



# BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

January 2026, Vol. 96, Issue 5

## Co-Presidents' Message

Maureen Buchner & Gayle Hardt



Happy New Year! (For those who celebrate the new year on January 1, and, for those who don't, Happy January 1!) We hope 2026 is a great year for all of you. We think it's going to be a good year for AAUW San Mateo, as well.

One of the great things about the San Mateo Branch is our active and engaging Interest Sections. As you know, the monthly activities for these groups are included in each issue of the *Bay Leaves*. For those who are not familiar with all of our interest sections, we will feature one or more of them in the upcoming issues of the *Bay Leaves*. We hope these articles will pique your interest and you will be inspired to join one or more of these groups. This month we will feature Boggle and Mah Jongg.

As we've stated in past issues, we are bringing back our Public Policy interest section by presenting a series of webinars that are produced by AAUW-CA and various California branches. In January we will be presenting a webinar entitled *Title IX: Its History and the Use and Abuse of Title IX*. We will meet on Tuesday, January 13, at the home of Gayle Hardt at 11:00 am. We hope you will join us to discuss this interesting topic.

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention month. The January general meeting will feature speakers on this topic and will be held jointly with the Mid-Pen AAUW Branch on Saturday, January 10, 2025, at 1:30 pm at Skyway Center, 655 Skyway Road, San Carlos. You can find more information about the meeting on the following page. This topic is of great concern to people of San Mateo County. Looking forward to seeing all of you at one of our meetings.

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## San Mateo Branch Calendar 2026

Jan 10    *Human Trafficking in San Mateo County*  
Speakers: Deputy Ryan Monaghan,  
San Mateo Sheriff's office,  
Elizabeth Quiroz, Co-Founder, Redemption  
House of the Bay Area  
Lisa Blanchard, Founder, Grateful Garment  
Project  
Skyway Center, 655 Skyway Rd, SC  
1:30 to 3:30 pm

## Branch Calendar 2026

Feb 7    Jackie Speier, Guest Speaker  
Skyway Center, 655 Skyway Rd, SC  
1:30 to 3:30 pm

Walking Group Special Walk  
**Ring in the New Year!**

Thursday, Jan. 1, at 10:00 am. Meet at the  
Redwood Shores Library for an easy walk along the  
shoreline, followed by brunch. Bring your  
binoculars! RSVP to Jane Myers.

## January General Meeting

January is *National Human Trafficking Prevention Month*. Our January general meeting will be a discussion by a panel of experts on human trafficking. This will be a joint meeting with the Mid-Peninsula Branch, Saturday, January 10, at 1:30 pm, at Skyway Center, 655 Skyway Road, San Carlos.

Human trafficking isn't always sex trafficking, it can also be forced labor, so anyone may be the victim of this terrible practice. According to the Alliance to End Human Trafficking, large sporting events like the Super Bowl and World Cup can be accompanied by possible human trafficking due to the increased demand for labor and commercial sex services.

Three huge sporting events are coming to the Bay Area in 2026, beginning with Super Bowl LX at Levi Stadium in February; *March Madness* follows at San Jose State University; then, in the summer, the World Cup will also be held at Levi Stadium. Since these types of giant sporting events are believed to boost human trafficking, all agencies have been strategizing on how to handle increased operations.

Three experts will be on the panel. San Mateo County Sheriff's Office incoming Assistant Sheriff, Ryan Monaghan, is one of the panelists. Monaghan has been heading up San Mateo County's *Human Trafficking Prevention and Enforcement Initiative* and will bring a huge knowledge base to the conversation. Also on the panel is Elizabeth Quiroz, M.A., a Doctoral Student (EdD) and Co-Founder of Redemption House of The Bay Area. She is a survivor of human sex trafficking and author of *Purified in The Flame*, in which she relays her experience. The third speaker is Lisa Blanchard, the Founder and Executive Director of Grateful Garment Project in San Jose. They provide clothing and necessities for sexual assault victims who must give up their clothing when they undergo a medical exam. Human trafficking is a huge problem in San Mateo County. Please join us for this informative meeting and to find out how we can all help.

## Public Policy

The January Public Policy meeting will be a Webinar entitled *Title IX: Its History and the Use and Abuse of Title IX*. The Webinar's mission is to explore the historical evolution, current landscape, and future implications of Title IX, with a focus on its impact on gender equity in education, athletics, and beyond. Please be sure to attend this interesting and informative meeting to support AAUW's mission.

## Interest Sections Introductions

**Boggle:** This group plays "Big" Boggle, a word game with 25 six-sided letter cubes that are mixed up by shaking the box in which they are held. Players try to spot and write down as many words they can find by mixing/matching adjoining letters within a specified amount of time. Once time runs out, each player reads out their words. Any words also written by another player are marked out and the remaining words counted as unique. The player with the highest number of unique words is the winner. It's great fun and good exercise for the mind.

Boggle is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, year round, at a member's home. Judy Steele is the group leader.

**Mah Jongg:** This section plays a simplified Chinese form of Mah Jongg. Mah Jongg is a "rummy" like game, but played with tiles instead of cards. It's typically played by four players, at each table, who each receives 13 tiles. The core objective is to be the first player to build a complete legal hand by drawing and discarding tiles. New members will be given instructions on how to play. This is a fun afternoon that isn't too competitive!

Mah Jongg is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at the home of Helen Hatchett and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at the home of Maureen Buchner, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. Helen Hatchett is the group leader.

## January 2026 Interest Sections

Mary Ann McKay,

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

Judy Steele

Wed. Jan 21, at 1:30 pm

Host: Maureen Buchner

### **Book Discussion I**

Elissa James

Thurs. Jan 15, at 10:00 am

*Remarkably Bright Creatures*, Shelby Van Pelt

### **Book Discussion II**

Ramona Raybin

Thurs. Jan 22, at 12:00 pm

Host: April Cherrington

*Sourdough*, Robin Sloan

### **Book Discussion III**

Ginny Brooks

Host: Mary Ann McKay

Thurs. Jan 15, at 1:30 pm

*My Friends*, Fredrik Backman

### **Bridge**

Elissa James

Mon. Jan 19, at 12:30 pm

Host: Marge Denni

### **Drama Reading**

Marjorie Kobe

Wed. Jan 14, at 9:30 am

Host: Marjorie Kobe

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

Margo King

Thurs. Jan 8, at 10:30 am

Host: Kate Parnes

*America's Global Role*

### **Lunch Bunch!**

Anne Horgan

Fri. Jan 16, at 11:30 am

No. 5 House, Chinese Restaurant, 5 S. Ellsworth, SM

RSVP: Maureen Buchner

### **Mah Jongg**

Helen Hatchett

Wed. Jan 14, at 1:00 pm

Helen Hatchett

Tues. Jan 27, at 1:00 pm

Host: Maureen Buchner

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

Mary Ann McKay

### **Movie Group**

Mary Ann McKay

Date & time TBD

### **Mystery Book Group**

Mikki Coffino

Fri. Jan 9, at 1:30 pm

Host: Barb Schotzko

*An Inside Job*, Daniel Silva

### **Public Policy**

Gayle Hardt

Maureen Buchner

Tues. Jan 13, at 11:00 am

*Title IX: Its History, Use and Abuse*

### **Walking Group**

Gerhild Klein

Tues. Jan 6, at 10:00 am

Contact Gerhild Klein for more information

### **Special New Year Walk**

Thurs. Jan 1, at 10:00 am.

Meet at the Redwood Shores Library for an easy walk along the shoreline, followed by brunch. Bring your binoculars! RSVP to Jane Myers.

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 2026

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