



*November 2025*



**Annual Holiday Party**

**December 7, 2025**  
**2:30pm - 4:30pm**

**Artist Walk Community Room**  
**3888 Artist Walk Common, Fremont**

Bring finger foods to share or pay \$10 by Zelle to  
Judy Wolf @ [bigbadwolfie@juno.com](mailto:bigbadwolfie@juno.com) or 510-468-2002

RSVP by 11/28 to Kimmi Tang  
@ [ktbusiness123@gmail.com](mailto:ktbusiness123@gmail.com) or 510-585-5384

Bring a present (\$10 minimum) to  
participate in White Elephant  
Gift Exchange!





The people responsible for the successful One Book One Community Read (OBOCR) Project meeting in October were, from left Tejal Naik and Presenter and Dean of Business and Workforce Development Angel Fuentes, both from Evergreen College in San Jose; AAUW members Jeanne Delp, OBOCR Chair Marge Leonard, Jo Szeto and Carolyn Hedgecock; Nasreen Rahim, from Evergreen College, and AAUW Fremont Branch Co-President Syeda Inamdar.

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## Co-President's Message

Hello!



I am Syeda Reshma Inamdar and I have been a member of AAUW for many years. This is my first time serving on the Branch Board as your co-President along with Jennifer Foster. I was recruited by the inimitable Jo Szeto who makes sure no one says no. I now have the privilege of seeing up close all the hard work by a dedicated group of people, putting in countless hours, to ensure that our Branch and Foundation are such wonderful community assets.

I enjoyed attending the Fall Brunch in September and was really impressed with the student awardees. I also attending The One Book, One Community Read (OBOCR) event at the Fremont Main Library. This event was very well attended and discussed the implosion of Artificial Intelligence in our lives. The Professors from Evergreen Valley College did a fabulous job of introducing ways in which AI could be useful for various tasks. Do you want to plan a vacation? AI can help. Do you want to information on a particular issue? AI can help.

We also discussed the downside and potential negative impact of uncontrolled AI implemented without guardrails. The most important take-away for me was to never blindly trust what was being "produced" by the AI chat box and to make sure that I review its sources. We ought to be especially mindful of how our youth are implementing this into their day to day lives. There are also serious privacy/security concerns as well as AI's impact on the labor force. Mustafa Suleyman's book *The Coming Wave* (chosen as the 2025 title for the OBOCR Project) is a fantastic read if you want to know both the upside and downside to AI, especially as it enters all aspects of our existence. I highly recommend it.

This weekend I attended my very first "Death by Chocolate Bingo" event! I was a little concerned about the "Death" part of that title, but since I am a confirmed "*dessertarian*" I was-willing to risk it. I was very happy that I took that leap and attended. The event was very well organized, the attendance was "full house" and I was thrilled to win 3 out of the 9 bingo games!

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming December Holiday Party.

Wishing all of you a very blessed Thanksgiving celebration!

In community,

*Co-President Syeda R Inamdar*

# *Public Policy*

## *ISSUES WE CARE ABOUT*

**By Jeanne Delp**

*" BEST Musical. 6 Tony Award Nominations NOW on Broadway!"*

"THE PERFECT SHOW FOR WHERE WE ARE NOW."

And now playing in San Francisco!

**'SUFFS'**

**"Invites us to take up activist torch"**

**..."'SUFFS'". . .(or Suffragettes) is about the fight for women's right to vote." - San Francisco Chronicle Datebook, October 19-25, 2025**

Sounds somewhat like AAUW, doesn't it? We, too, stand, rally, and speak for WOMEN's RIGHTS, and oh, so much more! The list of our concerns is all encompassing and a quick read of the following list will help you understand the importance of AAUW's Public Policies. These issues might affect you, your daughters and granddaughters, and ultimately, the communities and world in which we will live.

Economic Security, Human Trafficking, Reproductive Health, Social Justice Reform, Student Debt, Title IX, Voter Education, Student Access to Diverse Materials, and Equal Rights Amendment

More information on each of these concerns can be found [HERE](#).

Investigate the CA State website to find the latest thinking and action taken by AAUW in response to the above issues and how they each fit into our AAUW priorities.

This year the action emphasis is on education - specifically, all levels of public education. Schools of all levels are where students learn about the world beyond their home. Diverse materials introduce cultures and customs, teamwork and civic responsibility. Economic growth and Security follow when students are prepared for today's challenging and changing workplaces.

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." - Maya Angelou

## *Changemakers* *Patti Maes*

### **Artificial Intelligence Scientist**

Researched and Written in First-Person Narrative by Phie Dai



I'm flattered whenever I'm told that I laid the groundwork for social media when Mark Zuckerberg was still in kindergarten. However, I always tell people that I played with Barbie and Legos when I was growing up, and not taking apart computers or building robots.

My parents were healthcare professionals, so I didn't have any exposure to computers at home. I only chose this field of study when I was an undergrad at the Free University of Belgium because I wanted to have a job after graduation. My true academic interests were biology and architecture.

I came to love computer science after taking a class in artificial intelligence. I enjoyed how machine language was modeling human intelligence back in the day. After earning my PhD in Artificial Intelligence, I moved to the US to do postdoc work at MIT. It was incredibly intimidating because I was the only woman in a group of forty scientists working at the MIT AI Lab!

My interest has always been in learning how technology can help people make better decisions and find like-minded people who share the same hobbies. Long before search engines like Google were developed, I created a software to collect and share social information. For example, if you email me a list of books or music you like, my software will email you back a list of similar titles or albums you should try.

I decided to expand on this idea and created Firefly. It was a social platform to connect people with similar interests and backgrounds. I'm proud to say that a lot of marriages resulted from Firefly! Licensing deals with Barnes & Noble, Yahoo, and Rolling Stone followed. Time and Newsweek magazines included me on their "Most Influential Cyber Elites" lists. People Magazine even named me as one of "50 Most Beautiful People" in 1997, a first for a MIT computer scientist!

After I sold Firefly to Microsoft in 1998, I devoted my research to developing wearable computing devices powered by AI to help monitor and optimize our health. I especially want to create devices that will help seniors stay independent and healthy. I will continue to be a strong advocate for advancing the human side of the human-computer interaction because I'm in love with people, not machines!



## 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.*

### *OBOCR Retrospective*

**By Marge Leonard**

Read, think and talk - book selections for the One Book, One Community Read Project have always been topical.

*Three Cups of Tea*, in 2008, our first year, was a huge financial success involving Fremont schools, where \$34,000 in pennies was raised.

*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, our second book, incorporated small group discussions in 19 different locations throughout the Tri-City area, including both hospitals, two book stores and the original Dale Hardware, and involving as discussion leaders Fremont city councilman and now Mayor Raj Salwan and state assemblyman and later state Senator Bob Wieckowski.

In year three, then OBOCR Chair Genevieve Angelides wrote to the publisher and obtained free copies of Thomas Friedman's *Hot, Flat and Crowded*.

*Grapes of Wrath* was the next OBOCR selection. The presenter was an economics professor from Cal State East Bay. A group of branch members arranged a trip to author John Steinbeck's home in Salinas.



**Genevieve Angelides**

Kathy Garfinkle and Shirley Gilbert lightened things up with *Lots of Laughter*, a year of programs focused on humor and incorporating many books. So while it was not "One Book" One Community Read, it was still memorable. Kathy and Shirley and Becky Denevan performed in skits, and the son of one of the branch members, a local actor, impersonated Mark Twain.

In 2017, immigration counselors presented a branch program as a companion piece to the novel *Behold the Dreamers*.

Powerful women have been the focus of OBOCR twice; in 2016, with *Sisters in Law*, *How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* and in 2019, with Michelle Obama's memoir, *Becoming*, where the audience wrote and shared their own memoirs.

Barbara Kingsolver's works have been the OBOCR's selection team's choices three times. That's not surprising as her books are always topical. From sustainable farming in the nonfiction *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, (2009), sandwich families in the fictional

*Unsheltered* (2018), to opiate addiction in *Demon Copperhead* (2024), Kingsolver's books incorporate societal interests. Small groups of branch members have traveled to the Peninsula to hear the author speak two different times. At the 2024 branch program, free fentanyl interdiction kits were given out.

The current OBOCR selection, *The Coming Wave*, deals with artificial intelligence, stating that the technological wave is already here. The only path is "through it." And he suggests several ways to meet it, mostly involving oversight and transparency.

## Membership Update

### New Members

#### **Nga Do And Dianna Sloves**

**Nga Do** is a new member who came to us from our Book Talk special interest group. She holds a master of public policy degree from Georgetown University and enjoys growing mangoes and traveling, which she is doing right now. She lives in Union City and can be reached at 510-931-0074 or [duaxanh5@gmail.com](mailto:duaxanh5@gmail.com).



**Dianna Sloves** holds a master's degree in social work from USC. She enjoys day hikes, gardening, reading, sewing, and spending time with her three grandchildren and family and friends. She lives in Fremont and can be reached at 510-673-7848 or [diannasloves@comcast.net](mailto:diannasloves@comcast.net)

### Members Info

Karen, a resident of Acacia Creek in Union City, has relocated to her new home in Chico. This move was motivated by her desire to be closer to her family members.

Her new address is 40 Pebblewood Pine Drive, Chico, CA 95926. However, her phone number and email address remain unchanged.

### In Memoriam



#### *Liz Poe has bid us farewell*



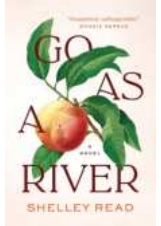
It is with profound sadness and immense sympathy for her family that we announce the passing of our long-time and dedicated member, Liz Poe. Liz and Janice Longo played a pivotal role in planning and executing our many years of Women's History Luncheons, which featured delightful treats like tea sandwiches, salads, scones, and lemon curd, along with entertaining performances. She will be deeply missed.



## Interest Group Meetings

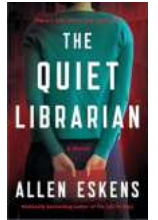
### Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet November 18 at the home of Holly Walter 2pm. She will review *Go As A River* by Shelly Read. Please let her know if you are attending.



### Book Talk

Book Talk Interest Group is to meet at the home of Carol Ramos on November 3rd from 3 to 5 p.m., when Avis Kresin will lead a discussion of *The Quiet Librarian* by Ellen Atkins.



### Cultural Cuisine

Cultural Cuisine goes to Afghan again at the Authentic Afghan Kebab and Cuisine Restaurant.

The location is 39965 Mission Boulevard, in the old Lucky's shopping center. The event is on Tuesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. This location was the former home of the Italian restaurant we visited about a year ago.

Please RSVP to Judy Wolf at [judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com](mailto:judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com) or call 510-657-5589



### Great Decisions

What are the challenges facing the Trump administration regarding future U.S. - China policy. Our discussion will focus on the Competition, Cold War, or Conflict? Meeting is November 19 at Suju's on Thornton Avenue 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.

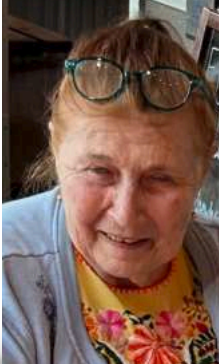




## **Money, Money, Money:**

By Judy Wolf

### *What Is Commingling Money?*



It is using money meant for one purpose or person and involving another purpose or person.

Sounds confusing? It is and can get a person's finances really into a mess and perhaps to unintended legal battles.

Let's try an example: A married couple: wife inherits a cabin in the mountains from her deceased parents as her sole and separate property and records it with the county office this way. She rents the cabin out for several weeks during the year. However, she deposits the funds into the couples' joint bank account. As repair expenses are needed, she pays for those from the joint checking account. The couple divorces.

The husband claims 50% ownership of the mountain cabin. Why: the joint bank account was used for the income deposits and the expenses paid. In other words the wife's money for the cabin was commingled in their joint account, so therefore he could claim part ownership of the property.

How could this be avoided? While she recorded the deed of the property correctly, she should have set up a separate bank account for the income and expenses for this property and not used their joint account for any financial items regarding this inherited property and therefore avoided commingling funds. This way the husband could not claim any interest in the property in the divorce.

### *What Is a Supreme Being?*

By Judy Wolf

In Christianity it is God. In other beliefs it could be Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed.

Do they have anything in common? Most likely their basic tenets.

How are they different? The way they celebrate their beliefs, what they call their places of worship, what they call their religion or beliefs, what their supreme beings' appearance might be, etc.

No matter how you might celebrate your belief, your way, my way, their way: generally, it is the piece of mind that each of us gains by recognizing a supreme being. The similarities are so universal that there should not so much dispute.

## 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 Opening Reception for ***Through the Photographer's Eye*** art exhibit featuring the works of our talented member May Chen will be held on **November 14th from 7pm to 9pm** at the Olive Hyde Art Gallery on Washington Blvd.
- The Branch board of directors meets on **December 5th at 10am**. If you would like to attend a board of directors meeting but can't meet at 10am on a Friday, write to us and let us know your schedule: at [aaufremontbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aaufremontbranch@gmail.com).
- Our annual **Holiday Party** is scheduled for **December 7th** from 2:30pm to 4:30pm at Artist Walk in Fremont.
- A Zoom presentation on ***The History of the Missing 28th Amendment*** presented by Alice Paul Center for Gender Justice will be held on **December 13th** from 10am to 11am. Flyer will be featured in the December Twig.

## 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**  
 Great Decisions - **Shari Whitaker and Joyce Ruiz**  
 One Book, One Community Read - **Margery Leonard**  
 Yoga For Body and Mind - **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.

## 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.

## November/ December Calendar

 <b>Nov./Dec. 2025</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						8
9	10 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	11 VETERANS DAY 	12	13 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	14 PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION AT OLIVE HYDE 7-9PM 	15
16	17 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	18 AFTERNOON LIT @ 2PM 	19 GREAT DECISIONS 10AM AT SUJU'S THORNTON 	20 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	21	22
23	24 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	25 CULTURAL CUISINE @ 6:30 PM 	26	27 THANKSGIVING 	28	29
30 12/7 HOLIDAY PARTY ARTIST WALK 2:30-4:30PM 	12/1 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	12/2	12/3	12/4 YOGA AT Jo SZETO'S @11:15AM 	12/5 BOARD MEETING @10AM AT Jo SZETO'S 	12/6