



BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

October 2025, Vol. 96, Issue 2

Co-Presidents' Message Maureen Buchner & Gayle Hardt

October looks to be another busy month with all our Interest Sections meeting again. Please look at the Interest Section page to see if there is another group you would like to join. There is such a variety of activities that you should be able to find your perfect match or matches. Please contact the Interest Section Leader to find out about their group and how you can participate. All groups are accepting new members.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast Cancer Awareness is an international health campaign that's held every October. The month aims to promote screening and reduce the risk of disease.

Known best for its **pink theme color**, the month features a number of campaigns and programs designed to support people diagnosed with breast cancer, including those with metastatic breast cancer; educate people about breast cancer risk factors; encourage women to go for regular breast cancer screens; and raise money for breast cancer research. If you haven't had a screening recently, ask your doctor if you should have one. Mammograms are the best way to detect early stages of breast cancer.

Since school has begun again, this is the perfect time to inform you of an AAUW CA public policy program called the *School Board Project*. This is an ongoing project with the goal of protecting the freedom of states to decide their own curriculum and protect schools' ability to teach honest history. We can help with this effort by ensuring the candidates for local school boards understand their responsibility to educate our students in all aspects of our country, good or bad. Please monitor your local school board elections to know the candidates and their opinions about their responsibilities to protect teachers and students from the dumbing down of education. Please look further into this publication to find a more detailed explanation of the project.

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San Mateo Branch Calendar 2025

Oct 11	CA Proposition 50 & The Myths and Facts of the Electoral College Speaker: Gayle Hardt, LWV Skyway Center, 655 Skyway Rd. Suite 110 San Carlos, 1:30 pm social, 2:00 pm speaker
Nov 8	TBD
Dec 6	Holiday Party Open House Host: Gayle Hardt

In Memoriam

Judy Bloom, 12/14/1944 - 01/08/2025

After graduating summa cum laude from UC Berkeley, Judy taught French and Spanish to middle school students. In retirement she volunteered at many organizations including ORT America, the League of Women Voters, AAUW, the San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women among others. She packed her life with all of her passions: flowers, cooking, travel, music and dancing to live music with her husband, Jordan.

She was a very accomplished and caring woman who we will miss very much.

October General Meeting

California Proposition 50 and The Myths and Facts of the Electoral College

The October general meeting will discuss two areas of voters' interests: the myths and facts of the Electoral College and California Proposition 50 which will be on the November 2025 ballot. This discussion will be led by Gayle Hardt, a retired attorney and a member of the San Mateo Branch of AAUW and the League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County.

California Proposition 50

Proposition 50 replaces California's current congressional district maps with new, legislatively drawn maps. (The total number of districts would not change.) Proposition 50's maps must follow federal law, but they are not required to follow the state requirements placed on the Commission. The state would use Proposition 50's maps for congressional elections starting in 2026. The state would use these maps until the Commission draws new district maps, following the 2030 U.S. Census.

Proposition 50 also asks the U.S. Congress to change federal law and propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to require redistricting be done by "fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting commissions nationwide." Proposition 50 does not change federal law or require any particular action of Congress or the California Legislature. Please join us to hear about these topics and have your questions answered to the best of our ability.

The Electoral College

The Electoral College is a process for electing the President and Vice President of the United States. The Founding Fathers established it in the Constitution, in part, as a compromise between the election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens. Each state appoints as many electors as it has senators and representatives in Congress. The District of Columbia has no senator or representative, but they are given three electors as provided in the 23rd Amendment. A candidate must win 270 of the 538 votes to win the election.

Over the years it has been proven that the Electoral College does not reflect any coherent political theory, but flows instead from deals the delegates had made in response to the specific conflicts they faced at a particular moment in history.

Scholarship Committee

Cindy Robbins-Roth and Jean Perry Verley

The AAUW San Mateo Branch Ethel Gayman Scholarship Committee Needs You!

Our Ethel Gayman Scholarship supports high-achieving local community college students as they transition into a full bachelor's degree program at schools. All five of our 2025 recipients are enrolled at U.C. Berkeley - majoring in Computer Science, Neuroscience, Sociology, Business Administration, and Civil Engineering.

This past spring our AAUW Scholarship Committee interviewed outstanding students from all three of our county community colleges. These students checked all the boxes: fantastic grades, significant financial need, outstanding personal statements illuminating their contributions on-campus and in community organizations, and highlighted career goals well worth supporting. All of these students persevered through huge challenges to achieve their academic goals. Thanks to our AAUW branch, we were able to provide \$6000 scholarships to each of five students. It was an uplifting experience for the entire committee.

Want to join this great committee?

The committee will work actively from the last week of March (reading applications online) through mid-April (zoom interviews and choosing the 2025-2026 recipients of this scholarship). We will review about 15 applications from students chosen by their colleges, select finalists to interview via Zoom, and then select the final recipients.

This is your opportunity to meet young leaders from our county's community colleges and support them in their academic goals. Contact Cindy Robbins-Roth.

Public Policy AAUW CA, The School Board Project

“Only educated citizens could make the American experiment in self-government succeed”.

—Thomas Jefferson

The constant noises that surround us today has had the effect on many of us wanting to “shut the door” and withdraw behind a protective shield. This is not an option if we want to protect our democracy and the rights declared in our Constitution.

The role of education is one giving “every citizen the information he needs...to understand his duties to his neighbors and country...to know his rights”. It is not to deny history or provide political propaganda.

We must continue to protest national policies that threaten our basic core principles and take a stand at the state and local levels. AAUW California’s mission and public policies are being threatened, and we will not stand by and allow this to happen.

These hard-fought gains are under attack, and it begins with local elections for school board members. Organizations with money are backing candidates who are attempting to restrict student rights and censor the curriculum and books available that would provide factual, open discourse. These efforts will create a generation of children exposed to limited information and unprepared to engage in critical thinking necessary to fully realize the American experiment in democracy, which is the exact opposite effect from the intentions of our forebears.

Please look for future information that will describe how the Public Policy *School Board Project* is fighting back and how you can be a part of this policy.

A Big Win for Public Education

On August 14, 2025, a federal judge delivered a major legal victory for public education and civil rights. In *American Federation of Teachers et al. v. U.S. Department of Education et al.*, the court struck down the Trump-Vance administration’s attempt to force schools nationwide to censor lessons, eliminate diversity and inclusion programs, and sign unlawful compliance certifications under threat of losing federal funding and facing criminal penalties.

Judge Stephanie A. Gallagher ruled that both the administration’s February 14 “Dear Colleague Letter” and its mandatory certification violated the Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), stating: “Plaintiffs have shown that neither challenged agency action was promulgated in accordance with the procedural requirements of the APA, and that both actions run afoul of important constitutional rights.”

This decision vacates both policies, thereby, protecting the ability of educators to teach honest history, support students, and foster inclusive learning environments.

Drama Reading Group

There are two openings in the Drama Reading Group that are either permanent or substitute; the group is limited to 10 members. Anyone who would like to join is welcome to come to the next meeting on Oct. 8th.

The Drama Reading Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am, from October to June, at a member’s home where breakfast is served. The Chair conducts a brief talk about the playwright, then the play is read aloud with each member reading an assigned role. The monthly plays are distributed throughout AAUW CA chapters. If interested, please contact Marjorie Kobe.

San Mateo Branch 2025-2026 Budget

The Board of Directors has approved the 2025-2026 budget. Please review it on the next page.

San Mateo Branch AAUW
Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year 2023-2024

	<u>Budget</u> <u>FY2022-23</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u> <u>Approved</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Branch Membership Dues	\$ 2,000.00	1,805.00	1,900.00
Interest Income	10.00	376.42	175.00
Misc. Income	300.00	345.00	350.00
NCCWSL Income	-	1,389.00	-
Tech Trek - Local Inc.	-	125.00	75.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 2,310.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,040.42</u>	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>
Expense			
Committee Expenses			
Membership Recruiting Exp.	\$ 50.00	-	50.00
NCCWSL Sponsorships	900.00	2,806.63	2,000.00
Programs	300.00	36.98	100.00
Public Policy	100.00	-	50.00
Scholarship	50.00	-	-
Spring Fundraiser	200.00	-	-
Tech Trek - Local Expenses	200.00	17.96	100.00
Total Committee Expenses	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>2,861.57</u>	<u>2,300.00</u>
Other Expenses			
EF Assessment	90.00	65.00	65.00
Internet Website	120.00	-	120.00
Liability Insurance	575.00	556.00	600.00
Memorials	75.00	125.00	75.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	-	50.00
Office Expenses			
Fees and Dues	-	25.00	25.00
Mailing Labels	15.00	-	25.00
Office Expenses - Zoom Fee	150.00	149.90	150.00
Office Supplies	35.00	97.43	50.00
Post Office Box	-	194.00	-
Total Office Expenses	<u>200.00</u>	<u>466.33</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Total Other Expenses	<u>1,160.00</u>	<u>1,212.33</u>	<u>1,160.00</u>
Publication Expenses			
Directory	250.00	158.11	160.00
Newsletter	275.00	338.54	250.00
Postage	200.00	365.64	240.00
Total Publication Expenses	<u>725.00</u>	<u>862.29</u>	<u>650.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$ 3,685.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,936.19</u>	<u>\$ 4,110.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(1,375.00)</u>	<u>(895.77)</u>	<u>(1,610.00)</u>
Net Income	<u><u>\$ (1,375.00)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (895.77)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (1,610.00)</u></u>

October 2025 Interest Sections

Mary Ann McKay,

Boggle (All Members Welcome)

Judy Steele

Wed. Oct 15, at 1:30 pm

Host: Maureen Buchner

Book Discussion I

Elissa James

Thurs. Oct 16, at 10:00 am

Host: Margo King

Frozen River, Ariel Lawhon

Book Discussion II

Ramona Raybin

Thurs. Oct 23, at 12:00 pm

Host: Sandy Shapiro

Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books,
Kirsten Miller

Book Discussion III

Ginny Brooks, Mary Ann McKay

Thurs. Oct 16, at 1:30 pm

Host: Greta Csatho

We'll Prescribe You a Cat, Syou Ishida

Bridge

Elissa James

Mon. Oct 20, at 12:30 pm

Host: Marge Denni

Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe

Wed. Oct 8, at 9:30 am

Host: Nancy Blachman

Great Decisions - Foreign Affairs

Margo King

Thurs. Oct 9, at 10:30 am

Host: Ruth Larimer

AI and American National Security

Lunch Bunch!

Anne Horgan

Fri. Oct 17, at 11:30 am

Flores Mexican Restaurant, 4 Hillsdale Mall, SM

Rsvp to Harriet Sinaikin

Mah Jongg

Helen Hatchett

Wed. Oct 8, at 1:00 pm

Host: Helen Hatchett

Tues. Oct 28, at 1:00 pm

Host: Maureen Buchner

Membership: New and Prospective

Mary Ann McKay

Movie Group

Mary Ann McKay

Tues. Oct 14, time & theater TBD

Mystery Book Group

Mikki Coffino

Fri. Oct 10, at 1:30 pm

Host: Barb Schotzko

Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, James McBride

Walking Group

Gerhild Klein

Tues. Oct 7, at 10:30 am

Meet at 1128 Halsey Blvd, FC

Contact Gerhild 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.

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 AAUW Board Meeting	3	4
5	6	7 Walking Group	8 Mah Jongg	9 Foreign Affairs	10 Mystery Book	11 General Meeting
12	13	14 Movie Group	15 Boggle	16 Book I Book III	17 Lunch Bunch	18
19	20 Bridge	21	22	23 Book II	24	25
26	27	28 Mah Jongg	29	30	31	