



February 2026



Anamaria Trujillo, American Dissertation Fellow

Making and Unmaking Gender During War and Peace: Women in Columbia

Saturday, February 28, 2026

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

\$35 at the door - cash or check only

Pay online: <https://tinyurl.com/FellowsLunch>

JP's Family Restaurant

3600 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley

Questions? Email lindajslater2@gmail.com



Co-President's Message

When I joined AAUW in 2022, my biggest complaint was that there was nothing to do in the organization. Here I was, paying all that money, and there weren't even monthly meetings. I didn't realize that we were coming out of the pandemic when no one held meetings or scheduled events..

I eventually received an invitation to join the board of directors, which took care of my complaint about monthly meetings, and started publishing the *Twig*, which took care of my complaint about nothing to do. There's lots of things to do in AAUW now

Two events took place in January--a panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence and a Tea 'N Talk for newish members. I hope you attended at least one of them. Events are also planned for February and March, not even counting the opportunity to help choose our Ohlone College scholarship winners. Email Randy Fewel--jailteacher@comcast.net--to participate in selecting scholarship winners.

You are paying a lot of money to be in AAUW. Help the organization and yourself by joining our activities. To get you started, here are our next two events:

- On February 28th, Fremont is one of three branches participating in a luncheon in Castro Valley. Our speaker will be Anamaria Trujillo, who has received a scholarship from AAUW to help her obtain her doctorate from UC Davis. She will be speaking on "Demobilized Women in Columbia," proposing that these women are often overlooked in post-conflict processes.
- On March 7th, the branch will host a Victorian Tea for Women's History Month, with demonstrations of clothing from the 1890s. It's a bring your own teacup kind of affair, but it promises to be a good time. For more information, click [here](#).

Jennifer Foster

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Public Policy:

MATTERING

By Jeanne Delp

MATTERING? Yes, this is an actual word (present participle) for you English teachers, found in Google's Oxford Languages on my computer. Rebecca Newberger Goldstein's newly published book, *The Mattering Instinct*, instructs us with these thoughts:

"We are creatures of Matter who long to matter"--to ourselves, to each other," says *Wall Street Journal's* Dominic Green. Another way to put it--we search to feel significant and worthwhile.

If you are reading this, you probably belong to "AAUW, established in 1881, the oldest and largest woman's organization in the U.S. It is one of the largest funders of women's graduate education. We invest in women who go on to change the world," says AAUW National. How can that not be significant and worthwhile?

You have the support of an effective network of states and branches through strategies and initiatives which engage and grow our membership. These continue to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. This is significant and matters in today's world.

If you are a member of AAUW, you belong to a group of women who care, who volunteer, who organize, who speak out, who study issues, who champion the success of women and girls through programs which enrich the lives of all of us.

AND. Being a member of a local branch of AAUW provides opportunities to make life-long friends, to be exposed to new ideas and opportunities, to find that you matter. You are significant. You are worthwhile.

Interfaith Iftar Dinner on February 21st

"Healing the World" is the theme for the Interfaith Iftar dinner on February 21st that is sponsored by the Pacifica Institute, the Tri-City Interfaith Council, the Tri-City Muslims, and St Paul United Methodist Church, 33350 Peace Terrace, where the Iftar dinner (the second meal of the day during Ramadan) will be held.

Beginning at 4:45 pm, the dinner is open to everyone who registers at shorturl.at/08ckQ. Note that AAUW encourages respect for diverse religious beliefs and practices.

Changemakers

Maggie Kang 강민지

Animation Artist

Researched and Written in First-Person Narrative by Phie Dai

Growing up in Toronto, the most formative memory from my childhood is when my second or third grade teacher asked where I was from. I said South Korea, but she couldn't find it on the map, and I had to point to a spot between China and Japan. From that moment, I vowed that one day I would show the world what my country is really like.

My family moved to Canada when I was five because of my father's work. I fell in love with film and storytelling at a young age because my father is an avid movie fan. He owns over 50,000 titles and watches 2-3 films each week. I grew up in awe of filmmakers like Charlie Chaplin, Krzysztof Kieslowski, Martin Scorsese, Akira Kurosawa, Stanley Kubrick, and Wong Kar Wai. I also love writing illustrated short stories. To encourage my passion for drawing, my father bought a Disney book on animation, and I realized I could actually pursue a career using my imagination!



After graduating from Sheridan College with a degree in Classical Animation, I was recruited by DreamWorks, which launched my Hollywood career as a story artist for the *Madagascar*, *Kung Fu Panda*, and *Shrek* franchises. I broke into directing when Warner Bros. hired me to lead the production of *The LEGO Ninjago Movie*.

I first came up with the idea of making a movie celebrating female friendship and my Korean culture in 2018. I pitched *KPop Demon Hunters* to Sony Pictures and got the nod within a week! My childhood dream came true when I became the creator and director of an animated film featuring an all-Asian cast. When Netflix released it seven years later in 2025, *KPop Demon Hunters* became its most popular English-language film with more than 325M views, and I became the first Asian woman to win a Golden Globe for Best Animated Feature this January. *KPop Demon Hunters* was also nominated for five Grammys and two Academy Awards!

I was shocked when this movie became a global phenomenon. I succeeded in creating a different kind of female superhero--funny, messy, and silly, with real struggles and flaws. Through friendship and helping each other defeat their inner demons while fighting real ones, my protagonists evolved into their best selves. They are complex and highly relatable to audiences of all ages.

My advice for aspiring artists and content creators is to trust yourself. Anytime you cater to other people's opinions, you lose authenticity, and audiences can smell it. They want the real thing, so just go for it with confidence and believe in your voice!

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.

Tri-Branch Lunch Now on February 28th

Three East Bay branches--Fremont, Hayward-Castro Valley, and Oakland-Piedmont--will join together for a lunch featuring AAUW scholarship recipient Anamaría Trujillo as our speaker. The Italian buffet lunch will be at JP's Family Restaurant, 3600 Castro Valley Boulevard, Castro Valley. The event begins at 11:30 am.

The cost is \$35 per person. Although the flyer says that RSVPs are not necessary and that you can pay at the door, Program Chair Judy Wolf asks that you RSVP to her. Fremont attendees can Zelle their RSVP's and \$35 Zelle payments to Judith Wolf at bigbadwolfie@juno.com or 510-468-2002 by Wednesday, February 25th.

Celebrate Women's History Month with Tea

Our theme of Women's History Month is "The Sun Never Sets on the British Empire," so we are holding a Victorian Tea on Saturday, March 7th, at 2 pm. We will meet at the social hall at Besaro Mobile Home Community at 4141 Deep Creek Road, Fremont. Our own Dr. Marguerite McInnes will show us clothing from the Victorian Era.

You are asked to bring your own fancy cup and saucer for the tea.

Please RSVP to Judith Wolf: judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com or 510-657-5589.

Help Needed for Victorian Tea

We need ideas and contributions for our Victorian Tea, where "The Sun Never Sets on The British Empire."

Food suggestions should represent dishes from different locations governed by the British in the late 1800s. As an example, kiwi fruit could represent Australia and New Zealand. A curried chicken salad might represent India.

Please contact Judith Wolf with your suggestions and contributions. She can be reached at judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com or by phone at 510-657-5589.

Food for Thought

Found by Judy Wolf

A tidbit from one of our founding fathers, John Adams, who wrote in a 1798 letter: "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge or gallantry would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net."

Do we know anyone attempting this?

An AAUW Picnic From the Past

From the May 3, 1928, *Township Register*. The East Bay Section of the AAUW belonged to the AAUW San Francisco Branch.

MRS. J. C. SHINN'S GARDEN SCENE OF A. A. U. W. PICNIC

"Spring is in the heart of me I
don't know what to do.
I cannot mind my dusting and I
cannot plan the meals,
For the mellow flow of sunlight has
become a part of me
And I know just how the bursting
crocus feels."

Which expresses the sentiment of
the 25 members of the Drama sec-
tion of the Eastbay Section of the
A. A. U. W., after they had enjoyed
their annual picnic at the home of
Mrs. J. C. Shinn last Friday, this
garden famed about the country-
side for its unsurpassed beauty do-
ing its utmost in color and fragrance
for the benefit of the visitors. Af-
ter luncheon served out of doors and
a brief program the guests departed
with armloads of flowers.

World Interfaith Harmony Day February 6th

A candlelight vigil for peace will be held at 6 pm February 6th at the United Church of Christ, 38255 Blacow Rd., Fremont. Vigil attendees will hear stories of children trapped in conflict areas. The vigil will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Sponsored by the Tri-City Interfaith Council, Compassionate Fremont, and the United Church of Christ, World Interfaith Harmony Day is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace within and among all nations and peoples. Note that AAUW encourages respect for diverse religious beliefs and practices.

January Report From Your Board

From the board meeting January 9th:

Public Policy (Jeanne Delp):

- January 31st symposium: participants heard about the impact of new federal laws and policies on California.
- Lobby Days: The focus this year will be on in-person meetings with representatives, as opposed to meetings with assistants. Participants had to register on the AAUW-CA website by January 16th.
- The League of Women Voters is asking for continued support from AAUW.

Program (Judy Wolf):

- One Book One Community Read Project (OBOCR): A panel discussion focused on the book *The Coming Wave* was held at Washington West on January 26th.
- The Tri-branch Luncheon will be February 28th in Castro Valley.
- A Victorian Tea is planned for March 7th at the Besaro Mobile Home Community Social Room at 2 pm.

Membership (Jo Szeto and Eileen Yap):

Tea-N-Talk Series: Was held on January 24th. No RSVP required to keep it a stress-free and friendly way to connect.

Finance (Phie Dai): The totals in Fremont Bank are \$1693.57, checking balance, and \$7678, saving balance.

Foundation Report:

- Syeda represented the branch at the Foundation meeting on January 14th and got their input on whether any updates to the by-laws are needed to better align goals including Tech Trek and Scholarships awarded.

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 Jewell

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 - 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.

Quarterly Report From the Foundation

The Foundation for Local Scholarships meets four times a year. The most recent meeting was January 14.

Finance (Bonnie Kellogg): Bank balances as of January 14, 2026:

Checking: \$33,151.29

CD 7719: \$5,437.86

CD 2986: \$5,504.83

Total: \$45,893.98

Death by Chocolate Bingo (Randy Fewel): The net profit made from our Death By Chocolate Bingo event in 2025 was \$4,366.63. Expenses were \$699.86.

College Scholarships (Randy Fewel): An orientation meeting was held at the home of Randy Fewel on January 18. The committee will begin reading in March and interview candidates at the end of March. The winners of the AAUW Ohlone Continuing and Transfer scholarships will be announced by the Ohlone College Foundation at the beginning of April.

Tech Trek (Sowjanya Vutukur): Sowjanya began contacting teachers for Tech Trek in November, and nominations were in by mid January. Deadline for completing the applications/essays by the nominated students is March 1st. Interviews will be held in mid March.

- We decided we would plan for seven Tech Trekkers to go to UC Santa Cruz, Camp Carson, at \$1200 per student.
- The Tech Trek ice cream social will be held June 6th or 7th, and the preferred venue is Artist Walk.
- Tech Trek nominations this year came from:

Centerville Middle School .	5
Cesar Chavez Middle School	1
Walters Middle School	2
Itliong Vera Cruz Middle School.	2
Newark Middle School	2

STEM Programs for Girls (Fahria Khan):

- **Dine With a Scientist: Dine With a Scientist:** (Updated Information) Irvington High School will participate, and the event will be held at the Fremont Downtown Event Center April 2nd.
- **Mother-Daughter Discovery Day:** (Updated Information) The Ohlone College AAUW Club and Ohlone for Kids will co-host with AAUW. The event will be May 2nd at the Newark Ohlone campus.

Revise Foundation Budget: There was a motion by Randy Fewel and seconded by Sowjanya Vutukur to update the Foundation scholarship budget as follows:

7 Tech Trekkers	.	\$8,400
2 Ohlone Transfer Scholarships	.	\$8,000
4 Ohlone Continuing Scholarships		\$3,000
For a total of		\$19,400.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the revised budget. We are not funding the California Conference for Women this year because it is online and doesn't have the impact of an in-person conference.

New Motion: Randy introduced a new program called **Green Silicon Valley**, which is a nonprofit run by high school students from Wilcox High School in Santa Clara. Spokesperson Ayush Garg offered high schoolers to give classes on climate change to seventh graders.

Randy motioned and Sowjanya seconded the motion to pay \$2 per student for Green Silicon Valley to do a presentation at Newark Middle School for AAUW Fremont member Bridget Uzoegwu's eighth grade science class totaling about 200 students. We will take the money not used for the California Conference for Women and put it towards this effort.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Civics Knowledge: We discussed the knowledge of civics by students and even adult American citizens. It was suggested that we have an AAUW activity in which we must answer questions from the naturalization test.

Money, Money, Money:

Special Standard Deduction Charity Break

By Judy Wolf

For all of us who take the standard deduction, finally a break for charities. With so many of us taking the standard deduction, gifts to charities have greatly fallen. It has been difficult to exceed the standard deduction by giving to charity.

Now, you can deduct \$1000 for a single tax payer or \$2000 for joint filers on top of your standard deduction from your taxes in 2026.

The donated gift must be cash: checks, credit card charges, online donations and payroll deductions can be used.

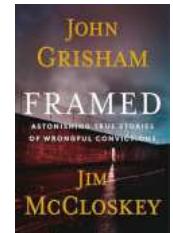
The donation must be made to a qualified 501(c)3 public charity. IRS rules for a charitable deduction must be followed. Any gift \$250 or more requires a written acknowledgement.

Happy Giving.

Interest Group Meetings

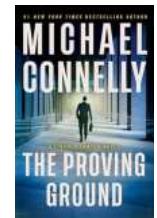
Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet February 17 at the home of Pauline Weaver at 2 pm. She will review *Framed* by John Grisham. Please let her know if you are attending.



Book Talk

Avis Kresin will discuss Michael Connelly's *The Proving Ground* when Book Talk meets at the home of Holly Walter February 23rd from 3-5 pm.



Cultural Cuisine

Cultural Cuisine will go to the Ukraine via Lucy's Crepes at the Crossroads Shopping Center, on Tuesday, February 17th, at 6:30 pm.

The address is 39459 Fremont Boulevard. This shopping center is where FOODMAXX is located. If you face Foodmaxx, walk to the left. it is tucked in the corner.



Wear royal blue and yellow and show your support for the Ukraines.

RSVP by Sunday, the 15th, to Judith Wolf: 510-657-5589 or judyjudyjudy1940@gmail.com

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet February 25 10 am - 12 noon at Suju's on Thornton. Discussion this month will be 'Ukraine and the Future of Europe'. Will Europe prepare for an alliance without America, or can Europe take on a greater leadership role in an alliance in which the U.S. still plays a key part?



Yoga for Body and Spirit

This group meets every Monday and Thursday morning at 11:15 am 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 **February 6th at 10 am**. If you would like to attend a board of directors meeting but can't meet at 10 am on a Friday, write to us and let us know your schedule at aauwfremontbranch@gmail.com.
- Triton Museum of Art lecture/book club group will attend this month's event on **February 4th at 9:30 am** at the Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara (doors open at 9 am for coffee and donuts). Journey down the ancient Nile with Executive Director and Art Historian Preston Metcalf as he explores the high watermark of art in 18th Dynasty Egypt. For more information, contact Joyce Ruiz. (We have two ridepool groups that leave at 8:15 am.)
- As part of World Interfaith Harmony Day, a candlelight vigil will be held at **6 pm on February 6th** at the United Church of Christ in Fremont. For more information, click [here](#).
- An **Iftar dinner** (second meal of the day during Ramadan) is planned for **February 21st** at St Paul United Methodist Church in Fremont. For more information, click [here](#).
- A Zoom discussion of the *Four Pivots* will be led by Charmen Goehring, AAUW-CA state president, on **March 18th and May 19th**.
- Join us for a **Victorian Tea on March 7th from 2-4 pm** at the Besaro Mobile Home Community Social Room, 4141 Deep Creek Road, Fremont. Dr. Marguerite McInnes will demonstrate the clothing worn in that era. For more information, click [here](#).

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*, is out now.



Need a Notary?

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