



Grapevine Newsletter September - October, 2024

Kicking Off the New AAUW Year

Saturday, September 7, 2024

1:30 pm ~ 3:00 pm

Fellowship Hall, Immanuel Lutheran Church
14103 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Reconnect with your AAUW friends ~
Hear about our program plans for the year ahead ~
Enjoy a delicious dessert ~

Guests and prospective members are always welcome!

Meet our **Tech Trek girls** who spent a week in residential camp at Santa Clara University. What did they learn? Have they changed their attitude toward STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)?



The Latest Happenings in K-8 Education

Saturday, October 5, 2024

1:30 pm ~ 3:00 pm

Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Moira Barker, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Saratoga Union School District,
and **Kristin Murphy**, Principal of Saratoga Elementary School,



Topics:

- Transitional kindergarten
- Covid recovery
- Social/Emotional Learning
- Timely help for struggling students
- Implications of declining enrollment

No cost to attend. Program is open to everyone!

Our Branch website is <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw.net/>

Our 2024-2025 Elected Officers

Co-President	Laurie Lindsey (303) 941-1956	lauriellindsey@gmail.com
Co-President	Arleen Pickett (408) 724-7905	arleenpickett@gmail.com
Secretary	Mara Otlans (253) 202-3307	marao9@live.com
Treasurer	Lynn Sprague (408) 867-9375	lynnspr@gmail.com
Membership VP	Virginia Turner (408) 866-4234	vturner@sbcglobal.net
Membership Treasurer	Louise Quenon (408) 867-0698	lquenon@comcast.net
AAUW Fund VP	Arleen Pickett (408) 724-7905	arleenpickett@gmail.com

Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW Budget, 2024-2025

	Proposed Income	FY 2024-2025
1	Branch Dues (75 paid members)	1,500.00
2	Directory Ads (not solicited in current format)	0.00
3	Miscellaneous Income (donations)	650.00
4	Newsletter print and mail (20 @ \$15)	300.00
	Total Income	\$2,450.00
	Proposed Expenses	
6	Bank Fees	25.00
7	Board Meeting Room Fee (currently not needed)	0.00
8	Branch Supplies (stationery, Zoom account, etc.)	200.00
9	CA Secretary of State Filing Fee **	0.00
10	Convention – State	50.00
11	Directory Postage - First Class	50.00
12	Directory Printing & Production	50.00
13	Grapevine (Newsletter) Postage	150.00
15	Grapevine (Newsletter) Printing & Production	100.00
16	Installation of New Board	0.00
17	Insurance CA AAUW	500.00
18	Interbranch Council Dues	30.00
19	Leadership Training	25.00
20	Meeting Facility Rental/Donation	250.00
21	Meeting Refreshments/Beverages/Potluck	50.00
22	Membership Recruitment/Renewal	150.00
23	President Expenses (printing, postage, named gift)	50.00
24	Speaker Honorarium & Programs	500.00
25	Sunshine Committee Expenses (cards, postage)	50.00
28	Treasurer Expenses (postage, checks, etc.)	50.00
	Total Expenses	\$2,280.00
	Net Income/Deficit	\$170.00
	** Biennial expense due spring 2026	

Message from Our Co-Presidents

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Year!

We are so grateful for the officers and participants in our activities this past year! We look forward to a full and varied set of programs for the upcoming year. We are eager to get to know our new members and hope you will be inspired to join our interest groups, attend our general meetings, and perhaps take on leadership opportunities.

There are several places where we need some help, and we urge you to consider volunteering. Most positions could be shared.

BOARD POSITIONS

AAUW Fund VP: Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education. This person would keep us informed about state and national AAUW Fund programs and send thank-you notes to people in our branch who donate to the AAUW Fund.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund: The Legal Advocacy Fund challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace, using the legal system to seek justice and change. This person will share information with our members about programs they may wish to promote or sponsor and write thank-you notes to people in our branch who donate to the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Authors' Luncheon: This committee organizes a luncheon in the spring to raise funds for our local scholarships. The committee selects (usually) three authors to come and speak as we gather at a local restaurant. This fun, social event is always one of the highlights of the year.

Public Policy chair: This person would keep us abreast of public policy priorities from AAUW California and AAUW national and how we can participate. The priorities include gender equity, social and racial justice, equal access in education (including Title IX), reproductive rights, and increased representation of women in leadership roles.

INTEREST GROUPS

There are two groups where leadership is needed if the groups are to continue.

Conversations in Spanish: We need one of the members of that group to be the contact person (email and/or phone). Currently Laurie is the temporary contact person, but since she can barely count to ten in Spanish, it doesn't make much sense.

Armchair Travel: With the help of Airdrie Kincaid of the Los Gatos – Saratoga Camera Club, we have several of the 1st Friday dates for the travel program planned. These have been excellent programs, and are archived on travel page of our website. Unfortunately, attendance has been dwindling and we hope that the new chair could help generate more interest, using our general meetings, Mailchimp group emails, and our website, and other applicable tools.

With your help and engagement, we will have another fun and productive year. We hope to see you at our opening meeting on September 7!

Laurie Lindsey and Arleen Pickett, Co-Presidents



Interest Groups and Committees

Authors' Lunch Committee

We will plan a lunch and invite three authors to come and speak to us in the spring of 2025. Authors always have wonderful stories about why they wrote their books, how they got them published, back stories of the characters or situations in the books.

Arleen Pickett, 408-724-7905 or arleenpicket@gmail.com.



Bridge



We currently have a duplicate group and a “social” group and are always looking for more players to join our groups as regular members or subs. Each bridge group plays one afternoon per month.

Louise Quenon. 408-867-0698 or lquenon@comcast.net.

Book Review

We discuss any books we’ve been reading. Each member tells us about the book, whether they loved it or hated it. We learn about a variety of books we may want to read in the future, whether on kindle, from the library, in print or electronic, even audio! We meet on the third Friday of each month at 10 a.m.

Margaret Bard, 408-439-9398 or margaretbard@gmail.com.



Conversations in Spanish



We meet via Zoom for about an hour and a half, on the first and third Tuesday afternoons each month, to chat in Spanish about all sorts of topics. Join us to practice your Spanish language skills.

We are looking for someone to act as our group leader.

Laurie Lindsey (interim), 303-941-1956 or laurielindsey@gmail.com.

Film Buffs

We meet the LAST Tuesday of the month to discuss movies we have seen on Netflix and other services, and alert other members to what we enjoyed (or didn’t). Sometimes we do Zoom meetings or go out to lunch.

Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555 or marlenela37@gmail.com



Great Decisions



This discussion program gives us opportunities to learn about 8 current world affairs and to give feedback to the Foreign Policy Association. Sessions are held February-May. A briefing book and a video provide background information for each topic.

Ginger Good, 408-866-1331 or villavis@ix.netcom.com.

Local Scholarship Committee

We award \$3,000 scholarships to West Valley College women who are transferring to a 4-year college or university to continue their education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) or related fields. We meet once a year in March to review the applications and select the recipients.

Laurie Lindsey (interim), 303-941-1956 or lauriellindsey@gmail.com.



Scenic Hikes and Walks



We have 2 hikes or walks each month, the second Thursday and the fourth Thursday, starting at 9 am promptly. Every other month we clean up a section of the Los Gatos Creek trail that our branch has “adopted.” In the spring we participate in the annual Wildflower Run in Morgan Hill.

Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796 or Jtrailcats@aol.com

Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508 or k@kayduffywatercolors.com

Travel “Armchair Adventures”

Multi-media travel adventure programs, presented by AAUW members and friends, are offered on the first Friday of the month in October, November, and January through May, at 7:30 pm. via Zoom.

We are looking for someone to coordinate this group.

Laurie Lindsey (interim), 303-941-1956 or lauriellindsey@gmail.com.



Directory Corrections



Those who receive the *Grapevine* by mail will also receive the 2024-2025 directory by mail; those who receive the *Grapevine* by email will receive the directory by email. It is also available in the Members Only section of our website.

Please send corrections or changes to Louise Quenon, our database manager, at 408-867-0698 or lquenon@comcast.net.

Special Invitation to Help Assemble Gifts for Teens



San Jose AAUW will be working hard to fill 672 duffle bags plus 110 special backpacks to be distributed to needy low-income, homeless, and foster care teenagers in December. In order to accomplish this, lots of volunteers are needed. Morning and afternoon work shifts are available September 14 and 21, and October 12 and 19. If you can help, please contact Barb Purdy at barbnpurdy@gmail.com. All assembly work will be done in the parking lot at the San Jose AAUW house, 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose 95125.

Elaine Benoit and Cheryl Markman

September, 2024

- 5 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.** For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 7 **Saturday** **General Meeting – KICKOFF PARTY.** Starts at 1:30 pm, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 14103 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga. Dessert will be served. Details on the front page of this newsletter. For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 9 **Monday** **No Board Meeting in September.**
- 12 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – BEACH HIKE AND ANNUAL CLEAN-UP.** Hike Zumdowski Beach near Moss Landing. Bring gloves and bags. Reward ourselves with lunch at Phil’s Fish Market. **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos**, free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Hikes and Walks leaders Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, and Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 17 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.** For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 20 **Friday** **AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am.** Come to discuss a book, good or bad, with others in the group. For details, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-439-9398 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 24 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555 for details.
- 26 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – BACK BY NOON HIKE + coffee or lunch.** **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos**, free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Contact Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.



AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

October, 2024



- 1 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.** For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 4 **Friday** **Armchair Adventure Travels. The Best of Italy** presented by George Mednick. Meets at **7:30 pm via Zoom.** George will lead us on a fascinating tour of Italy, one of the world's most popular tourist destinations with its rich history, friendly people, and delicious cuisine. The Zoom link will be sent to everyone on our email list, or contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 5 **Saturday** **General Meeting – The Latest Happenings in K-8 Education.** Saratoga Library, **1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.** See front page of this newsletter for details.
- 7 **Monday** **Board Meeting.** Meets at **10 AM via Zoom.** Please contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com for information. All members are welcome!
- 10 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – NEW ALMADEN QUICKSILVER PARK.** Explore this historic mining area and visit the museum. Bring lunch. **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos,** free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Contact Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 15 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.** For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 17 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – TRAIL CLEANUP = Back by Noon hike + coffee or lunch. Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. Bring gloves and clippers, if you have them; bags and grabbers will be provided. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 18 **Friday** **AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am.** Discuss a book, good or bad, with others in the group. For details, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-439-9398 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read.**
- 24 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – BACK BY NOON HIKE + coffee or lunch? Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 29 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408- 497-1555 for details.

Grapevine Committee: Virginia Turner, editor; Julie Stevens, calendar; Ann Griffin, proofreader; Laurie Lindsey, web liaison. Deadline for November-December, 2024 issue is **October 16, 2024.** Email materials to vturner@sbcglobal.net. Branch website: <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw.net/>.

A Reminder about “Phishing” Scams and Staying Safe Online

Someone is trying to impersonate Arleen Pickett and me by email. This type of scam is called “Phishing.” The scammers are trying to get confidential financial information. Our member Linda Smith received this questionable email (her email address is x’d out):

From: Laurie Lindsey <leanneste98@virginmedia.com>

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 2:41 PM

To: Linda Smith <xxxxxxxxxxx>

Subject: GENERAL PRINTING/OFFICE SUPPLIES

I need assistance with processing a pending payment to a vendor for an admin expense reimbursement. Lynn Sprague is currently unavailable due to activities at an ongoing summit. Kindly let me know if you can assist with this payment via PayPal or Zelle. I will then provide all the necessary details and instructions.

Thank you. Laurie Lindsey, AAUW President

There are a couple of clues that this email is not really from me:

1. The sending email address is not my email address.
2. Arleen and I would never ask you to make a payment.
3. The request is way too general: “admin expense reimbursement”
4. What the heck is an “ongoing summit”?
5. The scammer tried to make this look official by mentioning the AAUW President title. However, neither Arleen nor I would typically put a title in a direct email to one of you.



There is no way we can prevent these emails. If you receive an email like this, **do not respond**. The best thing to do is **block the sender and delete the email**. Always check the actual email address of the sender. It’s easy to use my name, but logging into my account and sending an email from it is difficult

Laurie Lindsey, Co-President

Reducing Polarization Through Talk: A Guide for Finding Common Ground

In the midst of another American election cycle, the public is inundated with the narrative that Republicans and Democrats are fundamentally different kinds of people. Political parties seemingly represent lifestyle brands that are chosen by groups with different kinds of beliefs. This perception of difference is both the reason for the result of increasing political polarization – and political polarization impacts our homes, workplaces, and communities.

Social science research shows that our perceptions of the world are socialized. Socialization shapes big things, like how we experience time or imagine the cosmos, as well as smaller, more mundane things, like what we label as appropriate clothing for a particular event or how we show someone care and respect. We can be socialized to perceive and experience the world similarly, or very differently. The socialization of difference can keep us from understanding one another and achieving common ground and, over time, we may even develop the perception of specific kinds or groups of humans as fundamentally and irrevocably different from ourselves.

People can understand one another and translate between realities if and when they are willing to do so. Check out the guide on the AAUW website (below) to learn more about how you might approach difficult conversations during this election season.

<https://www.willingobservers.com/writing-and-publications/reducing-polarization-through-language>

AAUW California Public Policy Team