH TREK  TT CAMP CARSON AT UC SANTA CRUZ	14 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	15 CULTURAL CUISINE @ 6:30 PM AT KAKUNA SUSHI 	16	17 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	18	19
20	21 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	22	23  GREAT DECISIONS 10-12PM AT SUJU'S THORNTON AVE.	24 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	25  TRITON MUSEUM- NIGHT AT THE TRITON 6-9PM	26
27	28 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	29	30	31 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 		