



September 2025

A decorative border featuring clusters of orange berries and yellow-orange autumn leaves, framing the central text area.The AAUW Fremont Inc. (CA) Branch logo, featuring the letters 'AAUW' in blue and a red stylized 'W' with a white mountain shape inside, with the text 'Fremont Inc. (CA) Branch' below it.

**2025 FALL BRUNCH AND
GENERAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 13
9:30-11:30AM**

**NILES DISCOVERY CHURCH
36600 NILES BOULEVARD, FREMONT**

**Come Meet Our 2025 Ohlone Scholars and
Tech Trekkers!**

\$10 PER PERSON
PAY BY ZELLE: BIGBADWOLFIE@JUNO.COM, OR 510-468-2002

RSVP TO JUDY WOLF BY SEPTEMBER 6 @
JUDYJUDYJUDY1940@GMAIL.COM OR 510-657-5589

A simple illustration of an orange pumpkin with a green stem and a small leaf, positioned at the bottom center of the flyer.

See the story on page 4

Co-President's Message



You know it's officially fall when you see the Fall Brunch and General Meeting featured on the front page of the *Twig*. This year, our Fall Brunch will be on September 13th at Niles Discovery Church. The Fall Brunch is all about us: What we've done in the past year, what we plan to do in the next year, and enjoying old friends and new, including our five Ohlone College scholars and our nine Tech Trekkers. We will learn a bit about our finances, too, in the business part of the meeting

Get there early to check out the special interest groups and maybe come up with your own special interest group: gardening, quilting, genealogy? I'll bet you can find several people who share your interests.

Jennifer Foster
Co-President

Twig Highlights

To read a story, click on the link

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Public Policy:*Why AAUW and Public Policy Matter*

By Jeanne Delp

Persistent barriers within our country continue to hold women and girls back. AAUW works to remove those barriers through our Public Policy Priorities, which are member-driven and approved. These four priorities are the guidelines that inform, promote, enhance, and ensure security, justice, access, and representation for women and girls.

PRIORITY: Economic Security for ALL WOMEN including: equity in the work-place, enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes, security in retirement, job training for career development and work-life balance.

PRIORITY: SOCIAL and RACIAL JUSTICE for ALL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY including: self-determination in healthcare decisions. Equal access to affordable healthcare and housing. Equal access to gender affirming care. Civil and voting rights protections. Protections for historically marginalized groups, and efforts to resist anti-immigrant policies.

PRIORITY: EQUAL ACCESS to QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION for ALL STUDENTS including: Title IX enforcement, adequate and equitable funding for public education. Historically accurate curricula. Civics instruction in all CA high schools, Equitable access to STEM programs. Funding to support strong infrastructure.

PRIORITY: INCREASED REPRESENTATION of WOMEN in LEADERSHIP ROLES including: Proportional appointment to publicly held boards. Leadership skills training. Programs that promote participation in public service.

THIS IS WHY AAUW AND PUBLIC POLICY MATTER!

You can show your support by your attendance at programs, your donations, and especially, by VOLUNTEERING to HELP!



Fremont Inc. (CA) Branch

Leadership for Member Engagement

Changemakers...

... Will be back next month

Fall Brunch Is Just Around the Corner

By Program Chair Judy Wolf

Our annual Fall Brunch and general meeting will be on Saturday, September 13th, from 9:30 to 11:30 am. We will have a presentation from this year's Tech Trek girls and a chance to meet our Ohlone Scholarship recipients. There will be opportunity to sign up for sections that are of interest to you.

Help

Yes, we do need help.

- The food list will be sent out again. We especially need protein items as well as bread. Remember you will be reimbursed for supplies you purchased, so keep your receipts for reimbursement purposes.
- We will have a chopping party, Friday, September 12th, from 1-3 pm at Judy's home.
- We need set up help on Friday evening, 6 to 8 pm and Saturday morning at 9 am.
- We need a cleanup crew after the brunch so we can leave Niles Discovery Church in pristine condition.

RSVP

There will be a \$10.00 fee for the brunch payable via ZELLE to Judith Wolf at **bigbadwolfie@juno.com** or 510-468-2002. If you prefer to pay by check, it must be received by Saturday, September 6th. Checks should be payable to AAUW Fremont and mailed to Judy's home.

So come and mingle with your AAUW community!

LWV to Host Program on Income Inequality

"The Plague of Income Inequality" will be the topic of a program by the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City on September 6th. The free program will be from 10-11:30 am at Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd, Fremont.

Dr. Anji Buckner-Capone, an associate professor of public health at San Jose State University, will present research on the extreme disparities in our communities and the recently published 6th Annual Silicon Valley Pain Index. This publication details the expansive personal and community distress negatively impacting quality of life among residents. It is designed to equip advocates with data and inspire ACTION among those who want to be part of the change.

For more information, go to <https://www.lwvfnuc.org>

Help Us Reach \$6,000! AAUW Matching Grant Challenge

Double Your Impact Today!

We have an EXCITING opportunity to double your tax-deductible donation for local scholarships, thanks to a generous grant! Every dollar you give by the Fall Brunch (September 13th), up to \$6,000, will be matched, doubling the power of your gift!

Write a check to the Foundation for Local Scholarships to complete your donation, and mail it to Post Office Box 8254, Fremont, CA 94537-8254, or bring it to the Fall Brunch.

Be sure to attend the Fall Brunch to meet our Tech Trekkers in person.



Your donation helps us:



Send **deserving scholars to Ohlone College**



Provide **life-changing summer camp experiences** for rising 8th grade girls, inspiring their interest in STEM and leadership

Help us fill our **thermometer** and watch the power of community in action!

Every contribution gets us closer to our goal — and closer to building a stronger future for the next generation of women leaders.

"The Coming Wave" to Be Presented October 7th

By Marge Leonard

Throughout human history, we have always adapted to technological change as it becomes more available, more efficient, and cheaper because it makes our lives easier. (Consider the transition from fire, to candle, to light bulb.)

In *The Coming Wave*, author Mustafa Suleyman cites artificial intelligence as the technological wave of the 21st century. Already in use as a powerful additive in improving our lives, our challenge is to maintain the positive power of artificial intelligence while containing its potential nefarious applications.

The Coming Wave is the focus of One Book, One Community Read Project for 2025-2026.

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.

AAUW Fremont Achieves Five Stars Again

For the second year in a row, AAUW Fremont received five stars in AAUW National's Five-Star Program. The AAUW Five-Star Program is designed to help branches align with AAUW's strategic priorities and advance the mission of achieving gender equity for women and girls

Tremayne Parquet, deputy director of advancement, said: "This distinction reflects exemplary leadership and impact across **Advancement, Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations**. Your branch has set a powerful example of mission-aligned, sustainable work that strengthens your community and AAUW nationwide. Thank you for your dedication."

August Report From Your Board

July Action Items:

- After a lengthy discussion regarding Intern Shanvi Gupta's book box and financial literacy projects, the board approved the financial literacy project, aligning it with the start of the school year. They also approved the Once Upon a Book Box project to be part of the end-of-the-year financial literacy program.
- A new color printer was purchased on sale to bring the cost of color printing down to a reasonable level.
- Judy researched charitable gift annuities by contacting Silicon Valley Community Foundation. She learned that the amount of donor's contribution must be at least \$25,000 cash or stock. This financial vehicle could work well for older members because the money would be received by the charity at death. Younger members considering this vehicle could give income generated by their annuity to the Foundation to fund scholarships consistently.

Finance: The FY25 end of year financial report was audited and passed by Judy.

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.

Program:

- The Fall Brunch on September 13th will be held at Niles Discovery Church from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Menu will be salad, French bread, garlic bread, and cookies.

DEI Deconstructed

Diversity | Equity | Inclusion

Unpacking "Equity" and "Equality"

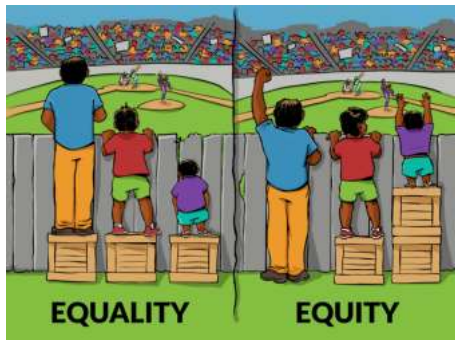
By Eileen Yap

Equity: fairness or justice in the way people are treated : freedom from disparities : something that is equitable

Equality: the quality or state of being equal

What's the difference? **Equality** is a "one-size-fits-all" approach. It assumes each of us has the same advantages and disadvantages. And it divides resources and opportunities so that all receive the same. **Equity** rejects a "one-size-fits-all" approach. It recognizes that we differ. And it tailors resources and opportunities based on circumstance and need so that each of us can succeed.

Equality vs. Equity by [Angus Maguire](#):



Watch this [3 minute video](#). Learn more about [Equity vs. Equality](#) at [work](#), in [schools](#), and in [public health](#).

"Equality is giving everyone a shoe. Equity is giving everyone a shoe that fits." - Naheed Dosani

•The One Book One Community Read Project will be held October 7, from 6 pm to 7:45 pm, at the Main Library on Stevenson Blvd.

•The holiday party is planned for Sunday, December 7th, from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Membership Treasurer: 13 members are in a grace period after their memberships expired in June. Jo and Jennifer will call them.

Foundation: A matching-gift fundraiser will conclude at the Fall Brunch. Two members are contributing \$6,000 in matching funds to the campaign.

Diversity:

- Eileen proposed a DEI Page for our website.
- A statewide book club, based on the book *The Four Pivots*, will get underway in September. The club will be headed by Charmen Goehring, AAUW-CA state president.

Exploring the Arts

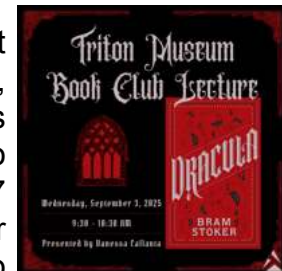
By Karen McCready

September 3, 2025, 9:30 am-10:30 am
Triton Book Club, 1505 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dracula by Bram Stoker

We all know the suave count from countless movies, images, and ubiquitous Halloween costumes, but do we really know how the 1897 novel by Bram Stoker influenced and gave rise to themes of horror in art?

Please join Triton Curator Victoria Callanta as she shows us how German Expressionism and other art movements of the 20th century turned towards the macabre... if you dare!



September 3, 2025, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Fremont Art Association Gallery, 37697 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536

Exploring the Traditional Indian Art Form of Kalamkari

Hetal Anjaria is a mixed media and Indian folk artist. In her demo, “Exploring the Traditional Indian Art Form of Kalamkari,” Anjaria will showcase elaborate Kalamkari painting techniques and reveal her own interpretations and adaptations of this ancient craft with contemporary designs.

Anjaria was born and raised in Mumbai, India. She holds a bachelor’s degree in textile design. Since her move to the United States, Anjaria has broadened her range of creative experiences and skills and has become a One Stroke certified instructor. Today her artwork encompasses a variety of media including color pencil, watercolor, acrylic, oil, ink, and natural dyes. Most recently Anjaria has turned her attention to traditional Indian art with enthusiasm and a commitment to promoting its appreciation and preservation and delighting in its intricate motifs, natural aesthetics, mythical and spiritual themes, and cultural significance.

Money, Money, Money:

RMDs and Charity

By Judy Wolf

Want to lower your tax bill and give to donate to charity?

If you are over the ripe old age of 72, you must take a distribution from your traditional IRA or 403B. This is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Rather than having your distribution come directly to you and having to pay taxes on this distribution and then giving to charity with your after-tax dollars, you can give to charity directly from your IRA or 403B.

What are the advantages? The money from your RMD to charity would be considered part of your RMD for that year. Because the money does not come to you but to the charity, it does not become part of your taxable income. And because it is not part of your taxable income, it may keep your Medicare premium lower.

Also, if you itemize on your taxes, certain items such as medical expenses, which only allow amounts of more than 7.5% of your adjustable gross income (AGI), can be greater because your income is lower.

Check this out with your tax consultant.

Wolf Eats Crow

I mentioned in a previous article that if you funded a charitable gift annuity, the charity would get an immediate gift. I was wrong. The charity does not get a gift from the charitable gift annuity source until you pass away. What goes on the 1099R you receive is the amount you can put on your schedule A as a charitable donation—not an immediate amount to the charity.

Do I still think charitable gift annuities are a good thing? You bet I do! My money flows to the bank every quarter.

Shanvi's Curbside Chats:*Interview With Senator Wahab Representative*

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, and I hope you enjoyed reading about my interview with Linda Leu of the TCV Food Bank! During July, I also had the pleasure of interviewing Barbara Ledesma Rhinehalt, a district representative for Dr. Aisha Wahab, state senator. 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/3rqd6smzx4qbnmth/IMG_3561.mp3

Shanvi: You said that district representatives have the opportunity to really focus on one thing. Is that a requirement for everyone as a district representative, or could you just choose to be general?

Barbara: It's not a requirement. It works well for a team because we end up with natural trade-offs, but if someone really wants to be broad, our team is also receptive to that. I've been with the team for over a year now, so my first six months were "I want to look at everything and find my niche through a little bit of work."

Shanvi: What exactly led you to join public services, and specifically Senator Wahab's team?

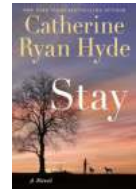
Barbara: In undergraduate studies, I studied political science and urban city planning, and my intention was to work in public service much more at the bureaucratic level; I wanted to work in the city and planning department. That ended up not being as fulfilling to me, because I'm a very outgoing person, so I was very fortunate to be able to work in the transportation center in a public-facing capacity. In the general public service aspect, my family was very involved in public service, and I grew up in a very small area so it was very easy to get connected and engaged. When I was choosing my major, I was reflecting on everything I had done in high school, and I saw what I was doing was very similar to what I would want city/government people to be doing. Those experiences led to me being open to work in a government office, and for Senator Wahab's office particularly. (At the time) The office was running a significant transportation bill and so I was able to speak to that bill and give a little more support towards that.

Shanvi: Ahh, okay! Well, thank you so much for answering my questions, this was very inspiring and I really appreciate it!

Interest Group Meetings

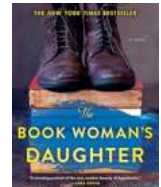
Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet September 16 at 2 pm to review *Stay* by Catherine Ryan Hyde at the home of Holly Walter. She will be the reviewer.



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

This month Cultural Cuisine will meet on Wednesday, September 24th, at 6:30 pm.

Please note that this is a week later than usual and a different evening.

We will be going to the Din Ding Dumpling House at 3768 -J on Capital Blvd. It is near Banter Bookshop.

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



Great Decisions

What interests and values should motivate U.S. policy in the Middle East, and what policies might address those interests and values? Why are we there?

Great Decisions will discuss: American Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead. Meeting is September 24 at Suju's on Thornton 10 - 12 pm

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.



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 **September 10th** over zoom.
- Our annual Fall Brunch will be held September 13th at Niles Discovery Church. Click [here](#) to read the story.
- 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.
- Our second annual Death by Chocolate Bingo Fundraiser will be November 1st.
- Our annual holiday party is planned for December 7th. Details to follow.

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.