

The Montage

NEWSLETTER

TURLOCK & MODESTO

NOV 2025



WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter

AAUW Contact Update

National is moving to a new mass email platform to better serve you! Access your AAUW personal snapshot and update your contact information and preferences. Frequent users, click [LOG IN](#) as usual. Non-frequent users, click [LOG IN](#), then below the blue log in button, click FORGOT PASSWORD. Enter your email address and click RESET YOUR PASSWORD to receive and confirm a new password to access your Personal Snapshot. Need help? Email connect@aauw.org and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.



Meet Your Board Members:

President – Nancy Turner
Finance – Susan Baldwin
Secretary – Gail Benge
Membership VP – Glynis Dove
Funds VP – Valerie Doherty
Programs – Cheryl Carmichael

Contact Nancy Turner with questions/inquiries regarding open positions
@ (510) 690-7550

Appointed Officers

Newsletter/Montage – Angelica Slater Contreras
Tech Trek – Beverly Schlegel
Public Policy – Open Position
Diversity Chair – Open Position

COMING SOON...

UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

Welcome

Annual Holiday Soup Supper 2025

Continuing a tradition of giving and celebration, the annual Turlock/Modesto Branch Holiday Soup Supper will be **Friday, December 12**, at the home of Valerie Doherty. Everyone brings packaged foods or an unwrapped toy to be donated to Turlock Together. Another part of the tradition is to bring a wrapped tree ornament to exchange.

To reserve a spot at the table you must call Valerie Doherty (209-765-7196) by Dec. 10. We like to have three soups, some breads, and cookies for dessert. When you call in your reservation, tell what you wish to bring. **Festivities begin at 6 P.M.** (Bring a bottle of wine if you'd like to have some.)

The address: 1420 N. Quincy Rd. Turlock, CA 95380



Reproductive Health Care Zoom Meeting



Thursday Jan 15, 2026

6-7:30 p.m. PST

Click [HERE](#) to register Limited to the first 100 registrants

AAUW Funds Luncheon at The Fruit Yard

Save the Date – Saturday, February 21, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

More information coming in January.





The Montage

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President Message

Welcome to our November / December issue! I'm wishing all of you a happy holiday season. Please plan to attend our Soup Supper on December 12 for fun and fellowship. Then make sure to attend our January 16 Zoom program on Reproductive Health Care Post-Dobbs. Invite your friends to learn about current reproductive issues, and action items.

I saw many of you at our Scholarship Fundraiser dinner, which was a great success! 61% of our membership attended and more sent in donations. There were close to 150 in attendance. Special thanks to Valerie Doherty and her committee for this fabulous event! The multitude and variety of silent auction items and baskets garnered lots of attention and donations. Mary Heilman's sub-committee provided truly beautiful decorations. I heard many compliments.

I have become aware that many of us do not realize that donated money is not all the same. Money donated to Tech Trek can only be used for Tech Trek; that is called a designated fund. At the national level, the huge sum of money that makes up our Fellowships and Grants is also designated funds. The **only** money that can be used "as needed" is money donated to the Greatest Needs Fund #9110. Currently, only 17% of AAUW members donated to any national fund. I became a monthly sustainer last year by donating each month. I didn't choose a large amount monthly, but every dollar makes a difference.

We want to earn 5-Star status again this year. One way to earn the branch recognition "Advancement" star from AAUW National is to have more members donate to National this year than last year. Not in dollars (although that would be nice), but individuals. So, if 10 members donated last year and this year 11 do, we have done it! Please consider making a donation.

Also, take advantage of the wonderful free webinars available through AAUW National. You must create a login to access the Members Only information. Go to AAUW.org and click Login in the upper right. After logging in, search for Upcoming Events, which will list all subjects, dates and times of webinars.

Hope to see you soon, Nancy Turner **AAUW Turlock/Modesto Branch President**

BECOMING A MEMBER

Become a member and connect through our website, plus enjoy special members-only discounts, e-newsletters, webinars, calls to action and more.

- National Membership Dues: \$74/annual
- California Dues: \$30/annual
- AAUW Turlock/Modesto Dues: \$16/annual
- Total Dues = \$120/annually
 - [INFO HERE](#)
 - [NATIONAL DUES FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE](#)



🦃 NOVEMBER IS HERE 🦃

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP & COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH 

- Donate
- Invite a Member
- Get Involved
- Fight for Equity

www.reallygreatsite.com



Upcoming Webinars

- 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 3rd, 4-5 pm.** Register [HERE](#)
- AAUW California School Board Project Half Day Symposium – **Saturday, January 31st, 9 am**–noon via Zoom. **SAVE THE DATE** – registration link coming soon.
- AAUW Silicon Valley Branch will host a virtual event on reproductive rights featuring [Leah Litman](#), host of the popular ["Strict Scrutiny"](#) podcast, on **Thursday, January 22nd, from 1-2 pm.** **SAVE THE DATE** – registration link coming soon
- If you missed it... AAUW California Public Policy Webinar – Project 2025 Impacts on AAUW Values – One Year Later: How to Stop Ongoing Implementation. See the recording and presentation [HERE](#).





SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER DINNER



WE ABSOLUTELY LOVED SPENDING TIME TOGETHER!

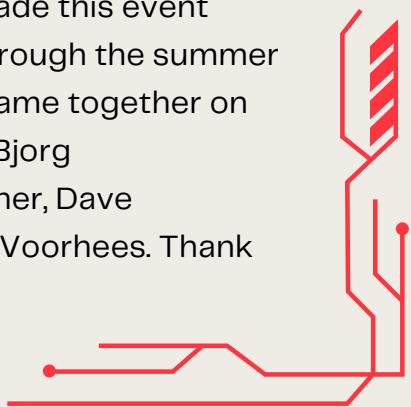
Scholarship Fundraiser Appreciation

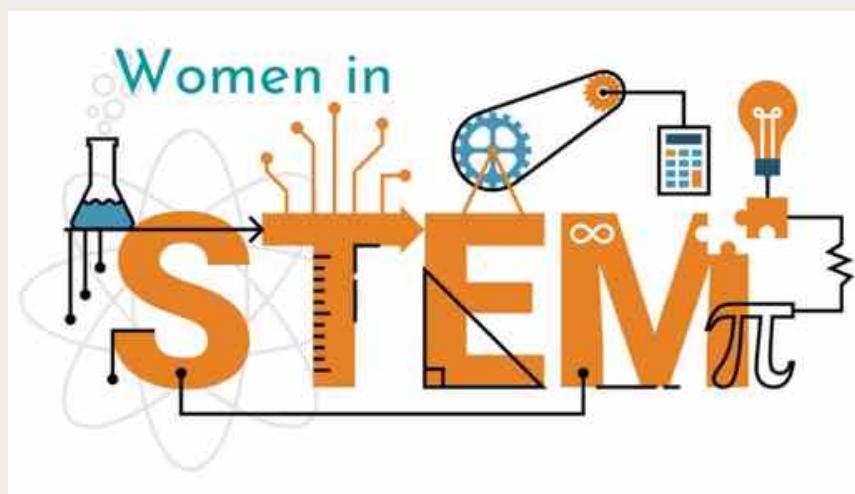


For the many AAUW members who bought tickets, invited friends and family, or even just sent checks to support this scholarship fundraiser I thank you. Through the support of branch members and of our local communities we are able to send 6-7 seventh grade girls to CSU Fresno for a week of a math/science camp, give seven graduating high school seniors college scholarships, and contribute to AAUW National which funds graduate level research and projects. Bravo to all! Thanks to all for your generous support. The AAUW tradition of promoting scholarship will continue!

Special thanks goes to the amazing committee who made this event happen. The scholarship fundraising committee met through the summer to lay the groundwork, to ensure all the moving parts came together on November 2. My committee: Mary Heilman, Mary Allen, Bjorg Johannsdottir, Sophie Nemeth, Sue Baldwin, Nancy Turner, Dave Menshew, Eileen Hamilton, Martina Ramirez, and Nedra Voorhees. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Valerie Doherty,
AAUW Turlock/Modesto Funds VP





A Poem by Valentina Zeff

PRESENTED AT AAUW TURLOCK MODESTO
2025 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

A girl will cradle an apple and a microscope
Until society replaces it with a mirror and a makeup brush
A pink diary and ballet slippers

Her passions for the sciences and literature will be diminished to dust
Only for her to have to sweep it away
Never to be seen again

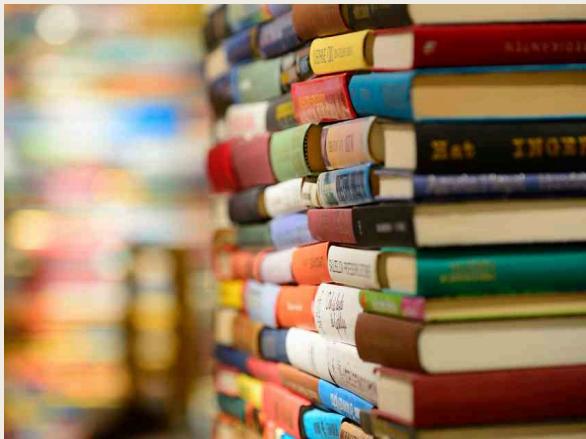
At school, teachers will doubt her intelligence
And ridicule her in front of the class for raising her hand and guessing a question wrong
Only for her male counterparts to never once even be mocked, laughed at or shamed

Sad and embarrassed she cries, her self-esteem diminished
Her looks now her only vocal point
The only thing that allows her to be seen

Her dreams of being the 79th female astronaut now crushed
One she's had since first grade, disappear in the blink of an eye
Starting a family now sounds more doable,
More fulfilling,
Then pursuing a PhD in astrophysics

And when she carries a baby for nine months
And goes through intense and painful labor
Maybe she will realize that ninth grade algebra 1 wasn't that difficult
And her dreams were always feasible

Valentina Zeff,
2022 Tech Trek Recipient



Branch Interest Groups

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL BRANCH

- **Book Club (Turlock)**

- Group meets the second Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m.
- Call the December host Pam Mayne @ (209) 380-4175 for questions.
- Upcoming reading Dec 8 Right Ho, Jeeves by P.G. Wodehouse; Host – Mary Allen
- Next reading → Jan 12, 2026 A Trick of the Light by Louise Penny; Host – Valerie Doherty

- **Book Club (Modesto)**

- Group meets the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m.
- Call Fran Ewald @ 209-409-2208 or ewald.fran@gmail.com for questions.
- Upcoming event will be the Holiday Celebration Dec 12/18/25; Hostess – Elena Brockman
- Next reading → Jan 15 2026 The Boys of Riverside by Thomas Fuller; Hostess – Carolyn Bravo

- **Bridge**

- Meets at 1 o'clock on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at the home of a hosting member.
- If interested, call Marilynn Brunton 209-648-6046 or Nedra Voorhees 209-613-2521.

- **Game Night**

- Next gathering → TBD for Jan 2026, dates/hosts vary monthly based on availability
- Questions: Valerie Doherty 209-765-7196 or valeried@charter.net

Membership wants to join YOU in celebrating your birthday. Please send your name and birthday (MONTH/DAY) only to **glynisdove@aol.com** or **text (209) 614-2053** to be feature in The Montage 😊



GIVING



Tuesday

According to the Women's Philanthropy Institute, **only 2%** of charitable giving goes to women's and girls' organizations in the United States. Now it is more important than ever to double down and give! AAUW is the only national organization combining funding, advocacy, and grassroots member mobilization to advance women's equity through higher education and beyond.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE LAUNCHING OUR GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN EARLY THIS YEAR – BECAUSE THE NEED HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.

👉 Our goal: raise **\$25,000** by Giving Tuesday, December 2. 👈



HELP WANTED

BRANCH POSITION OPENING



Do you like numbers? Are you detail-oriented? There's a branch service opportunity for you! Our Finance Officer, Sue Baldwin, is due to rotate off the Board of Directors at the end of June 2026. She wants to train someone this year to take the helm for our branch next July. Without a Finance Officer our branch cannot exist as it's one of 3 positions required by AAUW National, along with a Secretary and Administrative Officer (President). Contact **Sue Baldwin** with questions and interest at **209-535-0954**.

AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY PEER GROUP

Are you interested in Public Policy? We'd like a branch member to attend the monthly Zoom AAUW California Public Policy Peer Group meeting, and provide a report to our Board of Directors and for The Montage. Members from all over CA gather to hear about updates from National and California AAUW, discuss status of supported legislation, discover branch activity ideas, and ask questions. Hosted by Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko: Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee. Contact **Nancy Turner** for more information or questions at **510-690-7550**.

AAUW CA Special Projects Fund (SPF)

AAUW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Would you like to serve on the Board of Directors of the AAUW CA Special Projects Fund (SPF)? We oversee the funds used for Tech Trek and scholarships for branches that require a 501(c)3 entity. We meet four times a year, three via Zoom and once in person. For more information about the duties, please click [HERE](#) to go to our website. If you are interested, please contact me, and I will forward your message to Linda Slater, the Nominating Committee Chair.

Jane Niemeier, AAUW CA SPF President

jniemeie@hotmail.com

Special



National Needle: News from AAUW National



It's a hard truth—there is no **gender equity** without **pay equity**. The pay gap has had a detrimental impact on people and families for generations.

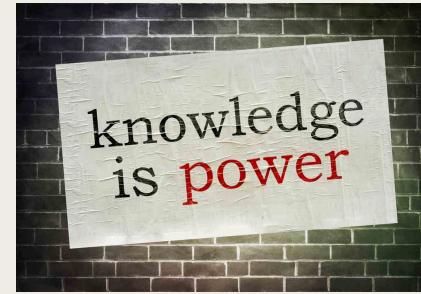
Unfortunately, after many years of slowly narrowing, the gap has actually been widening over the past two years. When including all women earners, women are paid 75 cents for every dollar paid to men. What has AAUW been doing to reverse the situation? AAUW has been providing salary negotiation, financial literacy, and advocacy training to thousands of women. Our signature document, The Not So Simple Truth, a gender pay report, is being updated with the most current data to examine root causes of persistent inequities and to highlight policies and practices that can close the pay gap. The 2025 update can be found [HERE](#). Please share with others.

CALIFORNIA

Nominations & Elections

AAUW STATE BOARD

The state board invites you to consider running for a board position in 2026. We will be electing a board secretary, four two-year directors, and one one-year director. Serving on the state board as one of 11 leaders is a very good thing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Gail Swain, at nominating@aauw-ca.org, or our state president, Charmen Goehring, at statepresident@aauw-ca.org.



The More You Know: Online Scammers

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE SAFER YOU ARE

Step 1: Check who it's really from

You may need to tap, click, or hover over the "From" name to see the full address.

Make sure the domain (the part after the "@") matches the actual organization.

Example: siteadmin@aauw-ca.org is legitimate; siteadmin@aauw-support.com or aauw-members@yahoo.com is not.

Watch for sneaky look-alikes: amazOn.com (zero instead of "o"), aauw-help.org instead of aauw.org or aauw-ca.org.

Step 2: Scan for common red flags

Urgent messages: "You must read this attachment/click this link right away!"

Unexpected offers or prizes: "Click here to redeem."

Requests for personal info or money, especially gift cards or wire transfers.

Links and attachments you weren't expecting. Hover your mouse over links (or press and hold on mobile) to preview the real web address. If you're unsure whether the message is legitimate, don't click if it looks unfamiliar or is shortened (like bit.ly).

Spelling or grammatical mistakes or unusual wording. This isn't always present, but it is a clue if spotted.

Step 3: What to do

If the message appears to be a scam

Do not respond to the email.

Do not click links or open attachments.

Report it as spam/phishing in your email program.

Delete it.

If you are not sure whether the message is a scam or not

Contact the purported originating agency through established channels to determine whether it is legitimate. Use an email, website, or phone number you have used before or know to be correct.



A quick summary of the high points:

Look past the sender's display name: verify the full email address and domain.

Be wary of urgency, prizes, and requests for personal info.

Do not click on links or open attachments unless you're comfortable that the message is legitimate.

Delete suspicious messages.

I hope this information is helpful. It's a rough world out there, but with a bit of knowledge and good habits, you can keep yourself safe.

Warm regards,

Michelle Baer, AAUW California Director, Communications Chair communications@aauw-ca.org

AAUW of Sonora presents

56th Annual

Home Tour

Dec. 6, 12-4 pm

- ✿ Tour four exceptional homes.
- ✿ Visit Inner Sanctum Base Camp for opportunity drawings for extraordinary gift baskets, and enjoy no-host refreshments.

\$30

Proceeds fund college scholarships for women and STEM camp scholarships for teen girls.



Scan QR code or visit aauwsonora to purchase tickets online. Or, purchase tickets at Mountain Bookshop or Sonora Lumber.



AAUW TURLOCK / MODESTO

Reproductive Health Care Post Dobbs

Presenters:

Lauren Brown-Berchtold, MD
Family Medicine Program Director
Valley Consortium for Medical Education

Carrie Janiski, DO, MS, ATC, PES, ERYT-200
Senior Regional Medical Director
Golden Valley Health Centers

**JAN. 15, 2026 • THURSDAY • 6-7:30 PM PST
ZOOM MEETING**

- Affects on Medical Education and Residency programs
- Changes occurring in California
- What is standard clinical care independent of politics

[Click here to register](#)

Limited to the first 100 registrants

Questions text 510-690-7550