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# CALIFORNIA *Perspective*

## RUTH RAFELLO IS NAMED GIFT HONOREE

Sharon Westafer, Director, Chair  
AAUW Fund Committee  
[aauwfunds@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aauwfunds@aauw-ca.org)



Ruth Rafello

Ruth Rafello, a member of the Half Moon Bay branch, is this year's Named Gift Honoree. The State Named Gift award is the highest award given by AAUW California, other than having a fellowship or grant named in one's honor. This award is given to recognize an AAUW

member who has done outstanding work to promote the programs and goals of the AAUW Fund and/or AAUW California.

Ruth was honored at her branch's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in May, as she was unable to attend the AAUW California annual meeting. A charter member of the branch, she has held all branch officer positions over the past 50 years including several stints as Vice President of Funds; served on the state membership committee for several years and was the driving force behind the Half Moon Bay branch's first AAUW Research and Projects grant. As stated in her branch's nomination, Ruth has been a guiding force behind the Half Moon Bay branch since its inception in 1967. She has served on the board for all but two of the last 48 years. She has been a tireless advocate for the AAUW Fund and her leadership and efforts have helped her branch become one of the leading Coastside non-profit organizations.

Ruth's community activities include being an active volunteer for the past 56 years as a founding member, fundraiser and volunteer at the Coastside Parents' Nursery School, Coastside Hope (local non-profit serving the

low income population); board member, volunteer, fundraiser and co-chair of the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Bureau; and a member of California Retired Teachers' Association. In recognition of her years of volunteer service, Ruth was the 2016 recipient of the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay's "Service Above Self" award.

## MEMBERSHIP ACTION ALERT!

Sue Cochran, Chair  
Governance Committee  
[Governance@aauw-ca.org](mailto:Governance@aauw-ca.org)

A critical issue will be coming before the membership of AAUW California in the near to immediate future that needs EVERYONE's attention and vote. Please read the following information carefully and direct any questions you might have to [governance@aauw-ca.org](mailto:governance@aauw-ca.org) or [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org).

When AAUW California undertook its reorganization in 2008 a critical error was made that affects the corporate standing of AAUW California under California nonprofit law, our standing with the IRS, as well as our affiliation with National. There are several categories of nonprofit organizations under California law, and in 2008, AAUW California changed its category ("public benefit") to a type that is inconsistent with National ("mutual benefit"). As a practical matter, the category change did not have any impact on AAUW California's missions, goals, operations or its members. Similarly, changing back to a public benefit organization will also not have any noticeable impact. Nevertheless, National has informed us that AAUW California must change back to its prior classification as a public benefit organization. Unfortunately, the process to change AAUW California back to its prior classification is somewhat complicated and we have spent a great deal of time negotiating with the state of California and conferring with an attorney trying to resolve the issue as efficiently and expeditiously as possible. Ultimately, though, the process will require you, the membership, to vote to approve

**Membership Action Alert Continued on Page 2**

## California Perspective

AAUW California

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To submit an article, please email the article, author's name, branch, email address, mailing address and phone number to [perspective@aauw-ca.org](mailto:perspective@aauw-ca.org).

If you move, mail address changes to:  
AAUW  
1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

or update your member profile on [aauw.org](http://aauw.org).  
Non-members may email changes to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

## MOVING AAUW FORWARD

Donna Mertens, President  
AAUW California  
[statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)



Donna Mertens

I'd like to take this time to talk to all of you about the structure of AAUW. I was contacted recently by a new member who was confused about the changes happening with our national organization and how that worked. She was also unsure how our state was structured. First, AAUW has an elected national board of directors. You have recently voted to elect the new Chairman of the Board, Vice Chair and ten Directors to govern our organization. When you voted, there were also many bylaws issues that you had to consider. The national board is responsible for implementing the bylaws and policies and procedures for AAUW.

AAUW also has staff to handle the national day to day business of AAUW from offices in Washington, DC. During the past year, the CEO (Chief Executive Officer), COO (Chief Operating Officer) and the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) have left their positions. On June 1st, Kimberly Churches took the position of CEO. The COO position is still vacant and the CFO position was filled over the winter. Although they all seemed to vacate their positions at the same time, there was no official explanation as to the reason.

At the state level, you also have an elected board of directors. We have not had a contested election for two years now. That means that only a few people have stepped up to serve on the board, so you didn't have to choose between them on a ballot. These officials are also responsible for following the state bylaws and policies and procedures. If you are interested in knowing what these are, you can find them on the website.

Please don't hesitate to ask the state office for assistance. We have Kim Wilber in our Sacramento office and she can route you to the appropriate director or committee to answer your question or extend a helping hand. We are all here to keep AAUW California moving forward.

## MEMBERSHIP ACTION ALERT

Continued from Page 1

AAUW California's change back to a public benefit organization. Without this change we risk losing our National affiliation as well as

jeopardizing our tax exempt status.

In the near future every member of AAUW California will receive a notice of a vote on this proposed change. The vote will be taken electronically and in order for the presented motion to pass it is critical that every member vote and approve this change to the corporate designation of AAUW California back to a public benefit corporation.

## KIMBERLY CHURCHES TAKES THE NATIONAL HELM

Patricia Fae Ho, Chair  
AAUW National Board  
[memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org)

The CEO Search Committee is thrilled to announce that AAUW will have a new chief executive officer starting on June 1, 2017. Following an exhaustive search and interviews with many brilliant candidates, we're so pleased to have Kimberly Churches taking the helm of AAUW at a time of such potential for our mission.

Kimberly is coming to AAUW from the Brookings Institution, where she guided the strategic vision for one of the world's most influential research and policy institutes. She also has an impressive background in higher education and fundraising.

You can read more about Kimberly at the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) website. We look forward to her leadership in AAUW's next chapter.



Kimberly Churches is AAUW's new CEO

**Educated.  
Reasoned.  
Active.**

These are words that describe AAUW members and set us apart from other groups. They are also words that describe the

**2018  
AAUW California Convention**

Block off April 27-29, 2018, on your calendar now! Watch for more details as planning progresses.

## Summer 2017 Volume 74, Number 3

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## OUR 2017-18 CALIFORNIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shown below are the members of the 2017-18 AAUW California Board of Directors. Shown are each leader's branch affiliation, term of office and tentative committee assignment as of our press time. Although the newly elected board members do not officially take office until July 1, work is already underway to staff up and plan for the coming year. If you would like to help, please submit a vita. The vita form is available from the [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org) website.



**Donna Mertens**

Victor Valley Branch  
President 2016-18  
Executive



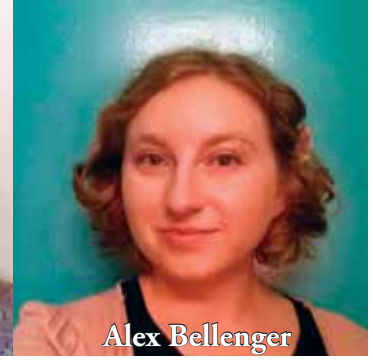
**Pat Ferrer**

Long Beach Branch  
Chief Financial Officer 2017-19  
Finance



**Deanna Arthur**

Alhambra/San Gabriel Branch  
Secretary 2016-18  
Membership & YWTF



**Alex Bellenger**

Long Beach Branch  
Director 2016-18  
Program



**Cathy Foxhoven**

CA Online Branch  
Co-President Elect 2017-18  
Co-President 2018-20  
Leadership Development



**Sandi Gabe**

Mariposa Branch  
Director 2016-18  
Communications



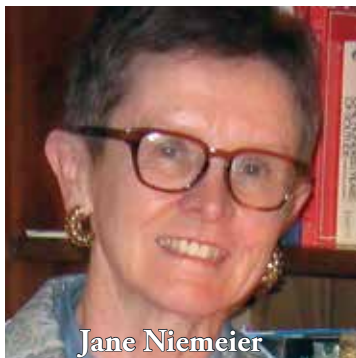
**Charmen Goehring**

Sacramento Branch  
Director 2017-19  
Public Policy



**Nancy Mahr**

Palos Verdes Branch  
Director 2017-19  
Public Policy



**Jane Niemeier**

La Mesa- El Cajon, San Diego  
and Fallbrook Branches  
Co-President Elect 2017-18  
Co-President 2018-20  
Leadership Development



**Ainsley Nies**

Pacifica Branch  
Director 2016-18  
Branch Support



**Dianne Owens**

Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch  
Director 2017-19  
State Projects Oversight



**Sharon Westafer**

Long Beach and Stockton  
Branches  
Director 2016-18  
AAUW Fund

## 2017-2019 PUBLIC POLICY ACTION PRIORITIES APPROVED

Nancy Mahr, Chair  
Public Policy  
[publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)

Jean Simutis, Chair  
Nominations & Elections  
[nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)

AAUW California members voted to adopt updated public policy priorities during voting that extended from April 22nd to May 12th. The vote was 1,448 yes to 34 no. 13.1% of members took the time to have their opinions counted.

Complementary to the national public policy program, the AAUW California public policy program supports our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. In developing the 2017-2019 priorities, the Public Policy Committee invited members to comment about the priorities that AAUW California should place on California legislation affecting women and girls during the next two years. The adopted priorities reflect member comments and were chosen for their viability, critical need, and strong member support.

The adopted **public policy action priorities** are available on the [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org) website.

## AAUW CALIFORNIA SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND IS RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS

Shelley Mitchell, President  
Special Projects Fund  
[spfund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spfund@aauw-ca.org)

The AAUW-CA Special Projects Fund (SPF) Board of Directors is recruiting new board members for terms starting in January 2018. SPF is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit public benefit corporation that was created by AAUW California to receive and distribute contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and AAUW California for programs and projects that further education

and equity for all women and girls in the communities served by AAUW California branches. SPF is a separate corporation, and the SPF board is independent of the AAUW California Board of Directors.

Any member of AAUW California may be appointed a SPF director, except for: members of the AAUW National Board of Directors or the director or treasurer of a project being served by the SPF. We are looking for people who have experience managing funds for non-profit organizations, managing investments and/or organizational communication.

Applications are available on the AAUW California website. Click on "about us" and then SPF.

If you have questions or need more information, you may contact SPF at [spfund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spfund@aauw-ca.org)

## BRANCH PARTICIPATION WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ON THE RISE

Tina Byrne, Chair  
College/University Committee  
[aauwtina@gmail.com](mailto:aauwtina@gmail.com)

As this year ends the College/University (C/U) Committee again thanks all branch members throughout the state for their involvement in recruiting, retaining, and working with colleges and universities. Our branches continue to work with our 85 partner schools and some campuses that are not, as yet, partner schools. The 62 C/U Coordinators at 45 branches are leading their branches in presenting to campuses the many programs AAUW offers. They **tabled** on campuses to recruit e-student affiliates, where undergraduate students at partner schools join for free. They presented **Start Smart** and **Work Smart Salary Negotiation** workshops on campuses and worked with the **Student Organizations** on campuses. They participated in **voter registration** and **Equal Pay Day** festivities. Many branches gave scholarships at local colleges and universities, often to returning students.

Our committee is reaching out to all branch C/U Coordinators by phone to gather information on what we can do to help the branches and what other programs the branches are presenting on campuses. What exciting programs we are hearing about from these branches! The

Stockton branch held a juried art show. "Feminist Art Activism" was the theme, with University of the Pacific and San Joaquin Delta College both invited to participate. The Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley and San Clemente-Capistrano Bay branches worked together on an outstanding Leadership Day that included speakers, a panel, workshops and both Start Smart and Work Smart. We look forward to learning about the many other branch activities and sharing that information with all of you.

## LEADERSHIP DAYS BRING NEW IDEAS

Cathy Foxhoven, Chair  
Leadership Development Committee  
[leaderdev@aauw-ca.org](mailto:leaderdev@aauw-ca.org)

Five leadership days (San Jose, Whittier, Concord, Santa Barbara & Riverside) have generated creative, innovative, new ideas to help branches recruit new diverse membership and develop leaders in non-traditional ways. The conversations and discourse have been lively, entertaining and educational, not only for the participants but the presenters as well!

Recommendations arising from these leadership days include: (1) have more mission-based community projects that not only bring awareness of AAUW, but help the needs of the community; (2) produce events focusing on cultural diversity; (3) develop knitting clubs for making "pussy hats", "brain science hats", etc.; (4) reach out to the women veterans through VFW; (5) have a "Paint 'n Sip" fundraiser; and (6) collaborate with Younger Women Task Force in your area (San Francisco, Stockton) or help to develop one such group in your area.

While you're at it, take the time to go to YouTube and watch "Home of the Brave (Immigrants, Pilgrims & Refugees)". Prepare to be profoundly moved by this original song written by associates of the Diamond Bar Branch president.

Coming soon, you will be able to view job-alike videos for President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programs & Membership on [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org).

ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS  
THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION,  
PHILANTHROPY, AND RESEARCH

## SPEECH TREK CONTINUES ITS COURSE OF EXCELLENCE

Cathy Foxhoven, Chair  
Leadership Development Committee  
[speechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:speechtrek@aauw-ca.org)

The 11<sup>th</sup> Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial Speech Trek competition at the annual meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in San Mateo once again saw poised, compelling speakers discuss why it is time to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Judges Malinda Gaul, Steve Cain and Jennifer Pfaff had great difficulty in deciding the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners - all three participants were persuasive and thought-provoking.

Nikhita Gopisetty, Morgan Hill Branch, won \$1500, Sarah Murphy, Roseville-South Placer took home \$1000 and Sabrina Sy, Alhambra-San Gabriel received \$500. Additional honorable mentions went to Jocelyn Tzeng, La Mesa-El Cajon and Kathy Le, Sacramento.

A touching letter about Eleanor Stem Allen's dedication to Speech Trek from the contest's benefactor, Gray Allen, was read prior to the competition. Final announcements included the new AAUW California Speech Trek Coordinator, Marlene Cain, Big Bear Valley Branch, and the new 2017-2018 topic "How can we stand up to sexism? What can I do as an individual, what can organizations like AAUW do to break down stereotypes and biases in school, in the military, at work, and in our communities?"



Marlene Cain (left) takes over from Cathy Foxhoven (right) as the new 2017-2018 Speech Trek Coordinator.

## BUILDING MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Andreini, Co-Chair  
Membership Committee  
[membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org)

Each year we eagerly await the February 1 report from National. We look for trends regarding member recruitment, engagement and retention. For 2016-17 we noticed that four branches had exciting increases in membership over the last three years:

- Big Bear Valley increased 69.96% (18 new members this year)
- Thousand Oaks increased 64.71% (31 new members this year)
- San Clemente-Capistrano Bay increased 23.48% (45 new members this year)
- Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista increased 14.80% (28 new members this year)

Here's how they did that:

All of these branches benefited from the public visibility of the internet and social media. They have branch websites, Facebook pages and twitter accounts. New members can sign up online. Social media allow your branch to be seen as associated with issues and partner organizations through likes, links and hashtags.

These branches are actively engaged and visible in their communities. Big Bear Valley has partnered with Toastmasters and is planning to do a fund raiser with Soroptimists. Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista sponsors a student AAUW group at CSU San Marcos. Thousand Oaks created a board position, Director of Community Outreach, who coordinates branch participation in community events such as parades, Earth Day, Unity in the Community Day, school district events, etc. Branch members attend school board, city council and planning commission meetings – speaking out (with board approval) about issues, especially controversial ones!

San Clemente-Capistrano Bay Branch received a bequest from a member to "grow the branch" and formed a Grow-the-Branch Committee that produced an evening event in August for prospective members: a very well-organized party in elegant surroundings with generous amounts of free food, drink and door prizes.

The event was advertised in local papers and members were encouraged to submit names of prospects casting a wide net: acquaintances from exercise classes, other organizations, neighbors and clients. 90 were invited, 60 replied.



Thousand Oaks branch members provided a children's activity and promoted AAUW at an Earth Day Festival in April 2017

Each table had at least one branch member seated with the guests to answer questions. Manned displays explained branch interest groups, Tech Trek and scholarship programs. A brief program about AAUW described our history and mission, and various aspects of the branch.

The Shape the Future discount offered that evening caused 40 guests to join. Then the branch monitored the new members to make sure they joined an interest group and were welcomed to monthly meetings. The branch also followed up with prospective members who didn't attend the August event.

Interest groups are very important in attracting and retaining members. Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista has found that bridge is popular with many new members, and the public policy group is very active and popular as well. Big Bear Valley's "Lunch and Learn" (bring a bag lunch and hear mission-based presentations) has been very popular as has a new interest group, "Outdoor Adventure," that attracted younger members with hikes, snowshoeing, downhill skiing, biking, golf, kayaking, etc.

Understand each member's interests and connect them with branch programs and interest groups. Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista's president sends a welcoming note to each new member, each of whom also is presented with a little plant bearing a tag that says, "Thank you for helping us grow," and has a mentor to help them get acquainted. Orientation meetings help to get new members involved in committees and interest groups. More information about how you can build your membership is available on the national website and state website.



YWTF Stockton

## YWTF STOCKTON OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES CHAPTER

Charmen Goehring-Fox, Director  
YWTF Committee  
[charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com)

On April 30, 2017, the YWTF Stockton chapter held its official launch. The core group of six women has been working nearly a year to put everything in place and to build their platform and audience. They are “a movement by and for younger women to fight for social justice.” They will provide a safe place for women to collaborate on the issues that matter to them most. The group’s platform is threefold- Mind, Body and Spirit; Community Empowerment; and Human Connections. Part of their activities will surround their new FEMtor program – a series of workshops that will assist members in personal and professional growth, create networking opportunities and connect mentees with mentors.

At the event attended by approximately 35 people, the group’s board explained what YWTF is, its goals and activities, and how others can get involved. They also had delicious snacks including a mimosa bar, and a raffle of exciting baskets full of fun products. Several AAUW branch members came from Stockton, Lodi and Sacramento to support the women and learn about the chapter. These dynamic younger women are exactly what AAUW needs!

If you are interested in learning how you can support formation of a YWTF chapter in your area, please contact Charmen Goehring at [charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com).



The annual meeting's table talk began with, "What's on Your Plate?"

## TABLE TALK - WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

Ainsley Neis, Chair  
Branch Support Committee  
[branch@aauw-ca.org](mailto:branch@aauw-ca.org)

A lively new activity called “Table Talk” was introduced at the annual meeting this year. It was inspired by the successful Open Space event at our 2016 Convention. Like Open Space it was a time to connect and collaborate, share best practices, get help with questions, talk about challenges, and solve puzzles together.

The format was simple; there were two 45 minute rounds of hosted topic discussions at tables in the room, with a short break between rounds and a group debrief at the end. Topics could be proposed by anyone and on any topic meaningful to them. After writing the topic on a paper plate and announcing it to the room, the topic host went to the table where the discussion would take place. After all topics were announced for the round, everyone got up and went to the table of their choice.

Table Talk used the “One Law” from Open Space as a guide; it says – “If you’re not learning or contributing where you are, go someplace where you can learn or contribute.” Our facilitator explained that in our setting, we were encouraged to experience Table Talk just



as if you were at a buffet -

- If you have a topic of interest, then put it out on a table to see if others are interested.
- If you hear of a topic that interests you, go there and sample the discussion.
- If at any time you are no longer learning or contributing and ready to sample another topic, then get up and move to another table topic of interest.

Some of the topics discussed were:

Engaging Members	Tech Trek Transition
National Talk	Is AAUW Relevant?
LGBTQ	Degree Requirement
Branch Leadership	Public Policy
Human Trafficking	

For a complete list see "[2017 Annual Meeting Recap](#)" on the AAUW California website.

## TECH TREK CAMPS READY TO GO!

Donna Mertens, President  
AAUW California  
[statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)  
[techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)

Ten Tech Trek Science & Math camps for girls entering the eighth grade will be held again this summer with over 900 campers in attendance.

Even as we present these camps, we are looking forward to 2018, when we will need some new staff. If you have an interest in serving at a Tech Trek camp, please get in touch with the Camp Director about visiting this summer. One vacancy will be the Camp Director for Whittier Camp.

In 2018, AAUW National will return the administration of the camps back to AAUW California. Our fiscal agent will be the AAUW California Special Projects Fund once again. Branches will be advised when it is time to have checks made payable to AAUW CA SPF. There will be a vacancy in the Financial Liaison position, as well.

CA leaders are currently working with AAUW National about other details of the transition and will report to you in the next issue of California Perspective.

Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful program. Please contact Linda Stinebaugh, State Tech Trek Coordinator, [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org) to step up to fill the vacancies.

**Congratulations to  
AAUW LAGUNA BEACH BRANCH  
SIMI VALLEY BRANCH  
for 50 golden years of dedicated work towards  
education and equity for women and girls!**

## BRANCH PROGRAM RECOGNITION

Lynne Batchelor, Chair  
Program Development Committee  
[program@aauw-ca.org](mailto:program@aauw-ca.org)

The Program Committee is pleased to recognize the following branches for their mission-based programs in the areas of women's leadership, youth and public policy.

### Women's Leadership

**La Mesa-El Cajon Branch** and **Victor Valley Branch** both implemented "Women Leaders: Past, Present, and Future." **Victor Valley's** program featured AAUW California state president, Donna Mertens, dressed as Eleanor Roosevelt, who spoke and fielded questions about Eleanor's life. **La Mesa-El Cajon** also studied past leader Eleanor Roosevelt. For present leaders, Dr. Norah Schulz, a VP at San Diego State University, spoke to the branch, and for future leaders, the branch celebrated local scholarship winners and a young woman their branch sent to NCCWSL.

**Morgan Hill** holds open meetings each month at the library (attendance is about 50% potential members) and feature women in different professions (art, law, religion, culinary art, philanthropy). Their annual Wildflower Run has raised \$50,000 for Tech Trek and Scholarships.

**Santa Clara County IBC** implemented "Creating Your Own Path-Women Changing the World" by inviting speakers who had broken the glass ceiling in law, government, STEM, sports, or business to present their stories.

**Laguna Beach** produced a moderated panel discussion entitled "Our Bodies, Our Minds: Paths to Wellness." In addition they are being recognized for their program with author and human rights activist Jessica Buchleitner who discussed her book, *50 Women Anthology Series*.

**Benicia-Vallejo** featured "Women in Leadership in Solano County" with a panel discussion.

**Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley** and **San Clemente-Capistrano Bay's** program, "Leadership in the Eye of the

Storm," featured research on storm and leadership theory.

**San Jose** obtained a grant from the Commission on the Status of Women to help fund their "Strong Women Leadership Conference."

### Youth

**Chico** partnered with Reading Pals to donate books and recruit readers to donate one hour per week after learning that 50% of students in elementary schools in their locality were reading below grade level. They are also being recognized for their program on rape crisis intervention and prevention.

**Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette** held their second annual "Expanding Your Horizons" STEM conference involved five former Tech Trek or Sister to Sister participants in the planning, organizing, and volunteering phases to help present 18 workshops for young women.

**Sunnyvale-Cupertino** worked with Microsoft and Playwell to present "Girl Powered Engineering Using Legos" which enabled girls to build bridges and robots working with women scientists and engineers.

**Mariposa** held their fourth annual "Dinner With a Scientist." High school girls are bused to UC Merced where groups of four to six students each sit with scientists. This year's scientists included a professor, physician in private practice, biologist, and an engineer.

**Santa Clarita Valley** goes all out to involve the branch in Tech Trek. As an example, the campers are introduced at their author's luncheon before camp so that the branch members have a personal connection.

**Del Mar-Leucadia** worked with their college-university partners to present a panel discussion, "Let's Go Collegiate."

### Public Policy

**Alameda** held an "American Muslims: Islam 102" educational forum.

**Big Bear Valley** publicized pay equity day by partnering with a local restaurant which gave pay equity discounts to women and they sold Payday candy bars with a bite missing to show the pay gap. In addition, this branch

makes Speech Trek a community event involving Toastmasters.

**Laguna Beach** held a public forum featuring school board candidates.

**Napa County** co-hosted a forum with the Agriculture Commission involving five state agencies on the topic of food insecurity. They are additionally recognized for their program *Race Matters* which featured presentations by representatives from various ethnic, racial and religious groups.

**Sacramento** branch presented, "To Engineer is Human-Paths to California Water Resource Management," featuring two women working in water resource management and which explored many aspects of the problem including how it affects food availability for impoverished families.

**San Fernando Valley**, along with the League of Women Voters, sponsored "Decision Time," a candidates' forum for their local state Senate race.

**Santa Maria** branch featured our advocate Shannon Smith Crowley in a program called "Tweets Matter and the importance of social media on grassroots organizations." Also, they

are recognized for a program which featured three legal advocacy organizations who work on behalf of women and girls.

## AAUW AUBURN PARTNERS WITH GIRL SCOUTS ELECTRIFYING ART

Sandra Scott, Newsletter Editor  
Auburn Branch  
[auburnaauw@gmail.com](mailto:auburnaauw@gmail.com)

In late April, AAUW-Auburn presented a new "maker" event called "Electrifying Art" to 40 elementary school Girl Scouts. The workshop's purpose was to stimulate girls' interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics).

The event provided the youngest of Girl Scouts, ages 5 to 7, with a fun hands-on opportunity to think and act like a design engineer while learning about electricity and electrical circuits. The girls fashioned Play Doh



Auburn Branch's Maker Event hatched an electrified caterpillar.

into butterflies, lady bugs, caterpillars, and other creatures they might find in a park. Then, they used their newfound knowledge about electricity to light up their creations with LEDs. The workshop is a precursor to Tech Trek, which is aimed at girls transitioning from 7th to 8th grade.

Electrifying Art received a \$500 grant from AAUW California to help purchase materials with help from branch volunteers, Tech Trek alumnae, local sponsors and partners. The Electrifying Art lesson plan, developed by AAUW-Auburn member Sandra Scott, is available at [auburn-ca.aauw.net](http://auburn-ca.aauw.net). For more information, send an email to [auburnaauw@gmail.com](mailto:auburnaauw@gmail.com) with the subject line Electrifying Art.

## AMADOR COUNTY BRANCH LAUNCHES NEW SIGNATURE EVENT

Sandee Bowman, President  
Amador County Branch  
[amador-ca.aauw.net](http://amador-ca.aauw.net)

Drones, robotics, Star Lab, NASA small satellites, solar powered race cars, ovens, telescopes, catapults, bridges, tornados, volcanos, brains, airplanes, life-saving emergency equipment and an archeological dig!! What happens when they all converge?

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, AAUW Amador County Branch held its first Science Saturday, celebrating STEM with 130+ students and their parents. The free event was hosted by Pine Grove Elementary STEM School in Pine Grove. The schoolyard was bursting with 42 stations, inside and outside with hands-on experiments and demonstrations.

The event grew from an idea, hatched during our summer brainstorming and planning sessions. A mini science fair was held in November with our branch program recognizing Tech Trek participants, provided a test drive. By February, the committee had chosen a name, Science Saturday; the venue, Pine Grove STEM School; the date; and the time for the event.

Over next 90 days, the committee co-chairs, Brenda

Walker and Karen Dickerson and an inspired team, engaged the community: Pine Grove STEM School and its Principal, Amador County's School Superintendent, members of San Joaquin County and Tuolumne County Unified School Districts, and others. The team worked with the parents, students and staff to identify and source supplies for 19 of the 42 stations. The team generated sponsorships and donations of materials and financial support from a variety of local businesses and organizations. The team connected with businesses and the CHP in the area to create ample parking and safe access to the event.



Amador County Branch Science Saturday: how many nails can you balance on a single nail?

## SAVING AND SHARING BRANCH HISTORY

Linda Slater, Administrative Officer  
Hayward-Castro Valley Branch  
[hcv-ca.aauw.net](http://hcv-ca.aauw.net)

Hayward-Castro Valley Branch's photo albums, posters, awards, and artifacts documenting its 75 years of empowering Bay Area women did not have a permanent home. They were stored in member garages. Many were falling apart. A branch members proposed to have the Hayward Area Historical Society archive them.

The [Hayward Area Historical Society](http://HaywardAreaHistoricalSociety.org) (HAHS) owns and operates the Hayward Area Museum of History & Culture. They have a community gallery that is open for individuals and organizations to have gallery exhibits. I applied and was accepted for a gallery exhibit to run May 13, 2017 - July 2, 2017.

In January 2017 we began our planning for the gallery exhibit in earnest. The first thing was to bring all of the photo albums, artifacts, records, and awards to one place. My living room. Then I called for branch members to come support the effort and help me cull through the documents to find those that best represented our branch efforts over 75 years, 1941 - 2016. It's a large span of time, but as we looked through all of the information we found consistent threads of commitment to



Hayward-Castro Valley Branch member Nancy Turner and Branch President Linda Slater teamed with the Hayward Area Historical Society to exhibit their Branch's 75 years in local and national context.

advancing equity for women and girls.

Our task was to pull all of the pictures, newspaper clippings, flyers, newsletter articles, awards, and artifacts, like T-Shirts, pins and banners together, and then to write the narratives for each of the moving panels and all of the captions. The staff at HAHS was extremely helpful. They gave us suggestions, helped us stay focused, and gave us encouragement when it seemed too daunting.

The community gallery has moving wall panels and room on the surrounding wall space. We decided to group the information into the following categories for the moving panels:

1. Education: What are AAUW Funds?; How Our Branch Supports; Who Benefits (the recipients); and How We Raise the Funds.
2. Tech Trek: What is STEM? and Fun at Camp
3. Advocacy: Voter Education and Title IX
4. Community Partnerships: Working with Libraries, Colleges, and other non-profits
5. Social Life: Enjoying the friendships we make in AAUW
6. Women in History: Our longest running community program

The surrounding walls have a timeline of AAUW History along with local and national history. A TV cycles YouTube videos of Tech Trek, AAUW History and Title IX. The AAUW banner and mission statement are prominently displayed.

The gallery exhibit was capped by a Gallery Reception on May 17, 2017 where all of our branch members, as well as local elected officials and community partners viewed the exhibit and celebrated our branch successes.

An auxiliary benefit was that HAHS named the Branch the Historical Organization for 2016 in their 16th Annual History Awards Ceremony. The Branch was nominated, in part, because of our hard work on the gallery exhibit, but also because so much was revealed about our 75 years of valuable service to the women in our community, educational institutions, and in the workplace.

If you would like more information about Hayward-Castro Valley Branch's process of creating the exhibit, contact Branch President Linda Slater.

## SUNNYVALE-CUPERTINO FINDS MONEY ON THE INTERNET

Jodi Gordon, AAUW Fund  
Sunnyvale-Cupertino Branch



Joan Kurtz

Our branch has been sending campers to the Stanford Campus Tech Trek since it began in 1998. In the first years we raised money by passing the hat and charging for meetings. Then Joan Kurtz, one of our members, joined the cause and we started selling used books.

We held two or three sales each year selling books donated by our members from Joan's garage. We did not charge much; a dollar for a hard back and fifty cents for a paperback. Then we noticed a couple of men at the sales who were checking online book buyers to find books they could resell at a profit. We took the clue. Now, once a month, Education Equity Committee members meet monthly for "ISBN parties" to sort and ship books to book scouters (companies that buy used books). We use multiple computers connected to Joan's home wi-fi to check with book buyers. We still hold book sales three times a year. With inspiration from Joan, we are doing very well.

You can see an example of online buyers of used books at [bookscouter.com](http://bookscouter.com)

# ELENA'S STORY: HOUSING INSECURITY AS AN ECONOMIC BARRIER TO EDUCATION

M. Alex Bellenger  
Director, AAUW California  
[membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org)

Elizabeth Waite  
Student, CSU

Elena is a young woman student attending one of the twenty-three California State University (CSU) campuses. As a former foster youth and living on food stamps, from the moment she arrived on campus, she faced immense difficulty navigating her status as a homeless student.

According to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

“A student is considered homeless if he or she lacks fixed, regular, and adequate housing. This includes students who are living in shelters, motels, cars, or parks, or who are temporarily living with other people because they have nowhere else to go. Students are also considered homeless if they are fleeing an abusive parent(s) who would otherwise provide the student with financial support and a place to live.”

Lack of knowledge and transparency of this definition is just one issue facing homeless students who, through one misstep in the financial aid application process, are faced with unnecessary and demanding hurdles. In Elena's case, this hurdle is in the form of a dependency override. Essentially, a dependency override is a document completed by a student and submitted to the financial aid office to change a student's financial status from “dependent” to “independent.”

Elena had already been classified on the FAFSA as an “independent student,” but the university's individual policy essentially states that they make their own determination on independent status. Elena is homeless and should automatically be considered independent. Her school is refusing to acknowledge the determination of the FAFSA and federal government, putting her access to financial aid on hold.

She received several collection notices stating the university will report her to creditors and withhold her grades.

## Where do homeless CSU students sleep?

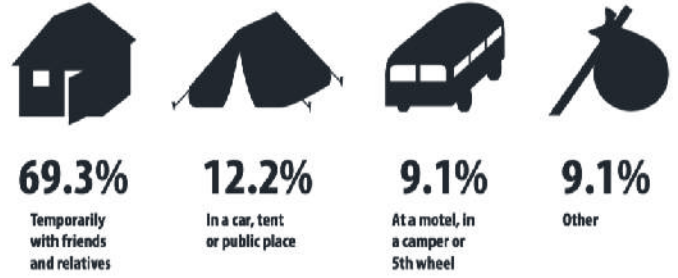


Illustration by Pierce Groshosky copyright 2016 by *The State Hornet* the voice of Sacramento State since 1949

All of this occurred while she was waiting for her dependency override to be accepted. The financial aid office informed her that it would take four to eight weeks due to the high volume of dependency overrides submitted by students in circumstances similar to Elena's. During this time, her override was not touched, causing her to miss her registration date to enroll in the next semester's classes due to a hold placed on her account. The hold was for an overdue balance of \$2,000 for tuition fees that would have been paid through financial aid had her override been accepted sooner. She was forced to wait three weeks while classes filled up quickly.

In addition to forcing her to wait while the override is being processed, the override procedure in itself is problematic. The override required Elena to recount the traumatic cause of her homelessness.

“It was retraumatizing,” she recounts. “I just wanted to burst into tears and I wrote that. They asked me where my parents are. They do that to try to get them to pay [for my tuition]. It was humiliating.” Elena said. “I was being forced to recount the worst moments of my life for a group of people who could be the difference between dropping out and getting a degree.”

Elena found out the person in charge of accepting overrides was out on vacation with no replacement. “Financial aid officers have the ability to do an override in five minutes,” Elena says, recalling what a former financial aid officer and friend told her. Elena only received help because she spoke out loudly against the administration and financial aid office. Several days following this condemnation, she received a call from the financial aid office to help push through her override. Fortunately, the officer was an advocate for former foster youth and helped Elena with her override.

There are a myriad of other challenges homeless students face. They are forced to navigate a system hostile and indifferent to their existence. Even resources available to homeless students often prove insufficient for chronically homeless students. For example, Elena, in addition to being homeless, is one of the twenty-five percent of CSU students that is food insecure (i.e., lacking access and the ability to afford food on a consistent basis). She utilizes her campus' food pantry, but because of the lack of nutritious items, she lost twenty pounds since beginning school.

### What can you do?

AAUW's Value Promise is that by "joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance." Homeless and housing insecurity acts as an economic barrier to education for many young women. According to a study commissioned by the CSU Chancellor Timothy White, one in ten CSU students is homeless. As of 2016, this means 460,000 students are homeless within the CSU system. Furthermore, one in four CSU students are food insecure (i.e., lacking the access and ability to purchase food).

Stories like Elena's are not unique and occur far too often. Elena calls for an open discussion of the topic, where other students can come together and speak out and give an audience to their experiences. Efforts need to be made to ensure every public college and university campus has an advocate who can guide homeless students through the financial aid process. Financial aid offices need to be held accountable to the students they are intended to serve.

To tackle student homelessness at the branch level, branches can ally with their local College/University (C/U) partner(s) to not only learn more about this issue, but also take action against it on the campus level. Since the CSU system is through the state, branches can also advocate for policy reform at the state level, lobbying legislators to bring student homelessness issues to the forefront.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS!

Sharon Westafer, Director, Chair  
AAUW Fund Committee  
[aauwfunds@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aauwfunds@aauw-ca.org)

Thank you and congratulations to the members of AAUW California for your generous donations. 2016 was a record breaking year. The AAUW Fund received **\$1,958,609.27** from California members and branches! This was in large part due to \$1,326,646.53 donated to Tech Trek. We know there are many worthwhile organizations to which one can donate money, and we appreciate that you choose AAUW when making your decisions.

The top contributors to the AAUW Fund for 2016 are:

BRANCH TOTAL	PER CAPITA
1. Danville-Alamo-Walnut Crk	1. Menlo-Atherton, Inc.
2. Torrance	2. Arcadia
3. San Jose, Inc.	3. Torrance
4. Antelope Valley	4. Antelope Valley
5. Morgan Hill	5. Porterville
6. Santa Barbara-Goleta	6. Berkeley
7. San Carlos, Inc.	7. Truckee-Donner
8. Long Beach	8. Beach Cities
9. Marin, Inc.	9. Gridley
10. Sacramento, Inc.	10. China Lake-Ridgecrest, Inc.

If your branch is looking for fund raising ideas, be sure to check out the AAUW California website and search under fundraising ideas. There is a variety listed from very complex to very simple. The branch which does the fundraiser is also listed so you can consult with them regarding the logistics. Please consider donating to the unfinished California endowments listed below.

CALIFORNIA UNFINISHED ENDOWMENTS 2017		
FUND	CURRENT BALANCE	NEEDED TO COMPLETE
<b>International Fellowships</b>		
4100 Ellis, Jessie and Wilder	\$25,480.00	\$74,520.00
<b>American Fellowships</b>		
4046 Coe, Vivian Lamont	\$71,178.16	\$28,821.84
4391 Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek 45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	\$82,442.16	\$117,557.84
<b>Research and Projects Grants</b>		
4078 Lindsey, Lucy/Margaret Hankle	\$32,878.00	\$2,122.00
4372 Sacramento Branch 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	\$50,984.56	\$24,015.44
4374 Alicia Hetman R&P Grant	\$46,937.62	\$28,062.38
4387 Walter & Emily Hackler	\$28,710.00	\$46,290.00
4403 Morgan Hill Wildflower Run	\$35,331.50	\$39,668.50

## CALIFORNIA PERSPECTIVE SURVEY RESULTS

Jim Doty, Editor  
*California Perspective*  
perspective@aauw-ca.org

A total of 841 members offered their opinions about the *California Perspective's* form, cost, content, format, tone and length by completing the survey published in the winter issue. Respondents indicated a general satisfaction with the *California Perspective* as currently produced and offered some valuable guidance and suggestions. Communications Committee is already acting on those suggestions.

For the past several years we have offered members the opportunity to receive the *California Perspective* via email only as a way to conserve resources and control costs. We were interested in whether it's time to switch to an all-electronic publication. The majority of respondents (57%) favored offering the *California Perspective* in electronic format only (no printed copies), but 846 members, for various good reasons, rely on receiving print copies. We will continue distributing the printed version. If you would like to receive the *California Perspective* electronically only, please send an email to [savepostage@aauw-ca.org](mailto:savepostage@aauw-ca.org) with the word YES in the subject line.

The cost of printing and mailing the *California Perspective* is a substantial part of AAUW California's budget. As stewards of your membership dues, we wanted to see if people who want the printed version are willing to pay for that cost. Only 28% of respondents would be willing to pay a subscription fee. Therefore, the funding mechanism for the newsletter will not be changed at this time.

The survey provided an opportunity to comment beyond

the check boxes, and many chose to do so. Those comments were wide-ranging, providing a glimpse into topics and issues that are on the minds of our members and important to consider. State leaders and committees are reviewing each comment to determine what, if any specific actions, can be taken to address them.

Not surprisingly, politics was on the minds of many respondents. We received 56 comments regarding political balance, public policy and legislation, giving the Public Policy Committee much to consider.

Finally, the survey confirmed AAUW California has an opportunity to improve our distribution process. It's important to note that we use the member information

submitted to AAUW National, so keeping your address information current with National is important. Contact changes should be submitted by writing to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or by calling 202-785-7700.

The Communication Committee is implementing a new email distribution process to achieve greater control. We also recognize that the information in the *California Perspective* can have a reach outside our membership and we are adding email distribution to sponsors, partner organizations, and key public policy makers.

The survey confirmed that the *California Perspective* is a valuable part of the suite of tools we use to communicate with our members. The survey results have given us valuable guidance to making the newsletter more informative, interesting, and easy to read. The **full report** is available on the

communications page of the AAUW California website (<http://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-ca-business/communications/>).

## THE CALIFORNIA PERSPECTIVE

The *California Perspective* is one of many ways AAUW California reaches out to members. The AAUW California website provides continually updated information about AAUW's mission and actions with particular emphasis on California. A monthly advisory, the *Board-to-Board* (or B2B), is an electronic newsletter containing short articles written by state board members and committee chairs to keep their branch leadership counterparts supplied with updates, suggestions and look-aheads. Subject-specific targeted emails, such as public policy Action Alerts, are sent on an "as needed" basis to subscribing members who want to focus on a particular part of AAUW's overall mission. The *California Perspective* provides a snapshot amalgam of all of these in three issues each year, reaching all AAUW California members and supporters in print and online.



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### AAUW'S VALUE PROMISE:

BY JOINING AAUW, YOU BELONG TO A COMMUNITY THAT BREAKS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC BARRIERS SO THAT ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE A FAIR CHANCE.

AAUW CALIFORNIA'S ELECTED AND APPOINTED LEADERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO DELIVER ON THE AAUW VALUE PROMISE. PLEASE JOIN WITH US -- THE PREMIER ORGANIZATION IN CALIFORNIA FOR WOMEN.

## SAVE A TREE! (AND OUR BUDGET)

You can save paper and reduce our costs by choosing to stop receiving a mailed paper copy of this newsletter. Nearly 2,000 have already made this choice, and they're saving postage too. It's easy—just send email to [save-postage@aauw-ca.org](mailto:save-postage@aauw-ca.org) with the word YES in the subject line.

We use the email addresses listed in the AAUW National Member Services Database (MSD) to send *California Perspective* electronically to every California member. If you are not receiving the electronic copy, your email address might be incorrect or missing from the record. Please update your profile in MSD on the national website ([aauw.org](http://aauw.org)) or ask your branch treasurer to do it for you.



Thank you Adobe Systems for your generous support of AAUW-CA