

Grapevine Newsletter May - June, 2025

China in Focus **Friday, June 6, 2025** **7:30 pm via Zoom**



Harlan Crowder will present a photographic journey through China that will feature three main locations:

Wuzhen, the ancient and charming water town on the Yangtze River, known as the Venice of the East;



Haungshan, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its spectacular granite peaks and vistas; and

Shanghai, the megacity, a mix of 21st century modernism and colonial French culture.



A Zoom link will be sent approximately 1 week before the presentation. Please contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com for more information.

We'd love to hear from you about 2025-2026!

Are there any programs or topics you would like to attend in the coming year? Perhaps a program or speaker on personal health and well-being, or maybe a topic making headlines in the news, or the background of an historical event.

Let us know and we'll do our best to develop programs that YOU are interested in. See the President's letter for information about an upcoming survey.

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	Vacant	

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

Please Welcome Our Newest Member

Lucia Navarrete-Ladouceur
20210 Argonaut Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070

Phone: (831) 760-9655
Email: compassion4specialed@gmail.com

Lucia earned her BA in Child Development at CSU Los Angeles and her teaching credential at CSU Monterey Bay. She earned her credential in Special Education (moderate/severe) at CSU Monterey Bay. She joined AAUW to make new friends, connect with the community, for personal growth, and to promote education and equity.

New Address for Arleen Pickett

Arleen Pickett
1707 W. Elfindale, #25
Springfield, MO 65807
Phone: (408) 724-7905

DIRECTORY

Message from Our Co-President

Ideas for Programs at the Saratoga Library

This year's programs co-sponsored by the Saratoga Library have been quite successful, and we will be surveying our members about subjects they would like us to present this coming year. Please reply when you get the survey to help us plan programs that YOU would like to attend. We encourage you to bring friends and family members – these programs are open to the public without charge. The Saratoga Library is a convenient location and we are happy to partner with them to present these speakers.



On March 29, **Kurt Elvert** gave a fact-filled presentation about the San Jose Water Company which serves more than one million people in our area. He discussed the sources of water, the new “smart” water meters being installed, and the importance of using water appropriately. He even brought a variety of items like low-flow shower heads which people were invited to take home and use. We hope to put his slides on our website for those who may have missed the program.

We are truly sorry that we had to cancel our April 26 program on Ukraine and hope to reschedule it in the near future.

AAUW Elections – National and California

You likely have received your email ballot from National AAUW. The **National AAUW** election includes amendments to the Bylaws and changes to the Public Policy Priorities. Members will also vote on candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors. Follow the links in the email for more information about the proposed changes and to “meet” the candidates. The deadline for voting is May 13, 2025.

The **AAUW California** voting period begins April 26 and closes May 16, 2025. Members will vote on Public Policy Priorities, a proposed dues increase from \$20 to \$30, and to elect members of the California Board of Directors. The details of the Public Policy Priorities and rationale for the dues increase were included in an email sent to all members March 27; candidate statements are on the AAUW California website at www.aauw-ca.org.

Looking for Branch Leaders

Sharing a leadership position with another member is an excellent way to keep AAUW relevant and strong in Los Gatos and Saratoga. Now that Arleen Pickett has moved to Missouri to be near her son and his family, I am looking for someone who might be interested in taking on a board position, whether as co-president or some other capacity.

Laurie Lindsey, Co-President

Meet our Scholarship Recipients

Hailey Wiley is the recipient of our \$3,000 scholarship for a woman from West Valley College who is transferring to a four-year college or university in one of the STEM fields. She plans to attend San Jose State University in the fall with a major in nutrition and dietetics, then pursue a master's degree in nutritional science with a career goal to become a pediatric dietitian.

Hailey grew up in Georgia in a low-income family; she worked two jobs and studied nutrition and possible careers independently. She also researched the best nutrition programs and finally flew to California to pursue her academic career. She has consistently maintained a 3.5 GPA at West Valley College. Outside of the classroom she works on campus at the child development center and does charity work for the Loma Prieta Club which funds scholarships for high school students in the Santa Cruz mountains. Her general interests include nature, fitness, and conservation.

One of her letters of recommendation notes that Hailey is “resourceful, intellectually talented, and strongly motivated to make a positive difference in people’s nutrition and eating habits.” Her most impressive attribute is her resolve not to allow her circumstances to define her or her future.

Ariana Lalehparvar is the recipient of our \$3,000 scholarship in memory of Marilyn Fuller. Ariana enrolled at West Valley College at age 16 but the transition was not easy. She joined Air Force ROTC which pushed her mentally and physically but ultimately gave her the discipline, structure, and motivation to move forward. She plans to attend Stanford University as a Data Science and Social Systems major, specializing in international security. This program will provide technical expertise and comprehensive geopolitical perspective which support military decision-making in an evolving space domain and complex global landscape. She plans to transition into a Foreign Area Officer role, specializing in Indo-Pacific relations. Long-term, she wants to develop sustainable, AI-driven solutions for space defense.

One academic challenge was the American Mathematical Association for Two-Year Colleges research competition, a national mathematical modeling contest. Along with a fellow WVC student, Ariana developed a proposal to transition Palo Alto to 100% renewable energy – and they won first place! She takes a rigorous course load, maintains a 4.0 GPA, holds leadership positions in student government, Air Force ROTC, is a research analyst for Stanford’s Project Sealight where she investigates maritime security in the south China Sea, and she interns at Lawrence Livermore Lab in the Space Security Division.

A letter of recommendation notes that “Ariana stood out as not only the top student in the class but also the most dedicated, thorough, and intellectually curious student. She will continue to excel and make meaningful contributions to her community and beyond.”



Public Policy Committee News

Priority Bills for Legislative Session

The Public Policy Committee evaluated over 60 bills related to AAUW's mission and Public Policy Priorities in order to set the Legislative Agenda for 2025. Our 3 top priority bills are these:



- **Support SB 771:** “Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians” clarifies that a social media platform may be liable for civil penalty under existing law if and when its algorithms or AI aid or abet individual users who are engaging in already unlawful intimidation of others in online spaces. While hateful speech is problematic, it is not illegal. However, it can cross the line into illegal action. While social media platforms are not responsible for the speech of individual users, aspects of their platform such as algorithms or AI can be complicit in the targeting of marginalized groups, which is unlawful.
- **Oppose AB 579:** “Yaeli’s Law” rests on the premise that denial of support for youth self-identity, including refusal to use a child’s name and pronouns, or refusal to provide or allow their gender-affirming care, is not harmful and therefore should not be considered child abuse under the law, and, accordingly, not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions. This is problematic. Research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity. We oppose this bill because every child deserves to be protected from emotional and physical abuse, including the right to be removed from a harmful household to a healthier environment.
- **Support SB 418:** “Ensure Equal Access to Care for All” would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. Access to gender-affirming care is a fundamental aspect of health equity and human rights. SB 418 will protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, while also sending a powerful message of support to the LGBTQ+ community, affirming that their needs matter. Creating an environment where all individuals can express their identities without fear is foundational to a strong democracy.

Follow the progress of legislation on the AAUW California website <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/>. That page also has a link to the new Take Action spreadsheet which highlights successful political and legal actions, litigation and legislation tracking, and podcasts.

School Board Project



AAUW California is collaborating with Public School Defenders Hub, which provides resources and programs to parents, organizers, activists, and school board members to combat anti-public school extremists. Learn about current laws that address book banning, curriculum censorship, and discrimination against LGBTQ+ students; what to look for in determining compliance; and how to file a complaint if you observe non-compliance. Check their website at www.cpihub.org for more information.

Myra Sternlieb, Public Policy Committee Chair.

May, 2025

- 5 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10 am** at the home of Laurie Lindsey, 235 Pinehurst Ave, Los Gatos. For more information contact Laurie at lauriellindsey@gmail.com or 303-941-1956.
- 6 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.** For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 8 Thursday Scenic Walking Adventures.** Take interesting walks around the local area, stay for coffee. **Meet promptly 9 AM, Los Gatos** free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. For information on these adventures, contact Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 16 Friday AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am.** Come to discuss any book, good or bad, with the group. For details, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-439-9398 or margaretbard@gmail.com. Check our branch website for titles of some of the books we have been reading. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 20 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.** For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 22 Thursday Scenic Walking Adventures.** Join us for exercise, companionship, fun and good food. New members are welcome. For this week's adventure, please contact Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 27 Tuesday Film Buffs.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408- 497-1555, for details.



Some Celebrations in May:

"Star Wars" Day	May 4: "May the 4 th (force) be with you."
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
Mother's Day	May 11
National Bike to School Day	May 18
Lucky Penny Day	May 23
Memorial Day	May 26
National Smile Day	May 31

June, 2025

- 2 **Monday** **No Board Meeting in June.**
- 3 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.** For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 6 **Friday** **Armchair Adventure Travels. CHINA IN FOCUS** presented by Harlan Crowder. Meets at **7:30 pm via Zoom.** Harlan Crowder will present a photographic journey through China that will feature three main locations: **Wuzhen**, the ancient and charming water town on the Yangtze River, known as the Venice of the East; **Haungshan**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its spectacular granite peaks and vistas; and **Shanghai**, the megacity, a mix of 21st century modernism and colonial French culture.
A Zoom link will be sent approximately 1 week before the event. Please contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com for more information.
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- 24 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks.** Join us for exercise, companionship, fun and good food. New members are welcome. For this week's adventure, please contact Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 29 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555, for details.



Some Celebrations in June:

LGBTQ+ Pride Month	
D-Day anniversary	June 6
Flag Day	June 14
Father's Day	June 15
Juneteenth	June 19
Helen Keller Day	June 27



May –
June, 2025

Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch
American Association of University Women
14415 Evans Lane
Saratoga, CA 95070

It's Time to Renew Your AAUW Membership **Respond by June 30, 2025**



Packets will be mailed early in May for renewing your AAUW membership for 2025-2026. National dues are \$74, which is fully tax-deductible; California dues are \$20 until June 30 when they may be increased to \$30; and Los Gatos-Saratoga branch dues are \$20. That makes a total of \$114. If you want to receive a copy of the *Grapevine* in the mail, please add \$15 to cover the cost.

You can make optional contributions to our local projects – Tech Trek and Local Scholarships – and to the AAUW Fund and Legal Advocacy Fund with the same check. For more information, please contact Virginia Turner, Membership VP, at vturner@sbcglobal.net or phone 408-866-4234.

Grapevine Committee: Virginia Turner, editor; Julie Stevens, calendar; Susan Lange, proofreader; Laurie Lindsey, web liaison. Deadline for July-August, 2025 issue is **June 16, 2025**. Email materials to vturner@sbcglobal.net. Branch website: <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw.net/>.