



# BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

April 2025, Vol. 95, Issue 8

## President's Message

Maureen Buchner

Join us this month in celebrating the 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the San Mateo branch of AAUW. Much has changed over the course of our history, but we are still funding scholarships and promoting education for women and girls, along with pay equity.

Of course, we know that pay equity is still a goal which seems to have stopped forward progress along with the Equal Rights Amendment. That is why organizations like ours need to stay vigilant and remind fellow citizens that there is still a lot of work to do to raise women's pay and advancement opportunities to be equal to men's.

Let's take time to enjoy our longevity at our ANNUAL MEETING on April 25, 2025, at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse in Bridgepointe, San Mateo. We will also elect a slate of officers for the 2025-2026 year. We look forward to reconnecting with friends and just enjoying the chance to get together. Please fill out your reservation form and send in your checks today if you plan to attend.

### Slate of Officers 2025-2026

Co-Presidents: Maureen Buchner & Gayle Hardt  
Vice President, Membership: Mary Ann McKay  
Co-Treasurers: Joanne Chee & Judy Steele  
Recording Secretary: Jane Bradley

### San Mateo Branch Calendar 2025

April 25    Annual Meeting/Election of Officers  
                  BJ's Restaurant, 2206 Bridgepoint Pkwy,  
                  San Mateo, 12:00 noon

## Help Our Members Affected by the Los Angeles Area Fires

AAUW California is assisting branch members who have lost homes, had damage, or been displaced by the LA fires. They are asking all branches to give whatever help they can. AAUW California is collecting gift cards on behalf of LAF victims for distribution to those members identified as having been affected. Bank gift cards like Visa and MasterCard are the most useful but other useful gift cards include those for gas stations, grocery stores, drug stores, and brand name stores. Be sure to put ATTN: LAF on the envelope.

**Please send gift cards to:**

AAUW California,  
ATTN: LAF  
PO Box 160067  
Sacramento, CA 95816-006

## April is Sexual Assault Prevention Month

Violence awareness began officially when the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* (FVPSA) became law in 1984, providing the primary federal funding for domestic violence victims and their children via emergency shelters and related assistance. The *Violence Against Women Act* (VAWA), passed by Congress in 1994, is comprehensive federal legislation to end violence against women. In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first national Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), building on years of advocacy and awareness. In 2009, President Barack Obama officially declared April to be *Sexual Assault Awareness Month*, which presidents have proclaimed every year since then.

While all of this movement has been positive, by the second week of President Donald Trump's current administration, the Office of Management and Budget had ordered a freeze of all federal financial assistance in all agencies including those that oversee government programs and funding for organizations that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services. Multiple court orders have blocked the freezes from taking effect, but in some cases funds haven't been received for programs aimed at preventing sexual violence. Click [here](#) to read more about this and other AAUW CA Public Policy.



## Diversity in Kid's Books

With the erosion of DEI government requirements along with the rise of book banning nationwide, do we still need diverse books in our schools? Is there a literacy crisis in our schools? Jill Eisenberg, vice president of business development, curriculum and literacy strategy for Lee and Low Books discussed these topics at the joint branch meeting with Mid-Peninsula in March.

The books that children have access to should be both *mirrors* and *windows*. A book is a *mirror* when it positively reflects the child herself, in addition to reflecting her family, cultural traditions, and special features such as physical and mental abilities or sexual identification. A book is a *window* when it positively reflects people of other countries, cultures and traditions, and teaches the child to appreciate their differences.

One of Ms. Eisenberg's favorites is *Baseball Saved Us*. The book depicts the experiences of Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II.

"That book is a perfect example of how we can make history come alive for young readers," Eisenberg said. "It's a story that everyone should know, not just a niche audience. And the way it's told, through the eyes of a child, makes it so accessible and impactful." If children have access to books such as these, they will be able to achieve cultural literacy and appreciate cultural diversity.

## Tech Trek

The Tech Trek Committee will be interviewing the 7<sup>th</sup> graders who were nominated by their teachers for our CA AAUW Stem Camp named for *Admiral Grace Hopper*. This will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Santa Clara University. Thanks to all of you who volunteered to save newspapers for *Build It Night* on the last evening at camp. We will be collecting them by the end of June.

## Ethel Gayman Scholarship Committee

Cindy Robbins-Roth and her committee are focusing on nominees from Skyline, San Mateo, and Canada community colleges. The board has approved 6 to 7 scholarships for this May. These talented and hardworking students will be transferring to 4-year colleges or universities. We are so grateful to our volunteers and Cindy for your dedication.



The San Mateo Branch of AAUW  
2025 Spring Luncheon  
Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

Date: Friday, April 25, 2005, Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse  
2206 Bridgepointe Parkway  
San Mateo, CA 94404

Join branch members to enjoy a \$25 Buffet Lunch including  
shrimp scampi, Sal's Brewhouse Chicken, macaroni & cheese, couscous,  
side dishes, house salads and a soft drink.

PLUS a Pizookie for dessert, if desired

**Reservation Due by April 18**

Send the tear slip and your \$25 check payable to "AAUW San Mateo"  
by April 18 to Judy Steele

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Judy Steele

## April 2025 Interest Sections

Mary Ann McKay,

### **Boggle (All Members Welcome)**

Judy Steele

Wed. Apr 16, at 1:30 pm

Host: Judy Steele

### **Book Discussion I**

Elissa James

Thurs. Apr 17, at 10:00 am

Host: Maureen Buchner

*Happy Place*, Emily Henry

### **Book Discussion II**

Judy Podesta

Thurs. Apr 24, at 12:00 pm

Judy Podesta, 307 Castilian Way, SM

*How to Know a Person*, David Brooks

### **Book Discussion III**

Ginny Brooks

Mary Ann McKay

Thurs. Apr 17, at 1:30 pm

Host: Sherrean Rundburg

*The Women*, Kristin Hannah

### **Bridge**

Elissa James

Mon. Apr 21, at 12:30 pm

Host: Marge Denni

### **Drama Reading**

Marjorie Kobe

Wed. Apr 9, at 9:30 am

Host: Nancy Blachman

### **Great Decisions - Foreign Affairs**

Margo King

Thurs. Apr 10, at 10:30 am

Host: Diana McDonough

*Competition, Cold War or Conflict?*

### **Lunch Bunch!**

Annette Delaney

Fri. Apr 18, at 11:30 am

Charm Thai Eatery, 1428 S. El Camino Real, SM

Host: Harriet Sinaikin

### **Mah Jongg**

Helen Hatchett

Wed. Apr 9, at 1:00 pm

Host: Helen Hatchett

Tues. Apr 22, at 1:00 pm

Host: Maureen Buchner

### **Membership: New and Prospective**

Mary Ann McKay

### **Movie Group**

Mary Ann McKay

**No meeting in April**

### **Mystery Book Group**

Mikki Coffino

Fri. Apr 11, at 1:30 pm

Host: Barb Schotzko

*The Man Who Died*, Antii Tuomainen

**Walking** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 10:00 am

Mon. Apr 28, at 10:00 am

Filoli, 86 Cañada Rd, Woodside, CA 94062

Lead by Gerhild Kein

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.*

### **April 2025**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Drama Reading Mah Jongg	10 Foreign Affairs	11 Mystery Book	12
13	14 Walking	15	16 Boggle	17 Book I Book III	18 Lunch Bunch!	19
20	21 Bridge	22 Mah Jongg	23	24 Book II	25 <b>Annual Meeting</b>	26
27	28 Walking	29	30			