



Standing Together for Equity

Empowering Women Since 1881

BRANCH LINES

A festive event poster for the Annual Holiday Luncheon. The background is a deep red with white snowflake graphics and string lights. A Christmas tree with ornaments and lights is on the right, and wrapped gifts are at the bottom. The text is centered and reads: 'EVERYONE IS WELCOME!', 'Annual Holiday Luncheon', 'DECEMBER 16 @ 11 AM', '@ TIMBER CREEK BALLROOM 7050 DEL WEBB BLVD, ROSEVILLE', 'GUEST SPEAKERS FROM SIERRA COLLEGE', 'BRITT BRAY LINDA WILLIAMS SONBOL ALIABADI', '\$40 PER PERSON', 'RSVP AND MENU SELECTION', and '@ www.aauwrosevillesouthplacer.org/events'.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME !

Annual Holiday Luncheon

DECEMBER 16 @ 11 AM

@ TIMBER CREEK BALLROOM
7050 DEL WEBB BLVD, ROSEVILLE

GUEST SPEAKERS FROM SIERRA COLLEGE

BRITT BRAY
LINDA WILLIAMS
SONBOL ALIABADI

\$40 PER PERSON

RSVP AND
MENU SELECTION

@ www.aauwrosevillesouthplacer.org/events

RSVP Link: [Events | AAUW-RSP Branch Site](#)

AAUW's 'Final Friday of the month' Happy Hour!

Join us at the next event in January

IBC Fund Luncheon – join us at this luncheon for our January 2025 AAUW-RSP meeting



North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave. Fair Oaks

Join the party!
AAUW Fund Luncheon

Sponsored by your Capital Counties Interbranch Council

Saturday, January 25, 2025
Noon – 2:30 PM; doors open 11:30

Keynote speaker: Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President, speaking on our current challenges & opportunities, and on the positive work of AAUW Funds.

In addition, two active AAUW Fund Scholars will share their remarkable journeys, highlighting the details and progress of the work AAUW is supporting.

Make sure you have a place at the table! To use a credit card (fees apply) click [here](#). OR – write a check for \$32 to AAUW Sacramento. Mail to Reservations Coordinator, Hedda Smithson, 4033 Main Street, Fair Oaks, CA 95628-7520. **Online or mailed payment must be received by Jan. 16th, 2025.**

If mailing, include this information, & menu choice:

Name _____ Branch _____
 Phone _____ Email _____



- Menu choices:
 Turkey Breast, Mashed potatoes, vegetables OR
 Thai Chicken Salad OR
 Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)
 AND
 Limoncello cake OR Fruit cup



- **Link to use for a credit card: click [here](#)**

We encourage your attendance at this Luncheon, purchase auction baskets, value supporting of the AAUW Funds, and the educational aspirations of women across this country. There will be a silent auction of the baskets. Bidding will be encouraged. Bidders are expected to bring cash or checks to pay for the basket.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

Charmen Goehring, President, AAUW California

Another change on the horizon with a serious impact on many branches is the recent decision by AAUW to transfer the organization and administration of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to an outside group, NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. Despite the support received from branches, state affiliates, members, and colleges and universities, the cost has become unsustainable for AAUW. I know this will disappoint many members, and there will be lots of questions that we don't have answers for yet. Because of the unknowns, including whether branches can even send students to the new conference without violating IRS rules around giving money to other organizations, it might be advisable for branches to hold off on any fundraising specifically for NCCWSL at this time. We hope to have more information in the coming weeks.



[Follow AAUW RSP on Social Media](https://www.facebook.com/AAUWRSP/)

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWRSP/>

November program Review: Women's financial empowerment and charitable giving

photo of Mandy Van Buren



Recently, the branch sponsored a program on women's financial empowerment held at the Lincoln Library and featuring two representatives from Edward Jones finance. Our speakers, Mandie VanBuren and George Robertson, addressed issues facing women nearing and in retirement. One topic generated a lot of interest - charitable giving. Many members inquired about how to contribute from an IRA. So here's a summary of highlights: We learned that if you are 70 ½, you can make tax-free charitable donations directly from your IRA to a qualified charity like AAUW RSP (a 501(c)3). By making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can benefit AAUW while reducing your taxable income.

We learned that IRA qualified charitable donations (QCDs) allow you to exclude IRA withdrawals from taxation. For example, in tax year 2024 you can exclude up to \$105,000 of QCD's from your gross income. If you file a joint return, and your spouse is 70 ½ or older, they can also give an additional \$105,000 from an IRA, for a total of exclusion up to \$210,000.

Beginning in the year you turn 73, QCD's count towards satisfying any required minimum distributions (RMD's), that you would otherwise have to receive from your IRA according to IRS rules. In addition to a generous gift to AAUW RSP, you may benefit by reducing your overall taxable income by more than your donation or reducing "Income Penalties" on Medicare Premiums (IRMAA).

How to do an IRA charitable rollover (QCD)

Contact your IRA administrator and request a distribution directly from your IRA to AAUW RSP (you may be asked to fill out a brief form). Your IRA funds will be sent directly to AAUW RSP to help us continue our mission. For more details, please contact your financial institution or to reach out to George Robertson, CFP® at [\(916\) 676-0402](tel:9166760402) or Mandie Van Buren at [\(530\) 830-1270](tel:5308301270). As always, please consult a tax professional for advice on your specific situation.

AAUW handbook online

The printed Handbook Directory has been posted in the Members Only secured section of our website @ www.aauwrosevillesouthplacer.org. To view the directory online, hover over the About Us menu item and Choose the Members tab from the drop-down menu. The password is in the front of the printed Handbook Directory. It is a standard pdf file; if you want to look someone up, you can either scroll down or search by using Ctrl F and typing in either a first or last name. Please take a minute to review your own name and let us know about any updates and/or corrections.

No Reservations Fundraiser

Thank you very much to those of you who responded to our No Reservations mailing. Your gifts will enable us to continue supporting young women and girls in our community.

It's still not too late. Please consider including AAUW in your year-end giving. If you have friends, relatives, service providers or anyone whom you think might be willing to support us, please contact Carolyn Garfein and she will send you a donation pledge card that you can share with others.

Save the Dates:

Eleanor Stem-Allen Memorial Speech Trek Contest



Semi-Finals: February 1, 2025 - Orchard Creek Lodge, Lincoln, CA 10:00am

Finals: February 7, 2025 - Kilaga Springs Lodge, Lincoln, CA 4:00pm

Lilly Ledbetter: A Beacon of Equality and Justice

By Erica Dias, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

One of AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities is economic security for all women, including equity in the workplace and enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes. Last

week, an icon in the equal pay movement, Lilly Ledbetter, passed away at 86.

Ledbetter's story is not just one of individual resilience; it embodies the ongoing struggle for women's equality in the workplace. Lilly worked for nearly two decades at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and uncovered that she was being paid thousands less per year than her male counterparts. This revelation sparked a fire within her, igniting a campaign that would forever alter the landscape of equal pay in America.

In 2007, Ledbetter took her fight to the Supreme Court, yet the Court's ruling was disheartening: it stated that she had filed her complaint outside the statute of limitations. In response to the 5-4 majority opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg provided one of her infamous and noteworthy dissenting opinions, calling out the eight male justices for their apathy. "The court does not comprehend or is indifferent to the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination," she said, imploring Congress to act.

Undaunted, Lilly remained a voice for many. Her activism ultimately led to the introduction of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which President Obama signed into law as his first piece of legislation. This landmark act marked a significant victory in the fight for gender equality, sending a clear message that pay discrimination would not be tolerated.

Beyond the legislative impact of the Act, Lilly became an icon of empowerment and perseverance, traveling the world and encouraging others to stand up for their rights. Her memoir, *Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond* emphasized the importance of awareness and action in combating workplace discrimination. At the peak of the #MeToo movement, her opinion piece in the *New York Times* linked workplace sexual harassment to pay inequity. *Lilly*, a feature film based on her life, premiered at the Hamptons International Film Festival on October 10, 2024, just two days before her passing.

Lilly's journey reminds us that individual stories can catalyze monumental change and that every voice matters in the quest for equality. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. The Fund has provided millions in support of hundreds of cases. [View Past Cases and Current Cases](#) to learn more.

Ledbetter's legacy shows us that change is possible through persistence, courage, and community. As we reflect on her contributions, we are called to continue the work of advocating for equality, ensuring that future generations inherit a world where every individual is compensated fairly for their contributions, regardless of gender. Together, we can continue to champion the cause of equality and ensure that Lilly's legacy endures.

New AAUW Members - Welcome

By Brenda Knaack

CHERYL DELL

We are pleased to welcome Cheryl Dell to our chapter. Cheryl holds a PhD from CSU, Sacramento and had a 33-year career in the newspaper industry. She retired from the McClatchy Company after 20 years serving as publisher/CEO of 3 newspapers, including the Sacramento Bee. Cheryl has also served on boards of directors for multiple non-profits and currently serves as treasurer on the board for the National Children's Reading Foundation which focuses on pre-kindergarten learning.

A native of Modesto, Cheryl moved from Nevada County to Sun City Lincoln Hills a year ago. She enjoys traveling, gardening, and doing mosaic art. She was drawn to AAUW because of its mission and has already become active in Speech Trek and the Great Decisions group. Cheryl's managerial background and breadth of experience will be a welcome addition to our branch. Welcome, Cheryl!

JANET QUILLIN

We are pleased to welcome a new member, Janet Quillin. Janet was born in New Orleans but moved as a child to Alaska and then to Danville, CA. She and her husband recently relocated to Sun City Lincoln Hills from San Ramon where they raised their family. Janet is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara with majors in Business Economics and Child Development. She started her career as a retail buyer for educational toys with Imaginarium, followed by Discovery Channel's Merchandise Manager. She retired as Walmart E-Commerce, Website-Homepage Senior Manager.

Janet describes herself as having a passion for women's education and for helping the hungry and as a supporter of Community Colleges. Pilates, hiking, puzzles, and books are among her many hobbies, and she is interested in learning to play Mahjong. Janet's background and varied interests will make a great addition to our branch. Welcome, Janet!

KATHY GHIMENTI

We are pleased to welcome Kathy Ghimenti to our chapter. Kathy is originally from San Leandro, raised her two daughters in Newark, and has lived in Sun City Lincoln Hills for the past five years. She has five grandchildren, three of whom are in Lincoln, and she is an active part of their lives. She also makes frequent visits to her second daughter's family in the Bay Area. Kathy is a graduate of Chabot Community College and enjoyed a busy 44 year career managing first an ophthalmology office and then a retinal surgery practice.

Kathy stays busy volunteering at the Lincoln Public Library and at her church. She enjoys reading and international travel, especially cruises, as well as live theater and concerts. She has already joined the branch's Great Decisions and evening book groups. Kathy's organizational and administrative skills will be a welcome addition to our branch. Welcome, Kathy!

LINDA KENNEDY

We are pleased to welcome Linda Kennedy to our branch. Raised in Hayward and spending much of her adult life in Gilroy, Linda retired to Nevada City and now lives in Lincoln Hills. She attended San Jose State and worked as a teaching assistant with developmentally disabled adults for many years. At age 49, Linda returned to school

for her teaching credential and taught Kindergarten and fourth grade for the rest of her career.

While meeting a performing arts credit requirement in school, Linda discovered the art of storytelling and has been an active storyteller ever since. She is a member of the Sacramento Storytellers Guild and has served as Master of Ceremonies for the annual Sierra Storytelling Festival for the past 12 years. Her other interests/activities include playing the ukulele, reading to first graders in Lincoln schools, making prayer shawls through her church, and traveling. Linda's public performance skills will be a wonderful asset to our branch. Welcome, Linda!

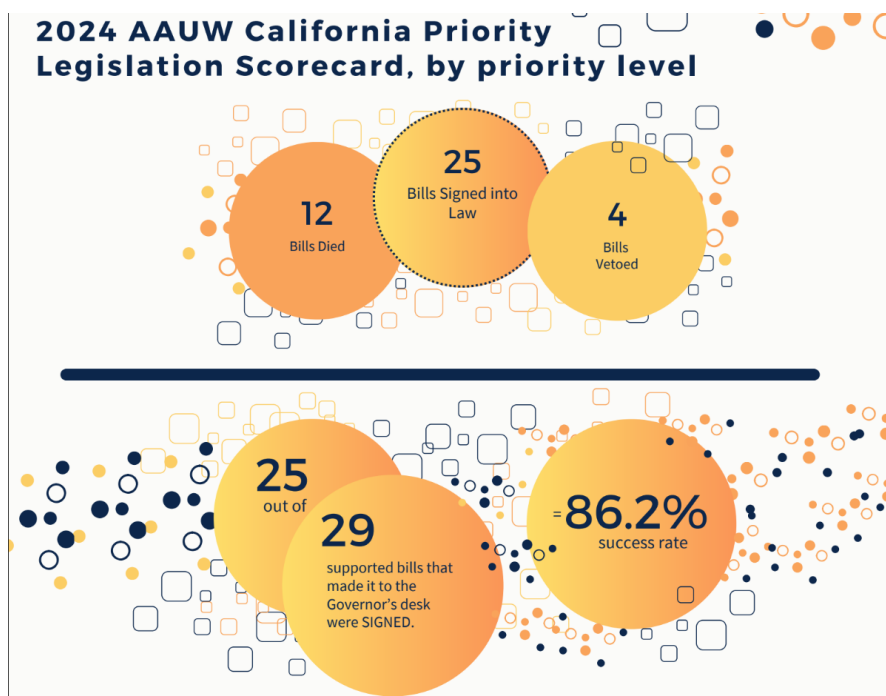
MARIETTA VIGIL GONZALEZ

We are pleased to welcome new member Marietta Vigil Gonzalez. Marietta is a graduate of San Jose State University where she earned both BA and MA degrees and San Francisco State for a second MA in school administration. She holds credentials in elementary education, school administration, and bilingual education. Her professional career included teaching English as a second language and both middle school assistant principal and principal roles in San Francisco schools. After retirement, Marietta taught English as a second language for one year each in Italy, Japan, and Ecuador.

Marietta is a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico where her family has lived since the 1700s. She is a native Spanish speaker and also speaks some Italian. Her hobbies include genealogy and the guitar and ukulele. Marietta relocated to Rocklin from Colorado where she was an AAUW member seven years ago and is eager to meet new people. Her administrative background and international experience will be a welcome addition to our branch. Welcome, Marietta!

AAUW Public Policy

By Sue Miller, Public Policy Chair



2023-2025



PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The AAUW California Public Policy Program establishes policy directives that will guide our members, inform our legislative priorities, serve our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, and are consistent with our values of achieving fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society. Toward that end, AAUW California advocates policies that promote, enhance and ensure:

Economic Security for All Women, including:

- Equity in the workplace**
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes**
- Security in retirement**
- Access to job training for career development**
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and caregiving leave**

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, including:

- Self-determination in reproductive health**
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment**
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence.**
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures**
- Protection and expansion of voting rights**
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns**

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, including:

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX**
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary**
- Removal of barriers for girls to access instruction in STEM fields**
- Civics instruction in all CA high schools**
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information**
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology**
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards**

Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles, including:

- Proportional appointment to publicly held corporate boards**
- Access to leadership skills training**
- Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers**

Tech Trek

By Carol Delville, Committee Chair

In the months before nominations are due, continued work with Rachel Kanowsky, UC Camp Director, Sally Ho, UC Camp Assistant Director and Dr. Mary Isaac, Tech Trek California is happening. Monthly Zoom meetings are putting 2025 Tech Trek Camp plans and timelines in place.

Creating relationships and making inroads with schools and science teachers is ongoing as I continue to work within the various Roseville-South Placer school districts. We currently have 5 schools who will be sending nominations by January 20th.

Spotlight on...Sanchia Spadow

Talk to Sanchia Spadow for one minute and you will notice two things – her still- strong British accent and her passion for AAUW. It's not surprising then to find that she has been president of our branch for four terms, including one co-presidency with former member Kate Tiongson, and she has served on every board position available except for finance/treasurer. So yes, you can say she has been passionate about AAUW since her friend Peg Hall introduced her to the group.

And she has come by that British accent naturally, having been born and raised in London. She came to America with her husband in 1968 and landed a fantastic job in Connecticut as the Executive Director of the governors' office. "I did a lot of political fundraising over a 40-year career," adds Sanchia. In those years she also did an awful lot of traveling, living in Indonesia, Spain and traveling back-and-forth to Venezuela. "I feel blessed to have done as much traveling as I did." she says.

Election Aide Volunteers



We have the most amazing Volunteers !!!

Our dedicated volunteers worked as election aides at this year's election.

We gave out crowns to first time voters, to celebrate with them their first vote! We had young people, new U.S. citizens, and even older voters who voted for the first time!

Our organization made \$5,000 that will pay for college scholarships for high school women based on need and merit.

Kudos to ... Election Aide Volunteers

This month we are initiating a new column designed to recognize members who have gone beyond the usual expectations and provided additional service to the Branch. We're hoping to run this column in Branch Lines each month. If you would like to suggest a member for recognition in the Kudos to ... column, please email your suggestions to Schelly Jensen or Sandy Haley

December Kudos go to the AAUW team that staffed the Lincoln Library polling station for the November 5 election. These people worked four straight days to ensure that our community residents had the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. They worked more than eight hours each of the first 3 days. On election day they worked over 12 hours and processed over 1300 ballots that day! Thanks to their efforts, the Branch will receive \$5,000 from Placer County.

Here are the names of our wonderful volunteers:

Michelle Colletto, Kristi Freel, Juanita Garcia, Patricia Goldman, Sela Greenhouse, Jenny Griffin, Sally Knost, Kathy Kort, Kathy Looney, Judy Martin, Kathy Novotny, Lynda Stockwell, and Gail Weller.

Sierra College Committee

by Lynda Stockwell, Chair

Our October branch *Basic Needs donations* were *delivered* to Sierra College Basic Needs closets on November 6th. Britt Bray, Manager of the Basic Needs closets, will be one of our speakers at the December Holiday meeting. She and I send our thanks to the 4 members who donated food and hygiene products and to those who donated online. Your donations are very appreciated (and very needed) by the students.



Dec 6 - 9: the Sierra College Music Department presents several band and choral concerts open to the public.

Check out the Sierra College [EVENTS](http://www.sierracollege.edu/events) calendar at www.sierracollege.edu/events for more information.

6 Week Break:

- Classes end Dec 13;
- spring semester starts Jan 27, 2025

Current Interest Group Activities

Group Name	Leader	Meeting Day	Time
GREAT DECISIONS GROUP Great Decisions Raley's Event Center 1915 Douglas Blvd., Roseville Topic: no Dec meeting	Elsie Gaura	2 nd Friday of-each month Dec – no meeting	10:00AM

January 14, 2025 guest speaker or open forum Contact: Elsie Gaura			
WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP Zoom meeting – turn on your computer, iPad, Kindle Fire or smartphone! Reviewing: <u>The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell</u>	Nancy Taylor	3 rd Wednesday of each month Dec 18	10:00AM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK GROUP Book/Author: We are choosing books for 2025 Host: Jacqueline Hayes Leader: Kathy Kort For additional information please contact Judy Martin	Judy Martin	Wednesday Dec 4	6:30PM
MAH JONGG GROUP To join, contact Joyce Wade Joyce:	Joyce Wade	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays Dec 5 Barbara Gorden hosts Dec19 Nancy Taylor hosts	1:00PM
CHICAGO/DUPICATE BRIDGE GROUP Leslie:	Leslie McNeill	2 nd Wednesday of each month Dec– no bridge	1:00 PM
CASUAL GARDENERS GROUP We will meet at 10 AM at Eisley’s Green Acres in Auburn. Our focus will be the Poinsettia. Lunch to follow. To join, contact Diane Madden	Diane Madden	1 st Wednesday of each month: Dec 4	10:00AM
RUMMIKUB at Sandy Haley’s 5517 Lantern Grove Lane in Sun City Roseville RSVP to Sandy Call or text: Please, include your name	Sandy Haley	Monday Dec – no meeting	11:00 AM

Current Neighborhood Group Activities

Lincoln/Loomis Neighborhood Group -- will have a home social at my house. Monday **Dec 30th**. 3pm-6pm. Address: 67 E St, Lincoln. (916) 792-8893. The next gathering I planned will be January 9th for a night of art. The Art League of Lincoln is having a 2nd Thursday reception, 5pm-7pm. Address: 580 Sixth St, Lincoln. Sela Greenhouse

Roseville Neighborhood Group. All members are invited to attend.
Everyone is invited to join the Roseville Neighborhood Group -- There will be **no December Breakfast** at Timbers because the Branch Holiday Luncheon is Monday, December 16. Sandy Haley

Rocklin Group. Group contact is Lynda Stockwell, or Elizabeth Gonzales ,



The **December** Rocklin Group activity is attending the **AAUW-RSP Holiday Luncheon** at the Timbers Lodge on **Dec 16th**. The cost is \$40 per person and be sure to **RSVP** on our website. All Branch members are welcome to join in! We are offering carpools to the event. Email, call or text Lynda Stockwell to request a ride:

*** 2024 Words of Wisdom ***

Prosperity

When worrisome thoughts trouble me, I respond by counting my blessings. I take a moment to recall recent days or weeks and all the good things that have happened. Each blessing that comes to mind is a manifestation of prosperity.

As I give thanks for each one, my prosperity consciousness grows. I begin to recognize abundance everywhere—in the beauty of nature, in acts of kindness, in words of praise. I realize I am richer than I thought.

I give thanks for my talents and skills, for the opportunity to do meaningful work. I count my friends and family among my greatest blessings. I discover more ways I have prospered and find new channels of good. My heart fills with love and gratitude as I realize my prosperity.

Happiness

I find delight in the warmth and brightness of the sun. I take a moment to sit outside, close my eyes, and soak in the rays. Cloudy days and dark nights will come, but I remain in the present, fully enjoying the sunny moments.

In the same way, I may not feel cheerful all the time, so I appreciate my happiness when I do. Understanding the fleeting nature of emotion, I stay present and mindful, which helps me enjoy it.

I seek reasons for happiness daily and delight in them. Even little things feel big because of my attention and gratitude. Average things become lovely—the aroma, texture, and taste of a meal, or the vibrant colors and sounds of nature. The more I choose and find happiness, the more often I can enjoy the gift of feeling happy.



Linking together for our mission.

Board meeting

The next Branch Board Meeting is **December 9**. We will meet at (10 am) Raley's O-N-E Market | 1970 Blue Oaks Blvd, Roseville, CA 95747. All members are welcome. **Please send an email to the President if you plan to attend and if you have something to add to the meeting agenda.**

For updates in real time, please visit our branch website at

aaurosevillesouthplacer.org