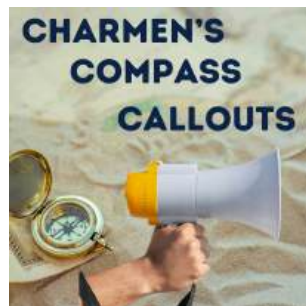




## September 2025

**Welcome to the *California Compass*, the monthly roadmap sent to every member from your state AAUW organization!**



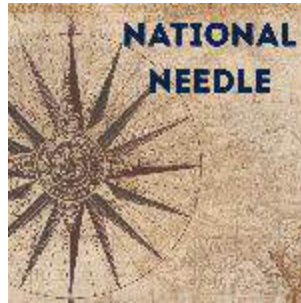
### **Charmen's Compass Callouts: A message from Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President**

Welcome to the *California Compass* (or CC for short), our new publication to share relevant information with every member in our beautiful state. Each month, you will find pertinent news from our national organization; member-focused highlights from our state committees; mission-based book recommendations from your state leaders; links to information on either AAUW National or AAUW California websites that may surprise you; as well as a monthly trivia question about AAUW members throughout history. Answer the question on the simple Google form and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize!

There will be a statewide book study on *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves*, by Dr. Shawn Ginwright. This book has been used to guide our leadership team and was highlighted in our annual event last spring. Dr. Ginwright asserts that we need a fundamental shift in our values—a pivot in how we think, act, work, and connect. Come learn more about the four pivots he describes

and how they might be helpful for our AAUW branches. "Pivot One" will be discussed on Wednesday, October 22nd, at 7 pm. I encourage you to read this section before our meeting, but you are also welcome to attend the discussion even if you haven't. Click [HERE](#) to register for the Zoom meeting. ALL members are welcome! Contact Charmen Goehring if you have any questions ([statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)).

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### **National Needle: News from AAUW National**

- Join with members from around the nation for the Fall Member Gathering on Thursday, September 18th, from 2-3 pm PT. You can register [HERE](#). Expect recognition of outstanding supporters and branches, an update on the AAUW Strategic Plan priorities, hearing the results of the fiscal year 2025 Branch survey, and more!
  - AAUW National is moving to a new mass email system to better serve our members. Make sure your contact information, including your email address, is up to date in the [Community Hub](#) (the national member database). AAUW California uses your email address from the Community Hub for our emails to you as well.
  - Participation in the Five-Star Program is growing! Last year, there were just 15 Five-Star branches across the country (seven in California!). This year, there are 54 Five-Star branches, including 16 in California. AAUW California is feeling competitive and would love to see 100% participation from our branches, as well as double or triple the number of Five-Star branches.
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### **On the Horizon: Highlights from the State Committees**

## Tech Trek

Since 1998, more than 16,000 girls have discovered the joys of STEM and friendship at volunteer-powered Tech Trek summer camps—thanks to the support of many of you!

Over 95% of California branches send campers to one of nine camps each year. Some of those attending are even the daughters of past campers!

Now, we're turning up the volume: ramping up to focus not just on teaching STEM skills, but also on the power of community AFTER camp. Because what's better than coding a robot? Coding one with friends who SEE you...

STEM skills may open doors; however, community relationships keep them open. Don't be a stranger – connect with an alum in your community today and make a difference! Contact [techtrek-ttap@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek-ttap@aauw-ca.org) to get started.

**Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director,** [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)

## Public Policy

The Public Policy Team is looking forward to another year of working with you to [advocate for gender equity and social justice](#). As we kick off the new year, we are faced with many new challenges. Although this may feel daunting, we are using this moment to find new ways to work together in impactful ways. If you want to get more involved, we provide a list of targeted action items each month, focusing on a topic area that we care about. This month, the focus is on public education. Our commitment to preserving democracy is unwavering, and we are grateful to have you as a partner in this fight. Read more about action items and opportunities in our monthly [Public Policy News](#).

**Missy Maceyko and Amy Hom, Directors, Public Policy Co-chairs,**  
[publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)

## Nominations and Elections

Do you enjoy AAUW? Are you a leader in your branch? Don't be shy. Now is the time to consider joining the state board. In 2026, we will be electing six new state directors: the board secretary, one one-year director, and four two-year directors.

**Gail Swain, Nominations and Elections Chair,** [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)

## Strategic Planning

This year, the majority of our 108 California branches responded to National's annual survey. This is how our branches earned their stars! To see the results and this year's Five-Star Program criteria, click [HERE](#).

Don't forget to register and attend the Fall Member Gathering (find the link to register in the National Needle above).

**Donna Holmes, Director, Strategic Plan Consultant,** [strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org](mailto:strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org)

## Branch Development

You are the heart of AAUW and the power behind our vision of supporting equity for all. With your time, skills, and talents, we can sustain our membership and, in turn, our ability to empower women and girls in our communities.

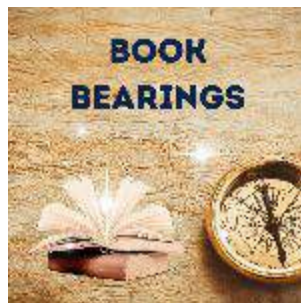
Recognizing members need to experience joy while making a difference, we have developed a variety of tried-and-true awareness and engagement programs to better ensure a more satisfying, successful, and joyful membership experience. Watch this space for more information.

**Sigrid Moranz and Rebecca Gomez, Directors, Branch Development Co-chairs,** [branch-development@aauw-ca.org](mailto:branch-development@aauw-ca.org)

## AAUW Fund

Did you know that only 17% of members contribute to the AAUW Fund that supports everything from operations to public policy advocacy on Capitol Hill to fellowships and grants and all else in between? We look forward to a year of new ideas, new AAUW Fellows, and lots of enthusiasm for learning about the Fund. Our goal is to increase participation from California members in charitable giving to our organization!

**Deanna Arthur, Director, AAUW Fund Chair,** [aauwfund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aauwfund@aauw-ca.org)



**Book Bearings: Mission-related book recommendations from the bookshelves of the state leadership team and committee members.**

***LatinoLand: A Portrait of America's Largest and Least Understood Minority*, by Marie Arana (2024).**

Recommended by Marty McKnew, AAUW California Governance Chair and Parliamentarian.

- Marty summarizes the book as “an eye-opening overview celebrating the diversity that is the Latino community.”
- In explaining why she found this book remarkable, Marty says, “The research that went into this book is amazing. The author’s writing style really pulls everything together. ... I learned so much about our nation’s history and the prejudices we all need to overcome.”

***Financial Feminist: Overcome the Patriarchy's Bullsh\*t to Master Your Money and Build a Life You Love, by Tori Dunlap (2022).***

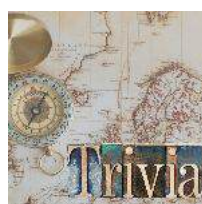
Recommended by Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President.

- Describing the book, Charmen says, “Tori founded her company, Her First \$100K, to teach women to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of their financial freedom. She believes that mastering your money and living a life you love is how to overcome the patriarchy.”
- Charmen found the book helpful because, “I needed a kick in the pants to get myself financially organized and in the best position possible for my post-employment years [and] Tori is helping me with that in her own unique style!”



**Wayfinder Links: Helpful links to the AAUW California or AAUW National websites**

Click [HERE](#) to start saving \$\$ simply by being an AAUW member.



**Monthly Trivia Question:**

AAUW member Julia Lathrop became the first woman to head which Federal agency in 1912?

Click [HERE](#) for contest rules and to enter your response.

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**Acknowledgments**

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Managing Editor: Randa Blanding

Editing Team: Claudia Chandler, Jennifer Foster, Shelly Johnson, Danica Ward

Communications Chair: Michelle Baer

## Questions or Comments?

You can reach the *California Compass* editors at [cc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cc@aauw-ca.org).



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

[AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org)

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education and resources.

[www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)



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