



Branching Out
Newsletter: Jan – Feb 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays! As the year comes to an end, we are looking forward with excitement to 2025 and the upcoming AAUW activities.

International Relations Potluck Dinner with Speaker is on Friday January 24, 2025 –5:30-7:30 pm at Pioneer Methodist Church 1338 Lincoln Way, Auburn. Members provide food.

The Inter Branch Council has a gathering in Fair Oaks at a country club on January 25. This is a great opportunity to mix and mingle with AAUW members from branches in Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, and Sacramento Counties.

We also have two different fundraisers coming up.

Briar Patch Co-Op has selected AAUW Auburn Branch as its March 2025 non-profit round-up recipient. Shoppers at Briar Patch can “round-up” their receipt to the next dollar to be donated to AAUW Auburn. This is a fabulous opportunity! Thank you to Sandra Scott for her hard work on the grant application. We will be promoting the event in February and March, so please watch for those notices in our newsletter, eblasts and social media.

Our Trivia Bee is on March 29th at First Congregational Church, Auburn. We need teams to compete and volunteers to participate. Please contact us at auburnaauw@gmail.com for more information.

Lastly, we are also looking for new members to join the AAUW Auburn Board in June. AAUW Auburn's success stems from the commitment and support of its Board and volunteers. Many of our current Board members have served for years, and now look to pass their experience onto the next team of leaders. We have openings for the Program, Membership, Secretary, President Elect, Website, and Newsletter editor positions. In 2026, we will also need someone to be Treasurer. All positions come with the support of those who have served in them to make stepping into the role easy. So, if you are looking for a way to support women, girls and community, being part of the AAUW leadership team might be right for you!

See you in the new year!

Alexia Retallack, AAUW Auburn President

International dinner.

Luisa Handem Piette will be our speaker at the International Dinner. She is a dynamic communicator, international media coach, and public relations leader in a variety of fields, including technology. Luisa started her career as a radio broadcaster in 1981 with the BBC in London. She later worked for Radio France International in Paris and, in the early nineties, joined the Voice of America in Washington, D.C. She reported on global current affairs, women's issues, and the arts. She also anchored satellite TV shows in Central Asia and Africa for Worldnet TV. She currently hosts "What Matters Most," an Auburn Community TV Show.

In addition to English, Luisa is fluent in French, Spanish, Creole, and Portuguese. She is the CEO of LHP Communications and Language Services, an officer of the Board of Trustees of the Paris-based Forbidden Stories and the Board President of Placer Community Theater. She has served on various boards, including New Faces New Voices in Guinea-Bissau which was founded by Graça Machel, Nelson Mandela's second wife.

Luisa led the Motorola, Ericsson, Nokia and Phone.com brainchild from just a few members when she joined in 1999 to a 500-member organization in less than a year, contributing to our ability today to access the Internet on handheld devices.

Be sure to join us on January 24th for an interesting and informative International Dinner meeting.



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Upcoming meetings:

International Relations Dinner Potluck

Friday January 24, 2025

5:30-7:30 pm at

Pioneer Methodist Church

Contact Carol Hachmeister if you are attending and what dish you will be bringing: Salad, Main, or Dessert.

Family, friends, acquaintances, partners, neighbors are welcome

AAUW Auburn Branch General Meeting

Monday February 10, 2025

1:00-3:00 pm at

Rose Room - Auburn City Hall

Coffee, tea and light refreshments provided

Guests are welcome

March 29, 2025 (Saturday) - Trivia Bee

5:00 - 9:00 pm First Congregational Church, Auburn

April 14, 2025 (Monday) - General Meeting - Slate of Officers

1:00-3:00 pm – Rose Room

Coffee, tea and light refreshments provided

May 28, 2025 (Wednesday) - Scholarship Honorees Presentation

5:30 - 7:30 pm – Pioneer Methodist Church

Committee and Board members provide potluck dinner

June 9, 2025 (Monday) - Members & Guests Social

5:30 - 7:30 pm - Pioneer Methodist Church

Salads & Sundaes provided by Program VPs

Voting center volunteers appreciation.

Thanks to all who volunteered to help at the voting center, especially Pam Hart and Norma Sexton. Pam and Norma were there all day for the whole 4 days, teaching, encouraging, helping and keeping all balls in the air at once. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

These members worked their shifts with a smile, applause for first time voters, and with genuine enthusiasm and kindness to all:

Helene Crandall, Barbara Gerletti-Weiss, Sharon Watson-Hamilton, Marleen Wekell, Mary Stevens, Ed Weiss, Carol Hachmeister, Cindy Kasberg, Maureen Gazzaniga, Karen Bleuel, Artella Hughes, Mary Walker, Deb Sabo, Diane Fishburn, Edlene McKenzie, Stevie Rea, Susan Rushton and Alexia Retallack, who stepped up to do a double when we were slammed Tuesday (1100 voters processed just on Tuesday). BIG THANKS also to Tom



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Crandall, Kurt Bleuel, and Phil Sexton, who willingly work with us every time. We shared the load with League of Women Voters, and several of us worked shifts for both organizations.

Without seeing it in person, it's hard to imagine just how polite, professional and respectful all our members were to voters. Or maybe it's not hard to imagine that, once you know our members. It is my sincere honor to work with such wonderful citizens.

Thanks to all of you.
Bonnie Wilson

Tech Trek news

The Tech Trek Ambassador program is going well. The Auburn AAUW ladies have generated contacts at schools we hadn't worked with previously. Our members are building relationships with these schools and teachers with friendly, in person visits with swag or cookies and a grateful attitude about what they are doing. With luck, this will carry over into next year and the year after that, making the nominations easier to gather. We currently have 6 nominees from 4 schools and we still have a month to go before the deadline. We hope to have 20 nominations by the end of January.

Applications are submitted in February and Auburn AAUW interviews happen in early March. Final Camper selection happens soon after that.

We hope to send our campers to two different camps this year, TT UC Davis and TT UC Santa Cruz. This allows us to find spots for all 10 girls we would like to send to camp. Thank you for your continued support for the Tech Trek program!

Rachel Kanowsky/ Auburn AAUW Tech Trek Branch Co-Coordinator

Trivia Bee volunteers needed.

Volunteers are needed for the Trivia Bee. We need people to help decorate, distribute tickets to Ropers and pick up payments, put up posters around town, act as proctors the day of the event and encourage people to participate as a team. Call Pam Hart or Carol Hachmeister to be involved in our major fundraiser of the year.

Interest Groups

Booksters will meet on zoom the next two months. On January 28, 2025, Gerry Suskin will lead the discussion of *Maisie Debbs* by Jacqueline Winspear. Then on February 25, 2025, Anne Ruud will lead the discussion of *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren. Contact Carol Francis for more information.

Drama Reading: We will meet at 1:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday, Jan. 7 and Feb. 4. We read plays together! Please contact Susan Rushton for more information

Global Issues: The Auburn Great Decisions discussion group meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Carnegie Library, 175 Almond St. in Auburn. Jan. 14, the topic is "U.S. Changing Leadership of the



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World Economy.” On Feb. 11, it's “U.S.-China Relationships.” The curriculum books are arriving any day now! Please contact Carol Roedder if you would like to join us.

Bookmarks: Meets on the third Friday at 2 p.m. Members discuss books they have read recently. Contact Sue Dings for information

Bookends: We meet at 2 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Jan. 22, we will discuss "An Unfinished Love Story," by Doris Kearns Goodwin, at Susan Roughgarden's home. On Feb. 26, we will discuss "James" by Percival Everett, at Susan Rushton's home.

Bridge: Contact Meredith Bruck if you're interested in playing bridge.

HIKING GROUP: Hikes are planned for Thursday, Jan 2 & 30. And Thursday, Feb 13 & 27. An email with more details will go out End of December. Contact Deb Sabo to get on our monthly email list.