



Branching Out Newsletter: March- April 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Starting March 1, AAUW Auburn Branch will be the featured recipient of the Briar Patch Food Co-Op Round Up grant at the Auburn store. Anyone who shops at the Briar Patch Food Co-Op can choose to round up their bill to the next dollar and the round up of change goes to AAUW. We will be sending eblasts with a reminder, and we are also featuring it on our social media page. Please encourage your friends and family to shop at the Briar Patch Food Co-Op in Auburn and round up from March 1-31.

March is also TRIVIA BEE. This year's theme is sports. Challenge your friends and family to put their expertise to the test and compete against other sports fans from the greater Auburn area. It should be a blast and fun to watch. Most importantly, their participation helps raise funds for scholarships. Please contact Sharon Watson-Hamilton for more information about teams and see our website to purchase tickets <https://auburn-ca.aauw.net/>. If you are not able to participate or attend the Bee, we have a sponsorship program available. Sponsorships support the AAUW scholarship programs, and they offer a fantastic way for businesses to show their support and receive recognition for their contribution. Watch for a notice in the mail coming soon.

A significant majority of members voted to adopt the Ally Policy. Thank you to everyone who participated in the vote and who attended our February general meeting to discuss it. We'll provide information soon about implementation, but please encourage incredible women you know who might want to be part of AAUW to join our meetings. They may contact us at auburnaauw@gmail.com.

And lastly, there is training on March 31 from AAUW State to prepare delegates to go to the Legislature in April to advocate on legislation (the three bills have yet to be selected by AAUW State). If you have never been at the Capitol meeting with representatives to advocate for a position, it's an incredible experience. Please contact Susan Roughgarden for more information.

Thank you again to all of our members for your encouragement and support.

Alexia Retallack, AAUW Auburn President

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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



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AUBURN AAUW TECH TREK CAMP SEASON 2025 UPDATE.

We already have 2 Dorm monitors signed up for Tech Trek Davis Camp and 9 other volunteers assisting in various ways on the Auburn AAUW Tech Trek Committee. Auburn area 7th grade Math and Science school teachers sent us 21 camper nominations at the end of January, double the number of nominees we had last year. Thank you to our Auburn members who volunteered to be Auburn Tech Trek Ambassadors. Each Auburn Ambassador visited teachers at a few of the 13 Auburn area schools, building relationships with the Math and Science teachers with conversation and cookies. Auburn AAUW Board approved our branch to sponsor 10 campers this year. Half of the Auburn selected campers will go to UC Davis and half will attend camp at UC Santa Cruz. Local area girl nominees and their parents are currently filling out and submitting their TT Camp applications and will be considered for interviews in March and final selected campers will be notified in late March.

Mark your calendars #1 - Auburn AAUW members are invited to the Auburn Tech Trek Camper Orientation for coffee, treats, and to meet the campers, their families, and nominating teachers on Saturday, May 17 at 10 am at Auburn's Recreation Park. More details to follow.

Mark your calendars #2 - You are invited to Tech Trek Davis Camp Visit Day on Thursday, July 17, 2025, beginning at 9 am. During your visit you will tour the UCD camp dorm rooms, classes and workshops, meet some campers and Camp Staff for coffee, tea and a Q and A, eat lunch with the campers and be in the Auburn Camp branch photos. RSVP's are not required but strongly recommended. More details in May.

Thank you Auburn AAUW members for your support.

Rachel and Valerie - Auburn Tech Trek Branch Coordinators

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP INVITES YOU!

First, a bit of history . . .

In 1918, in an effort to support President Woodrow Wilson's efforts to achieve lasting peace, 141 U.S. citizens organized the League of Free Nations Association, later to become the Foreign Policy Association (1923) and its Great Decisions program. Their mission then, as now, was to study all sides of global issues and become more educated Americans. Among the founders was Eleanor Roosevelt.

In 1938, nineteen women established a program called "Off-the-Record," whose purpose was to actively inform people of international and national affairs. This group continues to meet today in New York, but now has a membership of over 600. Other programs spawned by the FPA include *The World Today* (1940) on the radio and later on NBC television and the World Affairs Council (1986). The Emmy Award-winning *Great Decisions Television Series* began that same year and ran until 2021. The FPA is currently reviving the program.

Great Decisions started (1954) as a way for everyday citizens to get together and discuss global policies. Today, Great Decisions has other avenues of learning as well: school curricula, a master class on DVD, and speaker programs as well as their trademark briefing book. In addition, the FPA sends out and tabulates an annual opinion ballot based on the book's topics and presents these results to the White House, the Departments of State and Defense, members of Congress, and the media each year.

People of consequence have routinely addressed the Foreign Policy Association: Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi, Hosni Mubarek, and Bill Clinton – to name just a few.

So, what do we do in a Great Decisions meeting? We talk! And talk! The in-depth briefing book contains eight topics of global importance, with an emphasis on background and current policies. And while the goal here is to understand the issues, it is sometimes hard to keep politics out of the discussion. But each opinion adds to the

body intellect, and everyone is treated with respect.

Sound interesting? Join us to discuss the big issues of foreign policy! We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 in the newly renovated Carnegie Library on 175 Almond Street. Bring a friend



Carol Roedder and Susan Roughgarden

INVITATION FROM THE PLACER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Placer County Historical Society invites the members, family and friends of Auburn AAUW to a celebration of Gussie Wright Stewart, the first woman attorney in Placer County. The event will be held at the Auburn City Hall where an exhibit of Gussie's life and accomplishments has recently been installed.

March 12, 2025

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Auburn City Hall, 2nd Floor

Gussie passed the Bar in 1915 and practiced law through the 1940's in Placer County most notably out of her offices in the White House across the street from the Auburn Courthouse. A commemorative tile was recently installed in Auburn Central Square calling her "A Woman of Firsts." Gussie was a fierce advocate for women and children both in the courtroom and the community. She had a long and varied career as an attorney handling all types of cases. She was clearly esteemed by her colleagues and was elected the first woman President of the County Bar Association in 1940. She was also known for her public speeches made on topics such as "Equal Rights for Women" and "Laws for Women." Gussie's husband James Stewart is also featured in the exhibit. He was a noted mining engineer from Gold Run, and he fully supported Gussie in her advocacy and career. According to newspaper accounts, they opened their home to several women needing a safe haven as well as caring for 19 foster children over the years.

The exhibit will continue through the end of April, and is available for viewing on weekdays and on Saturday, March 8th.

Diane Fishburn, an Auburn AAUW member, County Museum docent and Historical Society volunteer, has been part of the team researching Gussie Stewart's life, and arranging for the exhibit and the March 12th celebration.



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AAUW is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, but we are not values neutral. Our Public Policy Priorities, developed with input from membership and leaders at the state and national levels, are:

1. Economic Security for All Women, including equity in the workplace
2. Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students
3. Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, including self-determination in reproductive health and equal access to quality affordable health care, housing, and a healthy environment
4. Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles

AAUW national states: The Public Policy Priorities underscore AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

What can we do to help support the AAUW mission?

We have the right and responsibility in a democratic society to communicate our thoughts to political leaders. Here are some ways to be an active citizen:

1. Select issues that you care about, such as equity in the workplace, climate change, public schools. Research the topic and write a letter.
2. Subscribe to media organizations that present all sides of an issue. Good examples are PBS, NPR
3. Volunteer. Find a niche in AAUW Auburn, or join an organization with a similar mission.

Susan Roughgarden. Public Policy Chair

INTEREST GROUPS

Drama Reading: we meet at 1:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday. In March we will be meeting at Barbara Gerletti-Weiss. We will meet on April 1 in a home to be determined. For information, please call Susan Rushton

Great Decisions meets in the Auburn Carnegie Library the second Tuesday of each month for eight months of the year. We discuss issues of global importance using the Foreign Policy Association's background information. The topic for March 11 is "Competition, Cold War, or Conflict? Navigating U.S. - China Relations in Tense Times." Please note that in April we'll meet on Tuesday, April 15th. The focus is "India: Between China, the West, and the Global South."

Bookmarks will meet on 3rd Fridays March 21 & April 18 at 2:00 at Sue Dings' home. For information, call Sue

Booksters will be meeting online on March 25, with a discussion of "Horse," by Geraldine Brooks, led by Shawnee Unger. On April 22, we will be reading a new book, "The Measure," by Nikki Erlick, discussion led by Helene Crandall. If you would like more information on the group, please contact Carol Francis

Bookends: We meet on the fourth Wednesday at 2 p.m. On March 26, we're meeting at Janet McMartin's home. No title yet. We will also meet at 2 p.m. on April 23 - at a home to be decided - same for the title of the book.

Bridge: If you're interested in playing bridge, please contact Meredith Bruck

Hiking dates for March and April. Thursday March 13 & 27. Thursday April 10th & 24. Contact Deb Sabo to get on the email communications for hiking.