

Branching Out

auburn-ca.aauw.net



Editor—Debra Sabo

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

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our September online meeting was focused on Tech Trek. It was fun to hear from a few Tech Trek participants regarding their experience at virtual camp this year. Virtual Tech Trek was designed to provide campers with exposure to computer science and engineering, along with workshops to explore individual STEM specialties more deeply. Our branch has participated since the beginning of Tech Trek, and we will participate in the 2022 camp which will be, hopefully, in person.

We also saw a video: "I Changed Astronomy Forever. He Won the Nobel Prize for It." It is the story of Jocelyn Bell Burnell who discovered pulsars in 1967 as a graduate student. The video demonstrates that accepting the idea that - at that time - an astrophysics breakthrough couldn't have been made by a young woman.

As Matilda Joslyn Gage, a feminist, noted in her 1883 essay titled, *Woman as an Inventor*, "No assertion in reference to woman is more common than that she possesses no inventive or mechanical genius.... But, while such statements are carelessly or ignorantly made, tradition, history and experience alike prove her possession of these faculties in the highest degree."

While we have made improvements to remove barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity, we are not there yet. To move the gauge in the right direction, AAUW Auburn is doing its part.



Sandra Niemi Scott

GET THE WORD OUT TO SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Applications Open for 2022-23 Fellows and Grantees

We're pleased to announce that the application period for AAUW Fellowships and Grants is open for the 2022-23 academic year. Follow in the footsteps of award-winning authors, scientists, scholars and trailblazers by applying for educational funding through AAUW. Deadlines run from November to December 2021.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR OCTOBER

Peggy Dunievitz
Sue Dings
Amy Maggard
Elsie Gaura

Jodie Hale
Barbara Gerletti-Weiss
Cindy Kasburg



MARK YOUR CALENDER

Key Public Policy/Community Dates for October 2021

October 11 Indigenous People Day
October 23 Make a Difference Day (4th Saturday)

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP—GINGER FOSTER A THIRD IN OUR SERIES

Ginger Foster is Pastor of Pioneer United Methodist Church, the oldest church in Placer County – and an AAUW Auburn member. While the percentage of Christian women clergy is increasing – it's around 30% - the profession is still male dominated.

As the child of a United Methodist pastor, Ginger grew up in Northern California. She started college in San Francisco and finished up at the University of the Pacific (UOP) in Stockton. She taught English in Japan for two years before returning to UOP and earning a teaching credential. Ginger taught 2nd/3rd grade in a small public school, while settling in Roseville.

After nine years of teaching, Ginger began seminary and then headed into ministry. She served as Associate Pastor at Centennial United Methodist Church in south Sacramento for seven years, enjoying the urban multicultural congregation. In 2007, she was appointed to Mariposa United Methodist Church, near Yosemite National Park. Ginger became the Pioneer United Methodist's Pastor in 2017.

Ginger and her husband, Ray Jellison, have two children: Myles and Bekah, and a grandson. She has a sister who is also a female pastor.

Q: Are you the first female Pastor for Pioneer?

No, I'm the second female Senior Pastor Pioneer United Methodist has had.

Q: What is one lesson learned that's unique to being a woman leader?

I've learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to take stock regarding sexism in the environment. For example, I'm prepared with an answer when some people say women can't be ministers. My response is that "God had a conversation with me, and this is my calling."



Q: What advice would you give aspiring female leaders?

Pursue your passion, whether it is an accepted role for women or not. Prepare yourself, act with confidence, and find allies.

Q: Name a woman who has inspired you?

When I was in high school, I wrote a paper on the Women's Suffrage movement. The assignment was for 25 pages, and I wrote 75 pages – I had a lot to say. I learned about the women of the movement who made it possible for women to vote. Also, my mother and grandmother were inspiring. If my grandmother had been born in another time, my mother believes she would have been a pastor.

A CHANCE TO BETTER KNOW OUR MEMBERS

At the recent New Membership meeting we shared our stories and realized that many of us do not know the background story of our beloved members. And the stories are so rich.

So we introduce A CHANCE TO BETTER KNOW OUR MEMBERS in the Newsletter, starting with our past President, Norma Sexton.



A CHANCE TO BETTER KNOW OUR MEMBERS

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the Auburn branch of AAUW from 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2020. Yes, my service ended during the early days of the pandemic. Thus, the delay in receiving my past-president's pin. Thank you to the branch members in supporting me during my leadership.

Even after my term of service there may still be members that may not know about me. In my post-retirement life I am spending most of my time playing my cello. I started cello in elementary school and am still playing 50+ years later. I perform with the Auburn Symphony and the Folsom Lake Symphony. I also enjoy playing small chamber group music for fun and occasional performance. Chamber music workshops (adult band camp) are a favorite activity during my summers. I also provide instruction in cello performance from my home and at McLaughlin Studios in Loomis.

In between symphony rehearsals and giving lessons I am busy caring for the fruit trees planted on our property, about an acre in South Auburn. The house may not be spectacular but my husband, Phil, and I enjoy our little slice of heaven.

I moved to Auburn in 2011 but Phil had been in Northern California when his Forest Service career brought him to Foresthill in 1983.

I was still living in Bakersfield, working as a pharmacist, succeeding my cello teacher when she retired, playing in the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra, serving as a leader in my church and caring for my parents during their final years.

My engagement with AAUW began when Sue Dings, another past-president, invited me to join. I got to know Sue when I was seeking musicians with whom to play chamber music. Our first group was a trio with fellow AAUW member Loretta Ames.

I joined our branch and first engaged with the hiking group. I served as Membership VP for several years then was asked to serve as President.

I now realize I had heard of AAUW from one of the members of my Bakersfield church who shared about her book group. Would I have joined had she invited me? Good question. But I am glad I joined when Sue invited me.

Participating in this organization has allowed me to engage with and become integrated into my community.

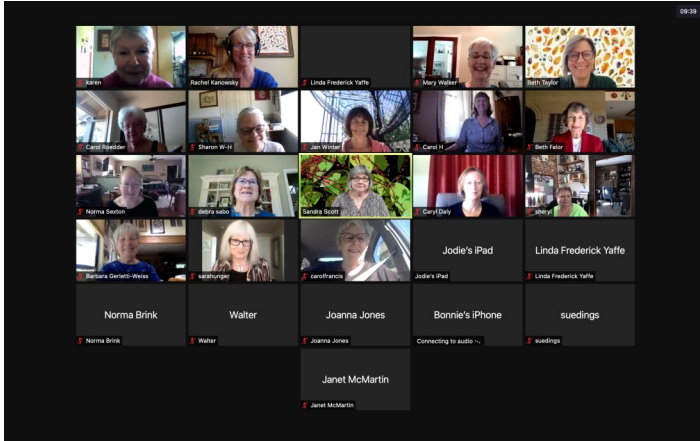
Norma Sexton

2021-2022 AUBURN AAUW DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Diane Fishburn's phone number should be corrected. The prefix should be a 916 not a 530.

Gwen (Wendy) Wallis zip code should be 95603

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM A FUN FILLED DAY



**PROGRAM MEETING WAS
SEPT. 18th.**

Our September Program was a big success, with many members joining us. To be safe we opted to do this meeting by ZOOM, but are eagerly awaiting a time we can all be together. (maybe the Holiday Meeting). We passed the 2021-2022 Auburn AAUW Budget.

Our past president (2018-2020), Norma Sexton was presented with the AAUW President Pin.



Designed by Napa County Branch Past President Gladys Johnson, this pin has been available since 1970. Branches on the pin form the letters AAUW and the leaves symbolize each past president as vital to the life of the branch.

The videos of our Tech Trek girls building electronic controlled hats gave us a real peak of what their week was like. They had on-line mentors, coaches, and technical help. And the girls reported back that they loved the whole process.



We ended with a compelling Video about Jocelyn Bell Burnell, who discovered the Pulsars. The video got great reviews from the members who watched it.

Jocelyn Bell Burnell

An astronomer, Bell Burnell was instrumental in the discovery of pulsars — a discovery that changed the field forever. While her Ph.D. advisor Antony Hewish would be awarded the Nobel Prize for the discovery in 1974, Bell Burnell’s involvement was virtually ignored, or treated as a novelty. “When the press found out I was a woman,” she said in 2015, “we were bombarded with inquiries. My male supervisor was asked the astrophysical questions while I was the human interest. Photographers asked me to unbutton my blouse lower, whilst journalists wanted to know my vital statistics and whether I was taller than Princess Margaret.” [WATCH VIDEO](#)

PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

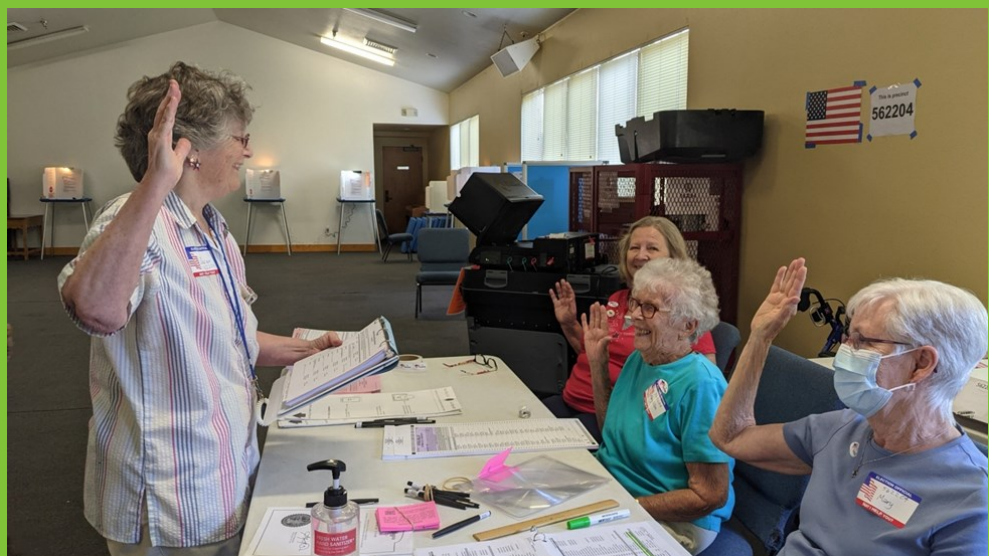
AUBURN AAUW MEMBERS VOUNTEER ON ELECTION DAY

Democracy works when citizens participate, and our Auburn chapter of AAUW has a long history of volunteering at precincts on Election Day. It's fun, educational, and important work. Not to mention we earn \$1600 to use for Scholarships or Tech Trek. Contact President Sandra Scott if you would like to volunteer for our next election!



Setting up for the Election Day are (left to right) Sheryl Peterson, Sharon Watson-Hamilton, Susan Rushton, Susan Roughgarden, and Barbara Gerletti-Weiss.

Inspector Susan Rushton (left) swears in the second shift: Bonnie Wilson (far back), Mary Ellen Oliveira (middle right), and Mary Walker (front right).



AUBURN AAUW MEMBERS VOUNTEER ON ELECTION DAY



Taking over for the final stretch are Rachel Kanowsky, Colleen Conley, Diane Fishburn, and Don Ruston (Honorary AAUW Member). Our leader, Inspector Susan Rushton swore in every group.

PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

Fun Website(s) - Website of the Month: Support Democracy

www.placer.ca.gov/4158/Boards-Commissions

Are you interested in volunteering to help support democracy? Have you thought about running for office but wondered where to start? You don't necessarily have to run for office. There are dozens of openings to which you can be appointed in Placer County. Check it out:

www.placer.ca.gov/4158/Boards-Commissions

Q & A with Alexia Retallack, Fish and Game Commissioner

Q: What is a County Commission, and what do Commissioners do?

A: Counties establish commissions (in addition to boards and committees) as venues for the public to provide comment and guidance to the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on topics ranging from planning and development, environmental and recreational issues, to economic development and education issues.



When positions are open, members of the public may complete an application and submit it for consideration. In most cases, Supervisors are given the opportunity to appoint residents or business owners from their districts to serve on these commissions.

Commission members become conduits for the public interest on topics brought before them. Commissioners deliberate the issues, seek input, and hear public comments. Commissions are governed by the Ralph M. Brown Act, so the meetings are publicly noticed and members of the public may provide comment on agenda items or may raise issues for consideration.

Commissioners take votes on agenda items, and the results are provided to the BOS. Sometimes, Commissioners write letters of support to the Legislature or to local papers when commenting on issues of importance. Other times, they circulate in their districts, connecting with residents and businesses to seek opinions, insights, and suggestions to create or improve County programs. They meet with the Supervisor for their District as well. Commissions may have program budgets that they direct for grants or programs. Depending upon the Commission, there may or may not be compensation.

PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

Fun Website(s) - Website of the Month: Support Democracy

www.placer.ca.gov/4158/Boards-Commissions

Q: How did you get interested in becoming a County Commissioner?

A: The majority of my career was spent with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, which is overseen by the State Fish and Game Commission. I learned about local Fish and Game Commissions and their purpose, which is to advise the BOS about outdoor recreation and environmental issues and to direct the sound and prudent expenditure of funds provided through Fish and Game fines and penalties.

“We look for opportunities to improve the conservation of Placer County’s natural resources not only for wildlife but for the recreational opportunities.” -- Alexia Retallack

Placer County’s Fish and Game Commission uses some of its funds to provide grants to organizations that do outdoor education, recreation, habitat restoration, watershed improvements, recreation expansion, and much more. It had been my goal that I would one day serve on the Placer Fish and Game Commission. It turns out there was an opening for District 5 (representing the area from Auburn to Colfax) just at a point when I was able to join. I have waited more than 25 years for the opportunity to be on this Commission!

Q: Does it take a lot of time?

A: Each Commission demands a different amount of commitment, depending upon the number of meetings held and the types of topics covered. Anyone interested in serving on a Commission, Committee, or Board should be prepared to participate in at least one meeting a month, which includes reading the materials in preparation for the meeting.

Q: What are the rewards that you experience?

A: With the Fish and Game Commission, it is exciting to see the energy and vitality the newly appointed members bring to a little known but important Commission. There are a number of us on the Commission who are also interested in raising the awareness of impacts of environmental crimes on Placer County’s natural resources. There are educational presentations on the status of water in Placer County, the use of cultural burns versus prescribed burns, habitat restoration activities, environmental crime prosecution, and more.

PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

Fun Website(s) - Website of the Month: Support Democracy

www.placer.ca.gov/4158/Boards-Commissions

“When wildlife is poached and habitat destroyed through pollution or wanton destruction, those individuals are literally stealing from the people of Placer County. Through the Commission, we look for ways to raise awareness, restore what has been lost, and improve access for today and into the future. Being part of a Commission gives me a chance to serve my neighborhood, my community, my town and my county. -- Alexia Retallack

Q: What frustrations do you have?

A: The Fish and Game Commission has limited financial resources. Funds for the Fish and Game Commission come from a modest allotment from Placer County and through Fish and Game fines and penalties. If the courts waive penalties, which frequently happens with Fish and Game code violations, then the Commission does not receive funding.

Much more serious an issue is the lack of Wildlife Officers who enforce the code, and protect fish, wildlife, and habitat. The Sheriff, Highway Patrol, and local police are tasked with enforcing the penal code and vehicle code. They do not have the time, availability, resources, or training to enforce the Fish and Game Code.

One of the issues the Fish and Game Commission is investigating is the status of law enforcement on the public lands in Placer County. We have a number of questions like how many officers do we have dedicated to our County; do they have adequate resources; do we have the support within the District Attorney’s office for prosecuting crimes these officers bring forth – and perhaps the most important question – what can our Fish and Game Commission do to help.

“Our biggest frustration – one that all Commissions face – is the lack of public participation. The Fish and Game Commission asked for the County Public Affairs Office to meet with us to discuss ways to better engage the public, to make them aware of the voice they have through the Commission.”

-- Alexia Retallack

PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

Fun Website(s) - Website of the Month: Support Democracy

www.placer.ca.gov/4158/Boards-Commissions

Q: Is there anything that I should have asked you but haven't?

A: Placer County has a number of Boards, Commissions and Committees for which there are openings for members of the public to serve. Some of the Commissions and Boards are made of locally elected officials who are appointed from the City Councils or Board of Supervisors, but others are open to the public. There are more than 30 Boards and Commissions in Placer covering topics from Veterans Halls to Parks, Libraries to Wastewater, Literacy to Economic Development.

“The opportunity to serve our community is just a click away,” So many of these Boards and Commissions have vacancies – it’s just a matter of being willing to volunteer.”

-- Alexia Retallack

Also - as a last minute update. The Fish and Game Commission voted to spend money to have meetings be hybrids so members of the public could tune in and participate and not have to show up in person. They will still meet at the location in person, but we felt this was a great way to engage.



PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

RUN FOR OFFICE IN 2022!

.For filing deadlines go to:<https://www.placerelections.com/current-elections/>
[NOTE: Information on Election 2022 not yet available.]

CITY COUNCIL:

Auburn City Council - <http://www.auburn.ca.gov/221/City-Council> or (530) 823-4211

COMMUNITY SERVICES/PARK DISTRICTS:

Auburn Area Recreation & Park District - <http://www.auburnrec.com/board-members.php>

(530) 885-8461, Option 6.

Auburn Valley Community Services District – <https://auburnvalleycsd.specialdistrict.org/board-members> or (916) 765-0023

Christian Valley Park Community Services District – <https://www.christianvalley.org>
(530) 878-8050

BOARDS OF EDUCATION:

Ackerman Charter District – <https://www.ackerman.k12.ca.us/district/board-of-trustees>
(530) 885-1974

Auburn Union School District - <https://www.auburn.k12.ca.us/District-Info/Board-of-Trustees/Members/index.html>

(530) 885-7242

Placer Union High School District - <https://www.puhsd.k12.ca.us/board-of-trustees> (530) 886-4400

Inspiring Quote of the Month ”

**Every Flower
Must Grow
Through Dirt
To Bloom.**

Notebook



OCTOBER SECTION NEWS

Contact Susan Rushton

BOOKENDS: Meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at the home of Janet McMartin. We'll be discussing "The Island of Sea Women," by Lisa See. All members are welcome! Please let Janet know if you're coming: If you have questions, contact Susan Rushton:

BOOKMARKS: Bookmarks meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct 15, at the home of Norma Sexton. New members are invited. For information, call Sue Dings

BOOKSTERS: Booksters meet at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25, at the home of Gerry Suskin. Carol Francis will lead the discussion for the book "And They Called it Camelot: A Novel of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis," by Stephanie Marie Thornton. Please let Gerry know you will be coming. For questions about the group please contact Carol Francis.

BRIDGE: The Bridge groups are up and running again. For information, days, and locations, contact Meredith Bruck. All members welcome.

DRAMA READING: Meets at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14 at the home of Barbara Gerletti-Weiss. We're reading "Jitney," by August Wilson. Please let Barbara know if you're coming. For info: Susan Rushton. All members welcome.

GLOBAL ISSUES / GREAT DECISIONS: Meets at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, at Raley's Event Center, 1915 Douglas Blvd., Roseville. Speaker or open forum. NOW taking your order and payment for the GD 2022 discussion book at \$33 each, which includes discount (ONLY until mid-October) and handling/shipping costs. Make checks payable to Elsie Gaura. Mail it or bring to meeting on Oct. 8. For more information: Contact Elsie.

HIKING GROUP: Thursday, October 7th we hike the River Trail/Gerle-Loop Trail near Pilot Hill on the South Fork of the American River. Thursday, October 21st we go to Independence Trail West on the South Yuba River. An email will go out next week to the hikers list regarding details. For directions and more details contact Debra Sabo.

TECH CONNECT: Wednesday, October 13 at 3pm. Topics—Cyber Security Issues and What if I lose my phone? How to survive the next 24 hours before you get a new one? Come ready to share any best practices. Please join us via zoom. RSVP to either Steve Lease or Deb Sabo if you are a new attendee. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434491707> Meeting ID: 434 491 707

AAUW AUBURN BRANCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 7, 2021

Those present via Zoom: Sandra Scott, Deb Sabo, Caryl Daly, Jan Winter, Barbara Gerletti-Weiss, Sharon Watson-Hamilton, Brandee Ambrosia, Rachel Kanowsky, Colleen Conley, Steven Lease, Susan Roughgarden. Norma Sexton, Beth Taylor, Bonnie Wilson

Minutes of Board Retreat approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report – Caryl Daly and Jan Winter

Waiting to hear from TechTrek about how much money we have from last year.

Proposed budget (see report) emailed to members for vote at meeting 9-18.

Moved by Deb Sabo, seconded by Colleen Conley to approve the Statement of Financial Position (see report) and Statement of Activity. PASSED.

Membership – Barbara Gerletti-Weiss and Sharon Watson-Hamilton

New member reception very delightful. 4 new members and 6 experienced members attended.

We have 76 members.

Program – Colleen Conley and Steven Lease

September 18 meeting is planned.

October 10 movie may be postponed.

Looking for International Dinner speaker

Scholarships – Brandee Ambrosia

Sending money to 2021 winners.

One winner deferred for this year and committee agreed.

Tech Trek – Rachel Kanowsky

Cindy Kasberg will probably not be able to help at this time.

Have 3 videos for 9-18 meeting and may get more.

Public Policy – Susan Roughgarden

Would like feedback on her newsletter articles. Consensus is very positive.

Would like more member involvement.

Website/Newsletter – Deb Sabo

AAUW grants, etc. now open for applications.

Need photos for newsletter.

Nominations – Norma Sexton

Will start working on them in January.

Fundraisers – Sandra Scott

Have tentative Trivia Bee date.

Discussed marketing campaign and use of media.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Wilson, Secretary



DONATE

The AAUW Auburn Branch provides college scholarships and Tech Trek sponsorships for women and girls. Consider making a donation to help support these important programs that will empower women and girls. Fill out the donation form and mail it with your check to the address noted below.

THANK YOU!

Auburn AAUW Fund – Mail-in Donation Form

Name: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Gift Amount _____

For your contribution, please check one of the boxes below:

Tech Trek

Make your check payable to AAUW Auburn Branch with a note in the memo line
“for Tech Trek, UC Davis Camp”

Scholarships

Make your check payable to AAUW Auburn Branch with a note in the memo line
“for scholarships”

Undesignated

Make your check payable to AAUW Auburn Branch

**These contributions may be tax deductible under IRS Code Section
170**

Email: auburnaauw@gmail.com

Mail to: Treasurer AAUW Auburn
PO Box 7872
Auburn, CA 95604

2021-22 AAUW Auburn (CA) Branch Membership Form

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____
 Street/POB _____
 City/State/Zip _____ Birthday Day/Mo _____
 Phone/Cell _____ Email _____
 College/Unvversty _____ Year Graduated _____
 Degree(s) AA, AS, BA, BS, Other, e.g. RN _____

DUES & DONATIONS (\$102 Annual Dues: National \$62 State \$20, Branch\$20)

Optional Local Donations

\$102 Annual Dues
 \$2 for directory printing (optional and appreciated)
 AAUW AUBURN Tech Trek (science camp for middle school girls)
 AAUW AUBURN Scholarship Fund
 AAUW AUBURN General Support Donation
 _____ **TOTAL DUES**

For the following donations make separate check(s) payable to AAUW with the fund name in the memo line.

Optional National Donations

National Donation to AAUW Educational Opportunities FundNational
 Donation to Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)
 National Donation to AAUW General Support

Checks will be forwarded to the National Office

GET INVOLVED - SELECT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Tree Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraistng | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Tech Trek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Development | |

NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE Email U S Mail

MAIL YOUR CHECK AND THIS FORM TO:
 AAUW Auburn, Attention Membership
 PO Box 7872, Auburn, CA 95604

Auburn Branch AAUW
PO Box 7872
Auburn, CA 95604

ADDRESS SERVICE-
REQUESTED

AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

AAUW Diversity Statement

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Websites

Auburn Branch:

www.auburn-ca.aauw.net

State:

www.aauw-ca.org

National:

www.aauw.org