



Auburn AAUW Connection

A Note from the President

2025-2026 is getting busy!

AAUW members -

This newsletter is PACKED with information from our committees and our members, so your President's message is short and sweet.

READ ON - there is great stuff happening!

Thank you to everyone who has submitted material. Keep it coming!
And please, join us at a Board meeting or send your questions to us at auburnaauw@gmail.com.

Thank you for your commitment to AAUW. We are here because of you!

Fiona Ma, State Treasurer, Presents to AAUW Auburn October 13



**Open Meeting - Feel free
to bring a guest!**

**Fiona Ma
California's State Treasurer**

**October 13, at 3 pm
Auburn City Hall Rose
Room**

State Treasurer Fiona Ma was first elected on November 6, 2018, with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate in 2022.

As the 34th State Treasurer, she is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position.

The State Treasurer's Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is the world's fourth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Presently, her office processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions.

She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio that currently averages over \$200 billion—a significant portion of which is beneficially owned by more than 2,200 local governments in California. She serves as agent of sale for all State bonds and is trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness.

AAUW Membership Update

Happy New Year! July 1 brought the start of the new year and a few new faces joined AAUW Auburn branch leadership. I'm excited to introduce myself as the new VP of Membership. I am serving with two amazing women.

The three of us make up the membership committee. Many of you know Sue Dings. Sue has a long history with AAUW and the Auburn branch. She brings so much knowledge and experience to our committee.

Completing our trio is Sally Laughlin. Sally is new to our branch and has jumped right in as part of the membership committee. She brings exciting new ideas that will see positive results within our membership.

The upcoming Sip n Paint is our first activity aimed at increasing our membership, supporting our existing members, and growing our branch presence throughout the community. See the flyer to RSVP. Bring a friend who might want to join our branch, and she paints for free! We look forward to meeting all of you.

Welcome to our newest members Patti Baker, Candy Jewett, Carolyn Dierksen, and of course Sally Laughlin. New members bring new ideas and renewed motivation. It's like a super boost of energy. We're so glad you're here!

- Mary Lambeth

AAUW AUBURN CA BRANCH

Sip & Paint

Wednesday
OCT 22 5:30-8:00
*Bring a friend who might want to join the branch and she paints for free.

\$40*

RSVP BY OCT. 15 AT: [PAYPAL/SIPNPAINT](#)
OR SCAN QR CODE, OR
TO MAIL A CHECK EMAIL LAMBETHFAMILY@HOTMAIL.COM

JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED OF ARTSY AND WINE TASTING
THE CARNEGIE 175 ALMOND ST, AUBURN
PLEASE PARK ON E PLACER ST OR AUBURN JOURNAL LOT

Details:

- BRING A DISH, WINE, BEVERAGE TO SHARE
- ART BOARD & PAINT SET PROVIDED
- FUN CONVERSATION

auburn-ca.aauw.net facebook.com/aauwauburn

Sip & Paint - Bring a Friend

The membership committee has set up a "Sip & Paint" event for members and you're encouraged to bring a friend who gets to paint for free.

Cost is \$40 for the member and includes all of the supplies needed for painting. If you bring a friend - they get to paint at no cost!

- [Pay online with a card](#)
- [Facebook event post](#)

[Map for Parking at the Carnegie Library](#) 175 Almond Street, Auburn



Tech Trek Pizza Party Success

AAUW Auburn Earns Three Stars!

AAUW Auburn submitted its FY 25 Branch Survey and three stars from AAUW's Advancement Committee for all the outstanding work our branch and members do in our community.



The AAUW Five Star Program is designed to

Thank you to everyone who came to the Sept. 19 meeting and met our 2025 Tech Trekkers!

Photo by Jan Winters

help branches align with AAUW's strategic priorities and advance our mission of achieving gender equity for women and girls.

Public Policy Update

The AAUW Public Policy leaders explain their article [about Prop. 50](#).

Free T'ai Chi Class

Imagine feeling better, breathing more deeply, moving with greater strength, awareness, and confidence. You are invited to participate in T'ai Chi at no cost, led by AAUW-Auburn member Linda Frederick Yaffe. All are welcome - no special equipment or experience are required.

Classes meet three times a week, year 'round at 8 am:

- TUESDAYs at McAuley Meadows Apartments, 585 Sacramento St., Auburn
- THURSDAYs and FRIDAYs at Railhead Park, covered picnic area, Pacific Ave., Auburn

The sessions begin promptly at 8 am and end promptly at 9 am. For 45 minutes we stand in a circle and practice classic repetitive exercises. During the last 15 minutes we practice the "White Dragon T'ai Chi"(short form) 3 times.

T'ai Chi has been proven to help strength, stability, and balance, and prevent dementia. You will experience other positive changes, too. One woman in our group had to stop driving because she could no longer turn her head - she is now driving again. Another was incontinent - she is no longer experiencing problems.

Devastating falls are a greater danger than stroke. You can learn how to practice this at home: falling gently - and getting back up safely. T'ai Chi is truly self-defense: *protecting ourselves*.



Great Decisions meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 am

Great Decisions will meet October 14, and our topic is "AI and National Security." If you would like to join us, contact Carol Roedder at 408-712-0139 for location, as we are meeting in a member's home. We can get you a copy of the article on which the discussion will be based, or you are welcome to come and contribute your own views or simply listen. We are apolitical, and discussions are always lively and respectful.

A Word from Scholarship Winner Josephine Lukkonen UCSD

Being a first year college student this year has been quite an experience. The actions of the federal government and the many social and political issues that have occurred recently have caused some tensions within my school and in the surrounding area.

This Spring quarter I made a research article for

A Note from Scholarship Winner Anna Soares

I've appreciated your branch's support in my college journey. UC Irvine has been an amazing experience that I am thankful for daily. I have pursued college wisely and have had success in the classroom and in my sport.

I am continuing to pursue an Electrical Engineering degree. During my first quarter at

one of my classes that focused on the effects the federal government has on university level research, and my findings have made me a bit worried for the future of women in STEM. From significant cuts to funding to rolling back DEI initiatives, I wonder if these changes will lead to women in STEM facing additional challenges in their fields. It's hard to say how everything will turn out in future years, but there are a lot of possibilities with a lot of risks and challenges. Besides that, I feel as though the first year of college is very hard to encapsulate or summarize, as there are so many factors that can influence one's daily life and experience overall.

Housing, food quality, classes, class schedule, distance from home, extracurriculars, and more can have such a profound impact, and I didn't truly recognize this until I experienced it for myself.

My favorite part of this first year was taking a veterinary assistant training course through a community college while enrolled at my four year university, which will later turn into a summer internship after the course ends. One of the more difficult parts was living in a very old residence hall in a room that was built to house two people, but was squished into a three person bedroom.

Though my roommates are good people, living in a very crowded space that is clearly not designed to fit that many bodies is a bit frustrating. However, we will be living in brand new dorms next year, so I suppose it all balances out!

UCI, I received a B+ in Physics, an A in Python Programming, and an A+ 100% in Calculus 3 Part 1 and 2. It wasn't easy, but I was able to study hard and excel in those classes. I learned a lot.

I found that intro classes in college have more requirements than expected. I had to study extra hard the first few weeks to figure out the basics for my Python and physics classes. On top of that, I learned that professors often talk about one set of concepts in class, while assigning a separate set of concepts for weekly projects. I have been able to self-teach and research for myself how to program or solve physics problems. Even though this was hard, I was grateful for all the knowledge I gained during my first quarter.

I also had a successful cross-country season, with my fastest 5k time of 18:03. In track I did the steeplechase with my fastest time of 11:08. The steeplechase is a 3000m race with 28 barriers and 7 water jumps. This race isn't popular because of how technical it is, but I love a challenge, and I'm thankful my body has been able to handle the challenge.

I have also accepted an Electrical Engineering internship at Kratos this summer. Kratos is a U.S. defense company that builds drones for the military. I will hopefully be able to help Kratos optimize the electronics inside and the antennas outside on their sophisticated drones like the XQ-58 low-cost combat and pilot "wingman", the BQM-167A Air Force Aerial Target Drone, and the BQM-177A Sub-Sonic Aerial Navy Target.

AAUW member postings, podcasts, broadcasts and more...

Many of AAUW's members educate and inform our community through articles, online broadcast programs and more. Susan Rushton is a regular columnist and contributor to the Auburn Journal, and Sharon Watson-Hamilton is featured on Auburn Community Television.

- Read about [the 2026 Speech Trek](#) by Susan Roughgarden
- Please use the link below to watch Sharon Watson Hamilton's [interview with Neva Parker, Candidate for the State Assembly, 5th District](#)
- Visit [Auburn Community Television](#) for interviews Susan Rushton has with various community members and organizations. You can also find [Auburn Community Television on Facebook](#).

We would love to include more posts from members so share links to your materials with us at auburnaauw@gmail.com.

Next AAUW Board Meeting - October 9 at 5:30 pm

The AAUW Board meets each month via zoom. Members are welcome to attend to see what's

happening and to contribute ideas.

[Meeting link via Zoom - October 9 at 5:30 pm on Zoom](#)

AAUW Auburn Groups News

Hiking Group

Hikes twice a month. Contact Deb Sabo to get on the email list

Bookends I

Meets 4th Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Rushton

Bookends II

Meets in the evening. Contact Sharon Watson-Hamilton

Bookmarks

Meets 4th Friday at 2 pm. Contact Sue Dings:

Booksters

Meets 4th Tuesday at 1:30 pm. Contact Carol Francis

Bridge Groups

One meets 2nd Wednesday and the other the 4th Wednesday at 1 pm. Contact Meredith Bruck

NEWS DEADLINE

The Auburn AAUW Connection will come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline to submit news, information, photos, is the 25th of each month.



AAUW Auburn Branch | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

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