



BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

<http://sanmateo-ca.aauw.net>

January 2025, Vol 95, Issue 5

President's Message

Maureen Buchner

As 2024 draws to a close, I am grateful to all of our branch members who are dedicated to our group and our mission for equity for women and girls. In the future we will need to fight even harder for those protections.

Over 101 years, we have made great headway in education, medicine, and law. More women are studying computer science and STEM subjects. AAUW continues to deliver fellowships for higher education, but discrimination has continued in many areas. Frankly, our work for equity is more important than ever.

My New Year's resolution is to "stay calm and carry on." 2025 is calling for us to step up our advocacy! The easiest way to begin is to respond to the AAUW Action Network's requests for your input. It takes less than a minute to send your views to your representative or senator after you have examined the topic. Your opinion is sent with no further effort. Go to the AAUW website click on:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/state/> scroll to the bottom of the page and you can sign up for these timely action alerts. Women's equity and inclusion may not be a topic on the new administration's agenda, so we need to fight harder to protect every citizen.

Clip & Save

San Mateo Branch Calendar 2025

- Jan 11 *Be Smart for Kids: Safe Firearm Storage*
Veterans Memorial Senior Center
1455 Madison Ave, RWC, 1:30 pm
- Feb 8 *Environment/Climate Change*
Terry Nagel, Chair, Sustainable
San Mateo County, 1:30 pm
Skyway Center, 655 Skyway Rd, SC
- Mar 8 *DEI for Women in Tech/Sciences*, 1:30 pm
Skyway Center, 655 Skyway Rd, SC
- April 25 Annual Meeting/Election of Officers
BJ's Restaurant, 2206 Bridgepoint Pkwy
San Mateo, 12:00 noon

In Memoriam

Lois Alman Everett. Jan. 2, 1931-Nov. 9, 2024

Lois Almen Everett received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas City in 1957 and her Master of Arts from Temple University in 1967. She was a member of the San Mateo Branch of AAUW for many years.

In 1972, Lois founded HIP Housing and was Executive Director from 1979 to 1995. In 1979, she and Jolly Perkocha launched the *Home Sharing Program*, designed to match individuals with home providers who have rooms to rent. In 1990, all of her significant civic efforts were recognized when she was enshrined into the *San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame*. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Donations in Lois' honor may be made to HIP Housing.

Equal Rights



Equal Rights Amendment 1972

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first introduced in the Senate 101 years ago, yet, we are still working to ratify it. Although, enough states have ratified to pass the amendment, Congress has not recognized it because there was a time limit placed on the passage of the Amendment in 1972. The ERA is the only proposed amendment that had a time limit for its passage. However, there is no provision in the U.S. Constitution that requires a time limit for the passage of an amendment. If Congress eliminates the time limit, it will become the 28th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. Ratification is even more important now that the U. S. Supreme Court has a 6 to 3 conservative majority. The late Conservative Justice, Antonin Scalia, stated that there is nothing in the Constitution that protects women. In spite of this, the U. S. Supreme Court has historically stricken down laws that discriminate against women, but this might not be the case in the future. We must be diligent in protecting all citizens from discrimination by contacting our representatives and expressing our views that the ERA should be recognized.

January General Meeting

The January General Meeting is set for Saturday, January 11, 2025, at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Avenue, Redwood City. We will gather at 1:30 pm for refreshments, followed by a talk beginning at 2:00 pm. This is a joint meeting with Mid-Peninsula AAUW.

Our focus this month is on the *BeSmart program*, which was launched in 2015 to promote responsible gun ownership in order to reduce child gun deaths. It's a sad fact that firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens.

A representative from [BeSmartForKids.org](https://www.BEsmarter.org) will help us understand that secure gun storage—storing guns unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition—can save children's lives. It's an adult's responsibility, not the child's, to keep kids from accessing guns.

Our speaker will guide us through simple conversations that can help keep children, grandchildren and others out of harm's way. You may be surprised to learn that many unintentional shootings happen in the homes of relatives, friends or caregivers. It's very possible that some of your family members or close friends have unsecured guns in their home.



Public Policy

Project 2025--Presidential Transition Project

Our Public Policy Group has not been meeting on a monthly basis, but we would like to have periodic meetings when a topic is important to our mission. Recently, the California Online Branch hosted a webinar presented by the Public Policy Committee entitled *Project 2025 and How it Would Impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities*. Amy Hom, co-chair of AAUW California Public Policy, gave a brief overview of where *Project 2025* came from, who the *Heritage Foundation* is, and what the project is broadly attempting to do. She then addressed specific parts of the project that would impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities, such as education, Title IX, reproductive health, and gender equity. Following the presentation, Missy Maceyko, co-chair of AAUW California Public Policy, led a Question and Answer session.

Our Branch will be presenting this webinar on Tuesday, January 21, at 10:30 am at the home of Gayle Hardt. There will be a discussion after the presentation. Please join us for this very important topic that could impact every citizen, but the greatest impact could be on women and girls. We need to stay informed regarding the future of our country. Please Rsvp to Gayle Hardt.

January 2025 Interest Sections

Mary Ann McKay,

Boggle (All Members Welcome)

Judy Steele

Wed. Jan 15, at 1:30 pm

Host: Judy Steele

Book Discussion I

Elissa James

Thurs. Jan 16, at 10:00 am

Host: Carol Rose

Burn Book, Kara Swisher

Book Discussion II

Karlyn Schneider

Thurs. Jan 23, at 12:00 pm

Contact Karlyn for more information

Book Discussion III

Ginny Brook

Mary Ann McKay

Thurs. Jan 16, at 1:30 pm

Host: Pat Haupt

Long Island, Colm Toibin

Bridge

Elissa James

Mon. Jan 20, at 12:30 pm

Host: Marge Denni

Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe

Wed. Jan 8, at 9:30 am

Host: Bobbi Benson

Great Decisions - Foreign Affairs

Margo King

Thurs. Jan 9, at 10:30 am

Host: Karlyn Schneider

The Situation in Syria

Lunch Bunch!

Annette Delaney

Fri. Jan 17, at 11:30 am

Pinstripes, Hillsdale Shopping Center

Host: Gayle Hardt

Mah Jongg

Helen Hatchett

Wed. Jan 8, at 1:00 pm

Host: Helen Hatchett

Tues. Jan 28, at 1:00 pm

Host: Maureen Buchner

Membership: New and Prospective

Mary Ann McKay

Movie Group

Mary Ann McKay

Tues. Jan 14, Time TBD

Please contact Mary Ann for more information

Mystery Book Group

Mikki Coffino

Fri. Jan 10, at 1:30 pm

Host: Barb Schotzko

The Comfort of Ghosts, Jacqueline Winspear

Walking 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10:00 am

Bobbi Benson

Mon. Jan 13, at 10:00 am

Mon. Jan 27, at 10:00 am

Contact Bobbi Benson for more information.

American Association of University Women
P.O. Box 1465
San Mateo, CA 94401-0816

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

By joining AAUW you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>New Year's Day, Happy 2025!</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Drama Reading Mah Jongg	9 Foreign Affairs	10 Mystery Book	11 General Meeting
12	13 Walking	14 Movie Group	15 Boggle	16 Book I Book III	17 Lunch Bunch!	18
19	20 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> Bridge	21 Public Policy	22	23 Book II	24	25
26	27 Walking	28 Mah Jongg	29	30	31	