



*August 2025*

*See the Co-President's  
Message for More  
Information on Tech Trek*



## Co-President's Message

If only we could be 14 years old again. From the opening of Tech Trek's Camp Carson in Santa Cruz with a speaker from Fleet Space Technologies (they build satellites) to the closing after a week of classes, think of how much benefit we could derive from immersing ourselves in all things STEM.



Instead, nine lucky rising eighth graders—Lama Ahmed, Shambhavee Tulpule, Iris Chuang, Annette Winson, Arne Adusumilli, Yukti Dipesh Gorasia, Lydia (Zhixuan) Zhou, Caitlyn Luu, and Rakshana Srinivas—derived the benefit. In addition to the STEM immersion, each received an appropriately themed quilt from the Pajaro Valley Quilt Association.

Each morning, campers engaged in one of four core classes, diving deeply into science, technology, engineering, and math. After lunch, a variety of hands-on STEM workshops provided opportunities to explore new interests and disciplines. Evenings included a professional night out, with a cross-section of women from the community who met with the girls to discuss their own educational and career pathways.

We can't be 14 again, but we can take pride that we're expanding the world for our Tech Trekkers with our donations and efforts. Eileen Yap and Clara Divino took it a step further by manning the check-in table on opening day at Camp Carson.

*Jennifer Foster*

*Co-President*

## Twig Highlights

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## **Public Policy:**

### *It all Begins With You*

**By Jeanne Delp**

QUESTION: What are AAUW's Public Principles, what are our Priorities, and why are these important to AAUW?

ANSWER: *The Public Policy Principles and Priorities underscore AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. They establish principles for action on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts. They guide the work of the AAUW's federal priorities and that of AAUW state organizations and branches on state and local issue advocacy efforts. Refer to [aauw.org/about strategic-plan-2025](https://aauw.org/about-strategic-plan-2025) for more insight.*

## **Our Mission**

AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls hinges on the foundational belief that economic empowerment is essential for gender equity. Supporting women in higher education is crucial to this mission because it serves as a key pathway to economic security and upward mobility.

### **We empower potential:**

**WE believe** that higher education is a key driver to achieving economic prosperity.

**WE believe** economies thrive when all women are empowered and educated.

**WE believe** in equitable access to higher education that is diverse and inclusive, and free of harassment and discrimination that could hinder the advancement of women.

**WE believe** women deserve the chance to pursue and thrive in any career they want.

**WE believe** working women deserve equitable access and advancement in their careers, free from harassment and discrimination, with equity of pay, greater access to quality & affordable dependent care, paid family, medical, & sick leave, and a full range of reproductive health care services, to ensure economic security.

**WE believe** in the dignity of all women – inclusive of the backgrounds they represent, including race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation, and geographic location – and value their equitable participation in education, the workforce, and policy decisions.

***Continued on next page***

## How do we achieve these priorities?

### WE Need Your HELP

Jeannette Rankin Foundation:

"Today as never before the Nation needs its women – needs the work of their hands and their hearts and their minds."

Margaret Mead:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."



**Fremont Inc. (CA) Branch**

*Leadership for Member Engagement*



# Changemakers Jane Austen

## Author and Cultural Icon

By Phie Dai

This year we celebrate the 250th birthday of Jane Austen and her enduring legacy. Two and a half centuries after her birth on December 16, 1775, she continues to be a beloved social influencer and cultural icon.

Janeites, or fans of Jane Austen, share videos on TikTok and Instagram dressed in empire-waist Regency-era gowns, role-playing their favorite characters. The book app Fable features many Jane Austen book clubs, and the Meetup app helps fans find events like Jane Austen-themed costume balls. X is developing a male AI companion and subscribers are recommending Mr. Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice* to be used to develop this chatbot. Netflix, PBS, and Sony Pictures all have released films this year inspired by her life and writings.

Austen, a writer favored by many 19th-century suffragists, continues to captivate our imagination today because of her keen understanding of the challenges that women face in finding their rightful place in a rapidly changing world. In her time, most women had very few legal rights and were denied access to higher education and professional careers, so Austen shone a light on gender inequity through her protagonists.

Since marriage was the only respectable way for women to secure financial stability, Austen's heroines defied the social norm to marry for money and aspired to find life partners who loved them and treated them as equals, even though the laws did not. This ideal is beautifully portrayed in the love matches between Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*, and Emma Woodhouse and Mr. Knightley in *Emma*.

Austen also tackled racial injustice that still resonates today. She named her third novel after William Murray, aka Lord Mansfield, the Chief Justice who freed an American slave in an English landmark court case. In *Mansfield Park*, social warrior Fanny Price questions her uncle's employment of slaves on his sugar plantation in Antigua and recites a poem by William Cowper, a true-life abolitionist who wrote about the horrors of the slave trade.

In her final work, *Persuasion*, Austen encourages readers to break free from societal expectations. The main character, Anne Eliot, ended an engagement with the man she loved because a well-meaning friend persuaded her that he is not worthy because he lacked wealth and social status. When he re-enters her life eight years later as a successful naval officer, she boldly pursues her second chance at love and reflects on how societal expectations can undermine a woman's self-esteem and confidence in her judgment.

I look forward to celebrating Jane Austen's literary genius and timeless appeal, and hope to be inspired by her novels, written more than two hundred years ago, for my personal growth.



## 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.*

### *July Report From Your Board*

#### **Co-president's Report:**

- New board members introduced were Diversity Chair Eileen Yap, Co-Program Chair Kimmi Tang, and Secretary Maritza Nevarez.
- Syeda Inamdar will be the reigning co-president in September.
- This is the last year that Linda Pearson will update the roster. We need to find Linda's replacement, preferably someone who uses Word.

#### **Finance:**

- The FY25 end of year financial report was presented, with a projection of FY26 expenses. The board achieved a surplus in FY25 from careful budgeting and an increase in donations.

#### **Program:**

- The speaker for this year's One Book One Community Read Project will receive \$150.
- The Fall Brunch on September 13th will be held at Niles Discovery Church.
- The AAUW Fremont Branch brochure is now available in Spanish, thanks to Maritza Nevarez and Maria Elena Gomez.

#### **Leadership Team**

##### **Board of Directors**

Co-Presidents - **Jennifer Foster and Syeda Inamdar**  
 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**  
 Yoga for Body and Spirit - **Jo Szeto**

##### **AAUW Diversity Statement**

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of age, disability, gender, location, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

**Membership Treasurer:**

- A 50-year (Honorary) member donated her dues--\$120--to the branch for club operating expenses.
- 23 members are in a grace period after their memberships expired in June.

**STEM:** We applied to Lawrence Livermore Lab for a grant to revive Discovery Day.

**Bylaws:** The branch bylaws have a few additions that can be incorporated in the spring. The Foundation bylaws need to be reviewed every three years. They were last reviewed in 2019.

**Foundation:** Additional fundraising efforts are needed to give scholarships to Ohlone College students and to our Tech Trek girls.

**Diversity:** Eileen Yap proposed a "DEI Deconstructed" column for the Twig.

## *Membership Dues: Don't Forget to Renew*

For all of you whose memberships began on July 1 and ended on June 30, it's past time to renew. Soon, National will stop sending you notices and your branch membership treasurer will start in with the emails and phone calls.

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.

**Note that if you joined AAUW through the Shape the Future program, you have no account and must use the Don't Have an Account link at the bottom of the screen.**

- 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 (to AAUW Fremont Branch) 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](mailto:jejenfo@yahoo.com).

## *Put this Date in Your Calendar*

The Fall Brunch will be Saturday morning, September 13th, at Niles Discovery Church. Put this date on your calendar. More information will be in the September *Twig*.

## *"The Coming Wave" to Be Presented October 7th*

In this, the 17th year of the One Book, One Community Read project, the focal selection is *The Coming Wave* by Mustafa Suleyman, a book about artificial intelligence and "the 21st Century's greatest dilemma."

The book will be introduced at the initial program October 7th at 6 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library (2400 Stevenson, Fremont.) Angel G. Fuentes, dean of business and workforce development at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, will present the book.

## *Exploring the Arts*

By Karen McCready

**Wednesday, August 6th, 9:30, at the Triton Museum of Art:**

### **Homer's *Odyssey*: A Journey for Each of Us**

"It is the epic story of one man's journey home, and it would influence art and artists for millennia to come. Please join Triton Executive Director Preston Metcalf as he follows Odysseus from the fall of Troy to his eventual reunion with his wife Penelope, as we look at the tremendous influence Homer's poem had on Greek, Neoclassical, and even contemporary art. It is a journey worth taking!"

The subtitle, "A Journey for Each of Us," resonates for me because I taught "the heroic journey" for many years as an adjunct to the ninth-grade condensed version of *The Odyssey*. In a PBS series many years ago, Joseph Campbell, in interviews with Bill Moyers, discussed books he had written about this classic journey. Those programs took place in George Lucas's Skywalker mansion in Marin County because Campbell's writings inspired Lucas to create the *Star Wars* series. This "journey" has been the plot format for countless books and movies about humans dealing with challenges and misfortunes, falling into the abyss and somehow coming out on the other side.

**Saturday, August 31st, 2 pm-5 pm, San Francisco Playhouse, 450 Post St., San Francisco, near Union Square:**

***My Fair Lady*; \$52 for senior balcony seats (\$63 for adults).**

Four of us will take BART from Union City, departing about 12:13, to get off at Powell and walk a few blocks up to the theater. A few balcony seats may be available and others at a higher price. [sfplayhouse.org](http://sfplayhouse.org)



**As always, call Karen McCready, 510-304-6844, if you need a ride or need help getting tickets.**



**Anusha's Corner:**

## *Significance of Women's Equality 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.*

I heard of Women's Equality Day, but I had never known the background and history behind it. I soon learned that Women's Equality Day, celebrated on August 26th, commemorates the adoption of the 19th Amendment in 1920, a constitutional amendment that granted American women the right to vote.

### **DEI Deconstructed**

#### *Unpacking "Diversity" and "Inclusion"*

**By Eileen Yap**

Diversity | Equity | Inclusion

Diversity means:

1 : the condition of having or being composed of differing elements : variety especially : the inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization programs intended to promote diversity in schools

2 : an instance of being composed of differing elements or qualities : an instance of being diverse : a diversity of opinion

Inclusion means:

1 : the act of including : the state of being included

2 : the act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (as because of their race, gender, sexuality or ability)

**Diversity is expansive.** It broadens understanding. Creates empathy. Recognizes what makes each of us different, unique, and valuable. **Truly diverse spaces must be inclusive.** Where all feel welcomed, appreciated, and respected.

*"Diversity is being invited to the party, and inclusion is being asked to dance."* – Verna Myers, Diversity Advocate

Watch a video on the [Origins of DEI](#). Learn more about [Dimensions of Diversity & Identity](#), [Diversity vs. Inclusion](#), and [Inclusion vs. Belonging](#).

Over a century later, women have made remarkable strides in various fields, including business, science, politics, and education. From being denied fundamental rights, we are now leading businesses, achieving Nobel Prizes, and enacting laws. This day is a celebration of resilience, development, and continuous empowerment.

August 26th is an opportunity to reflect on how far we've come and to feel energized about where we're headed. It reminds us that equality is not just about right. It's about opportunity, voice, and confidence. On Women's Equality Day, we honor those who have gone before us and those who continue to forge ahead.

Alice Paul stands out among the notable individuals I studied in school and through some of my research. She is renowned for her inspirational role in the 19th Amendment's adoption, which included planning protests and parades and even spending time in prison for the cause. Alice famously said, "I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction."

Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me *there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.*"

Like Alice Paul, we can all continue to make an impact. Whether it be through simply mentoring someone on the issues women face, speaking up for those that are being oppressed, or supporting women-led projects or businesses, an impact is being made. Women's Equality Day is a reminder that progress is powerful, and so are we.

### **Money, Money, Money:**

## *Can You Trust Your Trust?*

**By Judy Wolf**

Many of us go through the laborious task of establishing a trust for our beneficiaries. A list of assets is made about what should be in the trust.

That's great! However, you must go and It is a bit time consuming and sometimes we don't get all the items on the list renamed. This can present problems when you are no longer around.

You should update your trust assets at least once a year. Add new assets and eliminate those that are no longer part of your trust. When you acquire new assets, remember to put them in the name of the trust if that is where you want them to be.

Happy Paperwork.

### **Shanvi's Curbside Chats:**

## *Interview With TCV Food Bank*

**By Shanvi Gupta, student intern**

Hi everyone! Thank you so much for coming back and taking the time to read my column again! I really do appreciate it. This summer, I had the opportunity to interview Linda Leu, executive director of the TCV Food Bank in Fremont, and below is my interview with her. The actual interview was 10 minutes long and this is just a snippet, but if you would like to listen to the full thing, here is the link:

[https://mcdn.podbean.com/mf/web/fn46hxy3nbu2kz8a/IMG\\_1575.mp3](https://mcdn.podbean.com/mf/web/fn46hxy3nbu2kz8a/IMG_1575.mp3)

**Shanvi:** What drew you to this work-- the food bank specifically?

**Linda:** I love food. I grew up in a family in which the way that we show each other that we care is through food. And so, I have always been the person in my friends and family where I'm always handing out food. To me, one of the worst things I can imagine is just not having access to food. So than's why I'm super passionate about working in food banks.

**Shanvi:** Yes, I completely agree! It's the exact same with my family. Moving on, does the food bank take any sort of food donations?

**Linda:** We do, yes, we take all kinds of things, especially on holidays, but also year-round too. The only restriction right now is citrus that's grown in peoples' yards because of a fruit fly quarantine, but we can take anything store bought.

**Shanvi:** So absolutely no citrus right now! Is there any donation that you recall that was your most memorable?

**Linda:** Honestly, we get so many different types of donations from community members, and they're all such surprises, but we do have this one person who shows up out of the blue every few weeks and goes to the store and buys a car full of fresh bread that JUST came from the store, which I think is very, very kind.

Also, I started working here right before October, around Thanksgiving season, and I remember this couple just driving up before the season and they told us they were very worried about seniors not having Thanksgiving. So they filled up their truck with every Thanksgiving food you could imagine and they were so thoughtful about it because they put everything in single serving packages and gave it to seniors living in assisted care.

**Shanvi:** That is just so thoughtful. It must have made everyone's day. Anyway, thank you so much for making the time to talk to me, Linda, and I learned so much today!

*Editor's Note: if you would like more information about the TCV Food Bank, you can reach them at TCV Food Bank, 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont, (510) 598-4066, [volunteer@tcvfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteer@tcvfoodbank.org).*

## *Important Dates*

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

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

- The board of directors meets on **August 8th 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](mailto:aauwfremontbranch@gmail.com) and let us know your availability.
- Our annual Fall Brunch will be held September 13th at Niles Discovery Church.
- 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 October 7th at the Fremont Main Library. Click [here](#) to read the story.

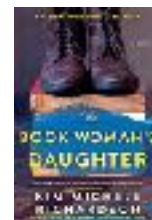
## Interest Group Meetings

### Afternoon Lit

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

### Book Talk

*The Book Woman's Daughter*, by Kim Michele Richardson, will be discussed on September 22nd at the home of Becky Denevan. Coincidentally, the 22nd is Carol Ramos' birthday, and the 23rd is the birthday of both Tim Cannard and Marge Leonard.



### Cultural Cuisine

Have you ever eaten at a Michelin star restaurant? Well, now you have a chance.

Los Carnalitos Restaurant has received a Bib Gourmand star from Michelin. This eating establishment features Mexican-style food from Mexico City. It is a bit different from selections from other Mexican restaurants.

The group will be going to Los Carnalitos on Tuesday, August 19th, at 6:30 pm. The location is 30200 Industrial Parkway in South Hayward, just off Whipple Road near 880. It is in the shopping strip near Target. I suggest we carpool.

RSVP to Judy at [judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com](mailto: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 August 27th 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.