

Understanding the Backlash to the 51st State Idea



Saturday, November 15, 2025

1:30 pm ~ 3:00 pm

Saratoga Library, Maple Room
13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga CA 95070

- ~ Is the “world’s longest undefended border” a model for being good neighbors?
- ~ Canadian fears of annexation – tracing the history
- ~ Why recent US Presidential rhetoric has created a firestorm of Canadian opposition

Gregory Wigmore is a teaching associate professor at Santa Clara University, specializing in US and North American History, and an academic affiliate of UC Berkeley’s Canadian Studies Program. Born in Canada, Dr. Wigmore’s special interests include the history of Canadian-American relations.

Please join us and bring a friend! Open to everyone at no cost.

The Present-Day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe

Saturday, January 24, 2026

1:30 pm ~ 3:00 pm

Saratoga Library, Maple Room
13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga CA 95070



The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe is comprised of all the known surviving American Indian lineages aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region who **trace their ancestry through the Missions Dolores, Santa Clara, and San Jose**, and who were also **members of the historic Federally Recognized Verona Band of Alameda County**. Learn more about the tribe and their fight for federal recognition.

Our 2025-2026 Elected Branch Leaders

President	Laurie Lindsey (303) 941-1956	lauriellindsey@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	OPEN	

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

Directory Corrections

New Address:

Joan Kjemtrup
Brookdale Senior Living
1009 Blossom River Way, Apt. 375
San Jose, CA 95123



Education Background:

Judy Davidson's education incorrectly included a PhD in Psychology from Center for Psych Studies. The rest of the listing is correct.

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

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

Message from Our Branch President

Upcoming Programs at the Saratoga Library

We enjoyed meeting several of our enthusiastic Tech Trek campers and our scholarship recipient Hailey Wiley at our September 13 Kick-Off Meeting. The financial support that our members provide to these two programs is helping to encourage the next generations of young women to get a good education, especially in the STEM fields. Of course, the delicious desserts were an added treat which we definitely appreciated.



You probably recall our survey asking about the kinds of programs or speakers you would like to attend. We have been working hard to find appropriate speakers to address your interests and have lined up some interesting programs.

Starting on November 15 at the Saratoga Library, we are fortunate to have Dr. Gregory Wigmore, from Santa Clara University, speak with us about the “51st state idea” and the ongoing concerns of Canadians. This promises to be an interesting and timely presentation, so I hope you will invite friends and come out to the Library to see it. You should receive an email with a link to the flyer soon.

Other programs will include representatives from the Muwekma Ohlone tribe on January 24; West Valley Community Services, an organization fighting hunger and homelessness on February 21; and the Peninsula Open Space Trust on March 21. We are still trying to nail down one other program. More information about each program will follow. Since these are open to the public at no cost, I hope you will consider inviting friends and family to join us!

I want to thank the members of our board for their invaluable help in making connections for us; we would not have this lineup without them! If you need a ride to the meetings at the Library, please call Virginia Turner at 408-866-4234; several members have offered to provide a ride and we'll try to connect you.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at our November 15 meeting!

Looking for Group Leaders



Several interest groups are currently inactive because they do not have leaders. We would love to reactivate any of these groups if there is enough interest. Please let me know if you are willing to volunteer for Authors' Lunch, Out to Lunch, or Hikes and Walks.

Laurie Lindsey, President

Great Decisions Discussion Group

We are pleased to report that the Cupertino Senior Center has agreed to host Great Decisions this Winter/Spring. Membership is open to seniors over 50; dues are \$30 for nonresidents and \$25 for residents. You can join at 408-777-3150 or online at www.reg4rec.org. The schedule and other details will be announced in a later newsletter. Participants are expected to purchase the briefing book before the first session. Here are the topics for Great Decisions 2026:



1. **America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy**
Trump's return has marked a break from 80 years of U.S. foreign policy leadership, embracing an "America First" approach. This chapter explores the risks of isolation and diminished influence in relation to Trump 2.0 foreign policy.
2. **Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy**
Trump's aggressive trade and tariff policies have shaken global economic norms. What's the rationale behind this radical shift in economic policy, and what are the implications for multilateral trade and geopolitics?
3. **U.S. - China Relations**
Relations with China remain tense, with tariffs, military modernization, and pressure on Taiwan. Does Trump have a coherent China policy, and will his tariffs on rare earth minerals be effective? What are America's strategic options?
4. **Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation**
U.S. alliance skepticism may drive countries like Japan and South Korea to reconsider nuclear options. What are the implications of the Trump administration's rethinking of the U.S. alliance system for regional and global security? Will this new uncertainty alter the way allies and rivals in various regions make decisions about security and nuclear weapons?
5. **Ukraine and the Future of European Security**
With reduced U.S. support for NATO and Ukraine, Europe faces strategic uncertainty. The Trump administration has signaled an intention to reduce its security role in Europe. What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas? How might Europe respond?
6. **Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order**
Can multilateralism survive amid shifting global power and rising nationalism? This chapter examines the future of global cooperation across trade, health, and finance.
7. **U.S. Engagement of Africa**
Africa's geopolitical role is growing. What lessons can the U.S. learn from China's presence there, and how might it strengthen ties, especially with leading nations like Nigeria? What tools of statecraft might the U.S. bring to its engagement with Africa?
8. **The Future of Human Rights and International Law**
As democracy and human rights retreat globally—and the U.S. pulls back—how can civil society and legal norms remain effective in a divided world? What is the role and force of international law in this era of impunity?

If you are interested in joining the discussion, or if you need more information, please contact **Ginger Good** at 408-866-1331 or villavis@ix.netcom.com.

November, 2025



- 3 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10 am** at the home of Laurie Lindsey. For more information, contact Laurie at lauriellindsey@gmail.com or 303-941-1956.
- 4 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm**
18 Tuesday via Zoom on the **first** and **third** Tuesdays of the month. For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 15 Saturday Understanding the Backlash to the 51st State Idea. 1:30 pm,** Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga CA 95070. Gregory Wigmore, teaching associate at Santa Clara University, will discuss why Canada has long been wary of its biggest ally. Additional information can be found on the front page of this *Grapevine*. *Please join us and bring a friend!*
- 21 Friday 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. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 28 Friday Film Buffs.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408- 497-1555, for details.

December, 2025



- 1 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10 am via Zoom**. For more information, please contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com All members are welcome to participate!
- 2 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets **3:00 – 4:30 pm**
16 Tuesday via Zoom on the **first** and **third** Tuesdays of the month. For more information, contact Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com.
- 19 Friday Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am**. Discuss any book, good or bad, with the group. For details, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-439-9398 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 26 Friday Film Buffs.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555, for details.

Grapevine Committee: Virginia Turner, editor; Julie Stevens, calendar; Susan Lange, proofreader; Laurie Lindsey, web liaison. Deadline for January-February, 2026 issue is **December 16, 2025**. Email materials to vturner@sbcglobal.net. Branch website: <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw.net/>.

Public Policy Committee News

Proposition 50 – Special Election November 4

Normally AAUW publishes a list of formal recommendations to support or oppose propositions. National has advised that, as an organization, we are not able to make a formal recommendation about Proposition 50. The AAUW California Public Policy Committee has published a Proposition 50 toolkit which is available on the AAUW-CA website at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-california-public-policy-publishes-2025-prop-50-get-out-the-vote-gotv-member-toolkit/>. This toolkit provides a wealth of information and talking points about this proposition. The last day to vote in the Special Election is November 4.



Update on Legislation

Signed into law:

AB 260 protects medication abortion by establishing that the current standard of care for the use of mifepristone will remain legal in this state, protecting providers who legally provide mifepristone, requiring the continuation of existing coverage for medication abortion, and expanding access to reproductive health care through telehealth.

SB 627 makes it a crime for law enforcement officers to wear facial coverings during their duties, except in certain situations.

Vetoed by the governor:

SB 418 prevents sex discrimination in healthcare coverage in CA, specifically protecting anyone subject to discrimination, generally, and sex stereotyping, specifically, from losing coverage or being denied benefits in California based on sex.

SB 771 addresses the problematic ways that major social media platforms have altered their content moderation practices, specifically allowing AI and algorithms to amplify credible threats and intimidation targeting historically marginalized groups.

Webinars and Events

- AAUW California Webinar – “Harnessing the Power of AI.” Saturday, November 1, 2025, 10 – 11:30 am. Register at https://www.aauw-ca.org/event/harnessing-the-power-of-ai-innovation-creativity-and-social-impact/?instance_id=1481.
- AAUW Silicon Valley Branch program on “Higher Education at Risk – And How You Can Help Protect It.” Featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy. Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 4 – 5pm. Registration link coming soon.
- AAUW California School Board Project half-day symposium, Saturday, January 31, 2026, 9 am – 12 noon, via Zoom. Registration link coming soon.

The updated Public Policy Priorities for 2025-2027 are now available in a compact format which I would be happy to give you, either at one of our meetings or through the mail. If you are interested in Public Policy issues, please call me at 408-410-2582 or email me at msmyrabeth@yahoo.com so we can develop a branch program of education and action.

Myra Sternlieb, Public Policy Committee Chair